

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Jan 18

Home Newmarket

Lost 28-29



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Michael Goode 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins 3) Josh Cox
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 6) Ryan Cox 7) Jake Sweet 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Geoff Kirby 12) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Tobi Rayner
- 15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

- 16) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd, 17) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 18) Ben Powell 19) Callum Laing
- 20) Jack Cowley 21) Adam 'Speedie' Richards 22) Sam Jones.

Report

A beautiful crisp winter's afternoon saw the Renegades gather at the Village College for the much-anticipated closing game of the first part of the league against arch-rivals, Newmarket. Some Newmarket representatives joined the President's lunch beforehand at the club and this was a great success with considerable support from Renegades, current and past, sponsors and friends.

Newmarket kicked off and Renegades immediately went on the offensive driving into the Newmarket half. Things were going well when the Newmarket 14 managed to intercept a pass well inside his own half and ran like lightning towards the Renegades line. Geoff made a great effort to catch him and was closing in, but the Newmarket Winger had too much of a lead. He scored under the posts and the conversion was good, 0-7. That was not the start that Renegades needed.

Renegades advanced again from the kickoff and were putting pressure on Newmarket. Then that pesky winger did it again and broke through the Renegades line, streaking towards the Renegades line. He touched down a second time under the posts and the conversion was a simple affair, 0-14. This was really beginning to look like it might not be a very enjoyable afternoon for the Renegades.

Immediately after the restart, Renegades were awarded a penalty pretty much in the half-way line. Renegades opted to kick for Goal and Baz lined up to take the kick. It was a good effort but pulled to the right of the posts and wide.



However, Renegades maintained pressure and advanced into the Newmarket 22. A Newmarket player earned himself a yellow card and a scrum followed. Stockers passed to Baz who spotted a gap in the defence and went through it to score. His conversion attempt was spot on, 7-14.

Another attacking move by Renegades was led by a charge along the right wing by Chinese. Renegades pushed on towards the right corner. Then Stockers passed left to Baz, who flung a very long pass to Harry who showed very deft hands to send it flying on to Tobi. The flowing Spanish locks trailed behind as Tobi powered for the left corner and scored. The conversion was a really tricky one for a left-footed kicker, but Baz was sure footed and claimed the two extra points, 14-14. Renegades were back in the games as half time approached.

Half time changes: Shep for Wilko, Fabs for Jake and Ben for Tucker.

The second half started with a protracted period of both teams having a go with the play flowing back and forth across the pitch. About 10 minutes into the half, Ryan Cox received a yellow for handing off to the face on the floor (which he denies). With the numbers advantage, Newmarket stepped up the pressure. A swift attack down the left wing gave them good territory and they then spun it in towards the posts for a well-worked try. The conversion missed, 14-19.

From the kickoff, the ball went loose and high by the left touch line. Baz, grabbed it and legged it towards the Newmarket line. He admitted afterwards that he didn't think he would make it all the way, but he did. He also managed to convert another difficult one, 21-19.

Newmarket responded to trailing for the first time in the game by really upping their attacking intensity. They spent a long time in the Renegades 22 very close to the line where they faced staunch defence from Renegades. On at least three occasions, they looked dangerously close to scoring, but the defence held. Eventually they opted to take the three points when awarded a penalty, 21-22.

A few minutes later, Renegades re-captured the lead when Tobi screamed along the left touch line before cutting back, evading tackles and stormed over the Newmarket line to score. Baz converted successfully, 28-22.

The tension was palpable. The support was vocal with every advantage cheered wildly by the beneficiary's supporters. Morgan came on for Stockers and Callum Laing for Geoff. Newmarket attacked and were held out for a while but eventually managed to score a try. The conversion was simple and there was no chance of a reprieve like Renegades had had against Cantabs in the previous game. With a few minutes to go, the conversion regained the lead for Newmarket, 28-29. Despite strenuous efforts on the part of Renegades, that's how it stayed.

It was a bitterly disappointing experience for Renegades who would have dearly loved to have won all their league games. Not for the first time, Newmarket denied this to them. However, there is still a lot to celebrate: Renegades are the league champions and advance into the second half of the season with 7 of the potential 10 points available under their belt.

And sadly, this was Tobi's last game before returning to Spain. He embraced being a Renegade with 100% commitment from the day he arrived. His enthusiasm and good humour will be missed by all.



Scores

Tries: Andrew 'Baz' Mackay (2), Tobi Rayner (2)

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (4)



Tobi Rayner for an outstanding performance in his final game as a Renegade which included two tries.



Ollie Witt for his role in an interception try by Newmarket

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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



