

Sunday 29th November

Warley Colts 28 Alcester Colts 12

Alcester suffered their first defeat at Warley for several seasons after letting a promising first half lead slip away.

Tries from fly half Tom Pedley and centre Adam Rendall gave Alcester a 12-6 lead at the interval.

In truth it had taken 15 minutes for Alcester to wake up and to get the long journey to the Black Country out of their systems, but as the visitors began to spread the ball wide they looked dangerous and should have led by more. Ross Hunter had several fine breaks from full back and should have crossed the line at least once for a try. Winger Kieran Redford played his best half of rugby this season and came close to scoring on more than one occasion.

The home side were being stretched to the limit and only the kicking of their full back kept them in the game.

Any score for Alcester early in the second half would surely have killed off the match but substitutions by the home side strengthened their team and from the restart Warley began to make the most of their size advantage.

Alcester failed to secure good possession throughout the second half and the Warley pack, which was being driven back in the first half, began to dominate. It was far from pretty but the older heads who Warley had brought on at half time ensured the ball was kept tight nullifying the pace of the Alcester backs.

Alcester's defence was brave with Ben Hope and Steve Douthewaite scrapping for possession from the back row and man of the match, scrum half Jon Halton, as effective in defence in the second half as he was in attack before the break. But the power of the home pack created the first try of the second half after an impressive driving maul up to the Alcester line.

Alcester didn't learn their lesson from this score and never came to terms with Warley's mauling game. In the scrums and rucks Alcester were also being out fought and out thought. Two push over tries for Warley put the result beyond doubt before injuries to Alcester wingers Tom Parker and Adam Sofroniou left Alcester a player down. The home side made the most of the resulting space and reacted quickest to a kick over the top to score their fourth and final try of the match.