

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

5 October

Home

Shelford 4

Won 32:0



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes 2) Ren Pesci 3) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
4) Rob Bevington 5) Brian Smith
6) Chris 'Glove' Milne 7) Tom 'Fat Tom' Powell 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
9) Peter 'Stringer' Waples 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
11) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner 12) Tom Heathcote 13) Reggi Campbell 14) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
15) John 'JB' Bateson

Replacements

- 16) Graham 'Beaky' Beckford 17) Richard 'Flipchart' 'I was on the radio' Cowley

Report

Weather: dry, sunny but clouding over as the match progressed, slight breeze favouring Renegades in the first half.

The skies had looked increasingly ominous over lunchtime, but the rain they threatened failed to materialize and Shelford kicked off on a dry and sunny afternoon. It didn't take long for the Renegades to open their account: a strong run out of defence by Bev led to a line-out on the halfway line, from which Baz kicked over the defence into the right-hand corner; BillBob was on the end of it, and he floated an overhead pass to Reggie who ran in for the try. Baz slotted the conversion, and it was 7-0 to the Renegades with only a few minutes gone. Further pressure from Renegades resulted in two penalty kicks at goal, the second of which was successful making the score 10-0 to the Renegades.

The next twenty minutes saw some good attacking rugby from the Renegades, who held play within Shelford's half of the pitch but failed to add to their score despite some promising moves, intelligent tactical kicking which didn't get the luck of the bounce, and a couple of attempted drop goals. Beaky

came on briefly, as a blood replacement for Ren, and not long after Ren's return the Renegades won a scrum on the right on the Shelford 22; Peter Stringer - I mean Waples - fed the backs, JB joined the line and sent Tom H, bursting through at a perfect angle, to score under the posts. As usual, Baz was successful with the conversion, making the score 17-0 in the Renegades' favour. Following the restart, pressure from Shelford pushed play into the Renegades' 22, but it was well resisted and eventually relieved when the Renegades counter-attacked from within their 22 and took play back into Shelford's half. At this point some respite was afforded by Tom W's need to change his shorts: despite the clamorous appeals from some of the female spectators, Reggie declined to change his. The Renegades withstood further pressure from Shelford before winning a penalty from a succession of forward drives. Baz's kick was on target, making the score 20-0 as the referee blew for half time.

There was to be no resting on any laurels, given Shelford's usual propensity to come back hard in the second half and their advantage of numbers on the bench. Sure enough, although Fabs did well to win the ball following Baz's restart, Shelford applied sustained and increasing pressure which eventually brought them a scrum on the Renegades 5m line. Fabs bought the Renegades some breathing space with a strong run from deep, only for Shelford to turn up the intensity further.

The next twenty minutes or so were pivotal, as Shelford fought hard to get the upper hand: one sensed that, had they scored during this period, Shelford would have gained the psychological advantage and gone on to score further. As it was, the Renegades absorbed a huge amount of pressure and their defence held firm.

Beaky came on for Tom W with about a quarter of the match remaining, and shortly afterwards the Renegades got the opportunity to add three points when the Shelford scrum-half was blatantly offside on the Shelford 10m line. Baz was unlucky to miss the resulting long penalty kick, which was on target but didn't quite have enough legs to get over the cross-bar. The Renegades were still on the back foot as Shelford continued to apply the screws, and the play was largely well within Renegades territory during this period.

Finally, a scrum won against the head gave the Renegades a good attacking opportunity: Baz kicked into the Shelford 22, and Tom H pressurized the Shelford defence into conceding a 5m scrum. Several phases later, Paperboy went over near the left touchline and finally one began to sense that the fight was going out of Shelford. The Renegades were now on the home straight, and some great handling moves involving several players, together with good work at full-back by JB, yielded a line-out to the Renegades within the Shelford 22. A powerful drive from the forwards put Ren over to score near the right touch-line - cementing his position as top try scorer with no less than five tries to his credit so far this season, just in case anybody is not aware of this fact - and Baz kicked the conversion to make the score 32-0.

The remainder of the match was characterized by some scrappy play and a succession of stoppages for tired and injured players, and the scoreline didn't change. It was a great win for the Renegades, whose half-time lead had given them the belief they needed to withstand Shelford's second-half onslaught before finally extinguishing their opponents' resolve and finishing with a couple of tries to seal a memorable victory.

Scores

Tries: Reggie Campbell, Tom Heathcote , Matt 'Paperboy' Turner, Ren Pesci

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



JB, for being steadfast in defence and dependable under the high ball.



Not a hint of one all afternoon.

Report by Jonathan Burch