



Match Report

Oct 1

Home Colchester 2

Draw 22-22



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) George Collett 2) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 3) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode
- 4) Tom 'BFT' Powell 5) Aaron Stevens
- 6) George Mills 7) Jake Sweet 8) Joe Paddison
- 9) Doug Ellis 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 11) Josh Vail 12) Ben Powell 13) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 14) Matt 'Fairersey' Faiers
- 15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

- 16) Geoff Kirby 17) Chris 'Machine' Machen 18) Michael Did-Dell

Report

It was a game of two halves. The game began with a period where Renegades completely dominated the play and kept everything in the Colchester half off the pitch. Then a Renegades scrum in the Colchester half went slightly awry, the ball went loose, and the Colchester 9 grabbed the ball and hared down the pitch. Ben powell made a valiant attempt to stop him but he managed to touch down under the posts. The conversion was never in doubt, 0-7.

Renegades resumed dominating the play until a Colchester scrum, again inside their own half, saw the ball go through the hands to their hooker who charged through a gap in the Renegades line and barrelled down the field. Ollie had him covered but there was good support running and he was able to offload, and a try was scored to the right of the posts. The conversion missed, 0-12.

The pattern of the half re-established itself with another period of Renegades dominance. After a while Colchester began to advance up the field aided by a number of Renegade infringements that gave them penalties. The last of these saw Colchester put the ball in the left corner for a lineout. They won the lineout and piled on the pressure on the line. Eventually, one of their big units managed top bash his way over the line. The conversion was good, 0-19.

Renegades resumed domination and were camped on the Colchester line when the referee blew for half time. The hill to climb in the second half was looking quite daunting. Geoff came on in place of Josh Vail and Machine came on for Joe. Proccy and Ben swapped the centre positions.

As the second half opened, the monotonous pattern of the first half changed. Renegades advanced and into the Colchester half. A lineout just outside the Colchester 22 was won and a great driving maul set up. It gained momentum and it became apparent that it was not going to be stopped. It travelled the length of the 22 and Aaron touched down not far from the right touchline. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful, 5-19.

Colchester re-started and Proccy carried the ball into contact and came out the other side going strong. He passed to Ben who screamed along the left touch line leaving defenders in his wake. He cut right as he entered the Colchester 22 and passed right to Matt Faiers who had managed to keep up with him. Matt touched down and Stockers slotted the conversion, 12-19. The mountain that was the second half began to look scalable.

A few minutes later and Ben went on another blistering run, this time along the right touchline. He offloaded to Doug who touched down and Dan made short work of the conversion, 19-19. In the first 10 minutes of the second half, Renegades had levelled the score. That was some achievement.

About 10 minutes later, a Colchester scrum was utterly destroyed by Renegades and the resulting penalty was within range of the Colchester posts. Stockers added the three points. Renegades were looking very strong, 22-19.

The Renegades attacks continued as the rain began to pour down. Strong attempts were made to score and several visits to the Colchester line were repelled. As full time approached, Colchester advanced up the field and were well inside the Renegades half when they were awarded a penalty. It was kickable but long. The Colchester kicker kept his nerve and the ball sailed between the Renegades posts, 22-22.

And that's how matters remained until the final whistle. It was strangely deflating to come away with a draw having looked so strong in the second half. Clawing back the half time lead in the first 10 minutes of the second half, it looked like all the momentum was with Renegades. All credit to Colchester for containing that momentum and getting the draw.



George Collett for great work in the scrum



Tom 'BFT' Powell for giving away the penalty that allowed Colchester to draw the match

Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens, Matt Faiers, Doug Ellis

Conversion: Dan Stockbridge (2)

Penalty: Dan Stockbridge

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh (see Peter's Flickr page for the full set)