

Counties Maori City v Country Tournament 2010

Games

28th August 2010

The tournament kicked off at Ardmore Marist Rugby Club. Both the Seniors and Presidents played this round. The interest from spectators was high.

The Presidents grade seemed to have taken on the need to ensure that age limits were adhered to.

Both Games were played in good spirits with the City Presidents winning their first game, and the Country Seniors winning their first game which was very close.

29th August 2010

A Colts team was put together for a game against Eden Rugby Under 20s development team at Eden Rugby. Our Colts squad were not successful but this was understandable as many players were not available due to injury. We had props running the wings and forwards scattered throughout the backline. However the team did very well considering the situation.

4th September 2010

The Under 13s and 15s played curtain raisers to the Counties Maori Rugby Seniors and Colts on Saturday prior to their games against Waikato Maori at Tuakau RFC.


The support shown for the junior grades was huge with both teams having very vocal supporters attending. These games were played in good spirit and by all accounts the turn out for training of both sides had been high. City U13s won their first game and Country U15s won theirs.

The Counties Maori Colts played first and went down by 3 points against their opposition. The Counties Maori Seniors had a great win against their opposition. Again the games were well attended and the skill level displayed was very good.

11th September 2010

All City and Country sides turned out for this round (Game 2) of the competition played at Tuakau..

Again the support for the Junior grades was great, you would have thought it was a club match with the amount of people there. Both teams had great games and I believe there is some very good young talent shining through, unfortunately I do not know what the scores were, although I understand that Country won both games this round.



Both Senior and Presidents also had good support. As always the games were played hard and showed the passion that these games give the players. The Country Presidents romped home this round levelling the standing and leaving one game to decide the winners. The Country Seniors again were able to pip the City team in the last minute winning the game 27 – 22. What a match, you would be hard pressed to find better examples of rugby skill anywhere. Obviously this meant that Country had won the trophy, but City was not keen on giving them the clean sweep.

18th September 2010

The final game for all the teams. The venue had changed from Drury to Colin Lawrie Park Pukekohe due to council closing the grounds.

It seems that with each game the support for the Junior grades was growing with another good turn out on the day. It was to be Countrys day as they took out both games and thus secured the trophy for this year.

At this point I would like to take my hat off to the Management and coaches of the Junior teams. They have done a fantastic job in regards to preparing their players, but also have taken the reins and are committed to organising themselves which leaves time for the Senior management to pursue their work. They held a small presentation/prize giving after the games. Both teams looked fantastic in their Counties Maori shirts for the after match, all this was done by the Junior management. I also believe they even organised a team photo shoot for the following week. Well done.

The Presidents had another good turn out, it is good to see the numbers turning up. In this regard congratulations needs to go to the Coaching and Management for the teams. They had everything to play for on this last and deciding game which Country won. Congratulations to them and I am sure that next year will be even better.

Initially the City Senior squad was looking a little depleted. I suppose it is difficult to get motivated for a game that was not worth anything but pride and respect. The outlook was not good from training night with only 7 players turning up. Country had a better turn out at training but were also struggling to get players for the final game.

How ever both sides were able to field full teams and also have reserves. I do not know what happened but the score was a blow out with City romping in a win of 50 – 5. The score does not depict the way the game was played though as it was still a very hard match but I believe that the City team were adamant that they were not going to lose the tournament three nil.

At the after match the Trophies were presented to the captains of the winning teams. There was also a presentation by Jason Whare to all of the team captains of a document outlining the Kaupapa for the City Country tournament and Counties Maori Rugby.



Summary

The tournament this year was an even bigger success.

Things of note were the Junior teams leading the way in regards to organising themselves. The interest for these teams is huge and the only way they can go is forward. With the people who are currently in place the junior aspect of the tournament can only get better.

The senior grades were well attended and this year uncovered a few more people willing to stand up and assist with the organising of food etc.

There were some people who took advantage of the days and had stalls on site for their own fund raising activities. More of this would be fantastic as it shows that the word is getting out there.

Still more work is required on promotion of the tournament so that we can get even more community involvement, as well as CMRFU interest. Utilising the CMRFU website advertising in local papers and radio stations as well as posters etc. will all aid in the promotion of the tournament.

Overall a successful tournament. Finally thank you to the Counties Manukau referees for attending all the matches, this makes a huge difference to the games. Thank you to the venues for allowing us the use of their facilities. Thank you to the players, coaches and management without whom there would be no tournament. Thank you also to all the supporters who made the days even more enjoyable.

Ka kite ano

Tony Looker.