

10<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2024

6TH EDITION NO 2

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# MANA WAHINE PIRONGIA

In an exhilarating clash marking the debut of Pirongia's newest team, the Hauraki North Diamonds faced off against the Mana Wahine Pirongia in the opening match of the season at Pirongia Rugby Club.

The stage was set for an intense battle as both teams sought to make an early statement in the competition.

Hauraki North Diamonds burst out of the gates with a flurry of attacking prowess, securing three early tries that left the home crowd stunned. However, showing their resilience, the Mana Wahine Pirongia fought back valiantly, matching their opponents' intensity and managing to score three tries of their own before halftime.

The match evolved into a tightly contested affair, with both teams recognizing the physical and mental demands of an 80-minute encounter. As the second half unfolded, it was Mana Wahine Pirongia who seized the initiative, taking the lead with a dashing display of skill and determination.



  
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Not to be outdone, Hauraki North Diamonds rallied in the closing stages of the game, displaying remarkable resolve and character. With the clock ticking down, they launched a spirited comeback, crossing the try line three times in quick succession to reclaim the lead and secure a hard-fought victory. 40-31.

Player of the day honors rightfully went to Kaitlin Bates, whose outstanding performance saw her score two tries and slot three conversions, playing a pivotal role in her team.

Overall, the match showcased the competitive spirit and tenacity of both teams, setting the stage for an enthralling season ahead in the competition..



Capt He Maari Simon running into the waiting Hauraki D



VC Milla Tarawhiti-Paewai with Katie King in support

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# PIRONGIA COLTS SNEAK IN FOR 1<sup>ST</sup> UP WIN

**Pirongia Colts fought to the end to guts out a first up win over their rivals from Matamata.**

Pirongia began the game well and were executing their game plan extremely well in the first half. After using the width of the field to stretch Matamata's defence, Finn McLean was able to burst into space down the blind side and run 27 meters to score in the corner, the unsuccessful conversion leaving the score 5-0. McLean looked to be in again a few minutes later after a strong run from Charlie Mason from the back of a 5m scrum, only to be held up. However more attack from Pirongia saw Blair Bell steam onto a short inside ball to crash over under the posts with the resulting conversion from Issac Cullen seeing Pirongia go up 12-0.

From counter attack in their half Pirongia looked likely to score again as Corbin Fleming made a great break only to be ankle tapped and tumble into touch with the line open. Pirongia were playing some excellent rugby on attack and defense.

Strong defensive pressure from the back line saw Jason Hill complete an intercept and run 40m to score under the posts with the conversion from Cullen opening up a 19-0 scoreline. However a sin binning of tough tight head prop, Manaia Murphy saw Pirongia lose the defensive structure and Matamata were able to score before half time to close to 19-7 at half time.

With Murphy still in the bin at the start of the 2nd half Matamata were able to take advantage of weak defense to score again and close the gap to 19-14.

By now Matamata had their tails up and Pirongia's defense was working overtime to

hold their strong ball runners out. Matamata finally broke Pirongia's defense with 8 minutes to go and took a 21-19 lead. Pirongia got back on attack and were able to force a penalty which Cullen converted to give Pirongia a 22-21 lead. This saw Matamata back on attack and with Pirongia being unable to clear their 22, Matamata had Pirongia under the pump! However the defense held and Pirongia turned over possession to secure the victory.

Player of the day, Michael Sanders was a tackling machine dropping numerous Matamata runners in their tracks. New 1st 5 Issac Cullen guided the team well and new recruit Corbin Fleming was strong on attack and defense.

Next up, a tough Hinuera Colts at Hinuera



*Blair Bell with steely determination over the line!*

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# PIRONGIA As & Bs LOSE IN TOUGH BATTLES

**First up for the Pirongia A's and B's was a visit down to last season's Div 1 winners Putaruru.**

Although both team suffered losses, in their first hit-outs they showed promise for the season to come. With 6 players making their run-on debuts for A's, the team will only grow as the season develops

Putaruru started strongly but the visitors managed to hold them out for the first 20 minutes before from an attacking scrum the home team No 8 took the ball, drawing in the close defenders and scoring untouched under the posts creating an easy conversion to take a 7-0 lead.

Pirongia then probably had their best period of the game as they took the attack to the home team. Managing to put phases together, they built pressure on the Putaruru defense until finally Prop Liam Hobbs drove over from a breakdown on the line. First-five Graham Wade slotted the conversion. Putaruru finished the first half by scoring two further tries from taking advantage of mistakes by the visitors.

The second 40 minutes was more of the same as Pirongia struggled to exert constant pressure on the home team defense as minor errors took their toll. Often showing promising glimpses on attack too often play broke down via knock-ons or forward passes.

Two second half tries took the home team out to a 29-7 victory. Pirongia player of the day Hobbs was supported all day long by captain lock Shaun Coutts, both in a strong set piece and taking the ball up strongly.

Amongst the backs Cody Friedrich Taylor, debuting on the wing stood out as a threat with the ball in hand.

Next up game wise is Kerone at Kerone

**Pirongia B's went down 24 to 10 against a physical Putaruru team. The score certainly not reflecting how tight a battle this was.**

Pirongia started better and went close to scoring on a number of occasions. They finally were rewarded with a penalty that Sam Denize successfully converted.

Putaruru then had the better of the game and were able to score 2 tries, converting one. Half time arrived with Putaruru leading 12 - 3.

Putaruru started the better scoring a converted try to increase their lead to 19 - 3. Pirongia hit back nearly immediately with a well taken try by Hunter Scott (His first in Pirongia colours)

With Sam Denize converting Pirongia trailed by 19 to 10. Pirongia had a number of opportunities to close the gap, but could not quite cross the line. With minutes on the clock Putaruru ended the scoring with a well taken try against the run of play.

A number of our Colts stood up playing their first game and all played very well. The forwards were outstanding, winning their set piece and putting pressure on the Putaruru forwards. The backs held their own with some forwards having to step up and play out of position.

Player of the day went to Sam Denize who ran the cutter at first five well all game, kicking well and defending stoutly all game.

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# 2024 DRAW

**6TH APRIL**

A's and B's - Putaruru - Away  
Colts - United matamata Sports - Home  
Womens - Hauraki North Diamonds - Home

**13TH APRIL**

A's and B's - Kereone - Away  
Colts - Hinuera - Away  
Womens - Hautapu Sports - Away

**20TH APRIL**

A's and B's - Suburbs - Home  
Colts - Leamington - Home  
Womens - Waitete - Home

**27TH APRIL**

A's and B's - Leamington - Home  
Colts - Suburbs - Away  
Womens - BYE

**4TH MAY**

A's and B's - Frankton - Home  
Colts - Rugby United (Thames Valley) - Home  
Womens - Taupiri - Away

**11TH MAY**

A's and B's - Taupiri - Away  
Colts - Hamilton Marist - Home  
Womens - Hamilton Marist - Home

**18TH MAY**

A's and B's - Te Rapa - Home  
Colts - Hautapu Sports - Away  
Womens - Putaruru Wahine - Home

**25TH MAY**

A's and B's - Bye  
Colts - University - Away  
Womens - Suburbs Fillys - Away

**1ST JUNE - KINGS BIRTHDAY**

A's and B's - Surf (Tokoroa) - Away  
Colts  
Womens

**8TH JUNE**

A's and B's - Hinuera - Home  
Colts - Hamilton Old Boys - Home  
Womens - United Matamata Sports - Away

**15TH JUNE**

A's and B's - Ohaupo - Away  
Colts - Fraser Tech - home  
Womens - TBC (Start of second round / Playoffs)

**22ND JUNE**

A's and B's - TBC (Start of second round)  
Colts - Morrinsville - Away  
Womens - TBC

Presidents Rugby does not start till later in season - draw not available yet.

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