

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

September 5

Away Thetford

Lost 32-12



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Geoff Kirby 2) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
4) Dan Proctor 5) Bobby Menezes
6) Lewis Pannett 7) Kestel Duxbury 8) Aaron Stevens
9) Doug Ellis 10) Brendan Salmon
11) Barney Baker 12) Max Burton 13) Alfie Salmon 14) Michael 'Dids' Did-Dell
15) Nathan Williamson

Replacements

- 16) Cameron Witheridge-Pearce 17) Bradley Marshall
18) Tom 'Proccy' Procter 19) James Campos-Bell

Report

The sun shone as Renegades made their first ever visit to Thetford for a pre-season friendly. The location in Thetford Forest, was lovely and the pitch was lush green (although still quite firm under the grass). Renegades had the luxury of 19 players on the day, but Thetford had 24 and that would tell in the second half. Thetford also benefited from having had a tough encounter with Thurston a week earlier.

The opening quarter saw Renegades struggling to find match form after a long gap. This wasn't helped by BFT being forced off with a crunched shoulder in the opening minutes. He was replaced by Brad. The game camped in the Renegades half and a combination of good defence and at least one butchered chance for Thetford saw Renegades keep a clean sheet for a while.

Having failed to breach the defence, Thetford tried a cross-field kick for their very fast 15 to run on to. It was a good attempt, but Nathan had it covered and touched the ball down after it had crossed the line. Max took the goal line drop out and blasted the ball well into the Thetford half. However, Thetford came straight back and managed to breach the Renegades line and power deep into the Renegades 22 before being chopped. They had the momentum and recycled the ball crashing over under the posts. The conversion was simple, 7-0.

Buoyed by their eventual success, Thetford ran the kickoff straight back and Renegades and cut through the middle again, with Doug and Nathan making good but unsuccessful efforts to bring the



ball carrier down. He scored but the conversion attempt missed, 12-0. This prompted some changes in the Renegades lineup, with Proccy and James coming on for Lewis and Dids.

The fortunes reversed with Renegades advancing into the Thetford half and then into the Thetford 22. Renegades built pressure and Proccy got the ball and crashed over not far from the left 5m line. The conversion was challenging, particularly on a pitch as wide as Thetford's. Brendan struck the ball well and it just had enough legs to clear the crossbar, 12-7.

Thetford kicked off and Gades advanced into the Thetford half again. Thetford turned over and moved forward themselves. Gades recaptured the ball and advanced again. A kick ahead by Renegades was touched down over the line by a Thetford defender. The goal line drop out was taken back by Renegades, with some deft hands the advance continued with the ball finding Max who crashed over to level the score. The conversion attempt missed, 12-12.

Lewis came back on and Proccy moved to centre to replace Max. Cameron came on for Kez. As half time approached, Doug made a lightening dash along the right touchline with Geoff in hot pursuit. The ball switched between them, and they managed to get into the Thetford 22 before the referee called a forward pass. What might have been! Half time was blown.

The second half began with Thetford advancing into the Renegades 22. They had a two man overlap which they converted to a try in the left corner. The conversion missed, 17-12. A while later they manufactured another overlap in the same place. This time the attacking player was bundled into touch. The resulting lineout saw the ball go loose and a Thetford player picked it up and flopped over the line. The conversion drop kick missed, 22-12.

As the second half wore on, Renegades fitness began to flag, while Thetford seemed to have an infinite supply of fresh legs. The game became very hard work for Renegades and Thetford managed to grind another two unconverted tries past Renegades before the final whistle went with the final score being 32-12.

The scoreline was harsh on the Renegades performance and it was generally felt that the game was actually a lot closer than it indicates. It was a great pre-season game, and the reception of the Thetford players was warm. Making the dicks-of-the-day eat a scotch bonnet chilli certainly provided food for thought! There was definitely an appetite to play Thetford again.



Bradley Marshall for a great Renegades debut performance.



Geoff Kirby – for appearing to have lost his horse (?)

Scores

Tries: Tom 'Proccy' Procter, Max Burton

Conversions: Brendan Salmon

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

