



Match Report

16 February

Home

Harlow 4

Lost 14:22



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Rik Relph 2) Dan Jerred 3) Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith

4) Nick Skipworth 5) Tom Wykes

6) Ren Pesci 7) Chris Leith 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben

9) Rolando Pesci 10) Daray Horn

11) John 'JB' Bateson 12) Jack Cowley 13) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay 14) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

15) Jeff 'Medic' Mercer

Replacements

16) James Jerred 17) Richard Cowley 18) Brian Smith

Report

For those who aren't concerned it was the second Saturday of half term, the full impact of which wasn't even realised by me. Having travelled from Devon I thought I'd done well to arrive on time I was late and the score was already 7 - 0 to Renegades. It was from a quick tap penalty in the Harlow 22 touched down by Rolando Pesci. However, Harlow were never going to make it that easy and a determined, zig zagging run by the Harlow fly half lead to a try and conversion that levelled the scores. Just as determined was Rik who was putting in tackles and trundling the yards, much as I'm sure he did 40 years ago according to all the golden memories he has recounted to us!

It was end-to-end stuff and the Renegades were able to win a couple of quick rucks, put the ball through some fast hands for Ren to score and Baz to convert, it was 14 - 7. However Harlow seemed to be winning more ball and Bill Bob was kept busy as they delighted in kicking to him. It felt as though the 'Gades were hanging on rather than dictating the play and half time was more than welcome as was the lead.

As Priceless would have said years ago the 'Gades appeared to be blowing through their arses and Harlow use their big bludgeoning pack to capitalise on this. The curse of Colonel Mustard and the Renegades lineout struck and Harlow won a lineout and from the subsequent driving maul scored an

unconverted try to come within two points. By now you had to fear the worst as the scrum faded and the lineout misfired. A penalty put Harlow in front 14 -15 but they weren't finished yet and managed to create a gap in the now tired Renegades defence so that the Harlow fly half got his second try which was converted.

The final score was 14 - 22 to Harlow. They are a physical unit and deservedly won this game, but you can't help feeling all games will be closely contested. It was great that the Harlow lads came for a drink afterwards, they may look elsewhere for their rugby next season so perhaps a fiercely contested friendly beckons..... imagine what it'd be like if they weren't friendly Bill Bob!

Scores

Tries: Rolando Pesci, Ren Pesci

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2)



Man of the match has to go to one of our senior statesmen. After over half a century Rik was rumbling, trundling and tackling. Well done old man.

Not many games get mentioned in my match reports due to boredom but if you ask all you get is the doughnut, so that goes to Ginger Dan.

Report by Flora