

Simon's Sons XV 40 - Alcester All Star Veterans 15

This was a game that had more than one winner. Firstly it proved that geriatric rugby can be quite entertaining, and also that Alcester R.F.C rises to the challenge of this sort of event with aplomb.

Long serving club member Simon Barugh had wanted to play a full game of rugby in his sixtieth year, and with only three weeks to go before reaching 61 it was now or never! Due to his old age, many of the players in the squad called him Dad, so it seemed appropriate to call the side Simon's Sons. It was also a tribute to Derek Simons, another long standing club member who sadly passed away recently.

Most of the players had a few miles on the clock, with people like Antonio Cortes, Chrissie (Richard) Nelson, Nigel Birchley, and for the vets side the likes of Chris Carrol, Richard Hinkley, Pat Lamb amongst others.

It was clear that it was going to be hard work, with temperatures soaring into the late sixties, and ground as hard as rock, but everybody seemed up for it.

The game started with the obligatory hakka, which was based on "Humpty Dumpty", and it seemed to go down very well with both the players, and the ever swelling group of spectators.

As expected Alcester All Stars started off running everything, with the slope, what little wind there was, and the sun on their backs, the first ten minutes belonged to them. Wave after wave of big old boys, peppered with a few youngsters, confronted a fairly determined defence, and it was completely against the run of play when scrum half Ross Coombes took a loose ball and ran half the length of the pitch to score under the posts. This try was converted by Man of the Match Richard Widdop playing at Fly Half, and it was the same player who took the second try and again converted.

As the visitors were only playing with 14 men, this lead probably did little or nothing to encourage the All Stars, but they stuck to the task resolutely. With two tries for Alcester, and a further try for the visitors, the score line at half time was a respectable 21 – 10, but with the advantages about to change the second half was going to be an uphill struggle for the home side.

As predicted, the second half was a little more one sided than the first, and with further tries from Widdop and Coombes, plus a well worked forwards drive culminating in a try for Craig Fear, the game was won. However just as you would expect the vets came back, and scored a good try in the dying minutes, they never gave up.

Dickie Moore who captained the Alcester All Stars can be proud of his teams performance, the icing on the cake being a try by his son Ollie, previously trained by Barugh. Special mention should go to Pete Billings who refereed the game, and to Richard Blount, and big Al Williams who both had outstanding games after a long layoff.

Thanks to everybody who made this possible, it was a great game played in the right spirit, and that way everybody is a winner.