

Renegades Rugby



Match Report

Dec 2

Home Mersea Island

Lost 27-33



Team

Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell
- 2) Ryan 'Shep; Sheppard
- 3) George Collett
- 4) Ben 'Scrabble' Molyneux-Hetherington
- 5) Nic Mainero
- 6) Geoff Kirby
- 7) Ollie Witt
- 8) Aaron Stevens
- 9) Doug Ellis
- 10) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 11) Michael Did-Dell
- 12) Harry Mills
- 13) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 14) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers
- 15) Ross Catchpole

Replacements

- 16) Dan Phillips
- 17) Fraser 'SpongeBob' Johnston

Report

There was considerable doubt about whether this game could go ahead given the freezing weather in the preceding week, but a pitch inspection by Rolando on the morning of the game declared the pitch to be playable. It was the first meeting between Mersea Island and Renegades and meeting a new club is always enjoyable. Having passed the ice test, the weather kept us guessing in that a heavy mist remained in the air throughout the game. And it was very, very cold!

The Islanders kicked off and the intensity of the game was evident from the start. The distinctive style of the referee was clear for all to see, and he was very strict on offside infringements and stamped very hard on any backchat. Within the first five minutes the Islanders managed a good attack into the Renegades 22 and exploited a multi-man overlap on the right side of the pitch to cross the line in the right corner and run the ball back close to the posts before touching down. The conversion was straightforward, 0-7.

The hope on the sideline was that this early concession would not be the start of a rout, and those hopes were rewarded with more impressive play from the Renegades. The scrum was looking strong and the failure by the Islanders to recognise that the referee was really hot on offside infringements gave Renegades lots of penalties. About 20 minutes in one of these penalties was tapped quickly by Shep who made a lot of ground. He offloaded and Renegades continued to advance. Another penalty was taken as a scrum and Tucker tried a run at the defence but was driven back hard. Yet another penalty scrum resulted from yet another offside and this time a driving maul powered over

the Islanders try line with Shep finishing the move he started by dotting down for a try under the posts. Proccy made short work of the conversion, 7-7.

The Islanders came back and looked very dangerous at one point forcing a bone crunching try saving tackle from Proccy. Play moved back to the other end of the field and with Renegades outside the Islanders 22, another offside offence saw their 13 yellow carded. Renegades made this man advantage count quickly by kicking for the corner and the lineout fed Tucker who scored in the left corner. The conversion was challenging and missed, 12-7.

As half time approached, Aaron was forced off with a head injury. He was replaced by Dan Phillips. A series of penalties given away by Renegades saw the Islanders build a sustained attack. Renegades managed some stout defence on their line, but the onslaught was relentless. Eventually they shipped the ball wide to the right and scored in the corner. The conversion missed, 12-12. That's how it stayed as the referee blew for half time a short while later. One half time change, SpongeBob on for Scrabble.

The Islanders kicked off and regained the ball quickly. They quickly scored in the left corner and the challenging conversion was well struck, 12-19. A few minutes later an attack by Renegades saw Proccy power over the line in the left corner. While the conversion kick was being prepared, the ref yellow carded the Islanders scrum half. The conversion missed, 17-19. There was then an incident which resulted in the Islanders coach being red carded for unparliamentary language to the referee.

A scrum in the Islanders 22 began to advance towards their line. Ollie picked and went getting close but chopped short. He popped the ball to Proccy who cut through the middle to score the bonus point try! He then added the extra two, 24-19.

Renegades were advancing up the field when the ball came wide to Harry. He made good yards before being chopped and in the resulting ruck, one of the Islanders began a nasty and sustained attack on Harry's head with his elbow. Aaron who was close by on the sidelines was incensed and launched himself at the attacker driving him off Harry. There was some scuffling which the referee brought under control quickly. He had a word with the captains and then summoned Aaron and administered a red card for coming on to the field to join a fracas.

The game resumed and the Islanders continued to make offside infringements. One resulted in a kickable penalty for Renegades which sadly missed. Another saw the Islanders number 8 get a yellow card. As full time approached, the Islanders managed to break through the Renegades defence and score under the posts. The conversion was good, 24-26.

Renegades responded by advancing up the field and winning a kickable penalty. This time the ball sailed between the sticks and the lead was regained, 27-26. The Islanders restarted and won a penalty. They drove up the pitch relentlessly and, although Renegades defended fiercely, they managed to break through and score under the posts. The conversion (which was to be the last kick of the game) was good, 27-33.

It was an eventful afternoon. It was a really entertaining game, and some lovely rugby was played by both teams, both hungry for a win. It could have gone either way. Congratulations to Mersea Island who shaved it. We look forward to visiting them in March (when it will hopefully be warmer).





Geoff Kirby for another great shift.



Aaron for comprehensively embracing a red card opportunity.

Scores

Try: Ryan 'Shep' Sheppard, Tom 'Proccy' Procter (2), Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote,

Conversions: Tom 'Proccy' Procter (2)

Penalty: Tom 'Proccy' Procter

Match Report by Eddie Murphy.