



Match Report

March 11

Home Saffron Walden 2

Won 34:22



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknel
- 2) Adam Lane
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Dave Cook
- 5) Will Parker
- 6) Tom 'Young Tom' Procter
- 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne
- 8) Dan 'Barrel' Stockbridge
- 9) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 10) Ollie Witt
- 11) Alex Burch
- 12) Tom 'Strong Tom' Heathcote
- 13) Will Blackwell
- 14) Josh Scupham
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Carl Goodlet Hulyer
- 17) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes
- 18) Dave Steward
- 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
- 20) Callum Wilkins
- 21) Adam 'Speedie' Richards

Report

It was an anticipated game but overshadowed by the tragic news of the very untimely death of Shawnton de Four, a Renegade from times past (once and always). Shawnton died playing rugby for his club Old Emanuel last weekend. He was only 34. He was a big guy in every sense. He was also rather unconventional in that he might leave the field of play because he was hungry (for a snack) or because he was tired (for a little lie down). He was a lovely bloke who was huge fun on and off the field. Those of us who had the privilege to know him were totally shocked to hear of his passing. Our condolences to Penny McCarthy, Shawnton's wife and his 14-month-old twin daughters.

Renegades had a good start and it was in the early minutes that they advanced well into the Saffron Walden half with the ball going through the hands to Ross who wasn't going to be stopped – he touched down fairly close to the left touch. The conversion was wide, 5-0.

This great start was followed in short order by another backs through the hands and Will had the pace to cross the line and touch down near the right touch line. Again, the conversion was wide. 10-0.

Saffron Walden came to life at this point and began to turn the tables. They were awarded a penalty just inside the Renegades half and opted to kick for goal. It seemed ambitious but they knew their own capabilities and the kick was good, 10-3.

This gave Walden a bit of heart and they really turned up the heat. Renegades under pressure began to give away penalties and Walden kept pushing. Eventually, the pressure told and a Walden player touched down just to the left of the posts. The conversion was good, 10-10. Saffron Walden were very definitely back in the game.

Shortly afterward, Glove was forced to come off having taken a knock to the head. Dave Steward came on to replace him. A fantastic charge through the Saffron Walden defence by Fabs took Renegades to the Saffron Walden Line and created the opportunity for Dave Steward to score about five seconds after he came on. The conversion was wide, 15-10. That's how the score remained until the interval.

At half time, it was decided to revert to a more conventional half-back format. Ollie went to the back row with Dan S taking on scrum half with Fabs taking fly half.

Early in the second half Ross broke out of the Renegades 22. Before passing to Tom Procter who made half a pitch length before passing back to Ross who broke a few tackles and scored under the posts. Fabs slotted the conversion, 22-10.

There followed a sustained period of pressure from Saffron Walden which was beaten back a few times but kept coming. Some poor defence from Renegades saw the Saffron Walden hooker score in the left corner. The conversion was wide, 22-15.

Elliott came on for Tom Heathcote. When play resumed Speedie got the ball and bashed his way all the way to the Saffron Walden Line only to be held up. However, from the scrum the ball went to the right and Fabs crashed over to the right of the posts. Will slotted the conversion, 29-15.

Walden restarted and the ball went to Callum who broke through the defensive line and had a heroic run half the length of the pitch before he was brought down. Boeey came off replaced by Carl. Saffron Walden piled on pressure again and in defending, Dan S was given a yellow card for being run into by a Saffron Walden player after a quick penalty. Walden came again and it looked like they scored again but there was a knock on so no try was awarded. From the ensuing scrum, Ross broke through the Walden line and made some yards before passing to Will who made a huge run before offloading to Tom Procter who scored. The conversion missed, 34-15. The atmosphere on the sideline changed – surely, we had it in the bag now.

Walden were having none of it with one of their players displaying good soccer skills to touch down just to the left of the Renegades posts. The conversion was good. 34-22.

That's how it stayed until the final whistle. Renegades are league champions!

Enormous credit to everyone in the club for this fantastic achievement. Particular credit to our Captain BFT – he led from the front doing enormous work in every single game. I would also like to mention Rolando who had to endure a whole season on the sideline, but compensated by delivering first class coaching which really made a difference.

Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole (2), Will Blackwell, Dave Steward, Stuart 'Fabio' Faben, Tom Procter

Conversions: Stuart 'Fabio' Faben, Will Blackwell.



Tom Procter who made a George-North-style recovery from his doughnut last week



Baz – for being in Ireland

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Shaun Clark and Sam Vail

Champions!



Remembering Shawnton



Shawnton in happier times



