



Match Report

Jan 15

Away Haverhill

Won 0-69



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Callum Wilkins 3) Michael Goode
- 4) Jack 'Chinese' Mills 5) Chris 'Machine' Machen
- 6) Jake Sweet 7) Ollie 'Mad Dog' Witt 8) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 9) Dougie Ellis 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Michael Did-Dell 12) Harry Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Geoff Kirby
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 17) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell 18) Elliot 'Elbow' Roberts
- 19) Ryan Cox, 20) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 21) Aaron Stevens 22) Rhys Stephens

Report

It was a grey January afternoon when Renegades returned to Haverhill for the first time in a few years. The weather was cloudy but dry and the temperature was a low and the cold penetrating. For the first time this season, Renegades had an abundance of players.

The first few minutes of the game were spent getting the measure of the other side and testing. From the outset the physicality that Haverhill displayed when they came to Cottenham was evident. After 10 minutes or so, Harry broke through the middle of the Haverhill line in the Renegades half and powered his way deep into the Haverhill 22 before offloading a perfect pass to Tucker who finished off the move. Baz converted, 0-7.

This was followed in a couple of minutes by a break from Ross from the Renegades half well into the Haverhill 22, before offloading to Geoff who advanced but the ball was lost. Stockers turned the ball back to Renegades and it flowed through hands out to Michael Did-Dell who was stopped inches short of the line. The ball moved right, and Machine also had a pop at the line and fell inches short. The ball moved right again, and Ross cut back in to score. Baz added the two points, 0-14.

From the kick-off, some nice passing saw the ball get to Geoff who batted off two Haverhill defenders to score in the right corner. The very challenging conversion was beautifully struck by Baz and sailed between the posts, 0-21. The ball went through hands again including Ross and Geoff

before reaching Jack who crashed over in the right corner. This time the conversion attempt pulled right of the posts 0-26.

A kick over the Haverhill line set up a good chase with Callum and Geoff in hot pursuit. The Haverhill defender managed to kick the ball back but only to BFT who made some yards before passing to Baz who advanced with Ross screaming for a kick ahead. Baz executed the kick perfectly and Ross was able to run on to the ball, tap it over the line with his foot and touch down in the left corner. Another challenging conversion was made to look easy by Baz, 0-33.

Shortly after, one of the Haverhill props was sent to the bin for headbutting Baz. A minute later, Harry burst through the middle and powered up the pitch. He managed to go all the way this time without being stopped and touched down near the posts. Baz secured the extra two, 0-40.

A lovely series of back and forth passes between Ross and Tucker saw Ross score in the left corner. The conversion missed, 0-45. The Haverhill kick-off was short, but Stockers played the ball and there was a nice interplay between him and Big Mike as they powered up the pitch into the Haverhill 22. They were stopped but Renegades were there in numbers and Geoff got the ball and crashed over to score the last try of the first half. Baz added the extras, 0-52.

Big changes were made at half time to give those waiting patiently on the bench a run out. On came Shep, Elbow, Ryan Cox, Topknot, Proccy and Rhys with Callum, Big Mike, Stockers, Mike DD, Tucker and Geoff taking a well-earned rest.

The second half got going and Haverhill had some spring in their step. Early on, a lovely pass to their 10 running at full pace saw him smash through the Renegades line and power up the pitch. He broke several tackles before being brought down just short of the Renegades line. There followed some real pressure from Haverhill, but the Renegades defence held, and the attack was eventually relieved.

Renegades responded with a good attack of their own. Harry made yards and the ball went through the hands again to Ross who grubber kicked the ball and forced a defender to carry the ball over the line and touch down. The scrum resulted in Harry crashing over but was judged by the referee to have been held up. The goal line drop out didn't go far and renegades attacked again with Shep scoring in the right corner. The conversion attempt missed, 0-57.

The scores in the second half were significantly less frequent than in the first. There was quite a long fallow period with both teams working hard but not altering the scoreboard. The fallow period came to an end with another of Ross's runs from deep, making many yards before being brought down. The ball was recycled, and Dougie was the one who crossed the line. Baz slotted the conversion, 0-64.

As the game entered the final few minutes, Renegades had a 5m scrum on the left of the field. The drive was good, and Ryan Cox expertly shepherded the ball towards the line from the back of the scrum. Just as he got to the point of crossing the line and touching down, a Haverhill boot kicked the ball back away from the line. Dougie picked up and had a go but was driven back. There was a big pile up on the Haverhill line. Red ball came the shout from most of the Renegade supporters on the side-line. The advice was taken, and Elbow crashed over the line to score.



Unusually, the referee blew the final whistle and said that the conversion could be taken after the whistle. Baz lined up and prepared to kick. Big Mike had had enough and ran across and butchered the conversion attempt. The final score was 0-69.

It was a brilliant performance by Renegades. All credit to Haverhill who came back in the second half to make a contest of it. It was a real pleasure to be back in Haverhill and greet old friends from past encounters. As always, the Haverhill support was impressive, and the post-match gathering was busy and convivial.



Ross Catchpole for an all-round brilliant performance running from deep and creating chances, some of which he finished himself.



Doughnut free day.

Scores

Tries: Ross Catchpole (3), Geoff Kirby (2), Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote, Jack Mills, Harry Mills, Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard, Dougie Ellis, Elliot 'Elbow' Roberts

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (7)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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