



Match Report

Jan 28

Home Newmarket

Lost 7-26



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) George Collett 2) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 3) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 6) Nick Mainiero 7) Jake Sweet 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) Doug Ellis 10) George Mills
- 11) Josh 'Slugz' Vail 12) Harry Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Geoff Kirby
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell 17) Ryan 'Duff' Duffy 18) Dan Philips

Report

The long-awaited return game against Newmarket was upon us, that bitter taste of uncontested scrums lingering from that fateful day. Newmarket continued with mind games by failing to bring their away kit and forcing Renegades to play in their away strip. The day was cool but far from freezing with no apparent danger of rain.

Newmarket kicked off and were immediately hauled up by the referee as several of their players were in front of the kicker before the kick. The penalty kick failed to find touch and Newmarket went on the offensive. The Renegades defence withstood the pressure for a while but was outflanked when Newmarket spun the ball wide to the right and their winger touched down in the corner. The challenging conversion was spot on, 0-7.

Renegades recovered from this setback and went on the offensive themselves. They worked into the Newmarket 22. A scrum penalty was put in the corner and the lineout was won. There were a series of attacking moves with the ball going to Big Mike who crashed over on the 15m line. Ross struck the conversion beautifully, 7-7.

A couple of minutes later, Newmarket were on the attack again. A strong attack on the left with some picks and goes saw them over the line for their second try. The conversion was straightforward, 7-14.

Less than five minutes later, a Newmarket penalty failed to find touch, taken by Ross who danced around a couple of Newmarket players before throwing an uncharacteristic wild pass which was

intercepted by a Newmarket player who ran the length of the field, and they scored in the left corner. The conversion missed, 7-19.

The restart was a lovely high hanging ball which allowed Aaron to chase and catch before annihilating a Newmarket player who tried to stop him. The ball spun wide to Harry and Ross who gained many yards passing back and forth, with Slugz in support outside. As they approached the line Ross passed to Slugz who spilled the ball and a lovely try was not to be.

The remaining 10 minutes of the first half consisted of attacks and good defence from both sides. When the referee finally blew for the interval, both sides were glad of a breather. Big Mike came off and was replaced by Duff, for his final game before retiring from rugby.

An early very threatening attack from Newmarket was dealt with by Ross, forcing a knock on and saving the try that looked almost inevitable. As the 50th minute approached, Geoff was replaced by Topknot. Five minutes later, as a Newmarket player screamed along the left touchline, a tackle by BFT had the Newmarket Supporters howling for a red card. BFT was given a yellow but the referee saved the red card for a female Newmarket supporter who was screaming abuse at him. I suspect she didn't enjoy the long walk of shame as she left the playing area.

Another threatening attack by Newmarket was dealt with by Ross, forcing a pass which was knocked on. BFT came back on, and the Newmarket 17 was binned for repeat offenses as Renegades camped on their line. The penalty went for a tap and go rather than a scrum. Stockers did not approve. Maybe he had a point, the tap and go didn't go well.

Shep was given a yellow for an accidental blow to Lexi's head when going for the ball. Newmarket used the penalty to get deep into the Renegades 22. They stay in the 22 until they score from a tap and go penalty. The conversion was straightforward, 7-26. And that's how it stayed and four minutes later the referee put the game out of its misery.

It was a more exciting game to watch than the score would indicate. Flashes of brilliant play were interspersed with simple handling errors which was frustrating. Newmarket deserved to win but the score flattered them.



Aaron Stevens for putting in a massive shift.



Duff for retiring from Rugby mid-season

Ross for a wild pass that gifted Newmarket a try

Slugz for dropping the ball just short of the line

BFT and Shep for getting yellow cards

Scores

Tries: Michael 'Big Mike' Goode

Conversion: Ross Catchpole

Pictures by Peter Haigh. See [Peter's Flickr page](#) for the full set





