



Match Report

Oct 18

Away Saffron Walden 2

Lost 62-26



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Geoff Kirby 2) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
4) Kes Duxbury 5) Matija Krkovic
6) Richard 'BTW' Fickling 7) Lewis Pannett 8) Ryan Cox
9) Dan Phillips 10) Brendan Salmon
11) Patrick Long (SW) 12) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 13) Alfie Salmon 14) Rob Springthorpe (SW)
15) Nathan Williamson

Replacements

There were no replacements

Report

The long road to Henham was complicated by a shortage of players with Renegades only able to muster 13 to go to play Saffron Walden. Walden kindly agreed to lend us players to make up the 15. When Renegades arrived, they were made a further discovery that was a bit of a blow: Walden didn't have a front row and so the game had to go uncontested. Forward dominance is a big part of the Renegades game, so this was an unfortunate development.

Walden kicked off, but the ball didn't go 10m and so the first uncontested scrum went to Renegades. The game proceeded with both sides attacking and defending. Walden benefitted from the slope in the first half, and they opened their account with a beautifully weighted kick from their own half which finished up just short of the Renegades line. Renegades tried to defend but Walden were there in numbers and scrambled the ball over the line. The conversion was good, 7-0.

Renegades responded immediately with a great break by Proccy through the Walden defence. He was supported by Ryan Cox and the ball passed between them and Proccy scored to the left of the posts. The conversion attempt drifted across the posts, 7-5.

Walden went on to score two well taken tries, one in the right corner and one in the left corner. Both challenging conversion attempts were beautifully struck and sailed between the posts, 21-5.

Walden came again and battered their way over the line to score another try which was converted, 28-5. This was followed by another superb individual try from Proccy. He broke through the Walden defence inside his own half and powered his way towards the Walden posts. He evaded defenders by going wide to the left and was caught within a few meters of touch, but he managed to break free and smash the ball down over the line. Brendan slotted the reasonably challenging conversion, 28-12.

Richard BTW was forced to come off with a damaged calf, and Renegades were down to 14. Walden managed to exploit the numerical advantage quickly with another try very close to the posts. Their 10 pulled the conversion just wide, 33-12. As half time approached, a long pass out wide by Proccy was intercepted and the Walden player ran it in to score a try which was converted, 40-12.

The second half opened with Walden scoring again fairly quickly with a try about 5m from the left corner. The conversion missed, 45-12. A while later a great break through the Middle saw Geoff make half the length of the pitch before being chopped in the Walden 22. Renegades support was fast to arrive and managed to overwhelm the Walden defence with the ball passing through several hands before Proccy crashed over for yet another hat trick. Brendan added the extras, 45-19.

Over the next 20 minutes, Walden went on a mini spree scoring three tries, only the third of which was converted bringing the score to 62-19. Renegades began an attack with another cracking carry from Proccy who took the ball deep into the Walden 22. He was chopped. Ryan Cox got the ball and powered towards the line. He was brought down just short and Brendan picked the ball from the back of the ruck and sniped over to score. He then converted (just!) his own try. At that point the referee blew the final whistle. It was an early finish but the toll on the bodies of the very hard ground was showing and both sides were happy to call it a day.

It was a good game played in a good spirit. Renegades did well to grind out a bonus point against a strong Walden side. Everyone on the pitch worked their socks off. Renegades are looking forward to the rematch in Cottenham in January.



Nathan Williamson – for a great shift at the back.



Proccy for Crossfield kicks that may have gone backwards.
Special mention goes to Dan Phillips for punching Kes in a ruck.

Scores

Tries: Tom 'Proccy' Procter (3), Brendan Salmon

Conversions: Brendan Salmon (3)

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy