



Western Pioneers Newsletter 3 July

This weekend's results mean the **Pioneers are now third equal** with Massey, behind North Shore and Silverdale. A loss by Takapuna means they cannot catch the Pioneers, and a home quarter final at Helensville on July 16 is assured.

Points are; North Shore 53, Silverdale 46, Western and Massey 41, Takapuna and Northcote 35.

The other teams are in the "also ran" division, just where Helensville and Kumeu would have been if the Pioneers hadn't come to their rescue.

The **beer price survey** concluded this week. Not surprisingly, it generated a lot of interest from people who receive this newsletter, and some who get it forwarded on to them. There has even been correspondence from some club's members prior to them being surveyed advising false low prices. This sort of behaviour has not been tolerated, and only prices obtained by the independent surveyor have been used.

Congratulations as "winner" goes to the **Takapuna club**, with their price for a standard 330ml lager (Steinlager, Stella or Heinekin) \$7.00.

In second place were Silverdale at \$6.50, at \$6 were Kumeu and Massey, on \$5.50 East Coast Bays, Marist and Northcote and North Shore and Helensville charged a commendable \$5.00 a bottle.

Glenfield and Mahurangi were not surveyed as the Pioneers did not play at those venues this season.

Sponsor Profile

This week's sponsor profile is of **F G Snell Optometrist Ltd.**

Frank has practices in two locations. His Avondale one has been in operation for 27 years, and it is from here that Frank himself operates. Louise is the practise manager at Avondale.

His other practice is at Hobsonville, has been open since 1998 and is run by Rose Milner. It offers easy accessibility for heartland Pioneers supporters.

F G Snell offers a full range of eye services.

They will give your eyes a very thorough health check, and determine the strength of your eyes and whether glasses are required.

It is worth visiting Frank if your children have eye problems as he specialises in Behavioural Optometry. He can get children to do eye exercises to help them



strengthen their eyes so they may not need glasses.

He is also therapeutically endorsed meaning that he is able to prescribe for eye medication.

The Western Pioneers management is giving serious consideration to sponsoring Ray Garrett and his merry band of referees to **F G Snell** next year to see if his treatment might help them make more accurate decisions. Sadly, Frank would be unable to stop them from seeing things that in actual fact do not happen!

For all you "one eyed" Western supporters, there is nothing he can do to help you either.

His practises are also worth visiting if you want some "up market" frames for your glasses, something that will stand out from the run of the mill frames you can purchase everywhere else.

The Pioneers are delighted to have **F G Snell** as a sponsor and do suggest you give him a visit if you feel your eyes are not operating too well.

Their contact numbers are:

Avondale 09 828 7723
Hobsonville 09 416 3937

Next week the Kumeu club will host **Takapuna** in the last round of regular season play. There is even the possibility the Pioneers could face them the following week. Please come and support the boys as they take on the club who has won the most North Harbour club titles.

Also look out for the **crayfish raffle** that will be doing the rounds at Kumeu next weekend, with the proceeds going to help fund the Western Pioneers. Nick Leitch does a fantastic job organising this, as he instructs his Chatham Island contacts to dive for the biggest, juiciest crayfish they can find, cook it and have it airfreighted to Kumeu for this raffle.

Let's hope the ash cloud doesn't interfere with Nick's plans!

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Western Pioneers Match Report 3 July

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The Century 21 Burmester Realty Western Pioneers were soundly defeated 28-14, by



an impressive Silverdale side on Saturday and as a result have slipped to third on the points table. They also had to hand back the Country Cup which they had won from Silverdale earlier in the season.

In losing to Silverdale, they have most likely lost the opportunity of having a week off, and of hosting a semi final.

The Western team looked flat when they ran onto Silverdale's well manicured field, perhaps as a lingering result of the hugely physical contest they had last week against North Shore.

Added to this is a mounting injury toll and representative commitments meaning that the Pioneers took the field with no fewer than five top forwards absent. No excuses are being made, but the depth of the squad is being severely tested. Whereas other teams are getting a few fresh players at this late stage of the season, this is not the case with the Pioneers and is something that will have to be addressed for next year.

Silverdale played impressively and are serious championship contenders who are fielding a full strength team at the business stage of the season. They have two giant locks complimented by six other good forwards and a backline full of talent.

Silverdale kicked off with the wind behind them, went straight on to attack and had a couple of penalty opportunities, one of which was successful.

The Pioneers finally got into opposition territory and Regan Oxenham kicked a penalty to even up the scores 3-3.

Silverdale replied with a try in the corner, which had touchline spectators wondering if a foot had being put in touch. The touch judge on the far side cut a dashing figure in his nicely faded jeans, North Harbour jersey and Silverdale supporters badge attached closely to his heart. In fact, an old timer was heard to say it reminded him of the immortal Billy Wallace playing with a sun hat on the 1905 Originals tour. Nothing surprises the Pioneers these days with the touch judges they receive each week.

The try was unconverted. Thankfully the Silverdale kicker had a day he would rather forget, goaling only one from six attempts.

They continued to apply the pressure, gaining most of the ball and tackling like demons to prevent the Pioneers from mounting any worthwhile attacks. They scored two more tries, one by their impressive loose forward Mikaele Tuu'u who is second leading try scorer in the competition. They lead 18-3 at halftime.



Just prior to the break Ray Alo was assisted from the field with a knee injury which may sideline him for a couple of weeks.

The Pioneers clawed their way back into the game by way of two well struck Oxenham penalties to close to 18-9 and supporters sensed a glimmer of hope.

That glimmer was a mirage, as Silverdale scored two more tries and at 28-9 the game was as good as over. To their credit, the Pioneers managed to put together several phases whilst on attack and Geraint Walsh, restored to his role as the team's custodian, stretched out to score in the corner. That was the end of the scoring, and the 28-14 score line meant the Pioneers left Silverdale without any competition points.

The Pioneers player of the day was Fala Sakaria who battled away in the front row and was active in the field of play.

Next week's game is against Takapuna at Kumeu. It is the last game before the top six contests the Championship round, so a victory against Takapuna will ensure a home quarter final.

The Senior Firsts were outplayed by top of the table Silverdale, but did manage a bonus point for four tries in their 38-20 loss. Two players who impressed were live wire flanker Mark Haldane and Simi.