

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Mar 16

Home Saffron Walden 2

Lost 13-17



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Michael Goode 2) Ren Pesci 3) Jack Mills
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Jake Sweet 7) Dan Stockbridge 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 9) Rhys Stephens 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) John Farrar 12) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 13) Ross Catchpole 14) Ciaran Russell
- 15) Tobi Rayner

Replacements

- 17) Callum Wilkins 18) Ben Powell 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

A week of strong winds showed no signs of letting up as Renegades gathered for the semi-final of the county cup. It was as windy as last week if not more so, but the wind was more directly across the pitch. Numbers had been looking tight during the week due to injuries, trips up north and BFT's wedding purdah. However, it was a strong lineup that took to the field and hope was strong that Renegades would be in the final.

Renegades kicked off and Saffron Walden kept the ball for a prolonged period and their 13 made a great break along the left wing. He was chopped close to the line but he had good support and the ball was shared among them before Walden got their opening try in the left corner. The conditions were too challenging for the conversion, 0-5.

Renegades restarted and this time managed to get the ball back from Walden. A penalty saw Baz drill the ball well into the Walden 22. The lineout was won but the pass missed Baz and went to Jake. Sensing an opportunity, Jake battled his way over the Walden line, breaking tackles on the way. The conversion was taken by the wind. 5-5.

The game ebbed and flowed for a while before Ross made a great break through the Walden line making many yards before being felled. He managed a pop pass and the ball went through a few Renegades hands, advancing all the time before the ball came to Ross again who touched down to the right of the posts. The conversion was again taken by the wind, 10-5.

Fabs had to come off suffering from his Achilles again. He was replaced by Callum. A little later the Walden 8 landed a completely unjustified punch on Aaron. He got a red card for his trouble. Renegades advanced and got a penalty about 10m from the Walden posts. This time the wind was overcome, and Baz slotted the three points, 13-5.

The red card and the increasing deficit seemed to awaken Walden. As half time approached, they piled on pressure and remained camped on the Renegades line for what seemed like 20 minutes. The defence was resolute, but the attack was equally determined. Eventually, the pressure yielded fruit and the Walden crashed over under the posts. The try was converted and shortly afterwards the whistle went for half time, 13-12.

Walden re-started the second half. Early in the half, Walden broke along the right wing and beat the defence, but a once passed Toby wasn't having it and managed to get back and chop the Walden player before he made it to the line. A little while later Aaron was given a yellow for some inexplicable reason.

Walden applied pressure and advanced into the Renegades 22. They were held out for a while but eventually they managed to score in the left corner. The conversion had no chance, 13-17. Ben's sideline frustration was bubbling over and he came on for Speedie, who a short while later came back on for John, who's recovering ankle had come as far as it was going to.

The rest of the second half was intense pressure from Renegades with most of the time spent in the Walden 22. The pattern was win the ball, advance, spill the ball, Walden try to run the ball out, Renegades win the ball again and so it continued. The frustration was enormous for players and spectators alike. The frustration peaked when a nice interplay between Toby and Ross got right to the corner and the ball went to Ren who slipped over the line and touched down ... only for the referee to call play back for a RENEGADES penalty.

And so the frustration continued until the referee put the game out of its misery. No finals for Renegades this year 😞

Scores

Tries: Jake Sweet, Ross Catchpole

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay



Jake for all round battling performance and a brilliantly taken try



Rolando (self-nominated) for not knowing the laws on uncontested scrums.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



