

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

November 11 Away Thurston

Lost 7:50



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Aaron Stephens
- 2) Callum Wilkins
- 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Dave Steward
- 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Ren Pesci
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Tom Proctor
- 9) Dan Stockbridge
- 10) Tom Cowley
- 11) Will Blackwell
- 12) Ross Catchpole
- 13) Tom Heathcote
- 14) David 'Captain Dave' Fletcher Morris
- 15) Rhys Stevens

Replacements

- 16) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
- 17) Jamie Cohen
- 18) Richard Cowley

Report

The sun shone but the air was cold as the Renegades rolled up at Thurston for the first time. The pitch looked big and wide with a pronounced slope. The Thurston team looked big as well. The very nice changing rooms made a pleasant change from the rather cramped conditions we often experience. It was a blow to discover that Ben was not available due to a foot injury. A later-explained absence of Jamie meant that Aaron was recruited into the front row for the first time – not ideal against a challenging opposition like Thurston.

Thurston Kicked off and within a minute they had their first try which was converted, 0-7. This was followed in short order by another try in the right corner. This time the conversion missed, 0-12. It wasn't long before the Thurston 12 crashed straight through the middle to score under the posts. The conversion was good, 0-19.

The pummelling that Renegades got for the first 10 minutes or so was relentless, but for the second period of 10 minutes or so, Renegades came back into the game and started running up the hill against Thurston. Renegades never looked like scoring but at least most of the game was in the Thurston half. The Thurston defence was effective and occasionally brutal as it was when their big number 5 shoulder charged Rhys in a disgraceful late tackle which should have collected a card. Rhys was out on his feet and had to come off. Will dropped to full back and Billbob came on on the wing.

Renegades continued their attacking with Ollie making a great break and BFT smashing the Thurston 10 so hard that he had to go off with damaged ribs. As half time approached, missed tackles and penalties against started to count against Renegades and Thurston managed to run in a couple of further tries, one of which was converted which left the score at 0-31 at half time.

Jamie arrived explaining that he had locked himself out of his house. He came on in the front row, allowing Aaron to return to his more familiar second-row position. Dave S moved to the wing and Billbob resumed his more familiar position on the bench with a pen and notebook.

Renegades made a brilliant start to the second half with the kickoff pursued enthusiastically and a couple of charge downs making Renegades look very close to scoring. Renegades kept up the pressure and things were looking decidedly up. However, Thurston managed to break from their own 22 and score near the right corner. The conversion missed, 0-36.

Thurston upped the pressure after that and the game moved back into the Renegades half. Persistent pressure was met with good defence, but eventually Thurston crossed the Renegades line but were held up. The Thurston number 8 picked up the ball at the back of the subsequent scrum and crashed over for a try which was converted, 0-43.

Thurston kept up the pressure and Renegades held. Eventually, Ross broke through the Thurston line to charge down the right touchline towards half way. He launched a kick into the Thurston 22 and was able to bundle the catcher into touch. The lineout saw Renegades win the ball cleanly and it was shipped across the field and back again towards the posts to BFT who was not going to be stopped. A Renegades try at last! Dan S slotted the conversion, 7-43.

Thurston had a final try under the Renegades posts which was converted to see the final score at 7-50. They were a very physical, well-drilled outfit and deserved to win comfortably. The Renegades performance was gutsy but tackling was wanting on many occasions and lots of penalties were conceded (but no yellow cards!).

Scores

Tries: Tom Powell

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge



Aaron for making a brilliant start in the front row



Ollie for having a birthday (harsh).

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Pictures by Peter Haigh (see [Peter's Flickr page](#) for the full set of photos)





