



Match Report

September 30 Home Shelford 3

Won 20:5



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Stuart 'Booey' Cracknell
- 2) Callum Wilkins
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Aaron Stevens
- 5) Adam Richards
- 6) Tom Procter
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Elliott Roberts
- 9) Dan Stockbridge
- 10) Andrew 'Baz' MacKay
- 11) Tom Heathcote
- 12) Ben Powell
- 13) Ross Catchpole
- 14) Jake Sweet
- 15) Rhys Stephens

Replacements

- 16) Rolando Pesci
- 17) Stuart Faben
- 18) Jamie Cohen
- 19) Ren Pesci
- 20) Tom Wykes
- 21) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

Home again after a break to allow Thurston to pay their respects to Josh Gilbert who tragically died while playing for their second team on the previous week. We knew it would be a tough game – Shelford 3 were the only team Renegades failed to defeat last season. However, the appetite for the game was considerable and the quality of the warm up reflected that appetite.

Baz kicked off and Renegades drove forward. A Shelford scrum was disrupted by a fantastic shove forward and Renegades captured the ball. A clever dink through by Baz nearly created an opportunity but found touch. Tom Procter disrupted the Shelford line out beautifully and Callum got the ball and charged over the line but he was held up. From the scrum Elliott broke through again but was again held up.

Shelford relieved the pressure through a penalty but Renegades came back with a superb driving maul. Tom Powell broke from the maul and advanced. The ball went through the hands to Tom Procter who crossed the line only to be held up again. This was getting frustrating!

However, Renegades maintained the pressure and eventually a scrum saw Elliott pick the ball and touch down for the first try. Baz made the conversion look easy, 7-0.

A while later, Elliott had a talking to from the referee about high tackles. That seemed to do the trick. Meanwhile Kev Stockbridge revisited his youth by climbing a tree to retrieve the ball – well done Kevin the chimp!

A penalty inside the Shelford 22 was punished by Baz, 10-0. From the restart, Shelford advanced into the Renegades 22 but made the mistake of letting Ross have the ball. He kicked into the Shelford half and chased the kick. A favourable bounce put the ball back in his hands and it looked like he might go all the way before he was cut down. However, Renegades piled forward and Ross got the ball again and crossed the line, recovering from dropping the ball by pinning it against his leg, he touched down for a well-deserved try. Baz slotted the conversion, 17-0.

As half time approached, Dan S got a yellow card for insufficient arm action in a collision with a Shelford player. His time in the bin straddled the interval, six minutes before and four after.

BFT made his displeasure known for the last five minutes of the first half. He criticised the way Renegades had let Shelford back into the game after 35 excellent minutes.

Shelford kicked off the second half and romped home a surprise try when one of their players ran through the Renegades like they weren't there. The conversion was close but just left of the posts, 17-5. The second half continued with a much more even performance by both teams. Whatever the Shelford coach said at half time, it had the desired effect. The play moved from end to end with good defensive play by both teams. A penalty outside the Shelford 22 was slotted by Baz, 20-5.

Tom Procter and Booeey came off making way for Fabs and Jamie. A while later Ren came on for Jake who tore his biceps. Ren went into the back row and Ollie moved out to the wing. Fabs made a great run behind a Shelford lineout, causing the scrum half to hesitate and then miss pass to their 10. Ben capitalised by hoofing and chasing down the pitch. After hacking all the way into the Shelford 22, he overran the ball but Ross picked up. The ball went through a few hands but was fumbled in the end. That was probably the best try opportunity of the second half for renegades.

And that's how it finished. It was a good game against a good opposition who contested every step of the way. The result was good, the score a fair reflection but both sides could have scored more if luck had been with the attackers. On to Cantabs next week.

Scores

Tries: Elliott Roberts, Ross Catchpole

Conversions: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)

Penalties: Andrew 'Baz' MacKay (2)



Elliott for pushing to the limit with the referee and then pulling back just enough to stay on the pitch.



Tom Heathcote for letting a high ball bounce inside the Renegades 22.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Photos by Peter Haigh (you can see the full selection at [Peter's Facebook Page](#))





