

Saturday October 7th 2006 – Friendly

Opposition : Kings Norton (Away)

Alcester slipped to defeat against their neighbours from Hopwood, although the score line doesn't tell the story of the game, where, due to injuries the visitors were forced to play 65 minutes of the game with fourteen men, and over half an hour with only thirteen.

Alcester started uncharacteristically slowly and were two tries and a conversion behind inside the first five minutes, where their defence was exposed particularly for the second try, as the home fly half ghosted through unchallenged to score under the posts.

The visitors were dealt a further blow when tight head Steve Lunn had to leave the field with a knee injury, and with their only replacement having been injured in the warm up, they were forced to play a man short. This also prompted passive scrummaging and as is so often the case when this happens, the game went flat for a while, although it was the visitors who enjoyed the better of the remainder of the half without really threatening the home line.

The second half started in a similar vein, and an already difficult position for Alcester became even worse when outside centre Sam Vernon was forced to leave the field with an arm injury. By now, the visitors also had two other players, hooker Dickie Moore and no 8 Nick O'Connor, who were carrying injuries that if circumstances were different, would have led to them being replaced.

Not surprisingly the game was mainly played in Alcester territory, although they defended their line determinedly, until they ran out of steam in the closing stages, allowing the home side to double their score.

Alcester skipper Scott Carmichael took a lot of heart from his depleted side's committed showing, and whilst his own effort epitomised the display of the King's Coughton men, he also singled out several other notable performances.

The Alcester pack fought superbly for the ball, despite being one man down for over an hour and two men down for half an hour.

Flanker Mica Piresi enjoyed his best showing in an Alcester shirt, with an energetic, all action display and in the backs Robbie Parker and Andy Jones led the defensive effort with numerous big tackles often against much bigger forwards.

Alcester will be aiming to regroup this week and get some of their injured players back for next week's important return to league action, where Coventry Tech are the visitors to King's Coughton for a 3pm kick off.

Result : Kings Norton 24 Alcester 0