

# Renegades Rugby



## Match Report

Jan 19

Home Ely 2

Won 45-8



### Team

#### *Starting Lineup*

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Ren Pesci 3) Elliot Roberts  
4) Dave Cook 5) Ben Powell  
6) Jake Sweet 7) Jack Weatherly 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben  
9) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay  
11) Will Blackwell 12) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 13) Ross Catchpole 14) Tobi Rayner  
15) John 'JB' Bateson

#### *Replacements*

- 16) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford 17) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

### Report

Renegades opening game in the cup was always going to be a tricky fixture. The carry-over of injury from the battle with Newmarket, combined with a selection of winter lurgies saw the squad much reduced in numbers, with a particular shortage of forwards. The squad stood at 16 with many playing in unfamiliar positions.

Ely kicked off and put the ball straight out. The resulting scrum was completely dominated by Renegades which was not bad considering three of the pack were backs! The game was only a couple of minutes old when Ely were awarded a penalty on the 10m line for a high tackle. The kick was good, 0-3.

Renegades came straight back into the game and, having regained the ball after the kick off, played some flowing rugby which resulted in Ross crossing the Ely line to the right of the posts and having time and space to run behind the posts before touching down. Baz made easy work of the conversion, 7-3.

Only a short while later, a good run by Ross made many yards before an offload to Ben saw him bash through the Ely defence to touch down just to the left of the posts. Baz again added the extras, 14-3. A few minutes later, a double act by the Powell brothers advanced Renegades into Ely territory before Renegades were awarded a penalty. Baz converted the three points, 17-3.

Jake was yellow carded for a high tackle. With the numbers uneven, play settled into a pattern of ebbing and flowing with both sides making ground and being repelled. After 10 minutes or so, a more promising attack saw the ball through the hands to Ben who scored. Baz converted and Jake came back on having served his time, 24-3.

An Ely counter attack saw them make good ground and eventually they scored in the left corner. The conversion was too difficult, 24-8. As half time approached Ben was forced off with groin problems. Billbob thought his moment had arrived, only to see the coach turn to a spectator (Beaky) and offer him his boots to play. Renegades soldiered on for the couple of minutes remaining in the first half with 14 men while a kit was assembled for Beaky.

The second half got off to a spectacular start with Elliot taking Baz's kick off and storming up the middle of the field. Ely had a better opening to the second half with their defence holding Renegades out for what seemed like a long time. Eventually, a nice run along the right wing by Tobi saw him chopped just short of the line. The ball went through many hands to Ross on the other side of the field who scored. Baz kept his 100% kicking record by adding the two extra points, 31-8.

A short while later, everyone was treated to a soccer master class as Jake dribbled the ball through the Ely line and on for a while until Jack Weatherly hoofed the ball to the left of the posts managing to touch it down before it crossed the dead ball line. Baz, as ever, slotted the conversion 38-8. A short while later, Ely counter attacked and looked very dangerous until a try-saving tackle by JB allowed Renegades enough time to re-group and push Ely back. Ross was forced to come off with cramp so Billbob did get to come on after all.

As the game drew to a close Renegades had one more attack, starting from deep within their own 22. The ball was carried by Stockers and then Elbow before coming back to Baz who scored under the posts. He finished with a conversion and shortly after the final whistle blew.

It was a great performance by Renegades. Many played in unfamiliar positions, but the result was skilful flowing rugby that Ely were pretty powerless to defend against.

### Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole (2), Ben Powell (2), Jack Weatherly, Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (6)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay



John 'JB' Bateson for putting in an excellent shift on the week of his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday



Jake Sweet for getting a yellow card for a high tackle.

*Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy*

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







