

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Nov 3

Away Saffron Walden 2

Lost 22-31



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards 2) Tom Elwood 3) Jack Mills
4) Jack Branton 5) Aaron Stevens
6) Elliot 'Elbow' Roberts 7) Dave Cook 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
9) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
11) Ren Pesci 12) Harry Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Matt 'Fairersey' Faiers
15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

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

Report

The weather looked like a massive improvement on last week as Renegades assembled at Walden's ground in Henham. The numbers were significantly depleted by injury and other reasons and so quite a few players ended up playing out of their regular positions. This caused some trepidation, because although Renegades had beaten Walden comfortably when they came to Cottenham, we knew they were a better team than that and their record at home was 100%.

Before the game, all four teams (Walden 1 and 2, Stowmarket and Renegades) gathered on the first pitch to pay respects to Peter Reader, Saffron Walden club president and founder member who sadly passed away on October 22. A minute's applause saluted his contribution to Walden and to rugby more generally.

Renegades kicked off and the game was only minutes old when a kickable, albeit challenging, penalty was awarded to Renegades. The wind took the ball and the penalty missed. It wasn't long before Baz had a second pop from a similar position and this time the ball sailed between the posts, 3-0. From the kickoff, Walden applied the pressure and Renegades held out until a lovely steal from Elliot and clearance by Baz relieved the pressure. However, Walden came back again and this time broke through and scored. The conversion was good, 3-7.

Tom Elwood had to hobble off having tried to struggle on with a torn hamstring. Ren moved to replace him as hooker and Rolando came on in an unfamiliar position on the wing. Another pair of penalties came with the second once again coming good, 6-7.

Walden applied pressure again and this time Harry relieved the pressure by breaking through their line and barrelling up the field. When he was eventually chopped, the support was well placed to continue the momentum and the ball went through the hands to Elliot who scored in the left corner. The very difficult conversion missed, 11-7.

Walden applied the pressure again. BFT was given a yellow a bit before the 30-minute mark. This was followed closely by a second converted Walden try, 11-14. However, Renegades came straight back with a push forward from the kickoff and through the hands to Fairsey who touched down in the right corner. Again, the difficult conversion missed, 16-14. As the interval approached, another penalty was converted by Baz to make it 19-14 at half time.

There were no changes at half time and the Renegades started the second half in hopeful mood, facing up hill but with the low sun now to their backs. The second half began with play ebbing and flowing in both halves. A penalty just inside the Walden 10m line was converted by Baz, 22-14.

Walden drove into the Renegades 22 and then a cynical and vicious punch to Aaron's delicates, saw him get a yellow card for reacting verbally (in a perfectly justifiable manner) to being on the receiving end. There was no changing the referees mind once the decision was made so Aaron was given 10 minutes to enjoy throwing up on the sideline. This was followed in short order by a yellow for Walden – referee attempting to correct an injustice, possibly?

Walden kept up the pressure and were camped on the Renegades line when a penalty to Renegades gave some relief. However, the pressure soon resumed and the inevitable came with a break from their own 22 which resulted in a score to the left of the posts. The conversion missed, 22-19. Ok, a blow but Renegades nose was still in front. The cause for optimism was enhanced when Walden's number 4 got a yellow.

However, despite the numerical disadvantage, Walden took the lead with an unconverted try, 22-24. Still within a penalty's reach to win. Renegades tried everything, but Walden were a match and it wasn't long before they sealed the game with a converted try, 22-31.

Scores

Tries: Elliot Roberts, Matt Faiers

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (4)



Elbow for a try, blistering tackles and cunning steals. And Jack B for consuming Elbow's pint in his absence (as well as another great performance)



Ren for losing the keys to the van.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



