



Match Report

31 August

Home

Sawston

Won 24:22



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Dan Jerred 3) Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith

4) Chris Leith 5) James Jerred

6) No flankers started 7) No flankers started 8) Ren Pesci

9) Rolando Pesci 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

11) Dave 'Reggi's Mate' Parkes 12) Tom Heathcote 13) Dave Steward 14) Peter Waples

15) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner

Replacements

16) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford 17) Richard Cowley 18) Lloyd Smart

Turned out for Sawston

Jonathan Burch, Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy, Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes, Peter Waples

Report

The new season dawned and the sun shone. The Renegades assembled to meet Sawston who despite being short on numbers met their obligation for this pre-season friendly; no matter the 'Gades were able to lend them four or five players. The game was to be played in quarters and refereed by Sam Vail who looked resplendent in his society top. The touch line was graced by the presence of several more 'Gades some who had no intention of playing and one who wouldn't be able to resist!

The Renegades got off to a very purposeful start and profited from a Sawston knock on in their 22 and were able to move the ball quickly to young Dave on the wing who used his blistering pace to score, sadly Baz the new skipper missed the kick but the Gades season was off to a good start. Sawston galvanised themselves and were unfortunate to spill the ball with the try line beckoning.

From the resulting scrum Renegades were able to attack from deep and after some slick passing Paperboy scored under the posts at the far end for Baz to convert, 12-0 to 'Gades.

What happened in the next 50 minutes we'll never know, but credit has to go to Sawston. They started to boss the scrum and to compete for the ball more aggressively than the Renegades. It has to be said perhaps being 12-0 up maybe the Renegades thought they were in an easy game, players were guilty of running too far from support, getting isolated, going into contact to upright and not competing aggressively enough for the ball. Sawston scored the next 22 points and with 10 minutes left looked like they would take the victory, denied possession the Renegades simply couldn't play and despite the Pesci's usual persistence the game was slipping away.

A talk to the pack about engagement at the scrum under the new regulations by Beaky and a shift to get gobby Lloyd to lead the backs had a significant impact however and the Renegades began to press and contemplate an unlikely comeback. The increased effort, commitment and guile produced possession and a try to Dave Parkes but no conversion. It was 17-22 and there was one play left. Sensibly Sawston kicked long young Dave collected and took off, beating half the Sawston team and getting scragged just below half way, the Renegades woke up recycled the ball and before the crowd knew it old Dave was almost sprinting for the line! He was kept out wide but touched down to level the score. Now was the time for the new skipper to find his kicking head again to claim his first victory. He did, 24-22 to the Renegades!

It had been one of the longest games on record, with fewer stoppages than most, fitness had been a factor for both teams but lessons had been learned. Best not to draw attention to shortcomings here but training and then taking that training to the pitch is key, use the play patterns, tactics and compete if you want to win. There were good performances from players and these should be recognised. The Pesci's were as committed as ever, Tom Heathcote (Ben 2) had a promising first outing and Paperboy was busy. Thanks to the Renegades who played for Sawston, Billbob had a good game.

Scores

Tries: Dave 'Reggi's mate' Parkes (2), Matt 'Paperboy' Turner, Dave Steward.

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



Paperboy for being so industrious and his running just watch the kicking in future.



Richard 60th Birthday Boy Cowley, who got caught shouting at the forwards to get moving as he trundled across the 22 when play was beyond the Sawston 10 meter line

Report by Chris 'Flora' Beddow. Photos by Carl Goodey and Flora (mainly Carl)

**First huddle of the season
why is Dan playing to the
Camera?**



Booey photobombs from the middle!



Give me that ball



Ren inspects Sam's armpit



Alecadon'ts



Beaky reveals all (well quite a lot anyway)



Good Sawston break



Matt in a clinch



Ren looks on approvingly as his younger brother seems to pass the ball quite well



Baz



24:22 (phew!) – Baz again!



Post-match post protector



Didn't he do well!

