



Match Report

Feb 22

Home Cantabs 2/3

Won 76-5



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Josh Cox 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Adam 'Speedie' Richards 5) Jake Sweet
- 6) Dan Philips 7) Ryan Cox 8) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 9) Morgan Stephens 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Geoff Kirby 12) Harry 'H-bomb' Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Michael Did-Dell
- 15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

- 16) Ross Catchpole 17) Sam Jones 18) Aaron Stevens 19) Matt 'Turnover' Turner
- 20) Ryan 'Shep' Shepperd 21) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

The second half of the league (Eastern Counties Division 1 Shield) really hasn't got off to a great start. Sudbury cried off for health and safety reasons (Storm Dennis) or waterlogged pitch, depending on who we talked to and this week's clash with North Walsham was forfeited by the visitors. Fortunately, old friends at Cantabs were able to field a team drawn from their 2 and 3 squads so a game went ahead.

The wind was strong and blew diagonally across the pitch towards the ditch from the school end. The friendly was an opportunity to try out a kicking game with kicks from the Renegades half with rapid follow up pressure on the defence as a means of getting into the opposition half without too much work.

Cantabs kicked off and the ball was kicked back and chased. Good Renegades pressure was rewarded when Jake broke through the Cantabs defence and scored close to the posts, giving Baz an straightforward conversion despite the wild wind, 7-0.

After the restart, Renegades attacked again and a nice little dink through by Baz was chased down by Stockers for the try. This time the wind carried the conversion away from the target, 12-0.

A while later, a nice S3 move saw the ball fed to Ollie who made many yards before passing the ball which eventually found Stockers for his second try. The wind again stole the conversion, 17-0.

A nice kick over the top was chased down with Callum stripping the ball back from the defenders. The ball went wide to Harry who broke through the defensive line and was chopped just short of the line but managed a nice little pop up to Tucker, who went over for the try. Baz got the upper hand on the wind and the conversion was good, 24-0.

A penalty saw Baz use the wind to gain a huge amount of territory. The lineout was won and the ball went through the hands to Ollie who broke through the defence again and this time made it over the line and then back to touch down under the posts. His extra effort made the conversion straightforward 31-0.

As the interval approached, Cantabs had the ball in their own 22. As they tried to play out, a pass was intercepted by Harry Mills who stormed over the Cantabs line to touch down under the posts. The conversion was successful, 38-0. A few seconds after the referee blew for half time.

There were significant changes at half time including Aaron and Sam on for Speedie and Jake, Shep on for Dan Phillips and Matt Turner on for Mike Did-Dell.

Renegades restarted and Cantabs were awarded a penalty shortly afterwards. They took the penalty quickly and capitalised on an unprepared Renegades defence. They broke through and scored. The wind took the conversion, 38-5. Cantabs lost a player and Dan Phillips donned the blue and white to keep them at 15. A short while later, Harry crashed through the Cantabs defence to score his second. The conversion attempt looked really good but was pulled to the right of the posts by a strong gust, 43-5.

Another Renegades attack got right to the Cantabs line, but Stockers was penalised for a double movement in going for his hat trick. He was then replaced by Ross who went to fullback, freeing Ollie to join the back row.

A while later the ball found Geoff inside the Cantabs 22. He used his power to drive over the line with a bunch of Cantabs players hanging off him. The conversion was tantalisingly close but just wide, 48-5.

From the Kickoff, Renegades attacked again, this time with an outrageous break through the middle by Josh who made many yards before offloading to Ross who finished the job touching down under the posts. Baz added the extras, 55-5. Callum was forced to retire with a knackered knee, so Stockers went back on and Shep moved to hooker.

The next score was a fantastic solo run from Ryan Cox who got the ball well inside the Renegades half and made it all the way to touch down under the Cantabs posts. Baz slotted the conversion, 62-5. This was followed quickly by a similar if not quite such a long-distance effort from Matt Turner to score close to the uprights. Baz again added the two, 69-5

As the game drew to a close, Renegades had one more attack in them. Baz broke through the Cantabs line and made yards before executing an outrageously long pass to Harry who carried for a while before offloading to Ross who touched down. Baz added the final couple and the referee declared proceedings closed, 76-5.



It was a try-fest for Renegades. The kicking tactic seemed to work very well. Many thanks to Cantabs for being available at short notice and playing gallantly throughout what cannot have been a fun afternoon for them.

Scores

Tries: Jake Sweet, Dan Stockbridge (2), Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote, Ollie Witt, Harry Mills (2), Geoff Kirby, Ross Catchpole (2), Ryan Cox, Matt Turner

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (8)



Matt Turner for putting in a good shift and scoring a try having last played in Cork in 2014.



Stockers for the double movement to get a hat trick that never was denying BFT a simple 2 on 1 try.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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