



## Match Report

Nov 12

Home Fakenham

Lost 21-26



### Team

#### Starting Lineup

- 1) George Collett 2) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 3) Michael 'Big Mile' Goode
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Jake Sweet
- 6) Ollie Witt 7) Daniel Philips 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 9) George Mills 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 11) Josh Vail 12) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Geoff Kirby
- 15) Ross Catchpole

#### Replacements

- 16) Chris 'Machine' Machen 17) Mike Did- Dell 18) Doug Ellis

### Report

The unseasonably warm weather continued as the two teams gathered in Cottenham. The sun shone brilliantly, and the game was preceded by a minute's silence to mark Remembrance Weekend. Renegades kicked off and followed through well with the Fakenham player who took the ball being dumped into touch. The first quarter of the game remained scoreless with the Renegades highlight being a great break by BFT which made many yards before offloading to Shep who took the ball further forward before being chopped.

As the second quarter began, relentless Fakenham pressure advanced to the Renegades line, and they managed to score in the left corner. The conversion was low and hard but went under the crossbar and crashed into the tennis court fence.

A while later, Renegades advanced up the field and a penalty allowed Dan the opportunity to put Renegades in the left corner. The lineout set up a driving maul which crossed the Fakenham line, but the touchdown was not seen by the referee who awarded a goal line drop out.

As half time approached, Fakenham pressure was relieved when Renegades captured the ball. The attempt to run the ball out was thwarted and the ball stripped. The Fakenham 12 picked up the loose ball and crashed over the Renegades line. This time the conversion was good, 0-12. Just before half time, Fakenham executed a lovely 50-22 kick but were unable to convert that into a score.

The half time talk was upbeat. The score line did not reflect the even nature of the contest. Chris Machen came on for Big Mike.

The second half saw a significant step up in intensity from Renegades. It was in its early minutes when Renegades advanced into the Fakenham 22. A penalty saw BFT tap the ball and smash into the Fakenham defenders and get close to the goal line. Renegades piled in on the line and Shep popped out with the ball and scored just to the right of the melee. Dan sent the ball sailing between the posts for the extra two, 7-12.

A little while later a great break from George Mills gained a lot of ground but Fakenham managed to regroup, and the score remained unaltered. A series of penalties allowed Fakenham to move up into the Renegades 22 and eventually, to the goal line. They dug in for what felt like an eternity and eventually the pressure claimed its reward, a converted try, 7-19.

Far from crumbling at this setback, Renegades went on the offensive again. They advanced into the Fakenham 22 where another penalty was taken quickly and the ball found Ollie who passed to Aaron, who crashed over for a try, which Dan converted, 14-19.

The tit-for-tat nature of the game continued as Fakenham advanced again. Their kick over the top put Renegades under a lot of pressure. Renegades were forced to take the ball back over their line and conceded a 5m scrum. They used this platform to crash over again for another converted try, 14-26.

As the game approached its final minutes, Renegades went on the offensive again. A series of tapped penalties inside the Fakenham 22 saw the ball come to Aaron who crashed over for his second try of the afternoon. Dan kept his 100% hit rate with the conversion, 21-26.

That's how it stayed despite the best efforts of Renegades to close the gap. It was probably the best performance that Renegades have managed in this season so far, particularly in the second half. A losing bonus point is all we get but it gives some hope for future encounters.



George Mills for a very good debut at scrum half.



Dougie for not knowing how to construct a four on the scoreboard.

### Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens (2), Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard

Conversions: Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge (3)

*Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy*

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





