

## Kidderminster 15 v 32 Alcester

An impressive attacking performance sent Alcester back to winning ways away at Kidderminster despite an uncharacteristically weak defensive display.

It took just 6 minutes for Kidderminster to score the opening try of the game. Poor tackling let the Kidderminster backs run from their own 22 metre line to put the ball down under the posts and score a simple conversion. This seemed to be the wakeup call Alcester needed as they played for territory and narrowly missed a penalty attempt to reduce the deficit. Good passing play from the backs allowed Tom Parker to sneak in for a try in the corner, his second in 2 games. Martin Gurr, in his first game since returning from injury, dragged the conversion just wide.

The Alcester pack began dominating the forwards game and the scrums with good work from Andy Heap, Jack Green and Dave Alderson. More pressure from the backs led to Ross Hunter squeezing past on the wing and grounding the ball under the posts for Gurr to convert and take Alcester into the lead. Kidderminster got back on the score board with a penalty kick, but it wasn't long before Alcester extended their lead with another try. Kidderminster dropped the ball inside the Alcester half allowing number 8 Rich Hartley to power down the flank before offloading to Hunter to score his second of the game. At the interval Alcester led 17-10.

Kidderminster drew first blood in the second half with a try in the corner which they failed to convert. This proved to be Kidderminster's last points in the game as Alcester tightened up in defence with Hartley and flanker Ben Hope leading the tackle count. Hope was also unstoppable in the rucks, winning his side opposition ball time and time again. It was a chip over the top by fly half Gurr which led to the next try, with Hartley chasing and diving on the loose ball over the line. It was a difficult conversion and Gurr failed to add the 2 points. He made amends though with a well struck penalty to keep the score board ticking over and making the score line 25-15 to Alcester. Alcester then put the game beyond doubt with yet more good passing play from the backs making space for fullback Tom Pedley to break through the Kidderminster line for the final try of the match. Gurr made no mistake with the conversion, giving Alcester a 32-15 lead. Kidderminster threatened to reduce the lead but Alcester held out for a well earned victory despite the impressive Hartley getting sinbinned after an altercation with a Kidderminster centre which resulted in both players being shown the yellow card.

Man of the match went to Ben Hope for the second time this season after an inspiring tackling display and great work in the rucks and around the park.

(see over for line-up)

1. Dave Alderson (sub Jack Thompson)
2. Jack Green
3. Andy Heap
4. Ian Duggan (sub Dave Alderson)
5. Ben Smith
6. Adam Sofroniou (sub Jamie Leitch)
7. Ben Hope (man of the match)
8. Rich Hartley
9. John Halton
10. Martin Gurr
11. Tom Parker (sub Kieran Redford)
12. Adam Beech (c) (sub Adam Rendell)
13. Henry James
14. Ross Hunter
15. Tom Pedley

Replacements:

Jack Thompson  
Jamie Leitch  
Kieran Redford  
Adam Rendell