

Saturday 10th February 2007 – League

Opposition : Coventry Tech

Alcester climbed back to third spot, with only their second win of the year, after a typically hard fought contest against a committed and sometimes feisty Tech side, battling for their survival at this level. The stars for Alcester were their wing pairing of Robbie Parker and Andy Jones, who bagged five tries between them, with Parker himself claiming a hat trick of well taken scores.

In muddy conditions in South Coventry, Alcester started well and claimed the early advantages in the forward battle, however they found themselves 3-0 down early on, after their back line strayed offside at a ruck, and the Tech fly half sent his accurate kick through the uprights.

Alcester continued to edge proceedings, but had to settle for a narrow 5-3 lead at the break, after Parker had scored his first try, outpacing his opposite man on the wing and running clear of the covering full back, after being set free by a well worked move from the back of a scrum. They could and probably should have been further ahead, but they were met with stern home defence when they got deep into Tech territory. They did cross the line again just before the break however, when hooker Dickie Moore crashed over at the back of a driving maul, following a clean take at the front of the line out, but a pile of bodies landed on top of him and the referee didn't award the score.

The second half started in a similar vein to the first with the home side having a penalty opportunity, this time after Alcester failed to release at a tackle situation. When the kick dropped short, Alcester raced up field and soon had a penalty of their own, which centre Andy Smith struck well to put his side five points clear.

Tech suffered various injuries which forced them to reshuffle their pack and this coupled with the fact they were tiring as they struggled to contain their opponents, was to prove crucial in the final half hour as Alcester ran in five tries to take themselves well clear.

Parker was the first to score again in the second half, doubling his tally in the game, with a typically mazy run through the defence after coming in off his wing to join the line in midfield and create the extra man. Smith again converted.

Right wing Jones was the next to add his name to the score sheet, showing footballing skills more akin to the oval ball game, after he reacted quickest to a loose ball to drill it over the try line and win the chase to touch down.

Skipper and top scorer Scott Carmichael predictably added to his season tally with a trademark score and his side's fourth try after exploiting the smallest of gaps and bursting clear to dive in. Smith registered his third successful kick of the afternoon.

Parker completed his hat trick with a score similar to Jones's after more confusion in the home defence led to another ball being spilled and hacked over the try line by the Alcester attack. Straight from the restart came the individual try of the afternoon to complete Jones's brace. The home fly half kicked a low "grubber" kick for his backs and away from both sets of forwards, but Jones reacted quickest to enhance his footballing reputation, by toe poking the ball away from his opponent as both players headed full steam towards each other just over the ten metre line in the Alcester half. With no time to gather the ball up before the Tech full back arrived, he dummied the defender by right footing the ball one way of the home number 15, and going the other, leaving him seemingly all the time in the world to gather the ball and race in under the posts. With Smith having left the field, full back Dom Skinner took over the kicking duties to round off the scoring for the afternoon.

This was a happy return to form for Alcester who hope that they can keep the momentum up next week when they face the visit of Coventry Welsh to whom they narrowly lost in September in the first meeting of these two sides. They have an extra incentive, as they will be playing in front of the guests of their Chairman, Andy Miller, as he hosts his annual lunch. Kick off at King's Coughton is 2.15pm.

Result : Coventry Tech 3 – Alcester 39