



## Match Report

Jan 6

Home Woodbridge

Lost 0-49



### Team

#### Starting Lineup

- 1) Tom 'BFT' Powell 2) Ryan 'Shep; Sheppard 3) George Collett
- 4) Nic Mainiero 5) Aaron Stevens
- 6) Matt 'Faiersy' Faiers 7) Geoff Kirby 8) Ollie Witt
- 9) Doug Ellis 10) Tom 'Proccy' Procter
- 11) Michael Did-Dell 12) Tom 'Tucker' Heathcote
- 13) Will 'Topknot' Blackwell 14) Josh 'Slugz' Vail
- 15) Ross Catchpole

#### Replacements

- 16) Ben Molyneaux-Hetherington 17) Dan Phillips 18) Adam Lane
- 19) Callum 'Wilko' Wilkins 20) Fraser 'Spongebob' Johnson

### Report

It was a cold but clear day as Renegades gathered for their first Game of 2024. The side was blessed with an abundance of players, not all of whom could play. The spirit in the team was much better that when Renegades travelled to Woodbridge and there was an air of optimism that there was a game that was within reach.

Renegades kicked off and things looked well balanced for the first quarter. Woodbridge were fluent in open play but had no answer to the complete dominance of the Renegades scrum. This dominance managed to turn almost every scrum into a penalty for Renegades as Woodbridge couldn't help but infringe as they went relentlessly backwards.

A great kick chase by Proccy forced a Woodbridge defender to knock on in their own 22. This platform led to a prolonged period of Renegades attack, camped in the Woodbridge 22 and often within the Woodbridge 5m line. The Woodbridge defence was steadfast and even the scrum dominance went awol when it came to powering a scrum over the Woodbridge line. Eventually Woodbridge cleared. There followed another couple of Renegades attacks that were not as prolonged but resulted in no score as penalties to Woodbridge allowed them to clear.

A Woodbridge counterattack took them within range of the Renegades posts, and possibly having seen how hard Renegades had worked for no reward, they opted to kick and got themselves three points, 0-3.

There followed another Woodbridge attack which saw them cross the Renegades line and touch down, but the referee called play back for a knock on. Topknot had a hand injury which forced him off and Ben went into the scrum with Geoff moving to Centre.

Another wave of Woodbridge pressure was cleared but the lineout was taken quickly by Woodbridge, and they were able to attack again. The rapid response caught Renegades off guard and Woodbridge sped along the left touchline and scored in the left corner. The challenging conversion was well struck but came off the upright and went wide, 0-8.

As half time approached another strong attack by Woodbridge saw their 15 power towards the right corner. He very nearly made it, but Ross was having none of it and stopped him with a crunching 15 on 15 tackle. Renegades won the ball and the ball passed back to Proccy for a clearance kick but the kick was charged down and Woodbridge players managed to scramble a touchdown. The conversion was close but went just to the right of the posts, 0-13.

Half time changes were Topknot back on for Mike and Adam on for Ben.

The second half began with a quick converted try for Woodbridge which was precisely the start that Renegades didn't need. Woodbridge began to really express themselves with flowing rugby, great speed and an ability to spot and exploit gaps ruthlessly. Over the course of the second half, they ran in another four converted tries and finished with an unconverted try in the left corner, 0-49.

It was a game of two halves with Renegades playing well and matching their opponents well throughout the half. The Renegades scrum was impressive, as was the Woodbridge defence. The second half saw Woodbridge's superior fitness and ball handling tell and they dominated the half with Renegades doggedly trying overturn that dominance.



BFT for putting in a hard shift.



Will 'Topknot' Blackwell for swearing in front of the referee.

### Scores

Sadly, no scores to report.

*Match Report by Eddie Murphy*