

Renegades Rugby



Tournament Report

September 19 Away Smallest Rugby Club Won!
World Cup 2015



Squad

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Harry Cowley 3) Joe Sullivan
4) Dave Cook 5) Adam Richards
6) Chris 'Glove' Milne 7) Chris Leith 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
9) Rolando Pesci 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
11) Tim Hutchison 12) Roy Wilkinson 13) Josh Scupham 14) Richard 'BTW' Fickling
15) Tom Cowley 16) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 17) Richard Cowley

Report

It was a misty September morning that saw the majority of the squad gather outside the Village College to get the coach to Kingston University Sports Fields where Renegades were going to be part of something SMALL. We were on our way to the Smallest Rugby Club World Cup with very little idea of what to expect.

The coach was due to depart at 7:30. We waited beyond that for Strong Tom to arrive but he never did. We amused ourselves on the coach for a couple of hours dreaming up the humiliating, painful politically incorrect and increasingly appalling forfeits and penalties that he will suffer for that no show!

Having got snarled up in the Kingston traffic we had to register ourselves by telephone and arrived at the ground at ten past ten. A quick look at the programme showed that we were not due to play our first game until 11:30, so plenty of time. We got into the dressing room (nice but cosy for a rugby team) and started trying on the new kit – about as snug as the dressing room.

The teams were organised into four groups of three. Each team played the other two teams in their group. Each game consisted of 10 minutes each way. The team coming top in the group proceeded to the semi Final for the Smallest Rugby Club World Cup. The team coming second proceeded to the semi-final for the Smallest Rugby Club Shield and the third placed team in each group proceeded to the semi-finals for the cuddly toy. We were in Group 2 with *Old Oundelians* (the former pupils of

Oundle school in Northamptonshire) and *Black Horse* (a pub team from the Black Horse pub in Hertford).

Game 1: Old Oundelians

Suddenly, news came of a change of plan and we were due to play immediately. We scuttled out to the pitches (there were two, beautifully maintained and almost level). We were up against the Old Oundelians and had to go with no time for a warmup. They were short of numbers having only 11 players so we lent them Richard C and Billbob to hamper them further (sorry Rich).

The game started with good attacking play from Renegades which was rapidly rewarded with a try from Roy. Baz, denied the use of a kicking tee by the rules of the competition, drop kicked the ball to convert the try (7-0). It wasn't long before Tom P drove forward before offloading to Baz who grounded the ball and then drop kicked again to convert (14-0). The score remained there until the half-time whistle which was welcome as the morning was already hot. Unfortunately Tom Cowley was unable to continue as his ankle, damaged against Sawston, was still not up to playing.

The second half saw Renegades cross the line a couple of times in the form of Tom Powell but unfortunately he dropped the ball on the first attempt and, on the second, the referee deemed that the ball was knocked on in the forward drive that led to the grounding. However, third time was lucky for Tom and Baz converted again (21-0). There followed two heroic runs more than half the length of the pitch from Chris Leith and Dave Cook both converted by Baz (35-0). The final whistle was welcomed by Old Oundelians.

Following the first game, there was a long gap before the game against Black Horse. This gave a bit of time to watch other games and size up the opposition and enjoy/endure the constant banter from the woman on the PA. We watched Black Horse administer another thrashing to the Old Oundelians and detected that they might take things rather seriously. It was agreed that winding them up might be a good tactic.

Game 2: Black Horse

At 12:30 we lined up to take on Black Horse. From the kickoff it was clear that these pub lads were stiffer opposition and it took a while to establish a rhythm. However, it was a break by Roy that did the trick and he scored in the left corner. This time the conversion drop kick was too much even for Baz (5-0). Before the break Renegades attacked again and Harry went over for a try in a more convertible position (which Baz duly did 12-0).

The second half saw play switch from end to end without further score.

With these results, Renegades were through to the semi-final for the Smallest Rugby Club World Cup. We faced a long wait with our semi-final scheduled to be at 4:00pm. It was time for lunch and relaxation.

During lunch, it became clear that we would face the Malta Marauders (yes, actually from Malta). A hungover Beaky had appeared earlier with an equally hungover Flora and watched some games.

Beaky reckoned that the MMs were the team to beat so it looked like we were up against it in the semi-final.

During the long wait there as a distraction in the form of Sir Clive Woodward who arrived to show support for the competition. As well as recording some material for BT Sport (who had cameras there throughout the day), each participating team had the opportunity to have a team photo with Sir Clive, an opportunity that was grasped by all the teams. Grasped by all, in fact, except Chris Leith, who had decided to go for a dump at the crucial time and is therefore missing from the photo below.



Game 3: Malta Marauders (semi-final)

At around 3:30 it was decided that we could bring the semi-final forward and so we took to the field against the Malta Marauders. They were a strong bunch with lots of big experienced forwards. Their backs were less effective and if we could hold them in the middle then the game would be ours. Renegades forwards really stepped up the intensity and the Marauders were closed off and brought down each time they tried to crash through. Their backs couldn't cope with Roy who outstripped them on two occasions to ground the ball in positions that were tricky to convert (10-0).

Early in the second half, the Marauders struck back and scored in the left hand corner. Renegades resolved it would not happen again. The defence stepped up and the Marauders hit solid walls wherever they attacked. Once again Roy outflanked their backs to score an unconverted try and the score remained 15-5 at full time. All-in all a very solid renegades performance.

After the Marauders game we were able to watch the other semi-final which featured Magor RFC from south Wales versus Stretham Croyden RFC from south London. It was a closely fought contest ending at 0-0 after 20 minutes. This meant extra time of eight minutes each half with the added

excitement of both teams losing a player every two minutes. There was some confusion as to whether the extra period would stop with the first score.

Stretham Croydon looked dangerous moving up the pitch but lost the ball 10 metres from the Magor line. The Magor winger got the ball and ran the length of the pitch to score. Stretham fought back and approached the Magor line. Stretham were awarded a penalty and before it was taken there was an argument between the Magor Coach and the referee about the rules governing the extra period and the referee blew for full time and walked away muttering about not taking any more abuse.

This period of observation made one thing very clear. The young Magor number 10 was a very effective player. It would be a good tactic to deny him the ball.

We then watched the final of the Cuddly Toy competition and saw our original opposition Old Oundelians give a very convincing display to clinch the Cuddly Toy. We had to interrupt our watching of the shield final to warm up for the Final but heard that Black Horse clinched. The pressure was on us now to ensure that Group 2 clinched all three trophies.

Game 4: Magor RFC (final)

Both Renegades and Magor were determined to carry the Cup home. Both sides started the game attacking hell for leather and defending fiercely. Once again it was Roy who opened things up for Renegades and raced in a long arc from inside our half to score the opening try which Baz converted (7-0). A few minutes later he did it again and this time the conversion didn't quite succeed bringing the score to 12-0 where it remained until half time.

The second half saw Baz score a try which he converted (19-0). The afternoon was rounded off by Roy who scored his final try of the day (the last of eight) which Baz converted. It felt that we had done it when the Magor number 10 urged his mates to put in a big heave to get a score. They didn't. When the final whistle went every Renegade foot rose off the ground. We had done it!

We gathered for the prize giving. The trophies were awarded by La Toya Mason (the England Ladies scrum half from the 2014 World Cup winning side). She did have a very strong Kiwi accent!



As the trophies were awarded we had a chat with the Magor fly half who complained bitterly that he never got the ball. That worked then!

Then it was back to the changing room for a well-deserved shower and a few well-earned beers. Our cheer was increased when we heard that Japan had beaten the Boks!

It was a fantastic day. Huge credit to the people from Racal Decca RFC who conceived the event and put a huge amount of work into bringing it off. It was a showpiece for grass roots rugby at its very very best.

Scores

Tries: Roy Wilkinson (8), Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2), Tom Powell, Chris Leith, Dave Cook, Harry Cowley
Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (9)



Roy Wilkinson for cutting through the opposition and scoring a shed load of tries.



Christopher Leith for mis-timing of bowel movements.

Tournament report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Photos shamelessly stolen from Racal Decca RFC website.

Match 3: Malta Marauders (semi-final)

Tom's going to get that ball



Rolando perfecting his dance moves



Baz giving quality ball



Roy handing off



Roy actually breaks tackles for fun



Rolando waits....



Dave feels affectionate



Roy – off again



Booey still regrets the curry he had for breakfast



Tom farts the ball to Rolando



Oh God, oh God, oh God...



Ouch!



Blue ball coming



Forwards doing their thing...



Like a coiled spring...



Rising to the occasion



Referee tells Rolando where to pass



Booey and his opposite number compare notes on hair care products



The only five points we conceded in the whole competition



Roy doing it again



Gutted



Match 4: Magor RFC (final)

Baz feeds Tom



Tom in full flight



Baz applies the welly



The very talented Magor number 10 enjoying his only touch of the ball



Baz wants the ball



The line will not be crossed



Rolando gives quality ball



Baz romps home for his second try of the day



Job done! BT Sport joins the group hug



Celebration!

