

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

September 26 Home Thorney

Won 45-21



Team

Starting Lineup

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

Replacements

- 16) Bradley Marshall 17) Kez Duxbury 18) Joe 'Paddy' Paddison
18) Ben Powell 19) Tom Brown

Report

The sun shone gloriously on the fixture that almost never was. Many thanks to Cottenham Village College for helping to make it happen. Thorney kicked off with a beautifully struck hanging ball that they regained and threatened the Renegades line with a kick ahead, Fortunately, Lewis tidied the situation up and the threat was nullified.

The first 15 minutes was characterised by frustration by the referee at Thorney backchat This kept the pressure on Thorney with Renegades camped in their half a 22 for long periods. Eventually the pressure told and Renegades spun the ball left with Nathan filling in and feeding Alfie who scored close to the left corner. The conversion attempt missed, 5-0.

Thorney responded by coming back into the game and attacking the Renegades 22. After sustained good defence by Renegades, Thorney opted to go for the posts when awarded a penalty not far from the 22. The kick missed and Thorney frustration was clear. However, they kept the pressure up and managed to get close to the Renegades line on several occasions, but the defence was solid. Eventually, they shifted the ball left and their 14 kicked the ball over the defence and chased. Nathan had it covered but the bounce fed the ball back into the 14's hands and he was over to open Thorney's account. The conversion was a simple affair, 5-7.

Renegades responded to this setback with a lovely break through by Max Burton from outside the Thorney 22. Brendan added the two points, 12-7. Regaining the lead gave Renegades a boost and they continued their attack with goo breaks to advance into the Thorney 22 giving Proccy the opportunity to power through the middle and score under the posts. Brendan slotted the conversion, 19-7.

A short while later, Brendan executed a magnificent 50-22 creating an attacking platform from very little. The ball spread to Dids who was brought down on the 5m line and penalised for holding on. Thorney cleared but Renegades came back and after some scrappy hands, the ball found Nathan who scored in the corner. The conversion missed, 24-7.

Thorney responded with a period of sustained pressure which saw them camp near the Renegades line for a fair while. The pressure was absorbed and eventually Renegades managed to clear their line. However, as half time approached, the Thorney 15 cut through the Renegades line and ran like lightning to score under the Renegades posts. The conversion was simple, 24-14. The referee blew for half time.

Early in the second half, Aaron took a long throw from a lineout and powered up the field with defenders bouncing off him. He was brought down deep into the Thorney 22. The ball was recycled well and went left through hands to Proccy who scored close to the left corner. Max lined up the conversion and struck it beautifully. The ball sailed between the posts, 31-14.

Thorney responded immediately and assaulted the Renegades goal line. They crossed the goal line, but the defence managed to hold the ball up. Thorney came back from the goal line drop out and were stripped inside the Renegades 22. A shocker of a pass right from Proccy went behind everyone and created a real opportunity for Thorney. Max saved the day with a clearance kick which unfortunately went into the face of a small child.

Shortly after this Proccy was down and out of the game with a knee injury. Thorney began to really come back into the game and piled on the pressure. The defence held but there were regular infringements by Renegades in doing so. Eventually Aaron took a yellow card for the team. Thorney didn't wait long to capitalise on their numerical advantage by getting a driving maul going in the Renegades 22 and powering over to score and convert, 31-21.

The Thorney momentum was feeling threatening. A scrum to Renegades well inside their own half saw the ball spun to Ben, who put the afterburners on and powered to the Thorney posts, crossed the line and dropped the ball. No score, but the uplift of the run helped Renegades to get back on the front foot and a fine set of hands spread the ball left to Max who scored in the corner and then converted his own try, 38-21. Aaron was back on.

As the final whistle approached, Renegades attacked again. Max kicked over and Faiersy chased the ball hard putting the Thorney defender under intense pressure. He made the mistake of trying to clear the ball rather than touching down and kicked the ball to Nathan, who took the ball well and ran back under the posts before he scored, Max converted and the final whistle blew, 45-21.

That was a fantastic opening game for the season and a real statement of Renegades intent. To have dominated a team as good as Thorney was something to behold. Every Renegade played his socks off, congratulations to them all.





Max Burton for a brilliant performance, great kicking (including a couple of fantastic conversion from very wide) and a try-saving clearance kick (at the expense of a small child) and two tries.



Ben Powell for dropping the ball over the tryline after a magnificent carry from almost half-way.

Scores

Tries: Alfie Salmon, Max Burton (2), Tom 'Proccy' Procter (2), Nathan Williamson (2),

Conversions: Brendan Salmon (2), Max Burton (3)

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy and Kes Duxbury