



Match Report

4 October **Away** **Mildenhall/Red Lodge** **Draw 21:21**



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Ren Pesci 3) Tom 'Fat Tom' Powell

4) Tom 'Very Old Tom' Wykes 5) Rik Relph

6) Dan Poucher 7) Ben Powell 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben

9) Steve Marsh 10) Dave Steward

11) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 12) Tom Heathcote 13) Josh Scupham 14) Phil 'Porkpie' Hepworth

15) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner

Replacements

16) Richard Cowley 17) Rolando Pesci

Report

An accident on the A14 disrupted travel plans and meant that Renegades arrived in dribs and drabs and the kickoff had to be delayed to allow a team to assemble. Fortunately, by kickoff we had 15 players with Richard C overseeing the water and medicine bag. Rolando was also hoping to be supernumerary with a suspected sporting hernia. The rain was coming down heavily and everyone eyed Rolando's magnificent umbrella with jealousy as we prepared for the off.

Things got off to a fairly good start with Renegades taking the game to Mildenhall attacking well into their 22. However, the game wasn't very old when Tom Powell looked very uncomfortable with a popped rib. Sadly, Tom had to withdraw. The call went to Richard C on the side line, who trotted off to don his kit.

While waiting for Richard, the seven man Renegades scrum surprised Mildenhall by continuing to push them back win ball. Renegades sustained the pressure and eventually Ren Pesci went over and scored not far from the left touch line. The conversion kick was demanding but Fabio was up to the job and slotted the two points with style 7-0.

This seemed to wake Mildenhall who turned up the pressure. The game moved to the other end with enormous pressure being put on Renegades defence. There was some good defensive play which held them out but eventually, the pressure told and Mildenhall scored. The conversion was straightforward and taken 7-7.

Mildenhall kept up the pressure and it wasn't long before they scored and converted again 7-14.

At half time it was apparent that Tom Heathcote's hamstring had gone to a bad place again and Rolando was forced to put aside his umbrella and join the fray.

Mildenhall got off to a swift start and within minutes had increased their lead with another converted and controversial try 7-21. Not the start that Renegades wanted. However, the game began to turn. We began to vary the play a bit with amber balls being run and a few nice dinks over the top for the backs to chase and the pressure was on Mildenhall. We crossed the Mildenhall line on a couple of occasions but were deemed by the ref to have been held up. Eventually, Rolando spotted an opportunity as three defenders focussed their attention on Fabio and sneaked through a gap running a fair distance behind the line before touching down almost under the posts. He was assaulted by a Mildenhall centre for his trouble. The conversion was easy for Fabio 14-21.

Renegades sustained the pressure and remained camped in the Mildenhall half. The ball began to come out left a bit more and eventually the ball was passed to Dan Poucher who was not going to be stopped. The conversion kick was another demanding one but Fabio slotted it over with confidence 21-21.

That's how it remained for the rest of the game. There was concern that we might have to go to extra time if the score remained a draw and even the referee seemed uncertain. However, it emerged after the final whistle that Renegades go through as the away team in a draw.

We won 21-21. The losing streak is over!

Scores

Tries: Ren Pesci, Rolando Pesci, Dan Poucher

Conversions: Stuart Faben (3)



Ben Powell for dogged determination in attack and defence



Richard Cowley for taking 20 minutes to get changed

Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy