

# Renegades Rugby



## Match Report

12 April v-Away Dolphin RFC

Won 30:20



### Teams

| Renegade Dolphins (in Renegades strip) RG | #  | Dolphin Renegades (in Dolphin Strip) YG     |
|---|----|---|
| Tom Powell                                | 1  | Richard Cowley                              |
| Harry Cowley                              | 2  | Danny Dolphin                               |
| Rik 'Big Breakfast' Relph                 | 3  | Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes                         |
| Lee I'm working at 3:00 am Monday Bryant  | 4  | Matthew 'Stan Fred Flinstone Snorer' Hughes |
| Richard Dolphin                           | 5  | Chris Leith                                 |
| Dan Leith                                 | 6  | Johnny Dolphin                              |
| Eoin Dolphin                              | 7  | Peter Dolphin                               |
| Dan 'Purple' Poucher                      | 8  | Stuart 'Fabio' Faben                        |
| Chris Dolphin                             | 9  | Rolando Pesci                               |
| Darey Horn                                | 10 | Baz 'Munsterman' Mackay                     |
| Matt 'Paperboy' Turner                    | 11 | Billbob 'Munsterman' Murphy                 |
| Tom Heathcote                             | 12 | Jack 'Another Cowley' Cowley                |
| Dave Steward                              | 13 | Larry Dolphin                               |
| Tom 'The Last' Cowley                     | 14 | Reggie Campbell                             |
| Dave Dolphin                              | 15 | Orlan Dolphin                               |

**Subs:** Rob 'Bev' Bevington, Young Pink Sleeves Dolphin, Graham 'Beaky' Beckford

### Report

Musgrave Park.... A place with a history. Home to Munster for all their RaboDirect Pro12 games, and also home to not one but two rugby clubs: Sundays Well and Dolphin RFC. According to Wiki, Bayern Munich once played here. (They are a big German football club in case you don't know.) Certainly the All Blacks and Aussies know the place....

"On the field some of the highlights was the day that Munster held the mighty All-Blacks, the visitors gaining a share of the spoils with an injury time penalty, while the province have registered a hat-trick of wins over the Wallabies at the venue, their last success came in 1992 when the Australians were World Champions. Other events that have been staged at the ground included major Pipe Band competitions as well as a European Cup soccer match. "

As you'd expect, the main pitch was both huge and better suited to carpet bowls. And the size and physique of those guys warming up.... Glad to be watching this one.

A word about one Brendan Murphy, Dolphin stalwart, better known as Burr. Burr, now 91, probably doesn't quite have the same spring in his step compared to the day 76 years ago when he first turned up to Dolphin. But you would become seriously wealthy if you could bottle and sell the passion he retains for the club. Burr happens to be our captain Andy Mackay's grandad - hence the fixture. It was a great pleasure to see him at the game along with his daughter Caroline (Andy's mum), her sisters, various cousins, in-laws, and of course Andy's sister Fiona over from London.

(Also a quick word about Eddie's dad and sister who both appeared during the afternoon. Let's play the 6 degrees of separation game. We all know Eddie. Eddie knows his sister. She was entertaining Mr & Mrs Zebo that evening, parents of Simon, the Munster winger. So we all know Simon Zebo. Fact!)

Now back to the rugby...

As it turned out, the Gades game was on one of the Park's (thankfully) smaller pitches, and, despite being barer than a baboons arse in places was, by all accounts, playable especially after a few minutes of rain during the warm-up. (Just a reminder that we're in Eire, I suppose.)

And as for the size and physique of the opposition... there was none. See below.

Unusually for a 'Gades Tour, the pre-game warm-up looked encouraging thanks to the large number of players (about 25). Well there were some guys wearing the shirts anyway. Remarkable considering the amount of drink drunk during in the previous 28 hours.

As for the Dolphin opposition, a Cup game was the cause of their non-appearance, with just 10 or so players available for our game. The game went ahead, but the sides mixed into the Red Gades/Dolphin (our red/black kit) and Yellow Gades/Dolphin wearing the fetching Dolphin's Ladies kit. Talk about man boobs!

One outcome of the mixing of the sides was some interesting match-ups. Cap'n Baz against Darey at 10; 2/3 or each front row; Reggie vs Tom Cowley. (That last one would be particularly interesting if either of them bothered to run straight.)

What followed was one of the most entertaining of games played all season, punctuated by several quality tries and of course played in the best of spirits. Hic!

The Match, in brief and in the present tense.

Red Gades (RG) start strongly, ethanol having positive effect. Early pressure results in 5-0 as Matt Paper Boy Turner rounds Eddie to score. 5-0.

Roused Yellow Gades (YG) respond strongly. Stu F takes the ball inside the RG 22 and, executing his typical bowling ball tactics, scores. Dave Stewart was the prime pin. Ouch. 5-5.

After 10 minutes, the pattern of the game is set. RG look the more dangerous, but never able to land a knock-out blow. More of a drunken slap.

On 15 mins., another sweeping move out left leaving Matt PBT to out-sprint Eddie. A moral victory to the old Oeirish, but 10-5.

(At this point the first of several interventions made by some Pesci watcher on the touchline. Seems to be exercised by some loss of 'try-scoring honour'. Possibly collusion with Ref???)

RG continue to dominate. Tom Heathcote seems to have recovered fully from hamstring injury with a couple of strong runs and a try. 15-5.

YGs respond quickly though. No name number 12 comes on. He's a big lad, apparently just out of nappies (well 17 year old so I'm told) and is wearing a suspicious pink under shirt, with dodgy red shorts along with that slightly lurid ladies (rugby) shirt that's several sizes too small. A liberated youngster clearly but can he play rugby.... Think a young Stu F playing rugby instead of chucking spears. One to watch out for. Nice reverse pass from Baz and he's in for to make it 15-10.

### **Half time**

Second half follows same pattern as first. Periods of very tidy handling from both sides and plenty of commitment. The 10 locals are useful as well. We wonder how Gades would have got on playing Dolphins proper. Scary. Young Mr 12 scores again levelling the score: 15-15.

At this point I should point out that YGs have 17 players on the pitch.

Game still finely poised – maybe going RG's way, especially after nice move from Dave S puts Matt PBT in for his hat-trick. Also means he's getting dangerously close to the season's try-scoring leader board. But NO. Ref calls for forward pass and shows thumbs up sign to crowd. That Pesci guy on the side jumps up and down flashing a crisp new 20 Euro note in Ref's direction. Looks pleased like he's dived into a vat Mr Guinnesses finest. Anybody know what's going on?? So still 15-15.

RGs recover from setback as local 15 hands off Reggie to score. Time up for YGs? 20-15.

No. A 3 try-burst from YGs follows turning the game on its head.

Driving maul – Stu F in vanguard close to scoring. Great handling move involving the now nearly all the (now) 16 YG players. Father of the Game Richard Cowley is on hand to a) not drop the pass and b) fall over the line to score his first try. I mean his first try NOT since 1995. His first try\*. Ever (aged 60). I could have embellished this further Richard, but (unlike the Ref.) I haven't been paid yet. 20-20

Sweetest try of the lot sees the ball move diagonally left then right to put Russ in the right corner. YGs now ahead. 20-25. Final try – another good move including a cracking tap-pass from Old Tom - is scored by local 24. Rout! 20-30

Match ends

Ref rushes to that Pesci bloke on the side. Money changes hands. Ref seen diddly-diddling his way to the bar. Pesci bloke looks smug. Meanwhile Burr presented Andy with a fine trophy that will stay with Gades (unless Dolphin come over and win it back?) and gave a fine speech and a rendition of the Dolphin song.

### **Scores**

Try: Matt Turner (3), Stuart Faben, Tom Heathcote, Richard Cowley, Russell Attle

Conversion: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)



Matt Turner for scoring three tries and for accepting a totally corrupt referee's decision without protest.



Billbob – he has the outfit. Quote from Beaky: “Even if you scored 11 tries, you were still getting the doughnut”. He was safe on that one.

However, he shares the doughnut with Rob Bevington who is awarded an unprecedented quintuple roll-over doughnut for his flying attempt against Cambridge. No sympathy for tour throat!

*Match report by John JB Bateson*