

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Mar 9

Home Beccles

Drew 31-31



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Aaron Stevens 2) Michael Goode 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Dave Cook 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Jake Sweet 7) Ollie Witt 8) Harry 'H-Bomb' Mills
- 9) Dan 'Stickers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) John Bateson 12) Tom Procter 13) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 14) Tobi Rayner
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 17) Callum Wilkins 18) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It was a blustery day as Renegades assembled, fresh from the famous victory against Hadleigh last week. However, the mood was serious as the scale of the challenge of playing league leaders, Beccles was recognised. It was clear that the wind which blew diagonally across the pitch would be a major factor. Renegades elected to play with the wind in the first half.

Beccles kicked off and Baz used the wind to put a beautifully judged kick into their 22. The failed attempt to keep the ball in play by a Beccles player gave Renegades the put in. Renegades won the line out and a penalty gave Baz his first pop at the Beccles posts. The kick was good, 3-0.

Beccles came back and piled pressure inside the Renegades 22 and spent some time camped close to the try line. Eventually, Renegades broke free and were rewarded with a penalty on the 10m line in the Beccles half. The blustery wind worked against the kick which just missed. However, it wasn't long before Baz got another penalty attempt, this time closer to the posts. The kick was true. 6-0.

Beccles applied pressure again and camped on the Renegades line for a while. This time they got something for their efforts with a converted try, 6-7. Renegades responded with a swift attack with nice through the hands ball movement to Mikey who was not going to be stopped. The conversion just missed, 11-7.

Shortly afterwards, Renegades got a penalty just inside half way. The Beccles coach was heard saying: "He's got no bloody chance ... he'll never get this ... no way ... bloody hell he's got it", 14-7.

Fabs had to come off suffering from a painful Achilles. Callum came on to test his recently-healed ankle. From the kickoff, the ball was given to Baz who launched a gem of a kick into the Beccles 22. The ball landed in front of a defender rolled a few times and then bounced up over the Beccles player's flailing arms and found touch. The bounce would have made Barnes Wallis's soul sing. Renegades then stole the lineout and the ball went through the hands to Ross who scored. The conversion was good, 21-7.

As half time approached, Beccles attacked and their 10 managed to jink his way through to score under the posts and the conversion was straightforward, 21-14. The half time whistle went immediately.

Only one change at half time: Will on for JB. The second half was going to be a challenge. A seven-point advantage when facing into a strong wind might not be enough. Renegades needed to keep the ball.

Baz restarted and Beccles went on the offensive. A scrum in the Renegades 22 gave them an opportunity to capitalise on a massive gap and score in the right corner. The conversion was well struck but came back off the post, 21-19.

A short while later, inside the Renegades half, the ball went through to Will on the left wing. He set off on an epic run leaving Beccles players in his wake. He broke at least two tackles from defenders in front of him and managed to touch the ball down on the line close to the left corner flag. It was a superb solo try. The challenging conversion had the direction but fell just under the crossbar, 26-19.

The game ebbed and flowed for a while and Beccles got another try. The conversion came back off the post for a second time, 26-24. It was the turn of Renegades to exert sustained pressure on Beccles, camping on their line and battling to score. Stockers tried the *Bevington Memorial Ruck Flyover* at one stage, ignoring the overlap the backs had on the right wing. The pressure was maintained, and the ball found its way to Ross, who stepped in neatly and crashed over. The wind took the conversion, 31-24.

The final moments of the game were nervous. Beccles threw everything they had at closing the gap. Renegades held out for a long time but eventually succumbed and the Beccles try, that Renegades players and supporters had been dreading, came. Everything hung on the conversion. This time the ball did not strike the upright and Beccles had equalised, 31-31. The final whistle blew, and Beccles delight was plain to see.

It was a very deflating outcome. Having led at half time and dominated much of the second half, a draw was a great disappointment. However, a draw against the league leaders was a good result and there was much to be pleased with, not least the dominance of the Renegades scrum.

Scores

Tries: Mikey Goode, Ross Catchpole (2), Will Blackwell

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)



Harry Mills – for his mid-field battle with the Beccles MoTM.



Stokers for attempting to dive over a ruck on the line ignoring the overlap to the right.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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