

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Apr 13

Home Norwich Union

Won 27-17



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Michael Goode 3) Michael Denman
4) Aaron Stevens 5) Dave Cook
6) Craig Simpson 7) Ollie Witt 8) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills
9) Rhys Stephens 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
11) Ross Catchpole 12) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 13) Callum Latimer 14) Ciaran Russell
15) Jamie Latimer

Replacements

- 16) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 17) Jack Weatherly 18) John Bateson
19) Morgan Stephens 20) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It was with anticipation that Renegades hosted their newest old friends from Norwich Union. Anticipation of a great game of rugby and anticipation of a great night of socialising to follow. The afternoon and the evening delivered in spades.

Norwich kicked off and applied pressure from the start. They camped in the Renegades half and held possession. The pressure told and they scored to the left of the posts. The conversion found its target, 0-7. Norwich maintained the pressure and for the first 15 or 20 minutes of the game, Renegades did not even enter the Norwich half (even the kickoff after the try went out on the full and play remained in Renegades half). The pressure told and Norwich claimed a second try to the right of the posts. The conversion went just to the right of the right post, 0-12.

At last Renegades began to venture into the Norwich half. Rhys took a knock to his head and came off, Ciaran moved to 9 and Jack Weatherly went to 14. Moving the ball wide proved more profitable and Renegades began to come back into the game. Eventually a push through the middle was followed by the ball going left and then right back through the hands to Jack Weatherly on the other side who had the pace to make it over the line. Once there he was garrotted by a Norwich player, who got a yellow card for his trouble and Renegades were awarded a penalty try, 7-12.

A short while later, some nice handling saw the ball fed to Ross well inside the Renegades half. He decided to howl along the left touchline outstripping defenders. He cut back in and managed to evade another couple of defenders before crossing the Norwich line to score. The conversion missed, 12-12. Ross paid a high price for his run – his hamstring had pinged as he approached the line and a minute or two later he was replaced by Rhys whose head had obviously recovered.

As half time approached, Renegades were awarded a penalty inside the Norwich half. Baz did the required and things were definitely looking up at the interval, 15-12. The number one priority for the rest of the game was to keep Norwich in their own half to deny them the opportunity to set up their very effective maul.

The first thing that happened following the restart was a penalty that gave Norwich the opportunity for a 5m lineout. This time the Renegades defence was strong and Norwich did not walk over the try line. Eventually the pressure was relieved and play progressed to the other end of the field where Renegades attacked and Jamie saw a gap through the middle which allowed him to score. The conversion was good, 22-12.

Aaron was forced off with a damaged elbow allowing Fabs to cone on at second row. Norwich stepped up a gear and attacked the Renegades line with vigour. A series of scrums on the Renegades 5m line was eventually relieved by a forward pass allowing Renegades to clear from the resulting scrum. Then Norwich broke through and crossed the Renegades line only to drop the ball before a touch down could be made. Eventually, the pressure told, and Norwich managed to score in the left corner. The conversion missed, 22-17.

Renegades kickoff was knocked on by a Norwich Player but Ollie grabbed the ball and made great progress towards the Norwich line before being felled. He managed an offload and the ball went through the hands to Jack Weatherly who scored in the left corner. The conversion missed, 27-17.

Kickoff drama continued as the Norwich kickoff was short but BFT hacked the ball, chased and managed to capture it! However, Norwich recovered the ball and launched a counter attack as the clock wound down. Inside the Renegades 22, a series of penalties against Renegades culminated in Jack Weatherly taking a yellow card for the team. Renegades managed to clear the attack and play was around half way when a Norwich player broke through the Renegades line and powered his way over the Renegades line. There he was met by Ciaran who managed to strip the ball from his hands before he could touch down. It was a fine moment of drama to end a fine game of rugby. The referee blew and that was that for the season.

The final objective of Renegades to take points from every other team in the Eastern Counties One Shield was achieved. Celebrations followed.

And finally, Richard Cowley, of this parish, was awarded a valued volunteer citation by the RFU and was presented with this prestigious award by Steve Drawbridge, Chair of Cambridgeshire Rugby, standing in for Eddie Jones apparently! Well done Richard, well deserved.

Scores

Tries: Jack Weatherly (2+penalty try conversion), Ross Catchpole, Jamie Latimer

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay



Ciaran for a great 9 performance and a strategic rip in the dying seconds

Ben Powell for gender confusion and being reprimanded by the referee despite not actually playing (and for becoming a year older – Happy Birthday Ben!).

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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





Clash of the titans...



