



## Match Report

5 January

Home

Shelford 4

Won 44:14



### Team

#### *Starting Line-up*

- 1) Rik Relph 2) Jack Cowley 3) Richard Cowley
- 4) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards 5) Tom Wykes
- 6) Chris 'Ginger Chris' Leith 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne 8) Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith
- 9) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 10) Andrew 'Baz' McKay
- 11) Reggie Campbell 12) Tom Cowley 13) Dave Steward 14) Dave 'Reggie's Mate' Campbell
- 15) John 'JB' Bateson

#### *Replacements*

- 16) Steve Waight 17) Jeff 'Medic' Mercer 18) Jonathan Burch 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

### Report

The first game of the New Year coupled with one of the better days of the festive break attracted one of the largest crowds of the season for what promised to be good game.

Both teams were up for it and before any pattern had established itself Shelford went in front by a converted try (0-7). Certainly Shelford were competing, retaining and stealing ball with predictable regularity. Coupled with a very capable back line and a very pacey winger they looked dangerous. However, Dave Campbell took a fast ball well and brought the Renegades back to within two points with a lovely try (5-7). This was followed by a penalty which Baz slotted over with confidence squeezing the Renegades into the lead (8-7). This stirred Shelford into life and they came back to make a converted try (14-8).

A relatively fallow period was brought to an end with a magnificent penalty from Baz. As he prepared himself from 45 metres, Flora was heard to say: "That's ambitious". It was ambitious but not too ambitious – in fact it was inch-perfect with the ball dropping onto the crossbar before bouncing over 14-11.

The referee, who was being assessed, got a bit animated about transgressions, in particular handling on the floor. He made his intention clear that a booking was imminent. Sadly, for Old Tom he followed up on this and Tom walked in the 36<sup>th</sup> minute.

Rather than depressing Renegades, the reduction to 14 put fire in bellies and Reggie's try on the left was created by moving the ball away and then sweeping back across the pitch through confident hands for him to finish with pace and a great step inside. Baz was left with a straightforward conversion which he slotted over with ease (18-14).

There was little to separate the two sides at half time but the second half was a different story.

Six minutes into the second half Tom was recalled to the field. Clearly refreshed after a good rest, he got the ball and ran over for his first ever Renegades try. Baz did the needful (25-14). This set up the side nicely for the rest of the second half. And what a half it was – one of the best performances as a team and as individuals this season. The commitment to retaining the ball and tying in the Shelford back row was outstanding and enabled the backs to move the ball around much more. Credit to Shelford for a solid defensive effort.

Meanwhile the Renegades scrum was going from strength to strength and with Steve anchoring one side of the front row and Rik really enjoying the contest on the other Shelford had little to offer. Dan Leith was able to control the ball to complete a hat trick of push over tries by a bit of nifty footwork at the back of the scrum. Glove was unfortunate to be held up when he crossed the line.

The final scoreline of 44 to 14 did little to flatter the Shelford performance; however, credit where it's due Renegades deserved a big win. It was a great way to start the New Year and the second half of the season. It was also heartening to hear that Saffron Walden beat Harlow, keeping thoughts of retaining the Merit Table alive.

Shame the footballers used all the hot water.

## Scores

Try: Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith (3), Dave 'Reggie's Mate' Campbell, Reggi Campbell, Tom Wykes

Conversion: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (4)

Penalty: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



Steve Waight – for transforming the game



The doughnut of the game cannot be named but suffice to say he noted the lack of a safety rope on the touch lines.

*Report by a committee of the anonymous*