

29TH APRIL 2024

6TH EDITION NO 5

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**CORSON MAIZE & REYMER AG ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT
THE PIRONGIA RUGBY & SPORTS CLUB IN 2024!**

2024 GOLD SPONSORS



GUTSY COLTS UPSET EASTERN SUBURBS

Pirongia Colts traveled to Eastern Suburbs minus 12 regular players due to injuries and work commitments, carrying a bench of only 4 reserves and pulled off a gutsy 27-20 victory.

Pirongia looked good from the kickoff as they pressed the Eastern Suburbs team back into their 22m and then Mitch Zeuren charged down a kick and regather to scored beside the posts and then convert his own try for a 7-0 lead after 2 minutes. However from the kickoff Eastern Suburbs were able to exert their own pressure and charge down a Pirongia clearance to score their own try and close the gap to 7-5. Pirongia then played some good positive rugby and looked to have Suburbs measure as Captain Jay Seebeck, and props Nathan Stewart and Boston Zeuren crashed the ball upfield. However against the run of play Suburbs were able to break out and score a try in the corner to take a 10-7 lead into half time.

In the second half Pirongia were able to spread the ball to the fringes, with Hayden Beare on the wing, Jason Hill at fullback, and Lochie Bolstad at centre gaining valuable yards at will. Seebeck,



Capt Jay Seebeck on another big run for the team

playing at the unfamiliar position of no8 was all over the park carrying the ball, tackling and creating turnovers. Pirongia's unrelenting attack eventually led to Hill being put in a gap where he was able to race 30 meters to score by the post for Zeuren to convert for Pirongia to regain the lead 14-7 at the 15 minute mark. More attack from Pirongia saw Hill kick a loose ball through a gap, regather an zip in for another try for Zeuren to convert and extend the lead to 21-7.

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This lead to more good play from Pirongia but, once again, from broken play Eastern Suburbs broke out to score in the corner to close the gap to 21-15. Pirongia were soon back on attack and Zeuren was able to set up to take a drop goal from 35 meters out to extend Pirongia's lead to 9, 24-15.

With time winding down Suburbs again cracked the Pirongia defence and scored a fourth try to close up to 24-20. Pirongia replied with more attack and were rewarded with a penalty from the 38 meter mark which Zeuren calmly slotted to extend the lead to 27-20. With time virtually up, Suburbs kicked off into the Pirongia 22m and were contesting the play for a final chance, only to knock on, and from the resulting scrum Pirongia were able to kick to touch for tough victory.

The whole team played with courage and passion for the full 80 minutes. Kirwyn Ellis



Kirwyn Ellis slotting in at 10 for the Colts



Big time collision on its way!

slotted into 1st 5 admirably, Mitch Zeuren lead the team around the paddock superbly from 2nd 5 all day, Seebeck had a mammoth game at 8, Lucas Dowty worked tireless in his first 80 minute game at 7, usual hooker Ethan Kiernan, playing 6, got to show his blistering pace with a sideline run, star no6 of the season to date, Michael Sanders tackled fiercely in the unfamiliar wing position, Max Shaw in his first start of the season at 9 showed pace on attack and strength on defence, and the whole front row of Boston Zeuren, Nathan Stewart and Brooke Witehira had storming games

Next up the undefeated Thames Valley poses a huge challenge at Pirongia, where a few of the walking wounded may return!

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LEAMINGTON TOO GOOD

For the first time in a number of seasons Pirongia hosted their rivals from Cambridge - Leamington. On a much more sedate Saturday afternoon after the previous weeks Ladies Day Leamington proved the much stronger opponent , particularly with their fleet footed back line who the locals struggled to keep pace with as the game went on.

With some slick handling and support play the visitors scored with the first minutes which their outstanding kicker converted from near the sideline to take a 7-0 lead. The local mountain men then matched the visitors for the next half an hour as play switched back and forwards down the field with the locals often putting together phases and then making a mistake to hand possession back to Leamington. With some evasive running and slick passing Leamington managed to score two converted tries in the last 7 minutes to take a 21-0 lead into halftime. The second stanza opened like the majority of the first spell with both teams having their moments on attack until Leamington tore the game apart between the 50th and 60th minutes scoring 4 tries with 3 converted to take an unbeatable lead 47-0.

Being the fighters they are and never giving up the home team finally managed to put right winger Daniel Belk over in the corner in the 67th Minute for their first points of the game. The mountain men then finished the game strongly putting phases together and added some slick passing to threaten the Leamington defense. Unfortunately Leamington ran in another long range try to complete the scoring 52-5.

Players to stand out for the local team was Pirongia's man of the match prop Rawiri Riddell who was ably assisted by his front row partners hooker Mathew Findsen & Tyreece Oneill. Mr Versatility Graham Wade turning out wearing the no 15 jersey this week showed his adaptability with his positional play. Improving every week , looking more comfortable in the environment is young no 7 Matt Henderson who made a number of line breaks and probably made the most meters on the day for the home team.

Next week is a home game v Frankton.

**Pirongia B's battle hard in Loss to Leamington
Pirongia B's battled hard against a larger and well-drilled Leamington team.**

Leamington started well and were able to break the Pirongia defence at will, rewarded with a converted try in the 3rd minute. Pirongia found it difficult to get over the advantage line with the ball in hand, and when there was a turnover, Leamington capitalised, running 40 metres to score their second try and increase their lead to 12-0.

Pirongia had a good period on attack, but due to some solid defence from the Leamington team, they could not quite finish. Leamington scored again, now holding a comfortable 17-0 lead after the conversion. As the second half came to an end, Leamington finished strongly with another try, going into the break with a well-deserved 24-0 lead. Pirongia came out firing in the second half, and with only 2 minutes on the clock, Josh Law intercepted a pass and ran 35 metres to score. Leamington hit back 10 minutes into the second half to increase their lead to 24-5. They then increased their lead to 31-5 with a converted try.

Pirongia B's had a good patch of play and were rewarded with a well-taken try by Tim Bird, who, after taking a quick tap, used his agility and strength to go over near the post. He then converted his own try to close the gap to 31-12. Pirongia were holding their own now, and play had evened out. They went close to scoring again, but it was Leamington who were able to increase the lead with a contentious try, now leading 38-12. Pirongia were not about to lie down, and it was Josh Law again who was able to break free and score, with the conversion making it 38-19. With time almost up, Leamington finished the scoring to make the final score 43-19.

Pirongia will be pleased with their second half, being much more competitive and drawing the half 19-all. Player of the day went to Josh Law, who powered his way through a ton of work and was always strong with the ball in hand.

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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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