



Match Report

Oct 23

Home Cambridge 3

Lost 14-24



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Geoff Kirby 3) Ryan Duffy
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Sam Jones
- 6) Harry Mills 7) Jake Sweet 8) Ryan Cox
- 9) Dougie Ellis 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Michael Did-Dell 12) Ross Catchpole 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Jon Farrar
- 15) Matt Green

Replacements

- 16) Doyle Onley 17) Will Blackwell 18) Ben Powell 19) Adam 'Speedie' Richards 20) Dan Philips

Report

This game was much anticipated as a top of the table clash. Renegades were top with Cambridge trailing by a single point but with a game in hand. There was considerable hunger for a win on both sides. There was significant support for both sides on the touchlines too.

Cambridge kicked off. It took a while for the game to settle. The Renegades lineout was not what it was last week. BFT stood up to the role of putting in but that is not a familiar role for him, and the ball was often not straight. The Renegades scrum held well against a big Cambridge pack. However, the penalty count against Renegades was mounting up from the start.

After 10 minutes, Cambridge advanced into the Renegades 22 and two penalties in quick succession saw their 10 spin the ball 20m to the right winger who sped into the right corner to score. The conversion attempt missed, 0-5.

Soon it became apparent that the game was going to be a fiercely contested bad tempered affair. There were quite a few dodgy things going on in rucks that unfortunately provoked reaction from Renegades resulting in two yellow cards one for Ross and one for Ryan Duffy. For a short period, Renegades were down to 13 players. However, Renegades defence in that period was staunch and the 18 or so minutes when Cambridge had numerical advantage, Cambridge did not score.

As half time approached, the referee asked to speak with the Renegades coach and demanded that the supporters stay back from the line. He also had a word with both captains and said that there would be more cards if things didn't improve. He then called half time early.

Michael Did-Dell came off and Ross moved to the right wing, making space for Ben Powell at inside centre. The second half began well for Renegades with some nice moves. Five minutes in and Harry got a yellow card for a tackle on the Cambridge screaming number 10. Cambridge spread the ball to the right and flanker cut back in to score near the posts. This was successfully converted, 0-12.

Ben was involved in some good attacking moves but then Cambridge advanced to the Renegades 22. They won a lineout and with no apparent gaps, the Cambridge 10 grubbered the ball through. Ben following the ball back delayed touching the ball down for the 22 and was beaten to it by a Cambridge player. The conversion was good, 0-19.

Sam came off to be replaced by Speedie. A break down the middle by Ben and Harry took Renegades to a lineout on the Cambridge 22. Cambridge played the ball through the hands to the right and then back again and the ball came to the small but very fast Cambridge 11 who ran $\frac{3}{4}$ the length of the pitch to score in the left corner. The challenging conversion never came close, 0-24.

Time was running out and Renegades recognised the need to get something on the scoresheet. An attack saw the Cambridge 1 try to decapitate Ross for which he received a yellow card. Renegades maintained the pressure and a quick tap and go from Ben fed Ross who bashed his way over the Cambridge line. Baz added the two points, 7-24.

With five minutes to go, a great break by Ben off a Renegades lineout fed Harry who ran the ball in under the posts. Baz added the conversion as a drop kick to try to make sure the maximum time was available for the game to continue. However, the referee had other ideas and blew full time three minutes early.

It was a bad-tempered game, mainly because of very poor refereeing. Cambridge were strong and were much more effective at playing the referee, resulting in tons of penalties and three yellow cards for Renegades.

Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole, Harry Mills

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



Geoff Kirby for putting in a great shift in the unfamiliar position of hooker.



Ben Powell for not touching the ball down behind the Renegades line allowing Cambridge a soft try.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy (with significant input from Stockers's excellent WhatsApp commentary)

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







