



## Our 17th Championship (2nd Gallaher Shield)

# 1925

Ponsonby went into the 1925 season as a firm favourite since the club, already defending the Gallaher Shield, had only increased in strength over the off-season. Five players who had arrived from outside Auckland were the main cause of optimism; one, Lew Hook, went on to All Black honours in a few years. Nine wins and a draw later, that optimism was confirmed.

While Len Righton and Herman Mattson missed a month during the All Black tour of Australia, Ponsonby did at least have Fred Lucas back for a full season – one of the few he managed in club colours - and if there had been a 'Best and Fairest' award that year he would have won it by a street.

As well as its Gallaher Shield matches, Ponsonby was involved in eight other games. Five were for the Pollard Cup; Ponsonby took the games reasonably seriously except on the odd occasion – as when Rube McWilliams played fullback against Suburbs.

The other three matches were a rep trial, Ponsonby v The Rest, which drew eight to ten thousand to Eden Park; a benefit for an injured Waikato rep player, AC Buckingham; and another benefit, this time for Vic Badeley, the former Auckland captain who had been badly hurt in the 1924 All Black trials. This match, against Wellington champion Ponoka, proved a great attraction and pulled 6000 fans to Eden Park despite its October match date; the Badeley family received more than £300 and cleared all financial worries.