



Match Report

3 March

Away

Ely Development

Won 38:12



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Rik Relph 2) Dan Jerred 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknel
4) Brian Smith 5) Rob Bevington
6) Jonathan Burch 7) Chris (Glove) Milne 8) Tom Powell
9) Stewart Faben (Capt.) 10) Daray Horn
11) Eddie Murphy 12) Ben Powell 13) Fabio Falter 14) John Bateson
15) Tom Cowley

Replacements

- 16 Richard Cowley 17 Tom Wykes 18 Hugh Smith 19

Report

A game of two halves so, I will report it that way, fact and fantasy.

Firstly our starting XV had a few differences from normal Ben had returned from the land of nod and out were the Pescis and Harry and Shannon. Beaky was also missing as he was training for the marathon we had Fab at Scrum half.

From the start we had a lineout on the 22, we called a gap ball and with Fab charging through into their defence, Ely were deemed to have gone in over the top. Renegades had a penalty and young Tom kicked for goal, it was a Jonny Wilkenson moment as the ball was not what he was used to and he missed. Several minutes later we had another lineout on Ely's 22 quick lineout was taken a clever little kick through went over the dead ball line and resulted in a 22 dropout. Ely keen to show they were quick, panicked and took it quickly, Glove spread-eagled himself over the kicker and charged down, Ben cleared the sleep from his eyes pick the ball up and ran over for an easy try.

Ely then had a brief excursion into Renegade territory but the defence held firm and Darey kicked up field, Ely knocked on and there was a scrappy scrum, following a ruck Tom Powell came out with the ball and powered through Fab was supporting and took the pass to score and Tom C found his range for a conversion.

Ely were dominating the scrum winning against the head and making steady progress towards the Renegades line. It was a credit to the defence that we managed to clear the danger and keep Ely back. Darey could have made more use of the cross breeze but did enough to get us out of trouble several times. After one such kick downfield we lost the lineout but Tom C ran round and picked it up this time Ben was awake on with him to receive the pass and score, Tom then converted 19-0.

What happened next can only be described as a piece of rugby genius straight from the training ground. After a lineout in Ely's 22 Rik got the ball back to Fab he then looped round the back of Fab to receive the ball. From 5m out Rik started to swallow dive over the line and place the ball down gently to score 24-0.

We then relaxed Rik had scored the sun was shining happy days. Ely forced their way back and although they did miss a penalty in renegades 22 they kept up the pressure and a couple of good scrums for Ely and eventually they forced their way over the line to finish the half 24-5.

At half time Fab made the substitutions Old Tom and even older Cowley came on. As this half was a bit of a blur I will report from what I can remember please fill in the blanks. The scrums stopped going backwards, Tom W made a huge try saving tackle.

Tom P ran a lot and scored by knocking over a 16 year old. Fab took the ball at a lineout and got poked in the eye. Rik came on for them until they could make their substitution.

Dan hurt his leg Rik came back on for us I went to hooker and managed to hook the ball. We got counter rucked several times and the ref missed the offside, they scored but the miss of the day (by the ref) was in the final minutes. A ruck was formed 2 m from Ely line the ball bobbed out, lightning reaction by Cowley senior picked up the ball cleanly and dived goalkeeper fashion over the line slamming the ball down over the chalk whilst being simultaneously tackled. The ref being unsighted couldn't give it and so final score 38 -12

"Well played everyone on Saturday. Great to see some of the guys, who haven't had much game time lately, step up and play so well.

I think Ely fancied an upset, they had some good, experienced players who would expect to be considered for their first team! Quite early on you could see their confidence drop as we started the game so well. I don't think they touched the ball for about ten minutes!." Stuart Faben

"Don't forget that I had to sprint 40 yards, outpace their winger and center to dot the ball down over our line after their cheeky chip through." Tom Wykes

"That was my personal match highlight Tom, but only on the proviso that Mr Rikolas's try was my personal highlight of the season!" Rob Bevington

"Amen to that Bev " Tom Powell

Scores

Try: Ben Powell 2, Rik Relph 1, Stuart Faben 1, Tom Powell 1

Conversion: Tom Cowley 2



No nominations



No nominations

Report by Richard Cowley