

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

13 April **Away** **Shelford 3** **Won 32:31** Cloudy
with a
strong
wind

Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Ren Pesci 3) Daniel 'Ginger Dan' Leith
4) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes 5) Chris Leith
6) Chris Machin 7) Chris 'Glove' Milne 8) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
9) Rolando Pesci 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
11) Reggi Campbell 12) Jack Cowley 13) Ben Powell 14) Dave 'Reggi's Mate' Parkes
15) Peter Waples

Replacements

- 16) Dan Jerred 17) John 'JB' Bateson, 18) Dave Steward 19) Rik Relph

Report

Saffron Walden Rugby was the venue for the Junior and Intermediate Cambridgeshire County Cup Finals as you would expect an Essex Club to be! Renegades were kicking off against Shelford 3 in the junior final at 2:00pm. This game was preceded by an exhibition game of Saffron Walden against the East Anglian Barbarians. The club and surrounds were very well turned out and the facilities were perfect with excellent food and beer provided for the entertainment of guests on the 50th anniversary of Saffron Walden RFC. Many thanks to Walden for such a fine spread!

The weather was fine with occasional leaden clouds threatening a deluge which was fortunately never delivered. The wind was strong and favoured Renegades in the first half. It was certainly going to be a challenge to play Shelford 3 – a team that beat Renegades 50-0 in the same cup competition last season.

Renegades had a dream start when within minutes of the kickoff, Ben Powell crashed over for the first try of the afternoon to the right of the posts. Baz slotted over a straightforward conversion (7-0).

This shocked Shelford into attack and one great move through their backs was snuffed out by a try-saving tackle delivered with crushing force by Glove. A good clearance by Baz was taken back by Shelford who made good with the ball on the second serious attempt and opened their account with a try to the right of the posts. The conversion hit the upright falling back for no score (7-5).

A little later Baz tried to add to his points with a penalty which unfortunately pulled wide. Shelford came back and tried the quick ball to the winger on the left for a second time. Once again the winger was battered into touch by Glove. A great clearance kick from Dave Parkes took the play back up to Shelford who countered again and tried the same trick for a third time. This time they nearly made it but a fantastic tap tackle from Dave Parkes saved the day.

Renegades came back and a long clearance kick was chased by Dave Parkes who got the ball and made many yards before passing to Baz, who covered more ground before spinning it to Reggi who made a fantastic run along the left wing before swinging in and touching down under the posts. Baz was on target with his second conversion (14-5).

Peter Waples was limping with a torn calf and was replaced at full back by Dave Steward. Shortly afterwards Fabio went over on his ankle as he tried to crash through the Shelford line and had to come off. Dave Cook came on.

Another missed penalty was soon compensated for by a strong break by Dan Leith resulting in the ball being fed out to Ben Powell for his second try of the afternoon. Baz's boot was true and the half time score remained at 21-5.

The Second half was always going to be tough against a Shelford side that looked more dangerous than the score implied. Indeed, Shelford enjoyed a start to the second half similar to the start Renegades had to the first half. Within a couple of minutes of kickoff they scored and converted another try. It wasn't long before they did it again, narrowing the gap to two points (21-19).

Tom Wykes came off and was replaced by Dan Jerred. Shelford missed another penalty, but then ran another try into the left corner to take the lead (21-24). The conversion missed. Renegades managed to pull back through a beautifully struck penalty against the wind from Baz (24-24). JB came on to replace Boeey (with Jack Cowley moving in to the pack to prop).

However, Shelford still had fuel in their tank and managed to get over for another converted try (24-31). Far from Renegades heads going down, this seemed to inspire. A foul by Shelford gave Baz another pop at their posts which he slotted over (27-31).

Another long clearance into Shelford's half was caught by Reggi. He was brought down. The scrum that resulted was taken against the head by Renegades and the ball fed wide to the right to Reggi who managed to cross the line and score near touch (32 – 31). Even for Baz, the conversion was a big ask.

There followed a period of five or so minutes of persistent Shelford attack which seemed to last for hours. In this time, Shelford were awarded two kickable penalties both of which missed. When the final whistle blew the Renegades delight was apparent. It was a famous victory in from a fantastic game of rugby.

Most importantly, it was a fitting end to the captaincy of Chris 'The Glove' Milne who has inspired the team both on and off the pitch.

Scores

Tries: Ben Powell (2), Reggi Campbell (2),

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (3)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' Mackey (2)



Glove – for try saving tackles and being everywhere and doing everything all the time.

It was a doughnut-free day.

Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy





Reggi touches down the winner – wish I had Carl Goodey’s lens - Bb



Says it all 😊



Champions!

