

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

8 September

Home

Cambridge Exiles

Lost 5:50



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Jack Cowley 2) Dan Jerred 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
4) Rik Relph 5) Jonathan Burch
6) Chris 'Glove' Milne 7) Ren Pesci 8) Graham Beckford
9) Stuart Faben 10) Tom Cowley
11) Peter Waples 12) Harry Cowley, 13) Gladstone 14) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
15) John Bateson

Replacements

- 16) Gerry 17) Dave 'Ken' 'Cookie' Cook 18) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards 19) Richard Cowley

Report

The new season kicked off on the new pitch and posts with a handful of new players eager to get the Renegades season underway.

Pre-season had been patchy and this was going to be a case of blowing the cobwebs out, getting our game plan and set piece working again.

Harry tested Ren's recent erection early on in the warm up with a drop kick that clattered his post. It wobbled but didn't yield and the new posts had been christened and were ready to go.

Cambridge were missing a hooker so special thanks has to go to Gerry and Dan Jerred for playing a half each for them.

The game kicked off in scorching heat and although 20 minute water breaks had been agreed, it was clear that these were too far away with the frantic opening pace of the opening exchanges. In fact

Harry decided that these breaks were far too far away and gave up after 5 minutes with a twisted knee.

After a quick shuffle in the pack with Jack replacing his brother in the centres, Rik moving to front row and Psycho coming on at second row, the game resumed and it was clear that if Renegades were going to get anything from this game then the pack were going to have to be more aggressive in ball carrying, rucking and getting to the breakdown.

Cambridge were quick to turn over our attacking ball and relentless in running. There was some brilliant defence especially from Gladstone and Jack in the centres who time and time again stopped play in the midfield or scrambled back to make last ditch tackles.

Eventually the defences broke and former 'Gade Ben Powell went over for Cambridge. This pattern continued from the restart and soon Cambridge were over for a second. From the next kick-off weak and tired tackling led to the catcher running from his own 22 and dotting down under the posts.

Wave after Wave of Cambridge attack came and although mostly repelled, the sheer volume of runners led to them running in another 3 tries before half time.

The half time team-talk focused around rucking past the ball, upping our aggression at the breakdown and getting our legs pumping when carrying ball.

The second half saw Richard replace Rik and Dave 'Ken' 'Cookie' Cook replace Psycho.

Dave Ken Cookie's first contribution was to knock the Cambridge No.6 off the pitch after Cambridge had re-claimed their kick off. He was to make a number of big hits throughout the game making an impressive debut.

Suddenly 'Gades were making inroads in midfield with runners breaking the gain-line and securing ball for the backs. The game was now being mostly played in the Cambridge half.

However, showing their superior fitness and game awareness, Cambridge broke from some 'Gades pressure and scored the first try of the second half.

Neither lineout was impressive but the 'Gades lineout was malfunctioning, but has Stuart took scrappy ball of the top and was brought down by a combination of the world's smallest scrum half and a backrow, he managed to get the ball back and Glove picked up exploiting the lack of guards at the ruck and with a clean run on the fullback.

The fullback made the tackle but Glove, doing what he had told the team not to do at the beginning of the game, offloaded out the back of his hand (Beaky disputes this was a misplaced pass to him) that Peter Waples grabbed and scored in the corner for the 'Gades first points of the new pitch.

The game continued in the same fashion and quick hands sent Peter free down the line and Gladstone bundled into touch by 3 Cambridge defenders – each one seeming hell-bent on revenge as Gladstone had been eagerly throwing most of the Cambridge backline around in defence.

From a penalty move and some repeated quick rucks Dave Ken Cookie managed to squeeze over the Cambridge line only for it to be held up.

Soon after, a quick turnover and break from Cambridge released Ben Powell who went over for his hat trick.

Undeterred, 'Gades went back into the Cambridge 22 and from a stolen lineout set a driving maul, which moved unstoppably towards the Cambridge line. Beaky was the man with the ball in his hands as he crossed the line, however the referee couldn't see whether the ball had been grounded and it was adjudged to have been held up again.

From the resultant penalty, the 'Gades drove again but the game ended when Tom Cowley's head met with the parched ground and the referee decided to end the game there; Jack being the last Cowley standing from beginning to end.

It was a greatly improved performance in the second half with lots of positives to take. We've got a week to get it right when we take on Newmarket next week but we need as many numbers as possible at training.

Great debuts from Gladstone (re-debut), Dave Ken Cookie, Peter and Jerry.

Scores

Try: Peter Waples



Gladstone – obviously he needs to work on his tackling but otherwise shows much promise



Beaky for 'his worst attempt at a tackle in 20 years of Rugby'

Report by Chris 'Glove' Milne

Photos by Carl Goodey









