



Match Report

Jan 7

Away Colchester

Lost 74-10



Team

Starting Lineup

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

Replacements

There were no replacements

Report

It was deceptively cold in the wind as Renegades gathered at Colchester's impressive new ground. The clubhouse was something to behold and the all-weather pitch looked lovely. The first team was playing Shelford away, so we were the only show in town.

Renegades kicked off into a strong wind, so Dan went low. Colchester ran the ball back with great speed and skill with their number 5 cutting through the Renegades line. Ross was on hand to bring him down, but he had good support and he offloaded to the try scorer. The conversion missed, 5-0.

A minute later, a Colchester player was given a yellow card for a no-arms tackle. It was indicative of the indiscipline shown by Colchester in the opening 10 minutes of the game. The referee was very hot on foul play, and this worked greatly to Renegades advantage as they advanced up the field aided by many penalties. It got them all the way to a 5m lineout in the right corner. Shep threw in and Ollie took the ball confidently to ground. The drive was on and strong. The line was crossed, and Aaron touched down. The howling wind took the conversion kick just to the left of the posts, 5-5.

There is no point in documenting the avalanche of scores from Colchester for the middle 60 minutes of the game. They delivered a masterclass in going through and going wide with beautiful hands on display throughout. In the first half, Renegades suffered two injuries that took players off the field: Proccy with a damaged (hopefully not torn) hamstring and Josh damaging his good ankle.

As the game approached 70 minutes, Renegades (spurred on by Ollie in particular) rallied and took the game back to Colchester. A great break by Ross advanced half the length of the pitch where

Renegades stayed and battered away at the Colchester defence. Eventually a scrum inside the Colchester 22 not too far from the right touchline saw BFT pick from the back and go, feeding Dougie who passed to Mike Did-Dell screaming along the right touchline to crash over and score. The challenging conversion attempt missed, 75-10.

It was a hard afternoon, but a game played in a good spirit. Some Renegades were heard saying they enjoyed the game, just not the result. The Colchester bar looked like the foyer of a very nice hotel. It was quite a different experience. Thanks to Colchester for their hospitality. Hopefully, we will get to see them again next year.



Ross Catchpole for determined defending and impressive tackling. Shout outs to Ollie and Aaron as well, both of whom put in a great shift.



Shep for kicking away an advantage.

Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens, Michael Did-Dell.

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







