



Match Report

January 28

Home Cambridge

Won 53:7



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Dan Jerred
- 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 4) Dave Cook
- 5) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes
- 6) Tom 'Young Tom' Procter
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Dan Stockbridge
- 9) Gav Reid
- 10) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 11) Will Blackwell
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom 'Strong Tom' Heathcote
- 14) Alex Burch
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) John 'JB' Bateson
- 17) Ren Pesci
- 18) Dave Steward
- 19) Karl Goodlet-Hulyer

Report

The bitterly cold weather of the previous few days gave way to warmer conditions for the game. It was almost pleasant as the two teams warmed up. Renegades again departed from long standing tradition and warmed up properly for the game. This is one we really wanted and it showed.

The game started with both sides attacking and good moves ebbed and flowed across the pitch. The teams looked evenly matched and all the signs were there that we were in for a good afternoon of rugby. The only thing that looked like marring that was the very high penalty count (mostly in Renegades favour). One of the penalties was a kickable (if demanding) chance which unfortunately didn't come off.

Renegades attacked and Tom P passed the ball to Will on the right wing near the Cambridge 22. With three defenders in front of him, Will opted to grubber the ball through their legs and run around the defenders. It was a good plan and his execution was perfect. The ball shot through the defenders' legs and was perfectly weighted to give him a chance to touch it down before going dead. It was a treat to watch. The conversion from near the touchline was a big ask and it missed, 5-0.

From the kick-off, Renegades resumed the offensive with some smashing carries from BFT. Renegades approached the Cambridge line and Tom Heathcote picked the ball and ran across the

posts, he was halted briefly by Cambridge defence but support came and drove him over the line to score just to the left of the posts. The conversion was straightforward for Fabs, 12-0.

Renegades piled on the pressure again from the kick-off advancing into the Cambridge half. Fabs was the finisher for the third try. The Cambridge 14 was binned by the referee immediately after the touch down. Fabs was untroubled by all the carding and converted his own try, 19-0.

The play settled for a while but it wasn't long before Renegades were advancing into Cambridge territory. A scrum just in the Cambridge half saw the ball fed through the hands with a nice loop between Ben P and Tom H. Ben ran 1/3 the length of the field along the left wing before cutting back in to touch down near the posts. Unfortunately, the conversion came back off one of the posts, 24-0.

At this point, Cambridge seemed to come back to life. The kick-off saw them advance into Renegades territory and their hard work was rewarded with a try near the posts by their scrum half. The conversion was good. 24-7. They kept up the pressure and advanced into the Renegades half again. They missed a penalty just before half time.

The second half began and Cambridge were like a team transformed. They dominated play and advanced deep into Renegades repeatedly. They came very close to scoring on several occasions and it was only heroic defence that stopped them from doing so. All the defence work was outstanding but Ross must be given enormous credit for three try-saving tackles that surely stopped the game turning Cambridge's way.

Having absorbed enormous pressure from a now visibly frustrated Cambridge, Renegades turned the tide and moved into their half. Tom P again made many yards and the ball eventually found Fabs who broke through the defensive line, sold the full back a beautiful dummy and touched down between the posts. He made his job of converting straightforward, 31-7.

Shortly after the Cambridge 7 was binned, Ross got the ball just inside the Cambridge half. He made an amazing run in the manner of a pinball, breaking eight, maybe 10, tackles to score near the left touch. The conversion missed (but not by much), 36-7.

Renegades tails were now up and it wasn't long before Fabs scored again but the conversion eluded him, 41-7. Cambridge frustration broke out again with their fly half being binned. Ross added to their woes by doing another heroic run down the left touchline to score again. The conversion was close again but missed, 46-7.

A bit of argy-bargy resulted in the Cambridge number 11 being red-carded (for abusing the referee) and Ren having a 10-minute rest. Quote of the day from Elliot: "My best mate and my boss are having a punch up. I don't know where to look!"

As full time approached Renegades surged forward again and a lovely back-handed pass from Olly to Ross saw him achieve his hat trick of tries to add to his hat trick of try-saving tackles. Fabs slotted the conversion, 53-7.

And that's how it finished. It was a good game. Cambridge's frustration was entirely understandable. However, it ended with the final whistle and they joined us for a very sociable post-match bite and pint.

It was a Renegades performance to be remembered, not least for the outstanding defence while Cambridge threw everything at us.

Scores

Tries: Stuart 'Fabio' Faben (3), Ross Catchpole (3), Will Blackwell, Tom Heathcote, Ben Powell

Conversions: Stuart 'Fabio' Faben (4)



Ross 'Pinball' Catchpole for outstanding defence and three tries.



Dan Stockbridge for a Bevington tribute flight over a ruck (sorry Dan)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh





See the full set of pictures at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/peterhaigh/sets/72157679706995035>