

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Feb 1

Home Cantabs 2

Won 29-22



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Jack 'Chinese' Mills 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
4) Dave 'Cookie' Cook 5) Sam Jones
6) Jake Sweet 7) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd 8) Ryan Cox
9) Rolando Pesci 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
11) Geoff Kirby 12) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Jon Farrer
15) Morgan Stephens

Replacements

- 16) Dan Phillips 17) Tom Fener 18) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge

Report

The wind was very strong and blowing across the pitch as the two teams warmed up. This was the semi-final of the Cambridgeshire Intermediate Cup. Cantabs kicked off and the game was in its first minutes when a gem of a pass from Baz to Harry saw Harry advance from half-way to the Cantabs 22 before passing to Geoff who screamed through the 22 to score just to the right of the posts. Baz converted, 7-0.

That was a good start but Cantabs came back into the game and there followed a very long period of fiercely contested play with both teams bashing each other with nothing to show on the scoreboard. Eventually, a series of penalties saw Cantabs advance to the Renegades line. They camped in the right corner for a while and managed to crash over to open their account. The conversion didn't stand a chance given the windy conditions, 7-5. The wind thwarted a penalty kick attempt by Baz a short while later.

Renegades advanced along the left wing getting very close to the Cantabs line. The ball was then spun across to the other side of the pitch with some deft passing and running. The ball came to BFT who closed on the line before passing to Harry who screamed over to the right of the posts. Baz slotted the conversion, 14-5.

Cantabs advanced well into the Renegades half. Renegades regained the ball, but a pass was spilled and a Cantabs player capitalised on the mistake by grabbing the ball and running to touch down under the Renegades posts. The conversion was simple, 14-12.



As half time approached, Renegades produced a (not very funny) comedy of errors as penalty after penalty saw Cantabs advance right to the Renegades line. The defence stood and watched Cantabs as they crashed over to take the lead. The conversion missed, 14-17. The whistle went shortly afterwards.

Renegades restarted. Early in the second half, Renegades got a penalty well inside the Cantabs half. Baz put the ball in the corner for a 5m lineout. The throw was perfect, and Renegades set a lovely rolling maul which powered over the line. Shep made the touchdown. The conversion missed, 19-17.

A little while later a lovely kick from Baz inside his own half came to rest a few metres short of the Cantabs line. Frantic chasing back by the Cantabs defenders was harried by Geoff and Callum who blistered up the field in pursuit of the ball. They trapped the defenders and Renegades had advanced half the length of the field in a few seconds. No score resulted directly but it was a great kick and chase.

A while later, Renegades were awarded a penalty for a late tackle. Baz put the ball in the corner again and the resulting lineout set the driving maul and a carbon copy was made of the previous maul including that Shep made the touch down. The conversion attempt was unfortunately also a carbon copy, 24-17.

As the game drew to a close, a scrum in the Renegades 22 saw Rolando pass to Baz who spotted a gap and ran through it to score. The wind diverted the conversion again, 29-17.

In the dying moments of the game, Cantabs attacked again and managed to land a try but no conversion. The final whistle followed the conversion attempt.

It was a strange game. Some flashes of brilliance were overshadowed by gifting soft tries to the opposition and an eye-watering penalty count.

Scores

Tries: Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd (2), Geoff Kirby, Harry Mills, Andrew 'Baz' Mackay,

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



Rolando gets the *Ah Bless* award for services to geriatric rugby.



Tucker for mouthing off

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



Seniors' page – with apologies to Geoff.

