

Alcester 2nd XV 0 Harbury 2nd XV 17

Alcester 2nds lost out to a youthful and well drilled Harbury side on a firm pitch in blustery conditions at Kings Coughton. With the regular Harbury front row called into first team duty at Redditch, the visitors were unable to field replacements and the game was played with passive scrums throughout.

With the near gale force wind at their backs in the first half, the visitors had much the better of things in the opening exchanges and led by 12 points to nil at the break through two tries and a conversion. Such was the strength of the wind against them, that Alcester struggled to clear their lines from their own half, and skipper for the day Rich Smith at fly half was suffering more than most with his clearance kicks hanging in the wind, and one attempt actually blowing back past him after being caught in a particularly strong gust. The other aspect of the game hampering Alcester's progress was the numerous injuries they picked up on the hard ground, with no fewer than four players leaving the game in the first half. Whilst they had replacements, the changes prevented any continuity in their play, although they were hopeful of better things in the second half with the conditions at their back.

It became evident early in the second half that it was not to be Alcester's day, when the extremely strong wind suddenly dropped, but this was to take nothing away from the visitors who kept the ball well in the second half and crossed for their third score, from their man of the match blind side flanker, who actually spent most of the second half at inside centre, causing problems for the home defence with his strong runs.

In the end Alcester remained scoreless and the villagers claimed a well deserved away win.