

ALCESTER RFC UPDATE 8.9.07

Redditch 39 Alcester 22

After last weeks encouraging squad performance against Shipston, Alcester were reminded of the work they still have to do before next week's league opener, after a disappointing showing against their nearest neighbours, who have become somewhat of a bogey side for the King's Coughton men.

Still missing unavailable players, Alcester chose to merge their 1st and 2nd XV squads for a match of four quarters on the bone dry surface at Redditch sports club,

It was actually the red and blacks that started brightest and 17 year old fly half Jamie Randall put them in front with a well struck penalty kick after the home side had failed to release the ball after a tackle. The Kingfishers were soon to fight back and at the end of the opening two quarters they led 29-3 after some woeful at times Alcester defence had allowed the home side to run in four tries, improved by three conversions and a penalty. To add to their frustrations, Alcester spurned their best try scoring chance of the afternoon so far, when they won a penalty five yards from the home line and the visiting forwards encouraged skipper Scott Carmichael to take the scrum, an area at which Alcester were well on top for most of the afternoon. Redditch responded well to the challenge and on this occasion drove their opponents off the ball to allow their half backs to clear the danger.

Stung by some harsh words to each other and from the coaching staff at half time, they responded immediately and played their best rugby of the afternoon down the slope. Skipper Scott Carmichael profited from some hesitation in the home defence to score under the posts after Redditch failed to clear a high kick from the Alcester attack. Mike Conway converted. Soon after, prop Nev Teasdale forced his way over from the base of a ruck at short range to close the gap further.

The home side restored their advantage in the final quarter with two more scores, before Alcester's Ollie Chester intercepted a pass inside his own half to race 60 yards and score under the posts. Conway again converted.

Skipper Scott Carmichael singled out the performance of 17 year old flanker Rory Thompson as his man of the match.

So whilst Redditch were once again left to claim the local bragging rights, Alcester will now concentrate on their final preparations before next Saturday's league opener at promoted Dudley Wasps, a side that pipped Redditch to the title last season.