

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Sep 21

Home Saffron Walden 2

Won 29-5



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Toby Sanders 2) Callum Wilkins 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Joe Paddison
- 6) Dan Philips 7) Ollie Witt 8) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers
- 9) Doug Ellis 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
- 11) Geoff Kirby 12) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Michael Did-Dell
- 15) Josh 'Slugz' Vail

Replacements

- 16) Lewis Pannett 17) Harry Rason

Report

It was a lovely afternoon as the players gathered for Renegades first home game of the season, at least lovely for the spectators, hard for the players. We were delighted to welcome Rachel Wade back to referee Renegades after a gap of more than a decade.

Saffron Walden kicked off and it was clear that Renegades were up for the game from the start. Good handling saw Renegades advance deep into the Walden 22 with a nice break by Proccy fed Joe who was chopped just short of the line. The pressure was maintained and another attack along the left try line saw Dids nearly make it but a toe touched the line. Walden threw a long lineout into the arms of Aaron who seized the moments and charged over the Walden line. The conversion just missed, 5-0.

Renegades built again and a high tackle on Dids took Renegades back into the Walden 22. This time Walden managed to clear the ball, and the game settled into a more balanced phase with both sides ebbing and flowing. Walden were giving a lot of penalties, and these helped Renegades progress towards their line. A scrum in front of the posts saw Dougie pass to Proccy who powered over the line in the right corner. The conversion attempt was just to the right of the posts, 10-0.

A while later, Renegades took a Walden scrum against the head and Dougie passed to Proccy who ran close to the half way line and drove a wonderful stabbing kick into the Walden 22. Unfortunately, the referee was unsure of the position of the kick was made from and couldn't award the 50/22.

Walden mounted their most serious attack of the game so far and advanced close to the Renegades line. The defence was good, and they were pushed back. They came again and kicked deep into the Renegades half. Slugz took and ran back at them getting much further than he should have, breaking tackles as he went. He offloaded to Proccy who set off on a long arcing run which finished with him scoring in the right corner. Stockers struck the conversion nicely and the ball sailed between the posts, 17-0. That's how it remained until half time.

The opening phases of the second half saw Walden on the attack. Pretty early in the half, they powered up to and over the Renegades line to score to the left of the posts. The conversion missed, 17-5.

A while later a penalty took Renegades into the Walden 22. The lineout set a maul with Renegades advancing towards the Walden line. The maul broke down and the ball came out to Aaron, who offloaded to Proccy who passed to Slugz who dived over the line. The conversion was good, 24-5.

Walden lost a player to the sin bin for repeated infringements and the Walden Captain suggested to his players that they listen to the referee as she continually told them what they were doing wrong!

As the game entered the final quarter, our two debutants made their entrance and both got stuck in brilliantly. We hope that this is the first of many appearances by both of them.

As full time approached, a great break along the left touchline by Dids made many yards. The ball went through several hands to Aaron who crashed over for his second try. The conversion missed and the final whistle wen immediately after the conversion.

It was a good game, played in a good spirit. The score did not reflect the quality of the Walden performance which was determined. The quality of the refereeing was very high, and it was great to see the Walden Captain comment on that in his clubhouse speech.



Slugz, for some great tackle-breaking carries and a nice try.



Dids, for trying to stem the flow of blood from his knee (harsh!).

Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens (2), Tom 'Proccy' Procter (2), Josh 'Slugz' Vail

Conversions: Dan 'Stocker's' Stockbridge (2)

Match Report by Eddie Murphy.

Pictures by Peter Haigh

