

Sevens begins for 2010

By Dave Ferguson

The first Sevens tournament of 2010 began in earnest on January 16 at the College Rifles Rugby Club.

The tournament was hosted by the Four Nations Rugby Association. This inaugural event of Sevens competition was well organised and everything ran according to plan. Actually if there were any hiccups it was usually the referees who were the culprits as some of them started their games earlier than the official hooter sounded.

Only 8 teams were involved on the day but the organisers are very confident that at their next showing in October there will be 16 teams ready to participate.

Involved on the day from Four Nations Association was Derek Rope, Tony Hargood, Dave Gainsford and Rod Duncan – thanks to their management and support. The referee's involved were Roger Drew, Steve Piacun, Jared Brons, Caleb Hamilton, Rob Ah Kuoi, Dave Ferguson, Neville Shirley, Don Makea and John Jacka. Neville's wife Trish was designated official photographer (she was the only one that had a camera) and Don's son Jackson helped out as ball boy which was most appreciated.

The tournament organisers also supplied a couple of ball boys and due to the heat of the day – which was extremely hot – they certainly earned themselves much praise from all the referees involved.

Cup winners of the day were Eden who had played well all day and thoroughly deserved their title. Their willing opponents in the final were College Rifles who, it seems, had played their final in the semi against Ponsonby as there was nothing left in the Rifles tank. Eden beat College Rifles quite comfortably.

After a slow start to the day Marist took out the plate final.

The artificial surface at College Rifles was wonderful to run on all day although it did get a little warm later in the afternoon. A new dump of rubber had been laid during the off season and the heat rays could clearly be seen rising from the surface. Apart from that it was noticeable that there were less cuts and grazes on the players than you would expect from a summer rugby tournament.

As an aside after the completion of the Sevens competition there was a women's lacrosse match played much to the enjoyment of some of the spectators. Jared Brons attempted to try out his lacrosse skills but seemed to get a bit side-tracked as he went AWOL for a while. He was like a kid in a lolly store!

From a referees point of view, the Four Nations Sevens Tournament was an excellent day and, again, thanks to all who participated and those who organised the day.

