

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

February 3

Home Colchester 3

Won 37:5



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) David Hirst 2) Ren Pesci 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Tom Procter 7) Ollie Witt 8) Chris 'Machine' Machen
- 9) Dan Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Tom Heathcote 12) David 'Capt. Dave' Morris 13) Ross Catchpole 14) Will Blackwell
- 15) Rhys Stephens

Replacements

- 16) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy (fortunately not needed)

Report

It was going to be an interesting afternoon. We hosted Colchester 3, a team we have never played before as the Eastern Counties Division One Plate competition got under way. Our numbers were not great due to a combination of emigration, injury and skiing. However, we did manage to pull together a reasonably strong starting lineup. The Colchester boys looked young, fit and some of them were quite big.

Renegades kicked off and put the pressure on from the outset. Colchester pushed back and the game moved to and fro but mostly in Colchester's half of the field. Machine declared his intentions early by delivering a trademark smashing tackle. The pressure told and Colchester conceded a kickable penalty which Baz duly slotted, 3-0. A couple of minutes later another penalty was awarded and dispatched by Baz, 6-0.

After the penalty, the re-start was received by Renegades and went through the hands to Ross who broke through the Colchester line with support from Will. Having made many yards, Ross offloaded to Will who scored under the posts. Baz converted, 13-0.

A period followed of Renegades camped in the Colchester half with both sides advancing and retreating. A clash of the 10s saw Baz win a penalty from his opposite number which he converted to three points comfortably, 16-0.

Colchester then applied the pressure only to be held out by solid Renegades defence (aided by the fact that they kept doing the same thing – trying to get their big boys to smash through close to the ruck where Machine, Psycho and others just smashed them. At one point, Renegades won the ball and Baz carried before a lovely little pop inside to Capt. Dave saw him breach the Colchester defence and romp up the pitch. He was eventually brought down but offloaded and there was a very fluent period of play as many Renegades passed and advanced before coming up just short of the Colchester line. Nothing came of it in the end, but it was a delight to watch.

As the clock wound down to half time another penalty to Renegades went awry so the score remained 16-0 at the interval.

The restart by Colchester went straight out. From the following scrum, Renegades were awarded a penalty and advanced by 10m for the Colchester scrum-half's gobbing off. Baz decided to go for the three points. It was still an ambitious kick but it fell short of the posts.

The game fell back into an ebb and flow, again mainly in the Colchester half. Ross made one of his attacking runs and broke through the Colchester line with Ollie on his shoulder. He ran into the 22 and drew a defender before offloading to Ollie who scored (flamboyantly) under the posts. Baz converted, 23-0.

Colchester came back from the kickoff and piled on the pressure in the Renegades 22. Having absorbed their punishment for a while, Ross broke through once again and lofted the ball down the field only to be chopped for his efforts. A penalty was awarded from where the ball landed. Ross broke away from the tap and was able to feed Will who scored his second of the day. Baz converted, 30-0.

Colchester upped the ante again from the kickoff and this time managed to breach the Renegades defences to score a try which remained unconverted from a rather ambitious drop kick attempt a metre from the touchline.

The game closed with another good Renegades attack which saw Tom Procter crown a day of fantastic work with a try under the posts. Baz, needless to say, slotted the conversion.

That was that. A fine Renegades performance by a good team, but one missing some key players. We will have to ensure a full-strength squad when visiting Colchester in April.

Scores

Tries: Will Blackwell (2), Ollie Witt, Tom Procter

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (4)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (3)



Tom Proctor for all round work rate and try. Special mentions also to Machine and Psycho for going the 80 minutes and making a tremendous impact. In fact, everyone played really well (even Ren if you overlook his line outs)



Ren for his throwing talent (or lack of)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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







