

Saturday 3rd February 2007 – Friendly

Opposition : Redditch

Alcester some how managed to contrive to lose a game they should have won against their near neighbours that they haven't beaten at 1st XV level for several seasons.

Both sides were missing regulars, which possibly contributed to the scrappy opening period, although it was a competitive, sometimes feisty half, which meetings between these two old foes often turn out to be.

Playing up the slope in the first half, Alcester had the better of things without ever really controlling the game, although they did lead 9-0 at the break, thanks to three successful penalty kicks from the accurate boot of centre Andy Smith.

The second half continued in a similar vein but the home side failed to get the score that their forward pressure warranted and slowly the visitors began to get their confidence up. Midway through the half came the ten minute period that changed the game. Redditch scored all of their points in this period, as they waltzed three times through the centre of the home defence and some half hearted tackling, to cross the red and blacks line on each occasion.

By the time Alcester had regained their composure, they had lost influential no 8 Nick O'Connor with a back injury. O'Connor was replaced by Martin Sergeant from the 2nd team game, in a move that saw Mica Pieri come into the pack from the wing. With time running out, the Alcester scrum put pressure on their opponents near the line, allowing Matt Bolton to pick up at the base and bulldoze his way over for the final score of the game. The sometimes feisty nature of the game continued and in the final stages, Alcester's Pieri and Redditch lock forward Lee Williams were sent to the sin bin after a bout of handbags.

This was an unusually lethargic performance from the Alcester side, and they will be looking to put this behind them by the time league action resumes in a fortnight. Before then they have one of the main events on the annual calendar, as the University of Birmingham Medical Students "The Medics" visit King's Coughton, on a weekend when the action on the field is often secondary to the antics in the bar after the game! All three Alcester sides are at home and all friends new and old are welcome to come and witness the Medics initiate their freshers, after the games that kick off at 2.15pm.

Result : Alcester 14 – Redditch 19