

7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION NO 6

2024 PLATINUM SPONSORS



**PIONEER**  
BRAND · PRODUCTS



**COOMBES**  
FARMS LTD

*A huge thank you to our sponsors of the day!*



**qubik**

**GAN E PLUMBING & QUBIK ARE PROUD TO SUPPORT THE  
PIRONGIA RUGBY & SPORTS CLUB IN 2024!**

## 2024 GOLD SPONSORS



# COLTS KNOCK OVER UNDEFEATED THAMES

**Pirongia Colts played some excellent rugby to knock over previously undefeated Thames United 39-12.**

Pirongia began the game strongly and were quickly on the attack in the Thames 22m. Thames was able to keep their try line intact until the 10th minute when Charlie Mason broke off the back of a scrum 7m out and bullied his way over with the conversion from Mitch Zeuren giving Pirongia a well deserved 7-0 lead.

Thames were able to break free from Pirongia's attack and break down field, however a great covering tackle from Flynn Wuest saw the Thames winger bundled into touch 5m short of the line – but from this the ref left the crowd dumb founded when he awarded a penalty try and gave Wuest a 10 minute break in the sin bin.

Pirongia's defence held strong and they kept Thames scoreless over this period with some great defence in the backs from Zeuren, Kirwyn Ellis, Jason Hill and Hayden Beare snuffing out attacks on the fringes. In the 32nd minute Pirongia were still under attack in their 22m when Hill latched onto an intercept and

raced 75m to score under the posts with the conversion from Zeuren giving Pirongia a 14-7 half time lead.

After half time Pirongia were back on the attack and after some nice back play Finn McLean was able to draw the last defender and put Lochie Bolstad in for his 1st try in 4 years opening the lead to 19-7. However Thames then exerted some pressure and from the sharp stepping backs were able to create a try to get themselves back in the game 19-12.



*Jason Hill in the clear for another 5 pointer*

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*

From here Pirongia were able to turn the screws. With Boston Zeuren and Sam Fitness having storming games and leading the forwards on rampages up the field, Thames were soon under pressure from which Zeuren slotted a penalty to open a 22-12 scoreline. Pirongia steamed back on attack, and more



*Charlie Mason crashing over*

good team play saw Corbin Fleming cross for a try (having been denied once by an unfriendly Thames touch judge) with the conversion from Zeuren extending the lead to 29-12. More attack and another penalty opened up a 32-12 scoreline. More constructive play from Pirongia saw them again breach the Thames defence after a number of phases with Jay Seebeck crashing over for a try which Zeuren converted for a 39-12 scoreline.

This is how the score stayed until the end despite Pirongia's efforts to cross for more points.

Sam Fitness had the game of his career on his 21st birthday, Boston Zeuren was unstoppable with ball in hand, Nathan Stewart and Tama Merrilees were strong on the tackle and with ball in hand, Michael Sanders once again tackled himself to a standstill, Captain Seebeck was a menace with ball in hand and at the breakdown, Vice Captain Mason was back to his storming best with ball in hand, Ellis guided the team well on attacked, Mitch Zeuren was defensive menace in midfield as was Bolstad, and Hill had one of his best defensive efforts in the Black and White stripes, from fullback.

Next up is the menacing Hamilton Marist who look to be the team to beat – see you at the Park this Saturday



*Pitch invader or Bags reliving his youth?*

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*

7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION NO 6

## 2024 SILVER SPONSORS



GOODWRIGHT CONTRACTING LTD



*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*



# A's STEAM ROLL FRANKTON

**Pirongia Runs Riot in the Second Half**  
**After an indifferent first half, Pirongia ran riot against a tiring Frankton team, running away with a comfortable 76-5 win.**

Pirongia was always in control of this game, but they just couldn't put things together in the first 20 minutes. After a disallowed try in the first five minutes for a forward pass, Pirongia, through their own mistakes, couldn't put any points on the board. After 20 minutes, the score remained nil all. Pirongia took the lead when Matthew Findsen drove over from a lineout maul in the 34th minute.



Pirongia scored again when, from a lineout near the line, a maul was formed, and when this came to a stop, the ball was spun to Sani Ramuwai who went over. With the successful conversion from Sam Denize, Pirongia held a 12-0 lead. Two minutes later, Inoke Dauniseka took an inside pass from Daniel Belk and ran untouched to score near the post, increasing the lead to 19-0.

Unfortunately for Pirongia, a mistake from the kickoff allowed Frankton to attack the line, and they were able to score in the corner. Going into the break, Pirongia held a comfortable 19-5 lead but were nowhere near their best.

After some stern words from the coaches, Pirongia came out firing and scored from the kickoff. Daniel Belk made a storming run through the Frankton team. He then put in a well-judged kick that Sam Denize regathered and scored. Denize then successfully kicked the conversion to increase the lead to 26-5.

From this point, Pirongia was able to run in tries at will. Greg Gane scored the next try when he was given the ball 35 metres out, and he was able to use his blistering pace to outrun the cover defence and score in the corner. After some good forwards' work, Ben Rush was next to score when, from a maul five metres out from the line, he spotted a gap and strolled through untouched. With the conversion, Pirongia now held a commanding 38-5 lead. The next try was a great individual effort from Cayden Easterbrook. From a kick, Easterbrook took the ball and broke free from his own 10-metre line and was able to outrun the Frankton defence and score under the posts.



From the 67th minute through to the end of the game, Pirongia was able to score 4 more tries. Graham Wade scored after he was put into a gap and he ran 50 metres to score in the corner. Thomas

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*

Pole was next on the board. After a kick was put through, Graham Wade was first to the ball and passed it to Pole, who again went over untouched. Sani Ramuwai made the score 69-5 when he broke through some tiring defence to score his second try. Conner Storey, making his debut for the A's, scored the last try of the game, barging his way through two defenders to score his first try for Pirongia. With Denize slotting his 8th conversion of the day, this finished the scoring with the Finch scoreboard reading Pirongia 76- Frankton 5.



After a poor first half, Pirongia really put it together in the second half. Player of the day points went to Lucas Dampney - 1 point, He was tireless in the breakdown and securing good ball for the backs to run onto. Daniel Belk - 2 points. Belk was a constant threat with ball in hand, making some outstanding breaks throughout the game, and Liam Hobbs - 3 points, who dominated the scrum and manhandled many a Frankton forward.

Pirongia will need to put an 80-minute performance together when they face Taupiri next week in a must-win game.



Liam Hobbs with another great performance

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*



# NIGHT RUGBY FOR OUR MANA WAHINE

The rugby clash between Pirongia Women and Taupiri Women, set under the majestic Maunga in Taupiri, illuminated the night with a display of fierce athleticism and unyielding determination. A fabulous amount of supporters were present for both teams with the first game under lights for the season.

The match ignited with early fireworks as Pirongia's Milla Tarawhiti-Paewai bulldozed through the defence in the second minute, scoring a try that was elegantly converted by Kaitlin Bates. This early blow rattled Taupiri, who swiftly retaliated with a try of their own. However, Pirongia's resilience shone through as Milla Tarawhiti-Paewai replicated her earlier feat, crossing the try line once again and with Bates' reliable boot, narrowing the gap. The first half concluded with a tantalizing scoreline of 17-14 in favour of Taupiri, marking Pirongia's best first-half performance of the season.

Despite Pirongia's valiant efforts, Taupiri came back from the break with renewed vigor, piling on the points relentlessly. Pirongia, while displaying flashes of brilliance, struggled to contain Taupiri's offensive onslaught. As the final whistle blew, Taupiri emerged victorious with a commanding 41-14 lead.

In recognition of her outstanding performance on the field, Sarah Moorhouse (Dobbs) of Pirongia was rightfully awarded the prestigious title of Player of the Day. Moorhouse's contributions throughout the match exemplified her unwavering dedication and skill, earning her the admiration of teammates and spectators alike.

While the scoreboard may not have favored Pirongia in the end, their commendable display of tenacity and teamwork served as a testament to their resilience. Taupiri's victory, though decisive, was a hard-fought triumph against a determined opponent. As the players left the field, the echoes of cheers and applause resonated under the watchful gaze of the Maunga, reminding all present of the enduring spirit of rugby.



*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*

7<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2024

6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION NO 6

## 2024 BRONZE SPONSORS



## 2024 CALF REARERS

Andrew and Holly Mackay  
BJ & Amanda Johnson  
Reymer Dairy Ltd  
Tony & Julie Drnasin  
Dave & Leanne Gamble  
Findsen Trust - Stefan / Tracy  
Andy & Michelle McPherson  
Dave & Rochelle Van Straalen  
Michael & Paula Hobbs  
Cam & Sheree Coombes

Summit Farms (Singh family)  
Shay & Shelley Egan  
Kling & Sez King  
Porky & Jo Earwaker  
Antz & Lynette Smith  
Skin & Yvonne Thompson  
Ballyberg Farm (Noldy & Bev Rust  
and Bernard & Jo Kelly)  
Alan and Sue Walter  
Todd and Kasia Hagan

Brad and Ellen Eyre  
Andy & Lisa Shaw  
Andy Fullerton  
Peak Farming Ltd  
Lakeland Downs Ltd  
AJ's Farm  
Euan & Mikki McLeod  
Peter & Tracy Thompson  
Matt & Renee Veen

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*



# B'S RUE MISSED OPPORTUNITIES

**In a scrappy encounter, Pirongia B's were unable to finish off a fired-up Frankton B's team and eventually went down 29 points to 22.**

Pirongia started the better and were rewarded with a well-taken individual try by Max Frandi, who was able to gather the ball from the Frankton halfback, break through 2 to 3 tackles, and score under the posts. With the successful conversion from Todd Foster, Pirongia held an early 7-point lead.

Pirongia was having the better of the game, but through dropped balls or not retaining possession in collisions, they handed back possession and territory to the Frankton team. From one such mistake, Frankton were rewarded with a scrum. The ball was spun to their large centre who barged his way over. Frankton then took the lead with a well-taken try. After some interplay, they were able to exploit an overlap and score out wide to take a 12 to 7 lead.

Pirongia then had a good patch on attack and were rewarded with a try to Tim Bird who used his strength from a quick tap to take the ball up strongly, beating two defenders on his way to scoring. Pirongia was finding it difficult to stick to their pattern, but they still looked the better of the two teams, which showed on the scoreboard with another try, this time to the newly returned Andrew Charleston who made an immediate impact, breaking tackles at will and

making huge ground for the Pirongia team. From another penalty 35 metres out from the Frankton line, Charleston took a quick tap and used his pace to outrun Frankton's cover defence and score in the corner. When the halftime whistle sounded, Pirongia held a well-deserved 17 to 12 lead.

The second half became a scrappy affair with Pirongia getting quite frustrated by the continued offside and other offences going unnoticed, which led to Pirongia not being able to get into the flow of the game. Pirongia were able to increase their lead with another well-taken try by Andrew Charleston, who from 5 metres out picked up the ball and was able to reach out and score to increase their lead to 22 to 12. Pirongia camped inside Frankton's half for the next 10 minutes, but they just couldn't finish off a number of opportunities and with 15 minutes to go, Frankton spun the ball wide and found their quick winger who was able to score and close the gap to 22 points to 17.

Frankton were full of confidence now, and keeping the ball in hand, they were running the Pirongia team around, and over the next 10 minutes, they were able to score 2 more tries, converting one to close the game out with a 29 points to 22 win.

Pirongia would rue the number of unforced errors they made, especially in the first half, as well as deviating from their game plan and becoming a bit disjointed. They would be very pleased with the commitment of the team, the great numbers turning out at both trainings and game time, and the youth coming through.

Sean Carter ran hard with the ball all day, making some great ground, Andrew Charleston showed his class when introduced midway through the first half, and Tim Bird organised the backs well and ran well with the ball in hand. Player of the day went to Hunter Scott who was constantly on the ball, ran hard with the ball in hand, and made numerous tackles.



*Andrew Charleston on his well-taken try*

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*



# 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.

*A massive thank you to 2024-2025 club sponsors*