

Alcester u14s travelled to Bromsgrove for a tough encounter on a showery but bright morning. Despite being behind 10 – 7 half way through the second half they fought back doggedly for a 19 – 10 victory.

Bromsgrove started well and put Alcester under pressure. Their forwards were large and posed problems at the rucks and scrums while their backs employed kicking tactics whenever they could. Bromsgrove took a quick lineout around halfway then kicked across the field. Alcester's Chris Cook picked up the ball and raced down the wing, outsprinted the opposition defenders to touch down under the posts. Bromsgrove used their strength up front with good driving play to score out wide. Half time came and Alcester were ahead 7 – 5.

Bromsgrove started well in the second half with their downhill advantage. Tom Alder tackled a Bromsgrove back into touch to save a try. However moments later Bromsgrove won an Alcester defensive scrum 5m out and powered over to take the lead. Alcester improved their forward play with Jacob Turner putting in some excellent tackles. One weakness for Alcester has been their rucking but the forwards played out of their skins to retain the ball. The extra possession allowed their backs to play flowing, running rugby and they used this to their advantage. Good hands from Matt Gunningham allowed him to hold onto a pass and use his speed and agility to weave around the defenders and put Alcester back in front. Alcester were now combining forward and back play really well. A turnover at the ruck in Bromsgrove's half allowed Alcester to set up another excellent back move with Josh French and Tom von Malachowski setting up Gunningham to score his second under the posts. Alder made the conversion and Alcester held firm for a 19 – 10 victory. This was an excellent display by Alcester – one of their best victories in a number of years. The whole team played tremendously well – Ryan Duggan and Turner had good games but Gunningham's tries and good positional play earned him the accolade of man of the match.