



Match Report

March 31

Home Norwich Union

Lost 15:29



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Elliot Roberts
- 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards
- 4) Adam Richards
- 5) Aaron Stevens
- 6) Tetley
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Chris 'Machine' Machen
- 9) Dan Stockbridge
- 10) Steve Marsh
- 11) Little Aaron
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Tom Heathcote
- 14) Will Blackwell
- 15) Simon Newmarket

Replacements

- 16) Rolando Pesci
- 17) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

Renegades assembled at Long Road school for this home game – CVC was closed for the weekend making our usual home ground inaccessible. Thanks to Richard Cowley for organising access to the Long Road pitch and the associated palatial changing facilities. The Norwich Union players seemed like a fairly jolly bunch and included some very large units.

The game started well for Renegades. The pressure was all on Norwich Union with Renegades camped in their half. The scrum looked very strong with Norwich going backwards most of the time. One foray into the Norwich 22 saw Aaron crash through only to be brought down just short of the line and he was then penalised for travelling. On another occasion, a penalty inside the Norwich 22 saw the ball go through the hands only to be stopped just short of the line again.

As the interval approached, Norwich Union came more into the game and began to escape from their own half. Eventually a scrum near the Renegades 22 saw a quick break and a pass to see them run a soft try, totally against the run of play. The conversion came back off the post, 0-5.

Shortly before half time, play was halted with Elbow flat on his back having taken a shoulder in the mouth. He eventually came off and Rolando came on. There was a shuffle of places and the game continued without incident until half-time.

Will had been due to leave at half time but was persuaded to stay by desperate teammates as they realised the only replacement available was Billbob.

The second half started with Renegades going on the offensive again. After several waves of attack Ollie broke through and kicked the ball ahead. Ben chased and managed to kick the ball ahead so that it came across the field and crossed the Norwich line. Will put on his afterburners and beat the Norwich full back to the ball to open Renegades account. Stockers struck the conversion beautifully and the ball seemed to pass right through the middle of the uprights, 7-5.

From the kickoff, Norwich came back and scored a try in the left corner. The challenging conversion was well taken and clipped the crossbar but failed to go over, 7-10.

Tetley came off with a damaged knee, replaced by Billbob who remained on the pitch to see Norwich claim another try from a counter attack, mounted after a penalty against Renegades for collapsing the scrum. Tetley made a comeback before the conversion which was good this time, 10-17. This was followed by a Renegades penalty which Dan slotted, 10-17.

From the Kickoff, Norwich advanced again and were soon into the Renegades 22. The referee failed to notice at least three Norwich players offside as they captured the ball and romped over to score another try which was converted, 10-24.

It was disheartening to be two converted tries down, but Renegades applied the pressure and advanced into the Norwich 22. A 5m penalty seemed like a good opportunity but Norwich held and cleared. Renegades came back, and this time Ben was unstoppable. Sadly, the conversion went awry, 15-24.

Norwich had one more unconverted try in them before the referee called time. It had been a frustrating game. Half way through the first half, it looked like it was going to be a comprehensive victory for Renegades. Norwich Union, however, had other ideas and their defence was very solid.

They were a good sociable bunch too with their clothes pegs and general good humour, quite a contrast with Ipswich!

The prospect of having another go next week is tantalising!

Scores

Tries: Will Blackwell

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge

Penalties: Dan Stockbridge



No Man of the match – double helping of Doughnuts instead



Tucker for holding on to the ball instead of passing.

Elliot for knocking himself out.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



