

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Dec 20

Home March Bears

Lost 7-62



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Geoff Kirby 2) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
4) Cameron Witheridge-Pearce 5) Ryan Cox (eventually)
6) Tom Vajzivic 7) Joe Paddison 8) Lewis Pannett
9) Max Burton 10) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
11) Michael 'Dids' Did-Dell 12) Josh 'Slugz' Vail 13) Ethan George 14) Barney Baker
15) Nathan Williamson

Replacements

- 16) Ross Catchpole

Report

Following the withdrawal by Deepings two weeks previously, the game against March Bears was the first home appearance by Renegades this season. The pitch was moved and rotated through 90 degrees with a special feature – a metal access hatch in the middle of the pitch, which was drawn to our attention by the Referee. Fortunately, it was recessed and we were able to cover it with sand to prevent potentially serious injuries.

The sun shone brightly and March arrived with a plentiful bounty of players. Renegades started with 14 as Ryan Cox's first attempt at an Uber didn't show and he had to re-order. Renegades kicked off and after a quick foray into the March Half, March came back at Renegades and piled into the Renegades 22. Their 12 powered towards the line but was taken down successfully before he reached it. March then spun the ball left and scored in the left corner. The conversion attempt missed, 0-5.

A short while later and Renegades had an attacking scrum on the March 10m line. A big shove from March forced a penalty which took them into the Renegades 22. From there they piled on the pressure and faced resolute defence from Renegades. The defence held for a while but eventually, March spread the ball right and crashed over for their second try. The conversion was good, 0-12. Unfortunately, Joe's shoulder took a knock in defending the line and he decided that it was too risky to continue, that brought Renegades down to 13 on the field.



Ryan Cox arrived and as he was getting ready pitch side, March had an attacking scrum on the Renegades 5m line. Their power gave them a good platform, and they scored under the posts. The conversion was never in doubt, 0-19. Ryan Cox joined the fray.

A great break from deep inside the Renegades 22 saw Proccy power up the pitch with Bears falling off him from all sides. He got well into the March half with a two on one looking very promising. He drew the man and offloaded well but the pass was knocked on, and March booted the ball back down the pitch and readministered their pressure. Renegades defended well again but Nathan was given a yellow card for a knock on that denied March a try. It was harsh as Nathan made what looked like a genuine attempt to catch the ball. Bears kept up the pressure and were rewarded with another converted try, 0-26. This was followed in with another converted try within a minute of the restart, 0-33. Renegades rallied and tried to make amends before half time, but March were giving nothing away and the score remained 0-33 at the interval.

The second half started with March getting three tries, the first one not converted, the second converted and the third not converted, 0-50. This was too much for Ross, who, though not supposed to play until the end of January, donned his boots and came on for the final half an hour. This helped to stem the flow of March Tries for a while and it was about 10 minutes before they scored again, 0-57.

A while later, a lovely kick to touch by Proccy took Renegades deep into the March 22. The lineout was not straight, and Renegades were able to advance further into the March 22. A series of pick and go penalties saw Renegades close the gap on the March goal line and at last Tom V managed to dot the ball onto the line to strangle the Renegades duck! Proccy struck the conversion beautifully and the ball sailed between the posts, 7-57.

As full time approached, March managed another try but the conversion missed leaving the final score at 7-62.

It was a tough afternoon for Renegades. It was a battle against a well-disciplined team and against numerical disadvantages which gave March more players throughout the whole game. Still, it was great to have a home game and the gathering at the Club post-game was good fun.



Tom Vajzivic for playing for Renegades when much needed and scoring the try.

Ryan Cox for Uber management failure.

Scores

Tries: Tom Vajzivic

Conversions: Tom 'Proccy' Procter

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy with considerable input from Stockers's online commentary

