

7th March 2010

Chaddesley Corbett U14s 38 Alcester U14s 24

On a perfect day for rugby Alcester U14s travelled to Chaddesley Corbett, where the large pitch and firm surface underfoot suited Alcester's expansive running game. Alcester responded well to falling behind and exerted pressure early on in the scrum deep in the Chaddesley half. A dropped pass behind the try line allowed an alert Zacc Cutting the opportunity to dive on the ball under the posts for the visitor's first score. Tom Alder added the extras and Alcester took the lead. Momentum seemed to shift Alcester's way, with good ground being made by runs from Ryan Clark and Carlo Rodriguez. However, Chaddesley responded well to the pressure scoring twice, before Chris Cook darted down the blind side and offloaded to Matt Gunningham who dived over for the score making it 17-14 to the home side at half time.

Chaddesley started the second half sharply, taking advantage of gaps in the midfield and supporting well for an early try, another soon followed from a kick over the top and a fortuitous bounce, which happened to find the chasing Chaddesley player for a score under the sticks. Alcester then released Chris Cook, who looked to make amends for his earlier chance, which had been stopped about half a metre short of the line. This time Cook looked to run infield taking on defenders, wrong footing them with a lovely jinking run, taking the ball in from the half way line for another great try. Chaddesley again utilised the kick, despite having a three man overlap, however, this time Alcester dived on the ball and seemed to recover the situation, only for the referee to award a curious penalty for holding on. This handed Chaddesley ideal field position, and despite some spirited defence from Alcester, the home side eventually scored from five metres out. The conversion made the score 38 – 19.

Nevertheless, Alcester never let their heads go down and finished the stronger side creating a superb flowing try, from another Ryan Clark break. This time Clark was able to link with Alex Clarie and then Chris Cook, before the ball eventually ended up with Tom Von Malachowski whose try capped a great Alcester performance. The score finished 38 – 24 to Chaddesley, a strong performance by Alcester, with the difference only being a few missed tackles. Coach Scott Carmichael thought it the best performance of the season to date and awarded the man of the match to Henry Jenkins for his work ethic and scrumaging; not only for Alcester, but also for Chaddesley, whom he helped during the second half due to their shortage of numbers.