

# Renegades Rugby



## Match Report

Sep 18

Home Haverhill

Won 27-25



### Team

#### Starting Lineup

- 1) Michael Goode 2) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd 3) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Sam Jones
- 6) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 7) Ryan Cox 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) Dougie Ellis 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Geoff Kirby 12) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills 13) Ben Powell 14) Dan Philips
- 15) Ollie Witt

#### Replacements

- 16) Ren Pesci 17) Adam 'Speedie' Richards 18) Adam Lane

### Report

The first league game since March 6 2020 was long anticipated. The weather was warm and sunny and the pitch was in lovely condition having had a very long break from competitive rugby. Haverhill came with plenty of players while Renegade numbers were low for such an early stage of the season.

Baz launched the game with a Renegades kickoff. Haverhill made it clear from the outset that they were in Cottenham for a win and piled on the pressure. The play ebbed and flowed before Renegades conceded a penalty about 40m from their posts. The kick was well struck and Haverhill opened their account, 0-3.

Renegades responded with a good attacking move, a kick through and bundled the defender into touch inside the Haverhill 22. A knock on gave Haverhill the chance to clear but Renegades came back and opened the defence up moving the ball from one side of the pitch to Dan Philips on the wing on the other side who scored in the left corner. The wind carried the conversion attempt wide, 5-3.

Haverhill upped the pressure considerably and spent a significant time camped in the Renegades 22. The defence was solid, but the injury toll was heavy. Stockers had to come off with a badly twisted ankle (replaced by Ren) he was closely followed by Jack who sustained rib damage serious enough to take him off. Other replacements were not yet ready to come on, so Renegades were down to 14



players. The Haverhill 10 broke through the Renegades line and with an overlap to his right, decided to go it alone and cut back inside. Ollie floored him and saved a likely try.

The depleted Renegades managed to advance back up the field and a lineout near the Haverhill line saw a driving maul advance towards the Haverhill line, stop and get going again to cross the line allowing Shep to score. The conversion attempt missed, 10-3.

The seven-point lead didn't last long with Haverhill scoring a converted try shortly after, 10-10. That's how the score remained at half time.

As the second half got underway, Speedie brought the Renegade numbers back to 15 having gone home to collect his kit. Despite levelling up on numbers, Haverhill applied significant pressure and camped in the Renegades 22. At one point they touched down just an inch short of the Renegades line. A while later, a Renegades lineout near their own line saw Ryan Cox take the ball in the air and go to ground in a perfectly executed defensive move, except nobody supported him, allowing a Haverhill player to run through, pick up the ball and score. The conversion attempt missed, 10-15.

Renegades reacted to Haverhill taking the lead by going on the offensive. A great attacking move saw Ben make yards before offloading to Harry who cut through Haverhill to score to the right of the posts. Baz found his range to add the two points, 17-15.

Ollie came off suffering from suspected heat exhaustion. He underwent the standard treatment for such condition (banana and waterboarding). Speedie also had to withdraw as one of his calves tore. Renegades were down to 13 players.

Haverhill took advantage of their superior numbers by scoring another converted try, 17-22. Scrappy play continued for a while before Ollie was able to comeback on. He was joined by Adam Lane who only came to watch but found himself on the pitch to bring Renegades back to 15 players.

Ollie, having been freshly waterboarded, found his form again and he and Ben were instrumental in a break through the Haverhill line before passing to Geoff who was not going to be stopped. Baz converted, 24-22.

As the game progressed each side was awarded and converted a penalty to bring the score to 27-25. There was a tense moment in the closing stages of the game when Haverhill were awarded another penalty which missed. Renegades went on the offensive again and were approaching the Haverhill 22 when the referee called last play. Dougie pulled the ball from the base of a ruck and gently tapped it off the field.

It was a tough, closely fought game. The injury toll was bad and may have a knock-on affect in future games. However, a bonus point win was groundout in the end.

### **Scores**

Tries: Dan Philips, Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd, Harry Mills, Geoff Kirby

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay





Ren for lasting nearly 80 minutes despite advanced years.



Ollie for contracting heat exhaustion in September.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



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