

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

9 February

Home

Saffron Walden 2

Won 25:14



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Rik Relph 2) Dan Jerred 3) Tom Powell
- 4) Dave 'Ken Kate' Cook 5) Tom Wykes
- 6) Nick Skipworth 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne 8) Chris Machin
- 9) Ritz Steytler 10) Daray Horn
- 11) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner 12) Dave Steward 13) Reggie Campbell 14) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
- 15) Jeff 'Medic' Mercer

Replacements

- 16) Richard Cowley 17) Ren Pesci 18) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford 19) Chris 'Glove' Milne

Report

It was a fine if rather chilly day for rugby, could the Renegades recovery begin in the junior cup against Saffron Walden? The Govner had been busy trying to assemble a team: all debts had been called in, trees shaken and there'd even been a bit of blackmail and fishing amongst 'Gades past and present. The warm up suggested a couple of substitutes, but after a minutes silence it looked like a dream team bench would be supporting what was a creditable fifteen.

Walden don't really appear to have a second team as such and it was good to see some of our old friends from the club they call "The Third Team." The game started at a pace and neither team appeared to wish to give any quarter. Rik was soon replaced by Richard after putting in his tackle of the season but over flexing is half-centennial hip. The Walden backs looked sharp and following a very well placed grub kick and chase beat the covering Renegades backs to score and convert, going in front after less than five minutes. It was time to dig deep otherwise it could be another "town-near-the-A1" experience.

The scrum was fiercely contested, both teams having lots of experience but generally winning their own ball. The much maligned Renegades lineout was for once working well, despite limited options, and coupled with some great territorial kicking from the hands by Darey the Renegades were man-

aging to build some pressure. Stout Walden defence coupled with a little judicious spoiling meant that this was not being converted to points. Walden kept pinning the Renegades back with some good kicking. It was one slightly less well placed kick that was gathered by big, young Tom he believes somewhere in Rampton! Having run the two miles to Cottenham the ball went to Reggie, Medic and eventually the returning Paperboy in what was one of the best handling moves of the season that saw him score on the left. It was 5 - 7, Renegades tails were up!

Five minutes later and the Renegades pack were looking very strong in the Walden twenty two. After one reset five yard scrum the ball squirted out and Ritz, who was having a good day at scrum half for the first time, reacted quickly to score. Renegades went into half time 10 - 7 up.

A few changes and a shuffle saw Beaky come out of retirement and Ren and Glove come on, the dream team bench looked a little lighter. The sideline still saw some injured injuns watching on, Big Mumbles Ben was wired, Rolando regretted reacting angrily and Bev was for once out of his lycra. All thoughts were with Fabio who was at home dying with a sniffle, as he would say, "Gorillas Are Young"! Nick and Chris were replaced but had really put in the effort and had an impact on the field.

As the game went on the referee got tired of being told what to do and of Walden slowing down the game and being offside or off their feet, he had no alternative but to yellow card their errant scrum half, who upon his return from the touchline was replaced there by Phil the Walden referee who should have known better! This indiscipline cost Walden dear. The Renegades were able to secure ball and move it quickly to create space using the pace of Reggie and Paperboy and the latter went over for his second try following a stumble on the left. 15 -7

With the forwards on top, confidence high and the lineout working what better way to celebrate than with a driving maul controlled by Beaky to see him cross the Walden line 20 - 7. Next big young Tom burst through the middle following a ruck on the Walden twenty two to score and give us all a big Buzz Lightyear grin 25 -7.

Walden didn't give up and did manage another converted try to make the final score 25 - 7 to the Renegades, result happiness!

It had been a good afternoon. Five well worked tries, Dave had come close with all the conversions having not kicked for Renegades and some fantastic tackling. Ritz had stepped in commendably, Chris Machin had been everywhere for a half, Beaky came out of retirement and returned there, Paperboy had delivered and Bill Bob had been very involved without touching the ball.

Again man of the match has to go to Old Tom for another all-consuming performance! The skipper of the day young big Tom gets the doughnut, he was greedy not for eating doughnuts but for not passing as often as he should have done.

Scores

Tries: Matt 'Paperboy' Turner (2), Ritz Steytler, Graham 'Beaky' Beckford, Tom Powell



Old Tom for another all-consuming performance



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Report by Flora