



## Match Report

Sep 23

Home Shelford 3

Drew 31-31



### Team

#### Starting Lineup

- 1) George Collett 2) Callum 'Wilco' Wilkins 3) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 4) Aaron Stevens 5) Fraser 'Spongebob' Johnson
- 6) George 'Buttons' Mills 7) Ollie 'Mad Dog' Witt 8) Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard
- 9) Doug Ellis 10) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 11) Josh 'Slugz' Vail 12) Harry Mills 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote 14) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell
- 15) Ross Catchpole

#### Replacements

- 16) Matt Faiers 17) Geoff Kirby 18) Michael Did-Dell

### Report

Having failed to field a team against Sudbury the previous week, it was a relief to have a full squad to face Shelford 3 at home. The weather was pleasant and sunny, but without the intense heat that made the game against Royston so challenging.

Shelford kicked off and captured the ball quickly, advanced up the field and had their first try inside the first minute in the right corner. The conversion was challenging, and it missed, 0-5. Renegades responded by advancing on the Shelford line. A couple of penalties saw Proccy put the ball in the left corner. A maul set up from the lineout made some yards but was stopped. Renegades put the ball through the hands to the other side of the pitch and were on the way back when Shelford infringed again. This time Renegades opted for what looked like a simple penalty. Sadly, Proccy mis-kicked and the three points did not come Renegades way.

There followed a grim period where Shelford capitalised on poor Renegades defence to run in two breakaway tries and set up a powerful driving maul which added another. The first two were converted and the third conversion missed, 0-24. It was looking like it was going to be a long and depressing afternoon.

The mood lightened as half time approached when Geoff's dog Flash ran onto the pitch and romped around for a while before responding to Geoff's call. Amused by the antics of Flash, Renegades went on the attack and advanced into the Shelford 22. Aaron had a great carry, smashing through the Shelford defence but was chopped just short of the line. The ball was recycled to Harry who fed Ollie

who crashed over to raise Renegades spirits even further. Proccy's conversion was a high, hanging kick that sailed between the sticks, 7-24.

Half time saw a number of changes with Fairersey coming on for Callum (Shep to hooker), Geoff on for Topknot and Mike Did-Dell on for Fraser.

Renegades kicked off and Shelford kicked the ball back to Doug. Ross called for the ball and got it. He made a screaming run before kicking ahead. He raced the Shelford defence to the ball and volleyed it over the try line and managed to get a hand to it before it crossed the dead ball line. Proccy once again added the extras, 14-24.

A few minutes later another great break and run by Shep saw him kick ahead. The defence managed to get the ball but the attempted clearance kick from the ensuing ruck was blocked down by Fairersey, sadly the ball had too much energy and flew over the dead ball line.

Momentum in the game really seemed to have changed. Renegades went on the attack again. Inside the Shelford 22, they were awarded a penalty. George Collet crashed into the Shelford defence setting up a ruck close to their line. The ball was spun out towards the left corner and was taken by Harry, who tripped over Fairersey's legs but still managed to roll over the line to score right in the corner. This time the conversion missed, 19-24.

Topknot came back on for Sluzg. Renegades went on the attack again. A penalty on front of the posts was greeted with encouragement to 'take the points'. Instead, a tap penalty was spun out to George Mills who scored just to the left of the posts. Proccy converted comfortably, 26-24.

Shelford responded to losing the lead with a period of intense attack. Eventually they crossed the Renegades line but were held up. Having withstood the Shelford onslaught, Renegades advanced up the pitch again passing the ball fluently. The ball ended up in Topknot's hands and he powered along the right touchline to score in the right corner with a very long reach! The tough conversion was missed, 31-24. It was looking like Renegades were unstoppable!

Sadly, Shelford had other ideas and increased the intensity of their attack. They advanced into the Renegades 22 and used a penalty to get into the left corner. From the lineout, they spun the ball to the right and scored to the left of the posts. The conversion was kickable and well within the capabilities of the Shelford 10. He duly slotted the conversion, and the sides were level 31-31.

As the final whistle approached Shelford, emboldened by their score, really piled on the pressure, determined to regain the lead. They camped on the Renegades line and were held there before Renegades used a defensive driving maul to push them back off the line and were awarded a penalty when Shelford collapsed the maul. The kick cleared the Shelford pressure and shortly afterwards the final whistle went.

It was a riveting game of rugby to watch. Both sides played with intensity. As Shep observed after the game, if Renegades have to give away soft tries like we did in the first half, we should limit it to one rather than three!



Ross Catchpole for a great shift and brilliantly worked try.



Proccy for missing a penalty in front of the posts.

### Scores

Tries: Ollie Witt, Harry Mills, Ross Catchpole, George 'Buttons' Mills, Will 'Topknot' Blackwell.

Conversion: Tom Procter (3)

Match Report by Eddie 'Billbob' Murphy

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







