



Match Report

Apr 2

Home Sudbury 2

Won 29-25



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode
- 2) Callum Wilkins
- 3) Tom 'Birthday Boy' Powell
- 4) Aaron Stevens
- 5) Jack 'Chinese' Mills
- 6) Ryan Cox
- 7) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard
- 8) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 9) Doug Ellis
- 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 11) Michael Did-Dell
- 12) Harry Mills
- 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 14) Jon Farrar
- 15) Matt Green

Replacements

- 16) Jake Sweet
- 17) Elliot Roberts
- 18) Matt Turner
- 19) Chris Machen.

Report

Cottenham Renegades were pleased to welcome Sudbury 2 to Cottenham for the first time. Renegades were comprehensively beaten (83-7) by a Sudbury 2 team liberally sprinkled with their first team players whose game for that day had been called off. This time their first team had a game, and it would be interesting to see how Renegades fared against their actual second team.

Sudbury kicked off and advanced into the Cottenham 22. They applied pressure for a sustained period but Renegades held them out. Eventually they were awarded a penalty and opted to go for the posts. The penalty attempt was good, 0-3. This was followed a few minutes later by more sustained Sudbury pressure which resulted in a try that was not converted, 0-8.

Renegades went on the offensive and moved into the Sudbury half. A penalty for a high tackle was awarded and the resulting penalty gave Renegades a lineout in the Sudbury 22. The lineout was won, and the ball went to Harry who delivered one of his perfect lines to cut through the Sudbury defence and score. The conversion pulled just to the left of the posts, 5-8.

A while later and Sudbury were applying pressure again in the Renegades half. A penalty against Renegades for a high tackle saw Sudbury again opt to kick for points. The kick was just to the right of the left post, 5-11.

As half time approached Sudbury applied massive pressure for a sustained period. The defence was resolute, but they just kept coming and winning penalties. Eventually, they ground the defence down and scored a try which was successfully converted, 5-18.

The half time team talk was upbeat, and the general feeling was that although there was a hill to climb, climb it the Renegades would. Elliot came on in place of Mike Did-Dell and Jake came on to the back row with Shep moving to hooker in place of Callum.

The second half began with another period of sustained pressure from Sudbury. For 10 minutes, Renegades held out but eventually the relentlessness of the attack took its toll and Sudbury scored under the posts. The conversion was straightforward, 5-25.

Renegades decided to go on the offensive and advanced into the Sudbury 22. Sudbury were awarded a scrum 5m from their own line. Shep hooked the ball and renegades took the scrum. It was a decisive moment allowing Renegades to maintain pressure and it wasn't long before the ball found Harry again who smashed through the Sudbury defence to score. Stockers converted, 12-25.

Ross came on for Jon Farrar. Renegades attacked again and a penalty advantage saw Stockers cleverly deliver a beautifully weighted cross field kick to Matt Green who won the ball in an ariel contest and powered towards the Sudbury line. He was chopped just short of the line. but BFT picked the ball up and crashed over. Stockers slotted the conversion, 19-25.

As the game advanced towards the final whistle, Elliott made a tremendous break through the Sudbury defence moving from the Renegades half almost to the Sudbury 22. Support just about kept up with him and Renegades retained the ball. Renegades went right and then moved back left with Ross carrying the ball over the line to score. The conversion kick was by no means straightforward, but Stockers kept his nerve and put it between the posts, 26-25. Renegades had nosed in front!

There wasn't much time left. Renegades advanced again and won a penalty inside the Sudbury 22. Stockers converted the penalty, and the referee allowed a restart before blowing for full time.

The second half, in particular, saw Renegades re-ignite the passion that was on display at North Walsham the previous week. Everyone gave their all, it was a pleasure to watch.



Jack 'Chinese' Mills for an extraordinary work rate.



Dan 'Stickers' Stockbridge for boot repair failures. Harsh but fair.

Scores

Tries: Harry Mills (2), Tom 'Birthday Boy' Powell, Ross Catchpole

Penalties: Dan Stockbridge

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge (3)

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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







