

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

November 19 Home Saffron Walden 2

Drew 34:34



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Jonathan Burch 2) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 3) Tom Wykes
- 4) Dan Jerred 5) Adam 'Speedy' Richards
- 6) Ren Pesci 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) John 'JB' Bateson 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) 12) Toby Mepham 13) Will Blackwell 14)
- 15) Matt Faiers

Replacements

There were no replacements

Report

A severely depleted Renegades squad showed up at Saffron Walden. The England Fiji game at Twickenham had absorbed quite a few regulars and even with Jonathan Burch making a rare appearance to help us out, only 13 Renegades were available. Walden suffered from similar problems although they managed the bare 15 to warm up, they damaged one and started the game with only 14. It was agreed that scrums would be uncontested.

A short and fairly low-energy warm-up was followed by some motivational talking from Tom P and Toby. Whatever they said, it seemed to do the trick because Renegades started well taking the attack to Walden. It wasn't long before a kickable penalty gave Baz a chance to open his account, 3-0.

A short time later, Renegades were on the offensive again with Toby breaking through the Walden defence to score to the left of the posts. Baz slotted the conversion with ease, 10-0.

The game continued with Renegades attacking constantly. Toby broke through again to score under the posts. Baz made short work of the conversion, 17-0.

Walden kicked off and the ball was fed back to Baz. The clearance kick was charged down by a Walden player and the ball carried on over the Renegades line where he touched down. The conversion was good, 17-7.

At this point, Walden decided that damaged or not, their 15th player was coming on.

This score raised Walden's spirits and the game moved more into the Renegades half. Walden Scored again but missed the conversion, 17-12. A short time later BFT powered over the Walden line and Baz delivered the conversions with style, 24-12.

However, Walden kept coming back and they scored another couple of tries with only one conversion before the break, 24-24.

The half time talk was upbeat. This game was there for the taking.

The second half began much like the first half with an early penalty being slotted by Baz, 27-24. However, the following try took a lot longer to arrive as Walden put up steadfast defence. Eventually though, Toby broke through for his hat trick with Baz doing the required with the conversion, 34-24.

Walden responded with a strong attack which saw them get a converted try, 34-31. At this point I hand over to Rolando for his view of the gripping climax of the game:

They get a penalty. Long way out, but he gets it!

I can't bear it!

Think it's 34 all, times nearly up we get a penalty after sustained pressure. Baz steps up, it's a long way out, bangs it true, it's sails straight in between the posts, he screams with delight the games won, the clock is red.

Or is it?

The ball bounces from the very centre of the cross bar. What a twat, it's too short.

It falls into the arms of a waiting Walden player who sets of with thoughts of victory for them, a couple of phases later and we're defending for our lives as they break for the line and a couple of missed desperate tackles mean the last player is clear, he only has to keep hold of the ball and slide in. Until the high-speed arrival of Glove, enough to force the knock on. As I said ten minutes ago, the clock is red.

Final whistle.

34-34.

A game and a finish to rival anything of this weekend.

You can't write this stuff¹.

¹ Er ... you did.

Epic.

Nearly as good as that famous 0-0 draw played here a few seasons ago.

Thank you, Walden, this afternoon is why we love rugby!

Scores

Tries: Toby Mepham (3), Tom 'BFT' Powell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (4)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2)



Matt Faiers for a great display on his first appearance in a Renegades shirt. Toby Mepham obviously for a hat trick of tries and Glove for depriving Walden of a winning try in the dying seconds of the game.



Baz for bouncing the ball off the crossbar in his final penalty attempt (very harsh!)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy with finale from Rolando

Pictures by Peter Haigh.







