



Match Report

Mar 6

Away Sudbury 2

Lost 7-31



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Josh Cox
- 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins
- 3) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 4) Aaron Stevens
- 5) Sam Jones
- 6) Jake Sweet
- 7) Ren Pesci
- 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) Morgan Stephens
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Jon Farrar
- 12) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills
- 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 14) Michael Did Dell
- 15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

- 16) Matt Turner
- 17) Dave Cook
- 18) Geoff Kirby
- 19) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd
- 20) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

The Sudbury away game, delayed by Storm Dennis, was rearranged for the evening of Friday March 6. Renegades gathered under a clear sky as the temperatures dropped with the setting sun. Sudbury had a very nice clubhouse with a well-stocked gym attached. The changing rooms were very impressive with underfloor heating and showers that actually work!

Renegades kicked off and the pressure from Sudbury was immediate. They were very well drilled and were able to combine strong running with the ball, gaining metres after contact and threatening kicks through the middle to keep Renegades on the back foot. The game was not long underway when Josh Cox was given a yellow card for collapsing a maul. This was followed about a minute later by a penalty try to Sudbury which I believe was awarded for entering a ruck from the side, 0-7.

Sudbury advanced again from the kickoff and approached the Renegades line. This time they were awarded a penalty in front of the posts and elected to take the points, which they duly did, 0-10.

A few minutes later, a Sudbury player broke through the Renegades line and made many yards. As he approached Ollie, he threw a long and perfectly placed pass to his supporting runner who finished the job under the posts. The conversion was straightforward, 0-17.

Renegades managed to stem the flow for a while but remained harried in their own half. Eventually the pressure proved too much and when Sudbury took a scrum against the head, their number eight picked the ball and ran 40 metres to score under the posts again. The conversion was good, 0-24.

Trailing by that margin after 30 minutes was not enjoyable for players or supporters alike. However, Renegades dug into their reserves and began to battle back into the game. They managed some forays into the Sudbury half and as the interval approached, began to exert some real pressure on Sudbury. Nothing came to change the score before the whistle, but the last 10 minutes of the second half gave Renegades the confidence that they were getting the measure of Sudbury.

Half time changes: Geoff on for Mike Did-Dell, Dave Cook for Sam Jones and Shep on for Callum.

Sudbury kicked off launching a high and hanging ball, giving them time to get under the ball and recapture their own kickoff. However, Renegades did not let this rattle them and the game settled into an ebb and flow of Sudbury attack, Renegades defend with nothing coming of it to bother the scoreboard. As the final quarter approached, Sudbury snatched a Renegades lineout and managed to steam along the left touchline to add another try to their already extensive collection. The challenging conversion a metre from the touchline was well struck and crept over the crossbar, 0-31.

Instead of heads dropping, this seemed to energise the Renegades attack. The mood of the game changed and the final quarter saw Renegades applying serious pressure to Sudbury. Eventually a penalty on the Sudbury five metre line was taken quickly, passed to Baz, who passed it to BFT and on to Josh, who powered over the line for a consolation try for Renegades. Baz made easy work of the conversion, 7-31. Renegades maintained the pressure up to the final whistle, but the score remained unchanged.

It was a strange evening. The first 30 minutes were very hard to watch with good pressure from Sudbury combined with some bizarre refereeing decisions denying Renegades the opportunity to settle. By the time they did the game was lost. However, from that time onward, it was a much more even battle. Renegades can look forward to the return fixture, knowing that it will be another tough game, but one which is winnable.

PS – the post-match lasagne was very good.

Scores

Tries: Josh Cox

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay



Ollie Witt for a hard day at the office.



Ren for giving away the penalty try (even though it shouldn't have been a penalty try)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



