



Match Report

Sep 2

Home Cambridge 3

Won 24-15



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode
- 2) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins
- 3) George Collett
- 4) Nic Maneiro
- 5) Jake Sweet
- 6) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Aaron Stevens
- 9) Doug Ellis
- 10) Dan Stockbridge
- 11) Josh 'Slugz' Vail
- 12) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 14) Michael Did-Dell
- 15) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell

Replacements

- 16) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 17) Adam Lane

Report

It was a lovely sunny September afternoon as Renegades and Cambridge assembled at Cottenham Village College for the first of the preseason friendlies for both teams. Great efforts made by Cambridge to get 15 players on the day were greatly appreciated. It was agreed that the game should consist of four quarters of 20 minutes because the game was the first of the season for both teams and because of the warm temperatures (well into the twenties, great for spectators, quite hard on the players).

Cambridge kicked off. The first quarter consisted of energetic attacking and staunch defence by both teams. The intensity of the play was impressive. As the first quarter drew to a close, Renegade persistence in attack paid off and Tucker crossed the Cambridge line to open the Renegades account. The conversion attempt was close but wide, 5-0.

The welcome respite of the first interval saw BFT on for Big Mike and Adam Lane on for Callum (with Shep moving to hooker and Adam in the back row).

Early in the second quarter, Renegades advanced well into the Cambridge 22. A penalty saw Stockers put the ball into the corner. The maul off the subsequent lineout drove relentlessly over the Cambridge line with Aaron touching down. The conversion from Stockers sailed between the posts, 12-0.

Later in the quarter, Cambridge opened their account with a good try in the left corner. The tricky conversion missed, 12-5. The highlights of the rest of the second quarter were the complete dominance of the Renegades scrum and a great run along the left wing by Slugz who made many yards.

The third quarter opened with another bout of sustained Renegades pressure. It was relieved with a clearance kick, taken by Dids and passed to Topknot who was at top speed taking the ball. He entered the Cambridge half and screamed along the right touchline, breaking two tackles before coming infield as he approached the line. Chopped just short of the line, he popped to Ollie who finished the job with a flourish. Stockers added the extras, 19-5. However, Cambridge had a response and dug out a try under the posts. The conversion attempt was blocked by Slugz. I have only ever seen this happen three times in all the games of rugby I have watched. Two were by Renegades and one in an international shortly after the first time I saw a Renegade do it.

In the final interval, Cambridge (who only had 15 players) approached Renegades and asked if we could lend them a player. Jake volunteered and donned blood and sand. The quarter got underway, and it wasn't long before their impressive 13 took the ball well inside the Cambridge half and broke a few tackles to howl down the pitch to score under the posts. The conversion missed, 19-15.

Things were looking a bit close and Renegades, motivated by the need to win the game, piled on the pressure. A brilliant push through the defence saw Proccy cross the Cambridge line before having the ball knocked from his hands. Close but not a cigar to be seen. Cambridge managed to clear the pressure, but Renegades came right back and Proccy managed another breach of the Cambridge defence before offloading to the ever-present Ollie to finish the job. The conversion missed, 24-15. And that's how it remained.

It was a brilliant game to watch. The early intensity from both sides looked unsustainable, but sustained it was, in the main, for the 80 minutes, credit to all on the pitch. Intensity was followed by high comedy when Dick Wallin, the Cambridge coach, came to ask for the jersey that they had given our player. Jake only looked a bit sheepish as he handed back the carefully folded garment, he had secreted inside his scrum cap, obviously with the intention of lovingly laundering it and returning it to Cambridge at his own expense. What a gentleman!



Ollie Witt for a battling performance and two tries from great support running.



Proccy for crossing the Cambridge line and failing to ground the ball

Scores

Tries: Ollie Witt (2), Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote, Aaron Stevens

Conversion: Dan Stockbridge (2),

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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





