



Match Report

February 18

Home Haverhill

Won 34:3



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Ren Pesci 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknel
- 4) Dave Cook 5) Jonathan Burch
- 6) Tom 'Young Tom' Procter 7) Josh Cambourne 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 9) Gav Reid 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Harry Cambourne 12) Ben Powell 13) Tom 'Strong Tom' Heathcote 14) Will Blackwell
- 15) Rhys Stevens

Replacements

- 16) Adam Lane 17) Matt Faiers 18) Jack Cambourne
- 19) Carl Goodlet Hulyer 20) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes 21) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

This was a much-anticipated fixture. Haverhill have always been demanding opponents and we expected a tough game. As it happened, maybe things would be a bit easier than we thought because Haverhill lost a lot of players to a stomach bug and showed up with only 15 players.

However, the Haverhill team were not daunted and had a very good start, catching their own kickoff and coming hard at the Renegades defence. Their pressure was relentless and after a few minutes their work was repaid as they scored a superb drop goal – the first we have seen for many a long year, 0-3.

This was not the start Renegades had hoped for and, from the restart, Renegades went on the offensive. It wasn't long before a Haverhill infringement gave Baz a kickable (but certainly not easy) penalty. However, Baz was up to the challenge, 3-3.

After the restart, Renegades resumed the offensive and Fabio made many yards after crashing through the Haverhill defence. A scrum in the Haverhill 22 was won and the ball fed to Josh Cambourne on the blind side. He charged over the line for the first try of the day. Baz slotted the conversion, 10-3.

Shortly afterwards the ball came out to Will B on the wing. His kick and chase was superb and gained a lot of territory but a penalty gave most of it away again. However, Renegades worked back towards the Haverhill end and a penalty gave Baz another (still challenging) penalty which he made look a lot easier than it was, 13-3.

Renegades came back again after the restart and a magnificent break through the Haverhill defence by Josh Cambourne saw the ball fed to Harry Cambourne for a lovely try. Baz's unfaltering boot added the additional pair, 20-3.

Haverhill counter attacked and a series of superb tackles by Rhys (with other good defence) denied them points for their attack. Eventually, Renegades broke out and advanced into the Haverhill half and then into the 22. A great attack saw Fabio get very close but not quite there. That's how it remained until the interval.

The second half started and continued for some time with sustained Haverhill attacks. The Renegades defence was tested almost to destruction but remained steadfast. On one occasion, Gav took out an attacking player in most impressive style, driving him back five metres and landing him on his arse!

The sustained pressure from Haverhill lasted a long time into the second half. Renegades had some forays into the Haverhill half and the frequency of these incursions increased. At one point a fabulous kick from Baz took Renegades from close to their own 22 well into the Haverhill 22.

Eventually, one of these incursions bore fruit. Dave Cook made many yards from half way well into the Haverhill 22 before offloading to Tom Procter who sped over the line and made Baz's job easy by touching down under the posts. Baz obliged, 27-3.

Haverhill came back and invaded the Renegades 22. In their enthusiasm, their captain managed to mislay his kneecap. The process of re-instating it, which he did himself, left many looking a bit green. It was an impressive sight.

With an unassailable lead in place, Renegades began to take control of the game. The second half tide turned and Renegades attacked the Haverhill line. The efforts were rewarded when Ben broke free and scored, securing the bonus point and closing the account for both teams, 34-3.

It was a super game. The score line does not do justice to the Haverhill performance which was determined and skilful (as they always are). Many, many thanks to the Cambourne boys who supported us. Their contribution was immense.

Scores

Tries: Josh Cambourne, Harry Cambourne, Tom Procter, Ben Powell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (4)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2)



Gav – for all round battling heroism



Ren for the randomness of his throw-ins

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh





See the full set of pictures at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/peterhaigh/albums/72157680391656836>