

ARFC U17/18's Vs Tamworth RFC

Venue: ARFC

Date: 6th Sept 2009.



Team:

1. Jack Thompson
2. Iain Simes (HR sub Jack Green)
3. Andy Heap (*Vice Captain*)
4. Ben Tohill
5. Jamie Leitch (HT sub Rory Kavanagh)
6. Rich Pulis *
7. Ben Hope (HT sub George Elsby)
8. Rich Hartley
9. John Halton
10. Andrew Chung (HT sub Martin Gurr)
11. Adam Rendall (HT sub Tom Parker)
12. Adam Beech (*Captain*)
13. Henry James (HT sub Spencer Lunn)
14. Will Bowes (HT sub Steve Douthwaite)
15. Ross Hunter
16. Jack Green
17. Rory Kavanagh
18. George Elsby
19. Martin Gurr
20. Tom Parker
21. Spencer Lunn
22. Steve Douthwaite

* Denotes Man of the Match.

Tamworth - 0 Alcester - 69

Following on from the impressive performance of last week's training game Alcester U17/U18's played their 1st full game of the season, albeit a friendly.

The weather was perfect for our fast paced open running rugby and Alcester made good use of both the conditions and the ball.

The game was far more competitive than the scoreline suggests, especially in the 1st half with Tamworth giving Alcester problems at the ruck with some excellent counter rucking and some crafty play to try to slow the release of the ball from the ruck.

Alcester came out of the blocks very quickly for a side this early in the season looking remarkably composed and striking at the heart of the Tamworth defence. Within the opening minutes forcing a penalty deep in the Tamworth 22 which was powered over only to be held up over the line. The ensuing scrum was won by Alcester and after some impressive handling Ross Hunter crossed the visitors line to open up the score.

Alcester went into half time 29 – 0 ahead following an excellent performance by the whole team. However, there were some players that deserve special mention; Rich Pulis (eventual man of the match), Ben Hope, Ben Tohill (playing in the 2nd row, but around the pitch he became a 4th back row player), Henry James (1st game for the club), the list could go on and on...actually, special mention to Tom Parker and Rory Kavanagh for helping the opposition out by playing ½ a game for them, being replaced in the 2nd half by Adam Rendall and Jamie Leitch respectively.

There were no less than 7 substitutions at half time, the side had a different dynamic, but the quality was by no means reduced. This was also apparent during the training game the previous week.

The second half saw Tamworth start to self-destruct, arguing amongst themselves off the ball and not working well as a team as they has during the 1st half, tiredness was also a factor playing up the hill.

As the score neared 50 to nil early in the 2nd half, Tamworth were consulted and asked if they wanted to end the game. They decided to carry on, Alcester made a few more changes trying players in different positions. Iain Simes coming back onto the field at 8 to replace Rich Hartley (who had yet another rock solid performance), Iain made another impressive contribution. Jack Thompson worked tirelessly to try to overcome the Tamworth tight-head, Jack learnt some new front-row techniques during this game. Martin Gurr, coming off the bench, played the best ½ of flyhalf rugby that he has produced for Alcester to date.

The game ended 69 – 0 to Alcester with the referee shortening the game by 10mins to save further embarrassment to the visitors. This was an impressive performance, however if we want to compete with the top sides, we must up our game still further, this comes from increased commitment and healthy competition – bring on the new season!

Tries; Ross Hunter 4, Rich Hartley 3, Andrew chung, Jack Green, Tom Parker, Martin Gurr.

Conversions; Rich Harley, Martin Gurr 6.