

# Western Pioneers Members Newsletter

## 15 May 2011



The Western Pioneers had another great win in the weekend, 41-14 over Marist (match report below). With Silverdale losing to Northcote, **Western is now equal top of the competition** with Massey.

The three remaining first round games for Western are against Glenfield (at Helensville), Massey (away) and Mahurangi (at Kumeu). Realistically the Massey game will decide which team will win the first round trophy, although Massey could trip up against North Shore who they still have to play.

**Next Saturday's match against Glenfield** will be played at Helensville. We encourage all supporters and sponsors to come to the Helensville clubrooms from 1.30pm and enjoy a few drinks and nibbles prior to the Premier game kicking off at 2.45pm. There will be a few raffles to help raise funds for the team, and based on how they play the game, plenty of points will be scored.

Supporters are defined as those who have either paid their \$70 to the Western launch or are financial members of either Helensville or Kumeu. You can pay Helensville subs (\$30) on the day.

You will read below about the **referee's performance**. After having discussed the situation with a senior referee's official, it was most interesting to hear that before the game the referee submits a document outlining his assessment on how he thinks the game will unfold. (or words to that effect) This is probably why you often see a penalty awarded very early on so the ref can appear to be in control. Why can't they just referee the game according to how it actually goes?

Remember last week we decided to conduct **a survey of beer prices** charged in the clubrooms of the various North Harbour clubs. This week it was Marist's turn and for a standard lager their charge was \$5.50. Takapuna are still well out in front on \$7.00, or a mark up in excess of 300%.

Finally, congratulations to the Helensville junior boys committee who ran a very **successful Trivial Pursuits night** on Saturday evening. Funds raised are to go towards a rugby trip for year 7 and 8 boys to Australia in the next school holidays. Good luck to all those parents and boys who are going.

### Sponsor of the Week

**Neville Brothers** are a Dairy Flat based trucking company who have serviced this rural region since 1926. Their distinctive green trucks are frequently seen carting livestock and metal supplies on our roads both locally and nationwide in the North Island.

Their modern fleet of vehicles numbers 35 in total, including 8 livestock truck and trailer units. If you drive past their base on a Sunday, the line up of trucks looks very impressive.

**Neville Bros** is a family run operation with father Kelvin and son Allan running the office. It is pretty much a 24/7 operation as there is seldom a time when they do not have trucks on the road. They employ around 35 people.

**Neville Bros** also sponsor the Silverdale Rugby club, so it was especially pleasing when the Western Pioneers defeated them recently to take the Country Cup.

**Neville Bros** has over the years, prior to Western being formed, supported the Helensville Rugby club.

From a trucking point of view, their biggest nightmare is arriving to pick up stock and finding the facilities not up to standard, or stock not in the yards at the appointed hour. Does this ring a bell with you lifestyle blockers?

Allan says they are delighted to be involved with Western, and follow their results with much interest. We are of course really appreciative of their assistance, and hope members will contact them if they require stock to be shifted or metal on driveways etc as the winter sets in.

## **Western Pioneers Match Report 15 May 2011**

For the second time in two weeks Albany was struck by a tornado. Damage was confined to the Marist Rugby Club grounds when the Century 21 Burmester Realty Western Pioneers demolished the home team by 41-14 on Saturday afternoon.

After several weeks of tough, close games against the best club sides North Harbour could offer, they enjoyed taking on a struggling Marist team, delivered them a six try to one hiding, and in doing so climbed to the top of the table along with Massey.

The Pioneers came out breathing fire and brimstone, and it appeared that they wanted the four tries required for a bonus point within the first ten minutes. But, as they say, good things take time, and Marist to their credit put up stout resistance throughout the game.

Their first try came after 15 minutes when, after a period of all out attack, Welsh fullback Geraint Walsh scored in the corner in front of his family. They are out here in NZ for a short holiday to check on their son's progress and enjoy some balmy May weather.

Marist replied soon after with a penalty before Paotona Luteru continued his try scoring run by finishing off smart backline play.

Showing he is quickly coming back to his best after an injury break, Malakai Ravulo was next to score under the posts. Malakai will shortly be leaving the Pioneers to link up with the Fijian National team as they prepare for the World Cup. In the meantime he is recapturing the form that sees him crunching the opposition with his powerful tackling and running strongly with the ball in hand.

Things were looking ominous for Marist as their scrum was being dismantled by the Pioneers, and the Pioneer's lineout blues of last week had been remedied. Full credit to the coaches for sorting out this aspect of their play in such a short period. It merely involved recruiting Tani Fuga, who is back in NZ after several years plying his trade in the UK as hooker for the English Premier club team Harlequins. He has also played for Samoa at test level, so lineout problems may well be a thing of the past.

The halftime score was 17-6, but could easily have been more as captain Nalu Tuigamala, was called back after scampering away for a try when yet another Marist scrum was blown apart.

Nalu got just reward shortly after the break when he finished off more good inter passing and Luteru grabbed his second try from a tighthead at scrum time. At 29-9 Marist were on their knees, looking for help from above. It was to a degree answered, as the referee stepped up his vigilance of the Western play, and even more penalties than in the first half were dished out.

His pedantic control and inability to have any feeling for the game resulted in the game being a stop start affair, with both players and the large contingent of Western Pioneers supporters spectators left frustrated and confused with his interpretations. It was later confirmed that was his first premier match appointment.

Jimmy Tuivaiti, who has the North Harbour selectors knocking on his door, was in barnstorming form in this game. He was regularly charging through and over the Marist defence, and from one break up the middle, he off loaded to the support and shortly after Regan Oxenham scored. Fortunately for Marist Regan left his kicking boots at home, and the score was 34-9. Jimmy was named as player of the day.

With subs coming on, a player in the sin bin, too many errors being made and the ref whistling his merry tune, the game lost any structure it had. It was left to the King of intercepts, Regan Oxenham, to grab another for the season and he raced 60m to score in the corner. He defied the long odds on offer and nailed the sideline conversion.

A consolation try to Marist appeared to signal the end of the game. However the ref still had a trick or two up his sleeve and either his timepiece failed him or he was enjoying himself so much that he let play roll on until 4.30pm before he called for fulltime, and a final score of 41-14.

It was credit to the Western Pioneers that they kept up their intensity for the full game, and their team spirit and commitment to the cause is there for all to see.

Next week they play another struggling team, Glenfield, at Helensville. The following week at Moire Park, they take on Massey in what will be the pivotal match to decide who will win the first round of the competition and secure the bragging rights out West. Pencil this date, Saturday May 28, in your diaries now as this game will make State of Origin look like your daughter's birthday party.

In the early game the Western Pioneers Senior First team lost 37-22 to a fourteen man Marist team. This team started the season very promisingly, but with a regular changing of team personnel, their form has dropped off. Hopefully it will return soon.