

Four generations of Rugby Fever...

"Rugby is like a family...with a real sense of community"

Gary Short reckons Pukekohe Rugby Club has something unique – a real sense of community, with a strong tradition behind players boosting them to compete and win. And Gary should know – he is one of four generations of rugby-playing Shorts who have played for PRC.

"All club members have a strong sense of tradition behind us, often with several family members playing just like their fathers and grandfathers before them. A lot of grassroots clubs like ours are disappearing, as players are brought in from other areas, so we are proud of what we have," he says. "The great thing about rugby in Pukekohe is that we regularly meet up with other families who have been tied in with the game here for generations, old names like the Roose family, the Taylors, Reynolds and the Crispe boys. The Reynolds had seven sons who played for Pukekohe. My sons are playing with the sons of guys I played with and it runs to three and four generations. It's a great thing. My son Thomas plays harder because he knows his grandfather was there."

The Short's connection with local rugby started in the 1920s with Gary's grandfather William (Bill) Short, who was Senior Captain for Pukekohe Football Club, the Sub-union's first secretary, serving for 10 years, and patron of Counties

Rugby Union. His son Errol (Shorty), now 78, was just as keen to get on the field in the local colours, playing second-five for the White Star Premiers in 1956.

"Rugby was different in those days – there was no support if we got injured, like today. Once guys got married, they had to put the family first. Women stayed at home and the men had to

See picture - William (Bill) Short, 1920, Left Middle Row

PUKEKOHE FOOTBALL CLUB

Winners F.R.U. Junior Championship, 1919 & 1920



BACK ROW: Jas. Adams (Vice Captain), C. Dazeley, W. Stewart, R. Perkins, A.L. Middlemiss, L. Fisher. **MIDDLE ROW:** W. Short (Senior Captain), S. Cronin, Jno. Adams (Captain), R.J. Tonkin, L.R. Fulton, F.H. Hewitt (Hon. Secretary). **FRONT ROW:** F.J. Brown, G. Lysnar, C. Nicolson, N.A. Blake.

A Short scrum

