



## Match Report

28 February

Away

Sawston

Won 26:24



### Team

#### *Starting Line-up*

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Crecknell
- 2) Dan Jerred
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Andy Caruana
- 5) Rob 'Bev' Bevington
- 6) Richard 'BTW' Fickling
- 7) Dan S
- 8) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford
- 9) Stuart 'Birthday boy' Faben
- 10) Steve Marsh
- 11) Dave Steward
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom Heathcote
- 14) Jake Sweet
- 15) John 'JB' Bateson

#### *Replacements*

- 16) Doug Smith
- 17) Josh Scupham

### Report

The Renegades gathered at Sawston on Fabio's 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The mood was upbeat; we had beaten Sawston comfortably when they came to Cottenham. As a result the pre match warmup was not what it could have been and there was no game of touch, no stretch off and very little by way of any serious preparation for the game. Sawston, on the other hand were busy drilling before the kickoff.

It was immediately apparent that the preparation Sawston put in before the game paid massive dividends in terms of their performance on the pitch. From the kickoff they piled pressure on Renegades and we were immediately on the back foot. Sawston kept the pressure up and after about 15 minutes were able to convert a penalty into a converted try (0-7). It wasn't long before a second converted try increased their lead to 14-0.

Renegades, shocked by this deficit, started to up their game and the play moved to the Sawston half for a while. Some moves to attack the Sawston line were rebuffed but eventually a nice driving maul allowed Beaky to score from the back of the maul. Fabio slotted the conversion (7-14). Just before half time Sawston struck back with another converted try to bring the half time score to -7-21.

Things had to improve for Renegades in the second half with the wind and the slight slope now in our favour. The kickoff was a beautiful long kick from Fabio which found touch well inside the Sawston 22. From this platform Renegades launched a sustained attack which saw them cross the line four times but were held up each time. Eventually the pressure counted and Tom Powell crashed over for a try which Stuart converted (14-21).

Sawston counter attacked and moved into the Renegades half. A transgression in a kickable position saw them go for the points and the kick was successful (14-24).

Renegades took the game back to Sawston. After a few minutes there was a bit of panicked play by Sawston and the ball was looking certain to cross the sideline, but fantastic leap by Jake sent the ball flying backwards to Beaky who was as surprised as everyone else that the ball stayed in play. Nonetheless, he caught it and spun it out to Ben Powell who cut through the Sawston line and scored. The conversion went astray (19-24).

Time was ticking away and it looked like Sawston would hang on to the lead. Last play was called and Ben made good yards before offloading to Tom Heathcote who touched down under the posts. Fabio slotted the conversion and the final whistle sounded. It was a cliff-hanging finish. Nice to see Fabio scoring the winning points with the last kick of the game on his 40<sup>th</sup>. Beaky maintained that that was the game plan all along. The Sawston boys were gutted – they played a brilliant game. We know we are up against it in the Cup in a few weeks.

### Scores

Tries: Graham 'Beaky' Beckford, Tom 'BFT' Powell, Ben Powell, Tom Heathcote

Conversions: Stuart 'Birthday Boy' Faben (3)



Dave Steward – excellent performance at full back



The birthday boy for a forward pass inside our 22 instead of booting the ball into the middle of next week.

*Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy.*