



Match Report

Jan 5

Away March Bears

Lost 15-20



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Jack Mills 2) Ren Pesci 3) Mikey Goode
- 4) Tom 'BFT' Powell 5) Aaron Stevens
- 6) Elliot Roberts 7) Ollie Witt 8) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills
- 9) Dan 'Stokers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Tobi Rayner 12) Tom Procter 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Steve Marsh
- 15) John 'JB' Bateson

Replacements

- 16) Adam Lane 17) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

Renegades made the journey north to March with trepidation. The Bears have a long track record of raining on Renegades parades and had already defeated Newmarket when they made a similar journey. This was a vital game as a pre-cursor to the last game of the season when league-leaders Newmarket come to Cottenham next week. It was a must-win game.

Marched kicked off and piled on the pressure from the outset. Renegades resisted and came back at March. A Renegades penalty just by the 10-metre line fell short. This was followed by a March Penalty which they kicked into the corner. From the resulting lineout they managed to get over the line to score. Baz was laid out having taken a knock to the head but was judged fit to continue. The March conversion went over off the post, 0-7.

Renegades upped the intensity and advanced back into the March half. A great break by Baz gained many yards before offloading to Ollie who was chopped just short of the line. March came back were looking very dangerous when Baz made a crucial interception, depriving them of a very promising move. A little while later, March were awarded a kickable penalty and they successfully went for the posts, 0-10.

As the first half dwindled, Renegades advanced again into the March half. Pressure told and eventually Baz managed to cross the March line but was held up. The resulting scrum wheeled and

went again. It wheeled again, and March were awarded a penalty. Renegades came back and in the dying seconds of the first half, Renegades got and converted a penalty, 3-10.

The half time discussion was intense, and it was agreed that the ball needed to be played wide much more often if Renegades were to have any joy from this well-drilled March team.

The second half could not have got off to a worse start for Renegades. The kickoff was taken by the March 10, who danced through the Renegades line and hared down the field to score under the posts. The conversion was straightforward, 3-17.

Renegades came straight back and a great run by Harry along the right wing saw him brought down just short of the March line. A little while later Baz was laid out for a second time. This time the referee dictated that he be replaced, and Adam Lane came on into the forwards, with Elliot moving to the 12 position and Tom Procter standing in as 10.

This revised configuration kept the pressure on March. BFT made a great break and hurtled towards the March line before being brought down. The ball went through the hands from the resulting ruck and found Tucker who was not going to be stopped, touching down three of four yards from the left touchline. The conversion was beautifully struck by Steve and it sailed between the posts, 10-17.

This try lifted Renegades and the pressure was redoubled. A nice flow through the hands saw Tobi score in the right corner. The difficult conversion was close but just wide, 15-17. Renegades really upped their intensity and wave after wave of attacking rugby was resisted by March. Renegades had no luck: passes were spilled, ball bounces were invariably unfavourable, and frustration mounted as the clock wound down. March managed a foray into the Renegades half and were rewarded with a penalty which they converted making the Renegades task more difficult, 15-20.

Renegades kept up the pressure and their advances were pushed by March each time. At one point, Stockers threw away a penalty by not taking a tap restart properly. It was symptomatic of the frustrating afternoon. Shortly afterwards the referee called time.

The mood was lifted slightly when news came through that Cambridge had beaten Newmarket and Renegades were still in the running for a league decider next week.

Scores

Tries: Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote, Tobi Rayner

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay



Harry Mills – for all round performance.



Dan Stockbridge for failing to restart legally.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh (for the full set of pictures see [Peter's Flickr Page](#))

