



Match Report

Dec 9

Away Thurston

Lost 58-10



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Ryan 'Shep; Sheppard
- 3) Toby Sanders
- 4) Dan Phillips
- 5) Geoff Kirby
- 6) Adam Lane
- 7) Josh 'Slugz' Vail
- 8) Ollie Witt
- 9) Thurston
- 10) Thurston
- 11) Michael Did-Dell
- 12) Thurston
- 13) Thurston
- 14) Thurston
- 15) Will Blackwell

Replacements

- 16) Thurston

Report

It was a small but determined team of Renegades went to Thurston to salvage five points for the club. The game was lost, we couldn't field a team. However, those who were available stepped up and, when balloted on Thursday evening, voted to go anyway for a friendly game that would avoid the five-point deduction. Thurston had sportingly confirmed that they would make up the numbers so the game wasn't a farce.

The first half was hard work. Playing against the wind and against the gentle slope on the pitch, Renegades fought hard against Thurston's agile and skilful attacking backs. While Renegades dominated the scrum and the lineout went very well, Thurston were deadly when they got the ball and enjoyed a try fest that saw them lead 34-0 at half time. The Renegades highlight of the first half (apart from set piece dominance) was a great break through the middle by Slugz, who made many yards before passing the ball into touch. The lowlight was when Will was forced off with an ankle injury. Hopefully he will recover quickly.

The second half started with a pair of quick tries for Thurston, but with the wind and the slope in their favour, Renegades began to creep back into the game and took the ball into the Thurston half and kept it there. Eventually a scrum in the Thurston 22 was converted to a free kick. Shep tapped and went quickly taking Thurston by surprise. He was cut down just short of the line and a series of rucks saw several attempts to crash over. After four or five attempts, the ball went to Toby who was unstoppable. Adam Lane's attempt at drop kicking the conversion was enthusiastic, 46-5.

A few minutes later, the Renegades backs (the ones from Thurston) made a great break through the middle. The 10 showed great support running and received the ball at full tilt. He crossed the line and spilled the ball. It would have been a lovely try. However, all was not lost, and Renegades managed to win the resulting scrum and walk over the line with Shep dotting down at the back of the scrum. The conversion missed, 46-10.

Unfortunately, the Thurston player playing 12 for Renegades took a knock to the head and had to come off. We wish him a speedy recovery. There were no further subs available, so Renegades finished the game with 13 players. In this time, Thurston scored another two tries, including a classic wingers try to finish the game by a player making his debut for Thurston on his 18th birthday. Congratulations to him!

It was an entertaining game to watch with plenty of scores to keep the Thurston supporters happy. Thurston really appreciated the fact that Renegades made the effort and travelled for a friendly. Renegades appreciated the many Thurston players who donned a Renegades shirt for the game or part of it. And the club appreciates the commitment of the 10 players who put their thumbs up again on Thursday, knowing full well what was in store. Thanks guys.



Ollie Witt for a great shift.



Shep for shopping himself to the referee more than once.

Scores

Try: Toby Sanders, Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard

Match Report by Eddie Murphy.