

Match Report

5 April Away Royston 2 Won 31:22 Team Starting Line-up 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Dan Jarred 3) Tom Wykes 4) Tom Powell 5) Lee Bryant 6) Ritz Steytler 7) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 8) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford 9) Rolando Pesci 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay 11) Peter Waples 12) Tom Heathcote 13) Dave Steward 14) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner 15) Darey Horn

Replacements

John JB Bateson, Richard Cowley

Report

Renegades arrived in dribs and drabs at Royston's scenic ground. Initially a bunch of Renegades wandered into the gents changing room in the main building to find themselves in a palatial changing room with state-of-the-art showers. It wasn't long before we were re-directed to the shed next door.

Royston were on the pitch well before Renegades and they seemed to be getting their game heads on with plenty of vigorous activity. Eventually, Renegades got going but the energy level was worryingly low.

When the game started, things seemed to go quite well for Renegades and we dominated the play in the opening minutes. This did not stop the Royston number 11 making a brilliant break through the Renegades defences to score under the posts, leaving a straightforward conversion 0-7. Play continued to go Renegades way but it was quite a while before Dan Jarred managed to open the account for Renegades with a good try on the right hand side. The conversion was difficult and was not successful: 5-7. Shortly afterwards, Royston slotted home a penalty bringing the score to 5-10.

A lovely break by Tom Powell gave Renegades the edge and Peter Waples scored to even up the scores. The conversion was tricky again and went awry: 10-10. The scores remained level at the interval.

The second half looked like it should be more promising for Renegades with the wind and the significant slope favouring the visiting side. Sadly, Royston had other ideas and not long into the second half, they stole the ball and made a good run to regain the lead although the try remained unconverted: 10-15.

Things were looking a bit bleak for Renegades. It seemed to get worse when a penalty awarded to Renegades was good according to the two touch judges but was disallowed by the referee. However, the resulting 22 dropout from Royston let to a bit of a Renegade high point as the kick was charged down by Fabio who then captured the ball and ran around the Royston defence to touch down under the posts – a brilliant solo try! Baz slotted the conversion with ease: 17-15.

This perked Renegades up considerably. Things were looking a bit better when the spoilsports from Royston only went and scored another breakaway try which remained unconverted: 17-22. However, Renegades came back quickly with a try for Rolando which was converted by Baz 24-22. This put a spring in the Renegades step and the game was taken right back to Royston. A scrum on the five metre line went well for Renegades but the ref called it back. On the second attempt the Renegades shove was irresistible giving Beaky the try from the back of the pack. Baz converted: 31-22

Royston counter attacked and forced Baz to kick defensively backwards into the Renegades own left hand corner. There was a period of Royston camped on the Renegades line culminating in a yellow card for Beaky for kicking the ball away after the whistle was blown. Even with a seven man scrum, Renegades managed to push Royston back and the defence held. The final whistle was heard with relief.

Scores

Try: Dan Jarred, Peter Waples, Stuart 'Fabio' Faben, Rolando Pesci, Graham 'Beaky' Beckford

Conversion: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)



Lee Bryant for excellent all round play. Closely followed by Dan Jarred for a great performance and Fabio for a worderful solo try.

Beaky for a needless yellow card However, he shares the doughnut with Rob Bevington who is awarded an unprecedented quadruple roll-over doughnut for his flying attempt against Cambridge. No sympathy for tonsillitis!

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy. Thanks to Flora for tweets.