



Match Report

20 September

Away

Haverhill

Lost 24:43



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Josh Cox 2) Ren Pesci 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 4) Dan Poucher 5) Chris Leith
- 6) Chris 'Glove' Milne 7) David Young 8) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford
- 9) Rolando Pesci 10) Dave Steward
- 11) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 12) Ben Powell 13) Jack Cowley 14) Phil 'Porkpie' Hepworth
- 15) Richard 'BTW' Fickling

Replacements

- 16) Steve Marsh 17) Rik Relph

Report

It was cold and dull as we headed south to Haverhill for the first time in a very long time. Very few Renegades had taken to the field against our hosts before. It was an experience to play on front of a vocal crowd of good-humoured home supporters. Their players looked well drilled and fit.

The first half started with both sides trying to establish an upper hand with the ball moving up and down the field as each side waxed and waned. This persisted for about 15 minutes without dominance being established. Then the floodgates opened and Haverhill began their rampant domination of the rest of the first half. An unconverted try was followed in short order by one that collected the full seven points. This was followed by another couple of converted tries to leave Renegades trailing and dazed – 0-26 down at half time.

The half time talk was critical in that failures to play out game were explored but positive – we were still in the game. Billbob made way for Steve Marsh.

The second half couldn't have got off to a worse start. Within a couple of minutes, Haverhill had scored another try after a break and a fortunate (for them) bounce. However, the half time talk did

seem to have an effect. Renegades began to spend a lot more time in the Haverhill 22 and eventually this paid off when Porkpie crashed over to open the Renegades account. Within five minutes the coppers were at it again as Dan Poucher broke through to claim a second. David Young converted 12-31.

Renegades sustained pressure for the next 15 minutes without reward until Jack Cowley wriggled his way through to bring the score to 17-31. It was still a mountain to climb but this game was coming back to the Renegades.

Sadly Haverhill had other ideas and scored two tries in quick succession, the second one converted to put the game beyond the reach of the Renegades. However, there was still some passion left in Renegades. A great break from Ben Powell from close to the Renegades line looked extremely promising but he was felled just short of the Haverhill line. Renegades camped in the Haverhill 22 and sustained pressure along with some neat combining of Beaky and Glove saw Glove score the Renegades fourth try which was converted by David Young 24-43.

Passion spilled over in the final minutes as a punch-up started between Rolando and a Haverhill player. Both were yellow carded for their efforts. There were no further scores.

Haverhill were sociable hosts in their clubhouse after the game and we look forward to welcoming them to Cottenham in mid-December when we will hopefully play like we did in the second half for the whole game.

Scores

Tries: Phil 'Porkpie' Hepworth, Dan Poucher, Jack Cowley, Chris 'Glove' Milne

Conversions: David Young (2)



Steve Marsh – for an outstanding debut performance in the second half



Rolando for getting carded and failing to score a hat-trick

Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy