

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

October 8

Away Cambridge 3

Won 71:0



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 2) Ren Pesci
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes
- 5) Dan 'Ginger Dan' Leith
- 6) Tom 'New Tom' Procter
- 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne
- 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 9) Jamie Faed
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Josh Scupham
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom Heathcote
- 14) Will Blackwell
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Richard 'BTW' Fickling
- 17) Adam 'Speedy' Richards
- 18) John 'JB' Bateson

Report

A much-anticipated top-of-the-table clash at Cambridge had obviously stimulated more interest than we expected given the array of media-related wagons waiting for us as we arrived at the Volac stadium. However, they weren't there for the rugby but for a new series of *Grantchester* for on the telly. Honestly, they had no idea what they were about to miss.

The teams looked well matched in the warm up but Cambridge looked scarily large, young and well-disciplined and they went through a rigorous pre-match warm up. Renegades looked less disciplined in the warm up but the backs were looking particularly effective and the long passes from Baz looked promising for the main course.

At 3:00pm Baz kicked off, Cambridge received and came back at Renegades. However, the ball was won from them and Glove made valuable yards and the ball reached Ross Catchpole who kicked and then the ball was fed through the hands to Ross again (this time catching the ball behind his own head) and then broke a tackle to score not far from the left line. The rather difficult kick was slotted by Baz, 7-0. Not a bad 2½ minutes.

Cambridge restarted and there were a few phases before Ben made a great run, offloading comfortably. The ball made it to Jamie who dinked a lovely kick over the defending Cambridge line allowing Ross to touch down inches from the left line. The near impossible conversion was proved to be possible by Baz, who hoofed it in the right direction with just enough power to bounce on the cross-bar on its way over 14-0. We had to admire the economy of energy displayed there.

Cambridge rallied and took the game back to Renegades with a good attack. Ross saved the day by escorting the Cambridge winger off the field not a long way short of the Renegades line. Not content with this try-saving activity, Ross then broke from the Renegades 22 and evaded tackle after tackle and then broke a few, always looking for the offload but was too far ahead of the pack. He made it all the way scoring not far to the left of the posts. Baz enjoyed the easier conversion by putting it through the middle 21-0. Ella told me we were 16 minutes into the game.

The pace of scoring slowed as the two teams ebbed and flowed. Cambridge attacked the Renegades line but the defence was monumental. Eventually on the half hour Josh Scupham scored in the right hand corner. This time the conversion was too big an ask, 26-0.

Cambridge regrouped and took the game to Renegades. They camped in the Renegades half and 22 for many minutes doing their level best to break through but were met by resolute defence. After a particularly bruising encounter Tom W came off, unleashing Speedy. Another couple of minutes of pressure were relieved by Ross kicking us clear and the ref blew for half time.

The half- time discussion was up-beat. The only improvement suggested was to stay on our feet when in contact until the support arrived.

Cambridge restarted and the ball dinged back and forth for a while. Eventually Ross made a break and offloaded to Jamie, who fed Ren who made yards before being turned and failing to realise that there was no one behind him, stood rooted to the spot before passing back to Jamie who scored. Baz obliged, 33-0.

Cambridge came back from the restart and upped the pressure. After a few minutes of absorbing the onslaught, Ben broke through the Cambridge defence and scored. The conversion eluded Baz, 38-0.

A short time later, Tom Heathcote broke through the Cambridge line and made many yards before offloading to Tom Powell who scored. Baz slotted the conversion, 45-0.

Cambridge restarted, won the ball from the kickoff, and advanced to the Renegades 22. The ball was turned over and Ross went for another of his long runs from inside the Renegades 22 to score under the posts. The conversion was effortless for Baz, 52-0.

A short time after the Cambridge restart, Tom Heathcote had another excellent break, charging up the park. He was brought down and the ball found its way to Will who charged past the defenders to score in the left corner. The tricky conversion didn't miss by much, 57-0.

Another Cambridge restart and Baz returned fire with a lovely long kick back towards the Cambridge 22. The chase was on and a kick on was pursued by Will and the ball bounced favourably for him to catch and storm away from the lagging defenders to score between the posts. The conversion was cleanly struck and sailed between the posts, 64-0.

In the dying minutes, Ross went for another run and scored. Baz converted, 71-0. As the ball sailed between the posts, the referee decided Cambridge had suffered enough.

The game was a gem to watch – the greatest performance by a Renegade team ever! The result was beyond the wildest dreams of even the most optimistic of us. Every player in the team played their socks off. The result means so much because it was against a team we haven't beaten in more than a decade and which we hold in very high regard as a quality opposition (and they never gave up, fighting every step of the way).

And Robson Green was there to see it too!

Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole (5), Will Blackwell (2), Josh Scupham, Jamie Faed, Ben Powell, Tom Powell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (8)



How difficult this week. Captain's nomination: Tom Proctor who played out of his skin. Can someone score five tries (two starting in his own 22) and not be mentioned – no Ross – he can't. Tom Powell did an enormous amount of heavy lifting. The scrum as a unit was impressive, Tom H had a blinder (never dropped the ball). Baz's kicking was superb from the tee and from the hand. Glove was like a man possessed. Everyone really.



Ren – by unanimous acclamation for services to hesitation.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures – Neil Mackay et al







I have never before played in such a fantastic game of rugby and you still haven't!

