



## ALCESTER RFC

We go into our 48<sup>th</sup> season as a club on the back of a tremendous season last year. The 1<sup>st</sup> XV came close to being promoted, ending up third in the league. Quite an achievement considering we were close to being relegated in the previous season. Why the change in fortunes? Most of our success can be put down to one man, the coach Steve Lea. He and skipper Scott Carmichael gave the team a purpose and direction which, hopefully will take us on to an even more successful season this year.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XV were not the only team that did well, the 2<sup>nd</sup> XV also did well, winning more games than they lost, this, after a very shaky first half of the season. A big thank you to Steve Wade and Neil O'dell for their efforts both on and off the field.

In the background we have a stalwart of the club, Director of Rugby, Nick O'Connor. His tired less efforts ensured that we fielded two teams most of the year with the occasional 3<sup>rd</sup> XV taking to the field.

This year the club hopes to field three teams on a regular basis, plus the resurrection of a Ladies XV. It is also hoped that one of the senior teams will become a development team with younger players enhancing their skills under the wing of more senior players.

The Junior section continues to develop with 175 youngsters registered, up 30 on the previous year. With the Junior section continuing to expand the club has invested in a third pitch. This has been a god send as it allows more games to be played at home. Credit for the success of the Junior section must go to a band of hardworking adults who turn out every week to coach, cater and sell kit. Keep up the good work. Mention should also be made of the St John's Ambulance who turn up every Sunday to assist with any injuries that may occur.

At this year's Junior awards day Lord Hertford again turned up to present the youngsters medals and trophies. It was again a joy to see so many youngsters and their parents turn out for the event. As a bonus Lord Hertford was asked if he would be our patron, which he was more than happy to accept.

The World Cup is on our doorstep, to this end the Golden Jubilee committee is organising a 'World Cup Dinner' on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> October. I hope everyone will make an effort to support this function. More details will follow.

As always I look forward to seeing you at the club on match days or Sunday mornings to watch the juniors play.

Mike Edwards