



Match Report

September 17 Home Ely 2

Won 47:15



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 2) Harry Cowley
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Tom Wykes
- 5) Dave Cook
- 6) Ollie Witt
- 7) Elliott Roberts
- 8) Dan Stockbridge
- 9) Toby Mepham
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Jake Sweet
- 12) Stuart Faben
- 13) Ross Catchpole
- 14) Will Blackwell
- 15) Tom Cowley

Replacements

- 16) Rhys Stevens
- 17) Adam Lane
- 18) Richard Fickling
- 19) Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith

Report

Fortunately, the very high temperatures from earlier in the week gave way to more suitable rugby weather with overcast skies and a strongish breeze. The Ely team looked fit and experienced – it might be a tighter fixture than we were expecting.

Baz kicked off and it was not long before he and Fabs clashed heads causing a delay in proceedings while Stu's bleeding was stemmed with a rather fetching headband. Play proceeded while Stu was being swaddled with Rich BTW coming as replacement. Renegades advanced and Toby dinked a lovely kick which put real pressure on Ely. They recovered and the subsequent 22 drop out relieved the pressure on them. Renegades maintained the pressure and the attacking bore fruit when a penalty inside the Ely 22 was taken quickly by Baz, giving Toby the space to score. The conversion was really challenging from near the touchline but Baz was very unlucky when the ball came back off the post, 5-0.

Renegades kept the pressure up for a long period but were kept at bay by a very strong Ely defence. Eventually, pressure from Renegades saw an excellent rolling maul chomp its way through the Ely 22 but was brought down just before the line (surely a penalty try; but apparently not). The penalty

scrum piled on the pressure and the ball came out to Toby but he was stopped and the ball went for a line out. The throw in was captured by Harry C in a display of lightning reflexes resulting in another Renegades try. Another challenging conversion was this time slotted by Baz, 12-0.

A while later there was a fantastic run by Baz which must have been half the length of the pitch, before an offload to Will who had a go but was stopped close to the line and eventually Ely cleared.

Ely struck back and drove towards the Renegades line. Eventually, they were awarded a penalty inside the Renegades 22 and decided to kick for goal which was successful, 12-3.

Renegades had a couple of really promising breaks in the last minutes of the first half with great work by Will and Toby. However, the whistle chimed for a break and the score remained quite close.

At the break, Toms Wykes and Cowley were replaced by Dan Leith and Rhys Stevens.

The second half kickoff was fed to Tom P who powered forward before passing to Ginger Dan who cut through the Ely defence to score under the posts. The conversion was simple for Baz, 19-3.

Another kickoff and Olly takes the catch and powers forward evading tackles for fun. When caught he offloads to Daniel who powers forward and offloads to Toby who scores under the posts. Baz slots the conversion, 26-3.

Renegades were powering up the field again when a nice little loop between Baz and Toby ended up on the ground. The ball was picked up by an Ely player and he ran 2/3 of the pitch to score close to the Renegades posts. The conversion didn't come off, 26-10.

The restart was a joy to watch. Baz lofted a lovely ball and it was taken at full pace by Elliott who made many yards before being taken down with one of the more outrageous high tackles that Ely delivered regularly throughout the afternoon. Baz found touch and Renegades applied some pressure before Ely counter attacked taking the game back into the Renegades half. Renegades regrouped and a lovely break by Rhys was followed by a break from Ollie who cut through the Ely defence to score under the posts. The conversion was simple for Baz, 33-10.

Renegades attacked again from the kickoff and a long pass from Toby to Richard BTW set up another break from Ollie, inspired by Dan Stockbridge's battle cry, to score under the Ely Posts. Baz again slotted the conversion, 40-10.

Ely, never gave up through the game and their grit was rewarded with a third try after a long drive into the Renegades 22 resulted in a penalty. The conversion, once again drifted wide, 40-15.

Renegades attacked again from the kickoff and a great rolling maul made many yards. However, a penalty was given to Ely who failed to find touch, setting Will up for a great run, evading/breaking at least three tackles before being chopped around the neck. The resulting penalty was taken by Tom P who tried to bash through the Ely line but was closed down by their very effective defence. Another penalty to Ely failed to find touch and Baz finally succeeded in doing what he had threatened several times already by cutting through the Ely line and scoring under the posts. He then finished the job by claiming the other two points, 47-15.

Adam Lane had a brief but painful experience and his old shoulder problem was brought back with a bang, forcing hip off the pitch after a short time on. Hope the damage isn't as bad as we fear it might be.

That was that. It was a good win against a good side which, apart from a zillion high tackles, played the game in good spirit and never gave up.

Scores

Tries: Toby Mepham (2), Ollie Witt(2), Harry Cowley, Daniel Leith, Andrew 'Baz' Mackay

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (6)



Ollie Witt for playing like a man possessed in the second half



Ollie Witt for not playing like that in the first half.



Dan Stockbridge – what can we say?

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy