

Saturday October 28th 2006 – Cup

Opposition : Clee Hill (Away)

A decade has now passed since Alcester came within three matches of a Twickenham appearance in this competition, and in the ten seasons since Alcester have only ever been past the first hurdle once. Unfortunately, despite having a bye in the first round, their miserable run in the Vase continued after a much depleted side crashed out in the shadow of Clee Hill.

Alcester were forced into making no fewer than eight changes from the side that triumphed at Harbury the previous Saturday, and ultimately this decimation of the side proved critical as they lacked the cohesion of previous weeks. Their task was made all the more difficult when stand in hooker, Darren Stanton had to leave the field with a neck injury, leaving the visitors without a recognised number 2.

Alcester were competitive in the first half without ever taking control of the game, and at the break they trailed 8–3, with a typical bazooka of a penalty kick from prop Matt Bolton, being their only scoring response to the home side's try and penalty of their own.

In the second half Alcester failed to capitalise on their opportunity to get something from the game, and they conceded two further scores to put the game beyond their reach.

Alcester made the journey back frustrated in the knowledge that anywhere near their strongest side would probably have been too strong for their hosts on another day. They should have most of their absentees back for the resumption of league duties and the all important visit of second placed Southam to King's Coughton, a side that have a game in hand on Alcester and a superior points tally, but who they are level on match points win, with both sides having won three games in the early season league table.

Result : Clee Hill 18 – Alcester 3