



Match Report

March 4

Away Shelford 3

Draw 15:15



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Ren Pesci
- 3) Carl Goodlet Hulyer
- 4) Dave Cook
- 5) Ben Powell
- 6) Tom 'Young Tom' Procter
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Dan 'Barrel' Stockbridge
- 9) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' Mackay
- 11) Alex Burch
- 12) Tom 'Strong Tom' Heathcote
- 13) Will Blackwell
- 14) Josh Scupham
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Adam Lane
- 17) Tom 'Old Tom' Wykes
- 18) Dave Steward
- 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

Well, Barrel had a bottle of bubbly in his bag to celebrate Renegades winning the league. The mood in the Renegades dressing room before the game was up-beat and anticipating a good night of beer and curry to celebrate. Things looked even rosier when we realised that Shelford didn't have many spare players. We were on the lower pitch which is more of a prairie than merely a rugby ground.

The start was ideal for Renegades with the first try coming early: a nice ball through the hands from Alex to Ben and out to Tom Procter who scored in the right-hand corner. The conversion would have been challenging on a normal pitch. Baz gave it a good go though and almost pulled it off, 5-0.

After the dream start, the game settled down to a real battle. Shelford were determined that Renegades would not win and the intensity of their competition for the ball was very high. In particular, they were brilliant at stealing the ball at the breakdown. Their persistence was rewarded with a try. The conversion attempt was unconvincing, 5-5.

Renegades responded immediately from the restart with the ball being fed from Ross to Baz who fed Will who scored in the right corner again. Again, Baz made a brave attempt at the conversion but the kick was just wide, 10-5.

Renegades maintained the pressure and there was a lovely break through the middle by Tom H who made many yards before passing to Will who unfortunately fumbled the pass. The pressure went unrewarded and the score remained 10-5 at half time. The only substitution was Tom Wykes on for Carl.

Early in the second half, the ball found BFT who barrelled from not far inside his own half, cutting inside the full back to score well to the right of the posts. It wasn't a happy kicking day for Baz who voiced his frustration loudly as the ball went wide again, 15-5.

When play resumed, Renegades suffered a bad blow as Ben P had to leave the field because of an ankle injury (and having his nose half ripped off). Adam Lane took his position in the second row.

The loss of Ben seemed to lower the Renegades intensity and Shelford began to pile on the pressure. They drove into the Renegades 22 and looked certain to score. Some outstanding defence held them out but they had more in their tank and a blind side move saw them score in the right corner. The conversion attempt was well wide and short, 15-10.

Shelford kept up the pressure and Renegades had some nice breaks by Ross, Tom H, Josh and Will but fumbles and bad luck kept frustrating these efforts. Shelford's tackling was also extremely effective.

Shelford scored again about 15 minutes from the end. The conversion attempt was less than inspiring, 15-15. The battle continued with both sides making advances and being pushed back. It was very tense. At one point, young Tom P vented his frustration and the referee penalised Renegades 10 metres. At another point, Baz was asked to take an ambitious penalty and was very unlucky as the ball went inches to the wrong side of the left post.

The score remained 15-15 at the final whistle. Shelford had well and truly pissed on our parade.

Scores

Tries: Tom Procter, Will Blackwell, Tom 'BFT' Powell.



Tom Heathcote although Baz and Will has stand-out performances too.



Young Tom Procter for mouthing off at the ref and costing us 10m.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh





See the full set of pictures at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/peterhaigh/33227992826/in/album-72157677648222613/>