



Match Report

December 16 Home Haverhill

Won 96:0



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Jamie Cohen 2) Ren Pesci 3) David 'Baby Dave' Hirst
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 6) Tom Procter 7) Ollie Witt 8) Elliot 'Elbow' Roberts
- 9) Rhys Stevens 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 12) Jack Weatherly 13) Tom Heathcote 14) Jake Sweet
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) David Fletcher-Morris 16) Ben Powell 17) Will Blackwell
- 18) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards 19) Steve Marsh

Report

Haverhill were the first visitors of 2018 and despite having a depleted squad, the Suffolk-based side were eager to test themselves against a Renegades team in good recent form.

Tails were up in the Renegades camp, having put together three back to back victories before the Christmas break. A good win today with other results going our way would boost us into 2nd place in the league table.

The warm up routines were complete, sides were ready, and as the clock struck 2pm, Baz got us underway. Three minutes in, and Jack, on his home debut, made a strong break up to the Haverhill 5m line. The forwards cleared out quickly and the ball was presented to Rhys who shipped it wide through hands to Ollie who went over for the first score of the game. Baz slotted the simple conversion. 7-0.

Even in the early stages of the game, it appeared Tom Proctor was going to have his work cut out getting his paws to Ren's lineout. The veteran Italian couldn't throw a tantrum as we looked shaky from the set piece.

There was some back and forth from the two sides before another try on the 10-minute mark. Tom Proctor drew his man well before popping to Ross who finished under the sticks. Baz gobbled up the opportunity at another 2 points. 14-0.

A few minutes later Baz punched a hole in the Haverhill defence, coming up inches short of the try line. Rhys did well to dig the ball out from under mounting bodies at the ruck and shipped the ball right to Ross who battled his way over from close range for his second of the day. Baz converted. 21-0

The 20-minute mark brought up the Renegades bonus point. A great steal from Tom Proctor on the Haverhill lineout set up a nice move from the backs, feeding Ross who drew his man well and fed Jake in for an easy walk in. Baz, sensing that this would be the day to drastically increase his personal tally, made light work of the conversion. 28-0.

The final play of the first half was a Renegades scrum on half way. The ball came to Baz who fed Ross, who gassed the Haverhill defence to run in his third of the day in style. An easy spot kick from Baz and it was 35-0. That's how the first half finished.

There was little doubt that Renegades were in full control, and Rolando made changes that saw Ben Powell enter the fold.

Four minutes into the second half and Ben made his impact. Collecting a pass from around the halfway line, he trundled past the entire team to get within a couple of yards of the Haverhill try line. He managed to get his offload away to the well-supporting Topknot, who gracefully fell over the whitewash for his first score of the afternoon. Baz, annoyingly, converted. 42-0.

That would be the last we saw of the big man. His little girl hamstrings were feeling tight and a 5-minute cameo was all he had in the locker.

The resulting restart from Haverhill offered up the best try of the day. Baz called it in the air and it went through the hands of Ren, Elliot, Rhys, and finally to Tucker who gave a cute inside pass to Jack. The weatherman was in for his first try for the Gades and it was well deserved. Baz slotted the simple conversion to further climb the points table. Stockers was sick of it. 49-0.

Having looked shaky under the restart for most of the afternoon, it looked like the Gades were finally getting to grips with the kick offs. This time two big bruising amber carries from Jamie and Elliott resulted in the ball popping up to Ollie, who from around 30m out, used a great step and gas to stride under the posts. Smug Baz slotted the kick. 56-0.

The tries were coming thick and fast now. The 9th of the day came from some great hands in midfield and multiple offloads. The ball made its way out to Ollie on the wing, who ran in under the sticks for his hat trick. Did Baz make the conversion? Is the pope catholic? 63-0.

The best individual try of the day came next. Off a scrum in midfield, the ball came out to Baz who timed and weighted his inside pass perfectly to Ross running an awesome line. His gas took him all the way. Boring Baz doesn't miss. 70-0.

With 20 minutes still left in the game there was plenty of time for more points... would the Renegades bring up the ton?

The next try was comical. From the base of a scrappy ruck on the Haverhill 22m line, Steve's shocking pass cannoned off Elliot's face, over the defensive line and into Ollie's hands. He walked under the posts unopposed. It was gift wrapped. The northern monkey was grinning from ear-to-ear,

cheering and fist-pumping his 4th try of the day to the complete disgust and disdain of both sides supporters. The episode marked the first time in history a Renegades try has actually been booed by the home crowd. Baz slots. 77-0.

The next restart came to Ren, who knocked on in bizarre fashion. As the ball came down, the wiry hooker fell into a half-squat, and placed his hands in front of his face, attempting to catch the ball with the tips of his fingers? Was he now playing Goal Attack for the local netball side? It was horrible technique.

Shortly after, Baz stretched the Renegades lead even further with a fine solo effort. He intercepted a Haverhill pass, juggled the ball before running in under the posts. The try marked the second time in history a Renegades try has been booed - by Stockers. The conversion was a given. 84-0.

The next restart was gathered well and a ruck was formed. Psycho surprised everyone by picking up from the base and going on a marauding run. Haverhill players were hanging off the bald wrecking ball like he was a human washing line. The big man ate up the ground before the ball made its way to Topknot around 40m out. His pace took him away from 5 defenders and in under the sticks. Conversion good. 91-0.

The final play of the game came after Tucker was dumped on his arse by the oldest player on the Haverhill side. His liver-spotted hand-off was too strong for the gym-going Tucker to handle. Red-faced, the Renegades number 13 eventually staggered to his feet. Dazed and confused.

Tuckers blushes were spared by the Ref who blew up for a Renegades scrum. A well worked backrow move from the base found Topknot on the wing and he scored well with a flying finish in the corner to bring up his hat trick. It provided a tough conversion for Baz out on the touchline, but he would go top of the individual points tally if he made it. He imploded under the pressure and missed. The man is human. 96-0.

And that's all she wrote. The final whistle came and they all lived happily ever after.

No century from the Renegades but a good performance nonetheless. A fourth win on the bounce will give the squad a lot of confidence going into the final regulation game of the season away to Bury next week.

Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole (4), Ollie Witt (4), Will Blackwell (3), Jack Weatherley, Andrew 'Baz' Mackay, Jake Sweet

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (13)



Jamie for solid carries and good hands.



Ren for that netball knock-on, Steve Marsh (for being Steve) and Baz for missing that final conversion.

Match report by Dan 'Stickers' Stockbridge

Pictures by John 'JB' Bateson



