

RUGBY LEGENDS CUP 2009 FAILED.....

The idea to stage Rugby Legends Cup (RLC) was born in 2007 during the Rugby World Cup in France .

This sport event should be the introduction to the "Rugby World Cup for Veteran National Teams" and should take place every third year in another country.....

Initiator - the E.G.O.R, as European Veterans Rugby governing body, was strongly supported by FIRA/AER and the decision to hold the first ever International Tournament for Veteran National Teams – RUGBY LEGENDS CUP – was made.

Argeles-sur-Mer (France) was elected to host this event in April 2009.

In March 2008 all member unions/federations of IRB and FIRA/AER were invited to consider the participation of their Veteran National Team.

Invitation letters were repeated in September 2008.

Entries closing date was December 31st 2008, but it was prolonged until January 24th 2009.

The responses were very different:

- until December 31st 2008 three countries entered: Romania, Russia and Serbia,
- until the same date England, Germany, Scotland, Ukraine and Uruguay responded negative,
- Andorra, Argentina, Israel, Italy, Norway showed interest to participate, but have not made any decision until the new closing date of January 24th 2009,
- all other, about one hundred rugby unions/federations, including French Team Organisation - Amicale des Anciens internationaux (as the host country) did not "reacted" at allwas this the lack of interest, or the lack of...?

On January 26th 2009 EGOR and FIRA/AER decided to cancel this event and to inform all rugby unions/federations (IRB and FIRA/AER members), as well as EGOR members and individual persons who showed great interest that this Event takes place.

The past correspondence and quite a lot of personal contacts with different countries had shown that the reasons for not taking part are varying from the demand that all National team's costs should be paid by the Organisers up to the lack of the finance.....

From our point of view the additional reasons are "the product of the confrontation and very different attitude" between professionalism and amateurism in our sport.

The "non-written" law in Veteran rugby, worldwide, is that each participant bears all his costs when taking part at any kind of Golden Oldies Rugby events.

On the other hand former rugby internationals when invited to play on various occasions got all costs paid !

So, the attitude and the interest has not been changed since they stopped playing actively.....

This facts, together with the general lack of interest "caused" the failure of this first attempt.

One of the main EGOR aims, since its foundation in 2002, is to get the recognition for Golden Oldies – Veterans in the respective rugby countries, recognition that will allow them to be organised as the part of existing rugby unions/federations and so finally to "remain active in rugby" also as children/youth coaches, administrators, officials, donators, sponsors, spectators etc....

The failure of the 1st Rugby Legends Cup shows how far we are from this aim and how much work still has to be invested by various rugby organisations and individuals.....
If you have the proposal how to go on let us know, it will be very welcome, thank you.

Yours in Rugby,

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