



Match Report

Sep 21

Home Saffron Walden 2

Won 54-21



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Ryan Sheppard
- 3) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 4) Josh Cox
- 5) Ren Pesci
- 6) Ryan Cox
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 9) Dougie Ellis
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Jon Farrar
- 12) Harry 'H-Bomb' Mills
- 13) Sam Weatherall
- 14) Jake Sweet
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Callum Wilkins
- 17) Michael Goode
- 18) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

The weather was lovely (too warm really) and the ground had the characteristic give of a reinforced concrete car park. The wind was significant and along the length of the pitch towards the school. A few last-minute no-shows saw Renegades looking less comfortable on numbers that was originally thought.

Walden kicked off with the wind to their backs. Renegades advanced well into the Walden half and were quickly awarded a penalty on the Walden 22. Baz, slotted the penalty with ease, 3-0. A few minutes later, another penalty saw Baz find touch on the 5m line. The subsequent lineout saw a maul formed which drove over the Walden line with Josh finishing the job. The conversion was tricky, and though it looked good leaving the tee, the wind drove the ball away from the posts, 8-0.

Walden responded well to the Renegades try and they broke through the Renegades defence and their ball carrier had only Ross to beat. At the last second, the Walden player changed direction and fell over Ross's leg. The referee called it a trip and awarded the penalty try, 8-7. At this point Mikey arrived and a reshuffle of the pack saw Ren relieved in every sense of the word.

A penalty to Renegades was tapped and Renegades advanced with the ball moving through many hands. BFT looked threatening under the posts but was chopped but not before offloading to Josh who crashed over for his second try of the day. Baz made short work of the conversion, 15-7. As the first half faded, Walden missed a penalty.

The second half began with a dream start. Baz's well judged kickoff bounced and was captured by a low flying Ryan Cox who blistered down the right touch before being brought down. Fortunately, the support was there, and the ball was retained to be passed across the field to Ross who powered over the line. Baz, with the wind to his back now, sent the ball sailing between the posts, 22-7.

A short while later, a lineout on the left touchline saw the ball move across the pitch as Renegades advanced towards the Walden line. As the line was approached, some lightening hands from Harry gave Ollie the space he needed to score. Baz added the extras, 29-7.

The restart came to Baz who lofted the ball deep into the Walden 22. The follow up was quick and placed real pressure on the Walden defence, one of whom stepped into touch, not spotted by the referee or the linesman. Walden, counter attacked and demonstrated they were definitely still in the game by getting a try under the posts which was converted, 29-14.

Ryan Sheppard came off, replaced by Callum Wilkins. A Renegades penalty saw Baz add another three points, 32-14. Walden went on the offensive again, and this time a sustained attack on the Renegades line was held with stout defence. However, the ball was spilled and Walden were called back for a penalty, which was quickly taken. The ball carrier was chopped by Sam but Walden regrouped and the ball was sent out to the right winger who scored in the corner. The challenging conversion was good, 32-21.

Renegades response was swift. The ball went to Ross who flew through the Walden line and around their 15 to score. Baz converted, 39-21. It wasn't long before Renegades went on the rampage again. A KFC ball swung the ball across to the left of the pitch to Ross who broke the Walden line again and then fed the ball back to the right where it went through many hands ending with Josh to Mikey to BFT who was not going to be stopped. Baz had to come off having felt something go ping in his calf and Ryan Sheppard came back on. Stockers missed the conversion, 44-21.

A short while later, Stockers took a penalty and went for the corner. The resulting lineout saw a nice maul formed and at the crucial moment, Mikey broke to crash over for the try. The conversion missed, 49-21.

As the game entered its dying moments, Harry, with a lovely line, broke through what seemed like a large crowd of Walden players to add his name to the long list of try scorers. The conversion went a little awry.

It was a good game where Renegades took the chances when they appeared. Walden kept fighting to the end and never gave up. We know that it will be a tough return fixture at Henham. As they said in [their own match report](#), their performance was better than the scoreline suggests.

Scores

Tries: Josh Cox (2), Ross Catchpole(2), Ollie Witt, Tom 'BFT' Powell, Michael Goode, Harry Mills

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (4)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)





Dougie Ellis for rock solid performance at scrum half



Richard Cowley for being asleep at the wheel

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy