



Match Report

December 2

Home Thurston

Won 36:21



Team

Starting Line-up

- 1) Jack Cowley 2) Harry Cowley 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
- 6) Chris Leith 7) Ollie Witt 8) Tom Procter
- 9) Dan Stockbridge 10) Tom Cowley
- 11) Dave Steward 12) Tom Heathcote 13) David Fletcher-Morris 14) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Ben Powell 17) Ren Pesci

Report

This was always going to be a big challenge. Renegades defeat at Thurston was fresh in their minds and indeed Rhys was still protocoling out of the concussion he received in that game. Again, numbers were not what we would like them to be against such stiff opponents – Dave Steward observed that the combined age of the two wingers for Renegades was 102! Thurston were overheard saying that they should close out the game in the first 10 minutes.

At the outset, it looked like they might get their wish. Shortly after kickoff, a penalty took them to the Renegades 5m line. Continuous pressure saw their number 8 pick the ball from the back of a ruck and go over the ruck to score. The conversion was good, 0-7.

Play ebbed back and forth before a penalty took Renegades to the Thurston 22. Good lineouts and scrums saw another penalty to Renegades taking them to the Thurston 5m line for a throw in. The take was good and the ball found its way to Aaron who wasn't going to be stopped. The conversion just missed, 5-7.

Thurston kept up the pressure and a 5m scrum near the Renegades line resulted in a comedy of errors with the ball going everywhere, eventually rolling over the Renegades dead ball line. Renegades recovered and began to move back up the field. However, a penalty took Thurston back into the Renegades half. The ball came loose from a scrum and a Thurston player hacked it over the line of backs. Another Thurston player got to it first and managed to pop it up to one of his mates

running at speed. There was no chance of stopping him. The conversion from the touchline was good, 5-14.

Renegades fought back and advanced into the Thurston half again not least with a good run from Ross who ate up the yards. A penalty for offside in the red zone didn't result in a card but the penalty was useful. A tap by BFT fed the ball to Tom Cowley who danced through the Thurston line to score. Stockers found his range for the conversion, 12-14.

Thurston piled on the pressure with Renegades feeding them penalty after penalty. They advanced almost to the Renegades line, but the defence held good. As Renegades pushed back towards half way, the referee blew for the interval.

The team talk was up-beat. There was a very positive vibe among the players. This game was winnable. Ren replaced Billbob. Ben came on and shifted Tom Heathcote and Captain Dave out one position each allowing the other aged winger (Dave) a well-deserved rest. Rolando demanded that no more penalties for offside be given.

Three seconds into the second half, Renegades conceded a penalty for offside. To compensate, the ball was quickly recaptured, and Ross went for one of his long runs (40m). A penalty to Renegades advanced into the Thurston half, and a driving maul trundled along for 10m before winning Renegades another penalty which was kicked to the 5m line. The lineout set up a rolling maul which stuttered along until Ren powered into it making it move¹. Aaron was on hand to touch down when the maul crossed the Thurston line. Dan S slotted the conversion (much to his father's surprise – "Since when did he kick?").

After another few minutes, (half fit) Ben went for one of his runs covering most of the pitch before unloading to Ollie who left the defence standing as he dashed for the line to score under the posts. Stockers converted with ease, 26-14. (Ren quote: Ben is bloody overrated).

A few minutes later Ben made another spectacular run but nothing resulted on the scoreboard. Renegades kept up the pressure and a penalty went to the left and wide. Renegades kept up the pressure and a few minutes later, Ross had a 20m crashing run to score. Stockers converted, 33-14. A few minutes later, Dan did it again, this time converting a penalty, 36-14.

The last few minutes saw good runs by Captain Dave and Tom C each relieving Thurston pressure. As the game drew to a close, Thurston were given a penalty and a further 10 metres were added. Renegades attention dropped and Thurston broke through to score under the posts. Their conversion was the last play, 36-21.

That was one of the best Renegades performances ever. Thanks to everyone and to Richard's sister who's birthday party was the reason that Jack, Harry and Ginger Chris were available to play.

Scores

Tries: Aaron Stevens (2), Jack Cowley, Ollie Witt, Ross Catchpole

Conversions: Dan Stockbridge (4)

Penalties: Dan Stockbridge

¹ Based only on Ren's recollection.



Aaron for two tries and outstanding contribution



Captain Dave for no reason other than BFT had a chair to fill – injustice!

Match report by Adam Lane

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



