

# Renegades Rugby



## Match Report

October 10

Away

Shelford 3

Lost 24:36



### Squad

- 1) Chris 'Psycho' Edwards
- 2) Adam Lane
- 3) Carl Hulyer
- 4) Doug Smith
- 5) Tom Powell
- 6) Daniel Tiezzi
- 7) Dan 'Ginger Dan' Leith
- 8) Chris 'Machine' Machen
- 9) Rolando Pesci
- 10) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 11) Jake Sweet
- 12) Josh Scupham
- 13) Alex Sears
- 14) Richard 'BTW' Fickling
- 15) Lloyd Smart

### Replacements

- 16) Tom Wykes
- 17) Ben Powell

### Report

It was a perfect day to play rugby, moderate temperatures and a good cloud cover. Unlike previous games, sunscreen wasn't necessary. Shelford were out on the pitch and warming up long before Renegades, possibly heralding another underwhelming start from Renegades.

The game was eventful from the off. A little bit of to and fro was followed by a Shelford break which looked like a certain try until Lloyd absolutely smashed the ball carrier and halted the momentum for long enough for Renegades to regroup and repel the attack. However, Shelford came back again and this time managed a score which remained unconverted (0-5). This was followed by another similar break by Shelford which also failed to be converted (0-10).

Lloyd's try saving tackle skills were called on again when he denied Shelford in the left corner, hitting the Shelford player when he was over the line and causing his foot to hit the corner flag conceding the lineout.

However, even Lloyd couldn't stem the tide and Shelford ran in another couple of tries before the interval. This time both were converted leaving Renegades 0-24 behind at half time.

Tom Powell gave a rousing talk at half time stressing that the game was still winnable. I'm not sure how many players actually believed him. I confess I was sceptical.

The second half started well and Renegades seemed to be taking the ball to Shelford a bit more. However, the referee gave a warning to Renegades about leading with the forearm when going into contact. Shortly after the warning, Daniel T was unfortunate enough to accidentally lead with his forearm and doubly unfortunate that he did so against a player that wasn't that tall. Most people were shocked when he got a red card for this – red because the offence had been warned against, and was high.

Perversely, the loss of Daniel seemed to put some fire in Renegades' belly. A strong surge up the left wing saw Ben Powell crash over for an impressive try. Stuart's conversion was struck beautifully and sailed through the middle of the posts (7-24). It was not much more than a minute later when a run down the right wing saw Rolando score in the corner. The angle and inclination of the posts made converting that try almost impossible (12-24). Amazingly, there was an almost perfect replica of the first try again within a minute or so when Alex Sears scored in almost the same spot and Stuart slotted the conversion as assuredly as he did the first (19-24).

This onslaught woke Shelford up and they counter attacked driving up to the Renegades 22. A break through the middle saw them score under the posts and the conversion was a simple task (19-31). Renegades did not lose heart and attacked again. A good through the hands move by the forwards finished with Tom Powell who scored in the corner in a position which made the conversion impossible (24-31).

Shelford came back again and piled on the pressure on Renegades. Great defensive play denied Shelford a score and the battle raged in the Renegades 22. The referee warned about the number of penalties that Renegades were conceding and Richard BTW was the unfortunate perpetrator of the next offence – going in to a ruck from the side. He was given a yellow card for his trouble. Shortly after that, Shelford scored a try not far from the right touchline. The conversion was announced by the referee to be the last play and as it drifted wide she blew the final whistle. Shelford won the game by 36 points to 24. Renegades won the second half convincingly. However, as Flora observed, not as convincingly as Shelford won the first.

The second-half performance was as impressive as the performance against Shelford 3 in the Cup final a couple of years ago. It was a pity that lack of preparation saw the first half lost so convincingly.

### Scores

Tries: Ben Powell, Rolando Pesci, Alex Sears, Tom Powell

Conversions: Stuart Faben (2)



Lloyd Smart for two try-saving tackles. Special mentions too for Ben Powell for massive impact off the bench and Rolando Pesci for harrying the opposition numbers 8 and 9 relentlessly.



Doughnut free day.

*Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy*