



Match Report

January 30

Away

March Bears

Won 17:11



Squad

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 2) Dan Jerred
- 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards
- 4) Daniel Tiezzi
- 5) Henry Wilson
- 6) Elliott Roberts
- 7) Ren Pesci
- 8) Dan Stockbridge
- 9) Richard Fickling
- 10) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 11) Ross Catchpole
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom Cowley
- 14) Tom 'Strong Tom' Heathcote
- 15) Lloyd Smart

Replacements

- 16) Tom Wykes
- 17) Rolando Pesci
- 18) Reggie Campbell
- 19) Rob 'Bev' Bevington

Report

Despite having beaten the Bears reasonably comfortably at home earlier in the season, experienced Renegades approached March with trepidation. We had never won in March and the danger of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory was ever present in many minds. One constant – the wind was strong and cold blowing along the length of the field. Reassurance came in the form of a strong starting 15 with some quality on the bench too. The wind was a major factor. Renegades played into the wind in the first half so it was essential to keep Bears in check when they had such a major advantage.

Bears kicked off into the waiting arms of Psycho who set the standard by taking the ball in hard. Renegades drove slowly up the pitch, meeting fierce resistance but advancing nonetheless. An early blow was the loss of Dan T to a rib injury. Old Tom replaced. Dan's departure was followed within minutes by a penalty which would normally have been kickable but into the headwind was very challenging – it was missed.

Some lively attacking runs followed with Tom C making many yards before being taken down. This was followed by a great run by Ross who cut through the opposition and looked like he might go all the way before being felled by an excellent trip tackle by a March defender. Shortly after, Tom C decided to have another go and this time evaded some tackles, broke a tackle and side-stepped the full back to run home under the posts. Fabs converted 7-0.

The try shocked and motivated the Bears who came back at Renegades, driving into the half and then the 22. Sustained pressure saw Renegades concede several penalties and eventually following a general warning, Booley was binned for another offence. The penalty was slotted over and the score remained 7-3 until half time. The job of containing the Bears for the first half while they had the wind with them was done and done well.

Rolando came on for Richard F and Reggie replaced Lloyd.

The second half started very well. Renegades were soon in the Bears 22 where a penalty was given for collapsing a maul. However, Bears held out and drove Renegades back. Renegades drove back and won a scrum in the Bears 22. The ball went through the hands out to Tom H who just couldn't grasp the ball. If he had a try was assured. However, Renegades took the resulting scrum against the head and the ball was picked up by Fabs who crashed through under the posts. The conversion missed 12-3.

Booley returned to the game and shortly afterwards, Bev replaced Old Tom who's ankle was misbehaving. The momentum established in the early part of the half was sustained and it wasn't long before Renegades were attacking the Bears line again. This time Dan J crashed over for a try near the right touchline. The conversion was difficult and missed 17-3.

It must have been around this time that the Renegades seemed to think the job was done. Bears came back into the game and the action moved up to the Renegades half and 22. Sustained pressure was held out and some good defence on the line was made by Renegades. Eventually, the pressure paid off and a kickable penalty was slotted by Bears to narrow the gap 17-6.

This score put energy into the Bears who came back in waves attacking and forcing Renegades back and forcing errors and penalties. Tom H was eventually selected as the recipient of another yellow card. The Bears then pushed again and managed to cross the line for a try which remained unconverted 17-11. Snatching defeat from the jaws of victory was looking like a distinct possibility. However, Renegades held out and the score remained unchanged at the final whistle.

Scores

Tries: Tom Cowley, Stuart 'Fabio' Faben, Dan Jerred

Conversions: Stuart 'Fabio' Faben



Dan Jerred for effective throwing in the lineout, stealing lots of ball from the Bears hooker, scoring a try and bossing the scrum brilliantly.



No doughnuts

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy