

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

March 21

Away Shelford 3

Won 52-31



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Geoff Kirby 2) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers 3) Nic Maneiro
- 4) Cameron Witheridge-Pearce 5) Bobby Menezes
- 6) Peter Griffin 7) Jake Smith 8) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 9) Max Haddon 10) Brendan Salmon
- 11) Ethan George 12) Max Burton 13) Alfie Salmon 14) Dan Auker-Howlett
- 15) Nathan Williamson

Replacements

- 16) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard

Report

It was a lovely sunny equinox day at Shelford as Renegades gathered to face the second placed Shelford 3. Renegades welcomed two newcomers for their debut games: Peter Griffin and Dan Auker-Howlett and a very welcome return of Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard who kindly agreed to help out when numbers weren't looking great. As a reward, Shep started as the bench!

Renegades kicked off and Shelford knocked the kick on. The resulting scrum wasn't much fun for Renegades as the Shelford scrum pushed them back. However, Renegades managed to regain the ball and advanced. Jake got the ball outside the Shelford 22 and sold a lovely dummy to break through the Shelford defence. He was deep into the Shelford 22 when he was chopped, allowing Bobby to pick and crash over for Renegades opening try. Brendan slotted the conversion, 0-7.

A few minutes later the ball was spread wide to Ethan on the left wing. Still well inside his own half, Ethan exploded into a blistering run along the left touchline. Defenders couldn't touch him until he was well into the Shelford 22 where he was chopped. However, Proccy had managed to keep up with him in support and was able to pick and go himself for a try. The conversion just missed, 0-12.

Three minutes later, Ethan showed that the previous run was no fluke. He powered along the touchline breaking two tackle attempts before cutting infield and touching down under the posts. Brendan added the extras, 0-19. What an opening 15 minutes!

Five minutes later, Ethan was off again along the left touchline. He managed to get deep into the Shelford 22 before being brought down. This time Max Haddon was there in support, and he picked and touched down. However, the referee maintained the ball had been dropped (Max is adamant it wasn't) and took play back for a penalty inside the Shelford 22. Proccy restored justice by tapping and going quickly and crashing over for his second try. Brendan added the extras, 0-26.

The next ten minutes saw concerted pressure from Shelford being met with staunch defence from Renegades. At one point, one of Bobby's boots was airborne in the middle of the field! On the half hour, Renegades went on the attack again. The ball was spun right and things looked promising, but Shelford regained the ball well inside their 22. There followed a clearance kick attempt that did not go to plan. The ball sailed across the 22 and may even have gone backwards. Whatever the direction, Bobby reached up, grabbed the ball and crashed over for his second try of the afternoon. Brendan converted, 0-33.

Unfortunately, Nic was forced off when he sustained a shoulder injury and Shep was on as his replacement. Proccy, stood in at Prop and Shep went into his familiar position at back row. He did look a little horrified to be on with a full hour still to play. However, he got stuck in from the off.

As half time approached, Shelford mounted an attack and nearly managed to score in the left corner. The ref called play back for a penalty in the middle of the pitch and this time Shelford went right and touched down in the corner. The challenging conversion was struck well and managed to score with the assistance of the crossbar, 7-33.

Shelford kicked off the second half. Five minutes in and Max Haddon makes a great break, powering up the pitch well into the Shelford 22. Support was good and the ball went to Proccy, who powered over for his hat trick. Brendan drop kicked the conversion, 7-40.

A Shelford attack built and they were given a scrum inside the Renegades 22. They went off the scrum and crashed over but the referee said the try was held up. A few minutes later Max Haddon was forced off with another shoulder injury. Renegades were down to 14.

Shelford pressed the numerical advantage and scored in the right corner. The conversion attempt was well struck but just short, 12-40. A few minutes later a lovely kick over the top by Proccy was gathered by Ethan just before it went into touch. He powered along the touchline breaking two tackles before cutting back inside and running through another defender, to score to the left of the posts. The conversion just missed to the left of the posts, 12-45.

There followed a purple patch for Shelford when the numerical advantage, fresh legs and general exhaustion suffered by Renegades saw them run in three tries in, two of which were converted, 31-45. Cameron went down with a shoulder injury during this period but managed to continue. It was all looking a bit worrying. However, Renegades managed to steady the ship and turned off the Shelford try tap. The deal was sealed when a scrum inside the Shelford 22 resulted in a penalty which was taken quickly and spun to Max Burton who powered through to score. Brendan added the extra two and that was that, 31-52.

It was a very strong performance by Renegades, characterised by brilliant individual tries and staunch defence when called for (most of the time). The two debutants slotted beautifully into the



team, and everyone worked hard. The injury toll was high, and we hope that all three damaged shoulders mend quickly.



Ethan George for blistering runs and tackle breaks leading to excellent tries for him and others.



Tom 'Proccy' Procter for a drop kick attempt that turned into an illegal grubber kick. That combined with jug avoidance outweighed a hat trick of tries.

Scores

Tries: Bobby Menezes (2), Tom 'Proccy' Procter (3), Ethan George (2), Max Burton

Conversions: Brendan Salmon (6)

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy with strong input from Shaun Clark's live commentary.