

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

3 November

Away

Cantabs 2

Lost 10:23



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Chris Leith 2) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 3) Dan Jerred

4) Richard Cowley 5) Rik Relfh

6) Nick Skipworth 7) Ren Pesci, 8) Daniel Leith

9) Rolando Pesci 10) Darey Horn

11) Josh Coughlan 12) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay 13) Ben Powell 14) Eddie 'Bill Bob' Murphy

15) John Bateson

Replacements

16) Dave Steward 17) Chris 'Phycho' Edwards 18) Brian Smith

19) Jack Cowley 20) Gladstone Watt 21) Jonathan Burch

Report

It was an ideal day for rugby and local rivals Cantabs provided the opposition for this friendly fixture.

Missing a few regulars seemed to upset the usual pre-match routines. The warm up was jovial and somewhat disjointed and I was sent off to find some water bottles as they were in Rolando's garage. Unbelievably, given my turn of pace, by the time I returned Renegades were gathering under their posts one try down already. The faces on the touchline said it all, missed tackles lack of concentration and the friendly attitude had colluded against us. Fortunately the conversion was missed but it was a far from ideal start.

The first 20 minutes were spent deep in the Renegades half and if the Cantabs backs had been able to catch or pass they would have put more points on the board. Darey was able to buy some intermittent space with some sound kicking from defence, however Cantabs were winning possession back at the line out far too easily.

All was not lost however Baz showed that we could score without having to be too deep in the Cantabs half. "He can't half kick that lad!" "How does he do that?" A huge kick from close to half way narrowed the gap to 5 - 3.

Then all too soon after the restart the line out malfunctioned again in desperation a Renegade may have been offside, that was certainly the referees view. Suddenly the sleepy and sloppy 'Gades had their backs turned for the quick penalty and Cantabs added another unconverted try, 10 - 3.

The only way that Renegades seemed to get into the Cantabs half was through the boot, and so far two restarts, however missed tackles soon meant we were back in our own 22 with predictable regularity. The referee was seeing the side with numbers doing the right thing, so far too often penalty decisions were going against Renegades. The need to build pressure was obvious but it was never going to happen with single players. JB was replaced by Dave Steward at fullback due to a dead leg sustained whilst defending on the line again.

It was nearly half time and Renegades managed to launch a couple of sustained thrusts, Ben put in the best hand off of the match but the 5 meter line was as close as anybody was to come to the Cantabs line. The referee ended the first half with the score at 10 - 3 to Cantabs.

Rik was replaced by Jonathon, Richard by the younger Cowley (Jack) and Nick "I slightly less new now" was replaced by Psycho.

Again almost immediately from the restart Cantabs nippy winger was able to weave a way through to score and convert, making it 17 - 3.

Bill Bob was replaced by Gladstone and Chris Leith by Brian. This obviously worried Cantabs who thought they needed a greater margin and kicked another 3 points.

With the line out still looking like a game of Whack-a-Mole Renegades were now turning penalties into Cantabs possession by kicking for territory. It was just a slow game of tennis now, perhaps this is what launched the Renegade rocket! Suddenly the scrum got big and before we knew it Ginger Dan picked up, Psycho snatched the ball and bullied over the Cantabs line. Naturally Baz converted with little back-lift, 20 -10 to Cantabs.

Suddenly Renegades were becoming a force to be reckoned with, they won "100% of two line outs" and were able to create a little more pressure. Sadly the ball was dropped on a couple of occasions with gaps opening up. Another penalty went to Cantabs to add 3 more points.

It had certainly livened up a bit though. Psycho and Gladstone both had "moments" and quite rightly the referee showed a Cantabs player the yellow card. However he was reprieved for having an inappropriately packed handbag by Renegades who allowed him to continue, imagine the shame and how humble he must have felt!

Renegades saved the best until last with 60 seconds, putting a few phases together and threatening but not crossing the Cantabs line. The final score, against a team in the higher division, was 23 - 10. It could have been a different ending had Renegades not taken the word “friendly” too literally. Get the heads in the game, the line out working and work together and next time it’ll be different.

Scores

Try: Chris Edwards

Penalty: Andrew ‘Baz’ MacKey

Conversion: : Andrew ‘Baz’ MacKey



Man of the Match could be Beaky for managing to fart while bursting for a wee, but really has to go to Baz for a solid and consistent display.



The doughnut could either go to Baz for nearly coming off when his head got tickled by a boot or Darey for his immensely wide drop kick but has to go to Rolando for making me miss the first try by leaving the water bottles in his garage.

Report by Chris ‘Flora’ Beddow