

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

December 16 Away Cambridge Adventurers Won 24:15



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Jamie Cohen 2) Ren Pesci 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
6) Tom Procter 7) Ollie Witt 8) Elliot 'Elbow' Roberts
9) Dan Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
11) Will Blackwell 12) Jack Weatherly 13) Tom Heathcote 14) David Fletcher-Morris
15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Ben Powell 17) Matt Faiers 18) Rolando Pesci 19) Jake Sweet
20) Steve Marsh 21) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It was a cold but bright afternoon (and only just afternoon) as the Renegades gathered at Volac Park. Cambridge were hosting three home games, so the away teams were accommodated at the Downing College changing rooms across the road. They were lovely – much nicer than anything that Cambridge has to offer and in fact nicer than any other facilities in our league.

Numbers were good (boosted by Ollie's late calculation that he could play and drive to Manchester to attend his mate's wedding). Jeff Mercer's boots found a new home with Ollie – what a combination!

Cambridge kicked off and Renegades responded well. The initial plays were favourable, but Cambridge soon began to exert real pressure. Eventually, they broke through on the right side and Will Blackwell made a try-saving tackle to keep them out. The play moved left across the field and a penalty gave Cambridge a chance to kick three points which they did, 0-3.

Renegades restarted and got an offside penalty from which the kick took them into the Cambridge 22. A rolling maul from the lineout gained many yards before the ball went out through the hands where a penalty was won on the 5m line. The ball went out through the hands again before coming back to Will who scored in the corner. Baz made easy work of the challenging conversion, 7-3.

Cambridge piled on the pressure from the restart. They drove forward towards the Renegades line in the right corner and swung it left which was not covered but a forward pass saved Renegades. From the resulting scrum, Baz cleared to touch. Cambridge built momentum from a rolling maul from the lineout and spun the ball out left where they had a huge overlap. The try was inevitable but the conversion missed, 7-8.

Play continued for a while with both teams competing fiercely. A Cambridge scrum was completely destroyed by Renegades and the ball captured. It was fed through the hands to Tom Heathcote who scored. The conversion went astray, 12-8.

When play resumed, Jack took a nasty blow to the head and had to come off. Ben came on. However, there was little time left and the interval was called while Renegades were on a good attack.

Renegades kicked off the second half and there followed a long period of intense Cambridge pressure. Gades defence held and made some counter attacks. One of these led to what looked like a try on the right touchline but the ref was unsighted so it was deemed to be held up. The 5m scrum was penalised for feeding (!). The lost chance was frustrating but it wasn't long before a capture of the ball and a feed to Ben was rewarded by a fantastic run by him breaking tackles and a slick offload to Ross who's perfect support running was rewarded by a lovely try. The conversion was close but missed, 17-8.

The end-to-end play continued for a while before a Renegades scrum fed the ball out to Ben who took the great circle route to score in the right corner. Baz converted in the finest style, 24-8.

Cambridge were not undone and came back to get a converted try before the final whistle, 24-15.

And that was it. A great Renegades performance against a good Cambridge team.

And nobody shat themselves which was nice.

Scores

Tries: Will Blackwell, Tom Heathcote, Ross Catchpole, Ben Powell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2)



Jack for a great start for Renegades up to and including loss of short term memory



Ren – for something or other.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh



