



Match Report

25 October

Home

Shelford 4

Lost 27:41



Team

Starting Line-up

1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell 2) Harry Cowley 3) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards

4) Andy Caruana 5) Rik Relph

6) Chris 'Glove' Milne 7) Ben Powell 8) Dan Poucher

9) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 10) Steve Marsh

11) Richard Fickling 12) Casper 'the rather skilful ghost' 13) Jack Cowley 14) Reggie Campbell

15) Matt 'Paperboy' Turner

Replacements

16) Tom Wykes, 17) Ren Pesci 18) Josh Scupham 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy 20) Rob 'Bev' Bevington

Report

The sun shone brightly and Renegades headed onto the pitch in optimistic mood. For once we were out long before the opposition and there was considerable optimism that we would break the losing streak that has dogged the beginning of the season. It was a pleasure to welcome Harry Cowley back after a long break due to a knee injury followed by an operation and recuperation.

Renegades started well putting pressure on Shelford and advancing regularly. There was a very promising break by Steve Marsh which gained lots of ground. Eventually, Renegades approached the Shelford line but a break by the very fast Shelford winger ran the length of the pitch to score under the Renegades posts (0-7). That was not the opener that was in the Renegades game plan.

The game settled into a period where both sides advanced but defence was good on both sides and so the score remained unchanged. After 15 minutes or so, a high tackle by Shelford gave Stuart Faben the chance to open the Renegades account. He slotted the kick perfectly (3-7). However, some hesitation to catch the ball from the restart followed by ineffective tackling saw Shelford score another try to pull ahead again. The conversion missed (3-12).

Renegades went on the offensive again but shortly after the last try, were turned over and the referee didn't see the forward pass that helped Shelford grab another unconverted try (3-17).

Shortly before half time, Renegades countered and some good attacking saw Dan Poucher score a try for Renegades. Fabio slotted the conversion with ease (10-17). However, Shelford were not cowed and scored another converted try in the minute before half time to steal the break time psychological advantage. Another blow to Renegades was the loss of Glove to a broken thumb.

An early penalty in the second half gave Stuart the opportunity to add another three points which he did (13-24). Things were beginning to feel better and Renegades began to play with more confidence. Increased pressure on Shelford was eventually rewarded when Dan Poucher went over for his second try of the day. Stuart took the conversion with confidence (20-24).

Shelford continued their rather annoying habit of meeting a score with a score by grabbing another unconverted try (20-29). Renegades dug deep and applied the pressure again. A long period of work followed which was eventually rewarded when Psycho crashed over for the third Renegades try. Stuart did the needful and Shelford were within a penalty of being overtaken (27-29).

However being Shelford, the opposition had other ideas. Their next try was really excellent with great running and support. The conversion attempt was not in the same class as the try (27-34). Two minutes later they scored again and this time the conversion was good (27-41). That was how it stayed with the ref blowing for full time shortly after the last try.

It was a disappointing afternoon for Renegades. The pre-match optimism turned out to have been misplaced and the loss of Glove (broken thumb) and Jack Cowley (broken ankle) heightened the pain.

Scores

Tries: Dan Poucher (2), Chris 'Psycho' Edwards

Conversions: Stuart Faben (3)

Penalties: Stuart Faben (2)



Dan Poucher for two tries and enormous work in an unfamiliar position



Steve Marsh for his pass to the sandpit.

Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy