

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Aug 31

Home Norwich Union

Won 56-19



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Ren Pesci 3) Michael Goode
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Josh Cox
- 6) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 7) Ryan Cox 8) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills
- 9) Dougie Ellis 10) Tom Proctor
- 11) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell 12) Callum Laing 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Morgan Stephens
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Ben Powell 17) John Bateson 18) Rolando Pesci
- 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

It is always a pleasure to welcome Norwich Union to Cottenham – good rugby and great fun always come with them. As it happens, it was a depleted side that arrived with only 14 able to make it. John Bateson obliged to make it 15 for Norwich Union. It was agreed that the game would be played in four 20-minute quarters.

Before the game, both teams and officials gathered on the half-way line to give a minute's applause to commemorate the life of Kevin Stockbridge whose passing over the summer came as a great sadness to his many friends at Renegades.

Norwich Union kicked off and Renegades began to drive into the Norwich half. The game was only a couple of minutes old when a scrum was won by Renegades and the ball was passed to Callum Laing who made a blistering run up the middle of the pitch only to be felled just short of the line. Renegades got a 5m scrum and Harry picked the ball off the back of the scrum and charged over the line to open the Renegades account. Stockers slotted the conversion, 7-0.

Norwich responded immediately and not two minutes later their 10 received a delicious offload to score under the Renegades posts. The conversion was good, 7-7.

Play settled for a while as both teams sized each other up. Eventually, another scrum saw Ryan make an excellent break before being chopped. He popped the ball up and it went through hands before



Harry crashed over for his second try of the afternoon. Stockers added the extras, 14-7. That's how it stayed until the end of first quarter.

Dougie and Morgan swapped positions with Dougie going to the wing and Morgan moving to scrumhalf. The second quarter opened with a sustained pressure by Norwich Union. Eventually, the pressure took them close to the Renegades line and a 5m lineout. They tried a drive over but were held out, but Renegades infringed, and they got the penalty. They opted for a second lineout, and this time the drive was good. The conversion missed to the right of the posts, 14-12.

Later, a lovely break through the middle by Morgan made many yards. He managed an offload to Tucker who was taken down just short of the line. A neat pop up to Ryan allowed him to finish the job under the posts and Stockers made easy work of the conversion., 21-12.

A Norwich Union injury saw Rolando don the green and white to keep the teams balanced at 15 each.

Renegades continued to exert pressure and a very impressive flow of fluent hands finished with Ross powering over the Norwich line to score. Stockers again collected the two points, 28-12. Aaron decided not to over stretch his hammy and Ben came on at second row. The second quarter ended shortly afterwards.

Billbob replaced John Bateson for Norwich. The second half opened with Renegades kicking off. The ball came to Tom Proctor who slammed the ball into the Norwich 22. The Norwich full back suffered an unsympathetic bounce and having chased the ball determinedly, Tom regathered the ball and scored under the posts. Stockers did the needful, 35-12.

Norwich stepped up the pressure and advanced well into the Renegades half. Their prop Simon took a knock and had to come off resulting in un-contested scrums for the rest of the game. The ball was fed to their large winger who broke through four tackles to score. The conversion was good, 35-19.

Renegades upped the pressure again and Ryan took the ball at a lovely tackle-evading angle to cut through Norwich Union and score under the posts. Stockers converted easily, 42-19. Not content with just the two tries, Ryan gathered a loose ball and cut through the Norwich line. He went around their 15 and scored under the post to claim his hat-trick – not bad for his first game as a Renegade. Stockers added to his mounting collection of conversions by adding the two points, 49-19.

As the game drew to a close, Ben made a strong break along the right wing, breaking several tackles before being brought down. He managed a pass out of the tackle to Ren who gassed two of Norwich's more senior players to cross the line near the touchline and then run in-field to touch down under the posts. Stockers added the final two.

It was a good game. Norwich were not at full strength and the margin would have been a lot closer if they were. It was a great debut for Dougie and Morgan who both stayed cool under pressure. A very entertaining evening was had before Norwich departed for their pool party in Mildenhall.

Scores

Tries: Ryan Cox (3), Harry Mills (2), Ross Catchpole, Tom Proctor, Ren Pesci

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge (8)





Tom Proctor for an excellent shift at 10 – an unfamiliar position.



Ben Powell for a knock on with his first touch of the ball.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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