

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Feb 29

Home Norwich Union

Lost 5-15



Team

Starting Lineup

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

Replacements

- 16) Matt Turner 17) Dave Cook 18) Sam Jones 19) Ren Pesci
- 20) John Bateson 21) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

Storm Jorge created a great deal of uncertainty as to whether or not this game would go ahead. Parts of the sports field were waterlogged with standing water but the rugby pitch was ok. A pitch inspection at 8:30 on the morning of the game found it to still be in a playable condition. The only restriction was that warm-up should be off the pitch.

The other effect of Storm Jorge was wind. There was a powerful cross wind blowing into the faces of the Renegades supporters. It was not just strong but also blustery making kicking a bit of a lottery. Renegades chose their heaviest pack ever in an effort to out-Norwich-Union Norwich Union who have a powerful pack and love a rolling maul.

Renegades kicked off and immediately piled on the pressure. For the first quarter, the game was played entirely in Norwich Union's half with wave after wave of Renegades attack being held out by staunch NU defence. In this time, Jack Mills had to come off for a blood injury and was replaced by Dave Cook for a few minutes.

After more than 20 minutes of this, NU got a penalty and the ball entered the Renegades half for the first time in the game – a lineout a few metres into the half. They won the lineout and shipped the ball to the other side if the field quickly where a rapid winger tore past the Renegades defence to score in the right corner. The conversion had no chance in the wind, 0-5. This was a blow for Renegades and was entirely against the run of play.



Renegades attacked again and at one stage a lovely interception by a NU player saw NU go all the way to the Renegades line but the ball was spilled and Renegades were fortunate to restart with a 22 drop out.

There was no further score and the half-time whistle blew. Matt Turner came on for Ross.

Early in the second half, Renegades were awarded a penalty half-way between the 22 and the half-way line. The conditions meant that the kick was very ambitious, and the wind frustrated the attempt. Shortly after, NU advanced into the Renegades 22 and looked like scoring but were kept out. Eventually, Renegades conceded a penalty directly in front of the posts – a kick so easy that even Storm Jorge could not divert it wide, 0-8.

Renegades upped their game and attacked NU with greater determination. This resulted first in a penalty that on any other day would have been easy pickings for Baz. However, Jorge did his evil worst and the penalty missed. Renegades kept up the pressure and were soon back in the NU 22. They advanced to the line and the ball was passed to Ollie who took advantage of a gap in the defence to launch himself over the line for a well-worked try. The conversion was very close but was just the wrong side of the post.

A while later, play was well inside the Renegades 22 and Renegades were trying to advance out. A pass was spilled and a NU player pounced on the ball and threw himself over the line for a very soft try. The conversion was simple even with the wind, 5-15.

Renegades attacked again and, as the game was drawing to a close, Renegades were awarded a penalty inside the NU 22. They opted for a scrum. The Renegades shove destroyed NU, gained some yards and won a penalty. Scrum was the call for a second time and Renegades did exactly the same gaining aground and winning another penalty. Then for some reason, the decision was to kick for goal. Jorge frustrated the attempt and the kick missed. The final whistle went.

It was a disappointing result. Going for a very strong pack was clearly the right thing to do against NU. Renegades dominated play for large sections of the game but were unable to convert that dominance into points. NU took their opportunities well and defended staunchly.

The post-match revelry was up to the very high standards that Renegades expect from NU! A good time was had by all.

Scores

Tries: Ollie Witt



Shep for putting in a great shift. Special mention also for all the heroes who worked very hard retrieving balls from the brambles. Big shout out to MacKays who kindly provided the 5m extendible pole and net for ball retrieval.



Baz for a difficult day with the boot. Geoff stood on the chair in his place for predicting that the game would be cancelled.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

