



Match Report

February 17

Home Diss 2

Won 28:12



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) David 'Amish Dave' Hirst
- 2) Ren Pesci
- 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards
- 4) Aaron Stevens
- 5) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 6) Tom Procter
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Chris 'Machine' Machen
- 9) Dan Stockbridge
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Will Blackwell
- 12) Jack Weatherly
- 13) Ross Catchpole
- 14) Tom Heathcote
- 15) Andy Howard

Replacements

- 16) Ben 'what you doing here' Powell
- 17) Josh Scupham
- 18) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It was a beautiful day for a game of rugby. An overnight frost gave way to bright sunshine and conditions were perfect. It was another mystery tour as we hosted Diss 2 in the Eastern Counties Plate (which is a league really). Rumour had it they were big fat boys who liked to bash it through the middle.

Reality proved to be somewhat different as it became clear early in the game that Renegades dominated the scrum but Diss were pretty handy out wide. However, the Renegades strength in the set piece meant that the early part of the game was played in the Diss half and Renegades piled on the pressure. Having had a lovely break under the posts by Ross held up, Renegades put the ball wide and Baz broke through to open the Renegades account. He confidently slotted the conversion for good measure, 7-0.

Diss applied pressure in return and had several sweeps towards the Renegades line which were repelled by good defence. Eventually, the pressure told, and they broke through to score to the right of the posts. The conversion missed, 7-5.

Some tit-for-tat play eventually saw Diss charge up the left of the pitch before shifting the ball across to the left of the posts. From there they kicked for the right corner and scored it beautifully (despite

the four-man overlap they had). The conversion was good, 7-12. That's how it remained until half-time.

The interval discussions were up-beat. The game was there for the taking. Renegades needed to be more assertive at the breakdown. Rolando made a brave call for changes: Dan S off, Ben on with Ross moving to scrum half and Jack moving to 13 to accommodate the less-than-entirely-successful emigrant.

The second half began with another period of tit-for-tat as the play ebbed and flowed across the pitch. Eventually Renegades advanced into the Diss 22 and a great break by Aaron (at considerable expense to his head and neck) approached the line. The ball was spun out and Jack crashed over the line. Baz made short work of the conversion, 14-12.

Shortly afterwards, Aaron was in the wars again as he was binned for going off his feet in what seemed like a harsh judgement by the referee.

With a man down, Renegades had to dig deep, and deep they dug. The pressure on Diss was maintained and Renegades camped in the Diss half and often in the Diss 22. Eventually, a clearance kick was taken by Will who ran the ball deep into the Diss 22. The ball went out to Dave Hirst who passed to Andy who crowned his Renegades debut with a lovely try. Very satisfying for a team one man down. Aaron had served his 10 minutes and was allowed back on. Baz worked his magic with a lovely conversion, 21-12.

Renegades kept the pressure up but were repelled by disciplined Diss defence. The competition was fierce and it boiled over when the Diss number 11 kneed Baz in the head (to be fair probably accidentally). Baz reacted to the displeasure of the referee and both ended walking.

Renegades kept the pressure up and it wasn't long before BFT got the ball and decided that it was try time and nobody from Diss was going to stop him. Baz watched from the sideline as Jack converted and the final whistle blew, 28-12.

It was an excellent result against a very good Diss team who played with intensity and good humour throughout. We look forward to visiting them in April.

Scores

Tries: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay, Jack Weatherly, Andy Howard, Tom 'BFT' Powell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (3), Jack Weatherly



Andy Howard for all round good performance. Also, the Weatherman for outstanding play and of course Tetley, whose near-miraculous performance should cause Speedie some concern.



Baz for petulance and bad humour in objecting to being kneed in the head.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh (for the full set of pictures see [Peter's Flickr Page](#))





