

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Dec 15

Home Ely Development

Won 33-7



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards 2) Callum Wilkins 3) Mikey Goode
4) Tom 'BFT' Powell 5) Jack Branton
6) Tom Procter 7) Ollie Witt 8) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills
9) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 10) Tom Cowley
11) Tobi Rayner 12) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 13) Jack Weatherly 14) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay 17) Ren Pesci 18) Dave Cook 19) Young Toby 20) John 'JB' Bateson
21) Rolando Pesci 22) Chris 'Machine' Machen 23) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
24) Adam Lane (played for Ely)

Report

Despite concerns earlier in the week that Renegades might be short of numbers for this game, a packed dressing room indicated that the concerns were mis-placed. As players prepared, Ren got a call from Baz who was unexpectedly available and, while he would be a few minutes late, would play.

The weather conditions were horrible. Freezing temperatures were exacerbated by a biting wind and rain was forecast to ensure a thoroughly miserable afternoon. Ely kicked off into the strong wind and the game ebbed and flowed for a few minutes while both teams sized each other up. Not long into the game, Tucker was laid out and had to come off having had half his face removed by an opposing boot. This gave Baz the chance to come on with Tom Cowley moving to the wing. About a minute later, Tobi Rayner had to come off having twisted his knee. Ren came on in the back row and Tom Procter moved to the wing to cover where Tobi has been. Renegades advanced and approached the Ely 22. A scrum delivered a perfectly executed 2-9-2 play which saw Jack Weatherly go blind and score close to the left touchline. The challenging conversion was not helped by the wind and missed, 5-0.

From the kickoff, the ball came to Ollie inside the Renegades 22. He headed off towards the Ely line avoiding and braking tackles as he went. He made unbelievable progress and it looked like he was

going to go all the way. He was caught just short of the line and his attempted offload was forward resulting in an Ely Scrum. Renegades held Ely inside their 22 and the ball made its way to BFT who crashed through the Ely defence to score under the posts. Baz slotted the straightforward conversion, 12-0.

Shortly after the score, the ball came to Ren and he passed it. Ben wanted this fact included in the match report as a record of a unique event. A penalty just inside the Ely half resulted in a shot at goal but it was too ambitious with the ball falling short.

A great weaving run by Tom Procter saw Renegades pile pressure on Ely in their 22. The pressure paid off when the ball came to Callum and he powered over the line to score under the posts. Baz supplied the extras, 19-0.

Shortly afterwards, Ely had a problem with their front row and Adam Lane saved the game going uncontested by joining their front row. A while later, Ollie went for another long run and this time there was no mistake as he dived over the line under the posts. Baz again added the extra points, 26-0. That's how it remained at half time. It was a good lead, but Ely had the wind to their backs and could make a comeback if Renegades showed any complacency.

The weather deteriorated in the second half with the wind and the rain making handling difficult. Early in the half, Ely made a break and managed to get a try close to the Renegades posts. The conversion was good, 26-7. Renegades launched attack after attack only to lose the ball and be kicked right back down the field.

Eventually, one of the attacks was successful with the ball finding Mikey Goode not far from the Ely line. He was tackled but managed to roll over the line to touch down. It took a while for the referee to be convinced that the touch down was good, but he eventually reached that conclusion. Baz slotted the conversion, 33-7.

A while later, Mikey withdrew and BFT moved to prop bringing Dave Cook on in the second row. The game progressed slowly and as the final whistle approached, the frequency of players asking "How long Sir?" increased. After about 35 minutes, the referee agreed that everyone had had enough and blew the final whistle. The post-match niceties were done as quickly as possible and everyone headed for shelter from the bitter wind and freezing rain.

Scores

Tries: Jack Weatherly, Tom 'BFT' Powell, Callum Wilkins, Ollie Witt, Mikey Goode

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (4)



Ollie for blistering runs and excellent tackling.



Ross for suggesting that somebody other than Ollie should be doughnut.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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





