Match Report

October 19　　　**Away**　**Ely 2**　　　　　　**Won 34-23**

Team

Starting Lineup

1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Tom Elwood 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards

4) Dave Cook 5) Jack Branton

6) Elliot Roberts 7) Ollie Witt 8) Harry Mills

9) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

11) Will Blackwell 12) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 13) Ross Catchpole 14) Matt Faiers

15) Toby Rayner

Replacements

16) Rolando Pesci 17) Aaron Stevens 18) Ren Pesci 19) Rolando Pesci 20) Ben Powell

21) John 'JB' Bateson 22) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It was a new departure for Renegades – a Friday night game under lights. Anticipation was high as the novelty of the situation mixed with the hope of a good win. The weather was beautiful – a crisp cool evening. There was a good crowd with many familiar faces from Renegades past and, of course, Henry Wilson playing for Ely in the second row.

Ely kicked off and Renegades applied the pressure straight away. Ely defence was resolute and repelled wave after wave of Renegades attack. At one stage Renegades looked very threatening with a significant overlap on the left of the field, but a forward pass halted progress. Following this Ely began to move out of their own half and advanced into Renegades territory. As they approached the Renegades line they were awarded a penalty which they converted, 0-3.

Renegades responded with a lovely move from the kickoff. Will powered up the left of the pitch about half its length before being tripped near the Ely 22. The ball went through the hands to Fairsey in the right corner who was not going to be stopped. Baz slotted the challenging conversion, 7-3. Shortly after, Ross made a great break which was ended by a superb trip tackle. After another period of stalemate, Renegades were awarded a penalty on the Ely 22 which Baz dispatched with ease, 10-3.

Shortly after, Ross was assisted from the field having sustained a knee injury. Ben replaced him with Tucker resuming his more-familiar role at 13. A short while later he was joined on the sideline by Psycho who got a yellow for tackling a man without the ball (one for the team rather than any great transgression on his part). Ely capitalised on the numbers advantage by advancing well into the Renegades half where they were awarded a kickable penalty which they converted, 10-6. That's how it remained until the interval.

As the game resumed, Aaron had come on for Dave Cook and Stockers replaced Rolando. The second half was only minutes old when Baz had the opportunity to add another penalty which he did, 13-6.

From the kickoff, Renegades advanced again and a lineout in the left corner resulted. Ely tapped the ball back but their 9 missed the catch and Harry Mills capitalised on the mistake by shooting behind him to touch down. Baz made easy work of another challenging conversion, 20-6.

Ely restarted, and Baz sent a high testing kick flying back towards their line. Ollie chased and when the Ely full back failed to catch the ball, Ollie used his very best football skills to dribble the ball over the line and pounce on it for the touchdown. Baz slotted the conversion, 27-6.

Shortly after, Ben broke through the Ely line and made many yards before feeding Ollie, who then advanced quite a way, before returning the ball to Ben who scored under the posts. Baz delivered yet again, 34-6.

The third quarter was very pleasing for Renegades and it looked like a rout was in the offing. However, Ely had other ideas and followed Renegades golden period with a try, a pushover try, neither of which were converted and a final try which was, 34-23.

The Ely team Renegades faced was certainly boosted by players from a higher level – it was a good challenge and more enjoyable for having been so. Renegades went on to have a good night out at Ely and in Cottenham.

Scores
Tries: Matt Faiers, Harry Mills, Ollie Witt, Ben Powell
Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (4)
Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2)

 Harry Mills for an outstanding performance

 Rolando for ill-advised restart.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
Pictures by Peter Haigh (for the full set of pictures see Peter's Flickr Page)