



## Match Report

October 28

Away Haverhill

Won 35:19



### Team

#### Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 2) Ren Pesci
- 3) Jamie Cohen
- 4) Aaron Stevens
- 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Tom Procter
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Elliot Roberts
- 9) Dan Stockbridge
- 10) Ross Catchpole
- 11) Will Blackwell
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom Heathcote
- 14) David Fletcher Morris
- 15) Rhys Stephens

#### Replacements

- 16) Tom Powell
- 17) Dave Steward
- 18) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

### Report

Although Storm Brian had long gone, wind was a feature of the Haverhill game with the strong wind favouring the home side in the first half. Indeed, Haverhill made their intentions clear in the opening minutes by dominating the play and gaining a penalty inside the Renegades 22 which they converted to take an early lead, 0-3.

This seemed to wake Renegades who came more into the game and began to play with a bit more fluency. It wasn't long before Ollie broke through the Haverhill defence and made many yards getting close to the line before offloading to Tom Heathcote who scored under the posts. Dan Stockbridge coolly slotted the conversion, 7-3.

Haverhill upped the pressure again and, after a period of sustained attack, were awarded a penalty try for reasons which nobody on the sideline could determine, 7-10. They kept the pressure up and it wasn't long before they got a kickable penalty which they also converted into three points, 7-13.

Renegades came to life again and some good play saw them enter the Haverhill 22 where Ben called for the ball and crashed over the line with several Haverhill players in tow. Dan once again slotted the conversion, 14-13.

Shortly afterwards, Ben took the ball in his own half and ran along the left touchline fending off several tackles before swinging infield to score under the Haverhill posts. Dan Stockbridge, getting into his stride now, made short work of the conversion, 21-13.

Things were looking better but Haverhill managed to gain another penalty before half time which was successful, 21-16. The whistle went for the interval. Renegades were ahead at half time and with the advantage of the wind in the second half, surely it would be a romp?

A romp it was not. The second half was a real battle between the teams and the referee. In scoring terms, it was more than half way through before another point was scored. There was considerable frustration with the consistency of refereeing decisions and tempers frayed on both sides. BFT came on for Jamie after 10 minutes and not much later Ren got a yellow card for doing something he hadn't done.

The penalty count increased and eventually, Haverhill managed to convert one to narrow the gap even further, 21-19. The game was in danger of being lost.

The referee became more petulant and called the captains to communicate his displeasure. Ollie (for it was he) delivered a good talking to to the team about mouthing off at the referee. It seemed to do the trick. Renegades became more disciplined and focussed on playing. Elliot managed to annoy the referee again by raising his arms at one point but that was not fair on him.

At last, Renegades began to play. Ross was lofting challenging high balls at Haverhill and Renegades were gaining ground. Ross got the ball inside the Haverhill 22 and dinked the ball through the defence, broke through and picked the ball just short of the line to carry it over and touch down. It was a welcome relief. Dan Stockbridge confidently converted, 28-19.

In the last few minutes, Elliot picked up the ball inside the Haverhill 22 and crashed through to score a lovely try. Dan, comfortable in the role of a kicking colossus which he most surely was, dispatched the conversion with ease, 35-19.

It was a tough game. Haverhill were in it all the way and looked like potential winners half way through the second half. It wasn't the best Renegades performance, but it came good and fluent in the last 10 minutes.

### Scores

Tries: Ben Powell (2), Tom Heathcote, Ross Catchpole, Elliot Roberts

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge (5)



Dan Stockbridge for excellent play and 100% from the kicking tee.



Elbow for antagonising the referee so that several penalties were reversed.

*Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy*

*Pictures by Peter Haigh (see [Peter's Flickr page](#) for the full set of photos)*





