



Match Report

30 August

Home

Ely Tigers

Lost 0:68



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Carl Hulyer 2) Ren Pesci 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 4) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes 5) Lee Bryant
- 6) Rob 'Bev' Bevington 7) Nick Skipworth 8) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford
- 9) Rolando Pesci 10) Mark Lisher
- 11) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 12) Fabio Falter 13) Ben Powell 14) John 'JB' Bateson
- 15) Jeff 'Medic' Mercer

Replacements

- 16) Ben Phillips

Report

Yes, the first proper game of rugby since tour was actually played in August! The weather conditions were pleasant and the cool breeze took the heat out of what otherwise might have been an uncomfortably hot day. However, discomfort came in another form – the sight of around 400 young, fit, strong Ely players in the midst of a noisy and disciplined warm up as we ambled onto the field in dribs and drabs. These guys were definitely not Ely Development/ 3s.

Our very own Sam Vail officiated, resplendent in green. It was agreed to play four quarters of twenty minutes. The first quarter started well enough for Renegades with some encroachment into the Ely half. However, Ely's dominance was soon established with a very strong scrum and powerful running breaking through the middle of the Renegades defence. Four times they broke through to score under the posts and each conversion was a simple drop kick. At the end of a bruising quarter Ely were 28-0 up.

The first team talk focussed on how to improve the defence, pulling in tighter from the sides and trying to make that middle channel more difficult for Ely to break through. It had a good effect. It

didn't stem the tide of tries but it slowed the rate at which they came. In each subsequent quarter, the improved defence limited Ely to two tries per quarter, all bar one of which were converted.

There were positives – Carl had a fantastic debut and Ben Phillips also seemed to enjoy his first run out for the renegades. It was a pleasure to welcome Nick Skipworth back after his knee operation and Medic did his level best to return to A&E as a patient by putting in some great hits. All the forwards and Rolando took one hell of a battering in the middle of the field and as they tried to contain Ely. We didn't sustain any serious injuries which is good for next week. Many thanks to Mark Lisher from Cambourne who filled in the fly half slot for us. We will try not to be playing such a strong opposition the next time we tempt him over! It was a frustrating afternoon for little Fabio and Ben Powell who got very little ball to do anything with but gave it a damn good try whenever they did. During the last team talk, between the third and final quarters, even Rolando ran out of things to say!

To their credit, Ely were fantastic. They are a disciplined bunch who can grab control of the ball at the breakdown with breath-taking speed. They were fast, young, strong and skilful. Losing 68-0 can never be a pleasure but there was satisfaction for many from having played on the same field as such a good team. They were also a sociable bunch who came back to the club in numbers to eat, drink and chat – always appreciated.

Scores

Sadly, no renegades scores to report.



Karl Hulyer – an outstanding performance for a debut – really got stuck in and played a blinder.



Dave Steward (fixture secretary) for telling us he had arranged a game with Ely Development/3s

Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy