

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Sep 28

Away Shelford 3

Won 61-26



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Jack 'Chinese' Mills 2) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard 3) Michael 'Big Mike' Goode
4) Aaron Stevens 5) Adam 'Speedie' Richards
6) Ryan Cox 7) Ren Pesci 8) Tom 'BFT' Powell
9) Craig Simpson 10) Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge
11) Tobi 'Spanish Pikey' Rayner 12) Harry 'H-Bomb' Mills 13) Sam Weatherall 14) Mike Did-Dell
15) Ollie Witt

Replacements

- 16) Rob 'Bev' Bevington 17) Sam Jones 18) Stuart 'Fabio' Faben 19) Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

Report

This was a match to be taken very seriously. Shelford were ahead of Renegades on points difference at the top of the league after two games. The winner of this game would be sending a message of intent to the league. Renegades were very keen that that message came from them. However, the injury to Baz against Saffron Walden meant Renegades were deprived of his services for the game. Stockers stood up to fill those boots at fly-half, leaving his at nine to be filled. Craig stepped into an unfamiliar role from the back row. It was a strong team to start but with both half backs playing out of position, there was some uncertainty as to how things would go.

Renegades kicked off. And advanced into the Shelford half. Pressure was maintained for a few minutes when Harry broke the Shelford line and offloaded to Ryan Cox who cantered over to score. Stockers converted, 7-0.

Shelford responded with some pressure of their own. During a Renegades counterattack, a Shelford player had a fair go at decapitating Harry. He got a well-deserved yellow card for his troubles. Harry deserved a medal for keeping cool after such an assault.

Shelford advanced into the Renegades 22 following the penalty, but Ollie got the ball and ran half the length of the pitch, before offloading to Sam Weatherall who supported him well and had a long run himself before touching down. Stockers added the extras. 14-0.



Shelford came to life after the second try and advanced well into the Renegades half. They approached the line in the right corner but were held out. They moved the ball left and scored just to the left of the posts. The conversion was good, 14-7.

In immediate response, Ollie and Sam did another of their long-running duets. This time Sam was brought down in the Shelford 22. Shelford turned the ball over, but Tobi turned it back and the ball went through hands to Shep who seemed to dance through a very congested crowd of players to touch down. Stockers decided to make life exciting by making the conversion go in off the inside of the post, 21-7.

A short while later, Renegades were approaching the Shelford line when Shelford were awarded a penalty. The ball, carried by the strong breeze, careered over the dead ball line. The resulting scrum saw the ball go to Shelford and they lofted the ball so that it went dead again. Back for another scrum. Ball from Craig to Dan to Harry who chose one of his lovely lines to slice through the Shelford line and over for a try. Stockers converted, 28-7.

As the second half drew to a close, Shelford got one back and it was successfully converted, 28-14.

Shelford kicked off the second half and the ball was carried right back towards them. A crowd gathered in the left corner and it was hard to see what went on. Jack Mills was involved but I am told it was Ryan Cox who got the try. The challenging conversion from the touchline missed, 33-14.

Shelford responded well and started playing some good flowing rugby. A good phase of hands saw them score. The conversion missed, 33-19.

A short while later, inside the Shelford 22, Stockers fed Harry, who handed off a couple of defenders to score again. Stockers slotted the conversion, 40-19. Coach decided it was time to bring on veteran super-sub Rob Bevington. Ren was happy to come off.

It wasn't long before Renegades were on the attack again and Shep passed the ball to Sam, who cut through Shelford to score again. Stockers converted, 47-19.

Tobi came off to make way for young Sam Jones to make his adult Renegades debut. Renegades advanced again and a driving maul in the left corner was held up. From the resulting scrum, Big Mike got the ball and powered over the line to score. Stockers increased the total by two, 54-19

Next came a variant on the Ollie and Sam long running duet. Change of personnel: this time Ryan Cox ran half the length of the field before offloading to Aaron, who ran another 1/3 before being brought down. The ball went through the hands to the right until it reached Sam who deftly stepped inside his defender and scored. Stockers added another two.

In the dying moments of the game, Shelford gave a hard push and managed another try under the posts to get a bonus point, the conversion was good, 61-26. That's how it was when the final whistle went. Unfortunately for them, Shelford reported and confirmed the score as 61-24, depriving themselves of two points.

Shelford's new kit must win the prize for the most illegible numbers at distances of more than four yards. I'll bet referees hate them (the shirts that is).



Scores

Tries: Sam Weatherall (3), Ryan Cox (2), Harry Mills (2), Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard, Michael Goode

Conversions: Dan 'Stockers' Stockbridge (8)



Aaron for all round workrate. Captain's citations for Craig and Stockers for great debuts as 9 and 10 respectively and Ollie, Ryan Cox and Harry.



Shep for over-enthusiastic lineout claiming.

Match report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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




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