



EDITORS WORD

THE IDEA THAT 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 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 2008, but it was prolonged until January 2009. Until that date only three countries entered: Romania, Russia and Serbia. England, Germany, Scotland, Ukraine and Uruguay responded negative and Andorra, Argentina, Israel, Italy, Norway and South African Legends showed the interest to participate, but have not made any decision until the closing date. All other, about one hundred rugby unions/federations, including French team organisation Amicale des Anciens internationaux (as the host country) did not "reacted" at all !

End of January 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 that showed interest that this Event takes place. The past correspondence and quite a lot of 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 and interest. One of the reasons of failure may be "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 nothing has been changed in attitude since they stopped being active.

This fact, together with the 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 as Golden Oldies players to "remain active in rugby outside the rugby field" 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.....

Marko Protega

OTHER HOME UNIONS TO FOLLOW THE SCOTLAND EXAMPLE

It took 125 years since the foundation of Scottish Rugby Union in 1873 to form the Veteran Rugby Organisation – GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY SCOTLAND - as the first one among the Home Unions. Although GO Rugby activities are existing for more decades, as example the Aberdeen Strollers as the only Scottish active veteran team that participated European and World festivals, last year was a "turning point" in Scottish Rugby history. Following the 17th World GOR Festival held in Edinburgh the Open Meeting of Scottish Rugby Veterans took place at Murrayfield on October 18th 2008. Chaired by SRU President Jim Stevenson the representatives of 16 GOR teams decided to form Golden Oldies Rugby Scotland. It was agreed that Area Representatives should contact all golden oldies teams in their Region and generate games...also it was agreed that the first Scottish GOR Festival will take place in April 2009 (for more details see page 3).



Further on was accepted to develop enthusiasm for participation in any Scottish GOR event and future European and World GOR festivals. On May 17th in Perthshire the Innaugural General Meeting of Scottish Golden Oldies Rugby took place, chaired again by SRU President Jim Stevenson (elected for the first Honorary President), to formalise the Organisation and plane for future events and festivals. Dave McDonald, the European Golden Oldies Rugby (EGOR) President and EGOR Scottish Representative was elected for the first Golden Oldies Rugby Scotland President - he was delighted with the success of the whole action: "Prior to the World Festival I circulated all the Scottish participating clubs/teams with a questionnaire seeking their opinions and thoughts, with a view to hold a Meeting soon after the Edinburgh Festival to explore the long term legacy of the event and how to progress and promote GOR in Scotland. I am delighted with the outcome...."

The first meeting held at Murrayfield, as well as the sceond one in Perthshire was very promising, the start has been made with the first Scottish GO Rugby Festival as the part of EGOR Series 2009.....what now "remains" is to keep on with the initial enthusiasm... and to support local and European Golden Oldies Rugby development. "The Scottish Example" is the result of the hard work of EGOR Committee and specially of its President Dave McDonald (Aberdeen) – example to be followed by other Home Unions..... Welsh Rugby Union could be the next one to form Veteran organisation – Wales (Caernarfon) is hosting the 10th European Festival in June 2010...



Delegates at the Open Meeting of Scottish Rugby Veterans at Murrayfield

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1st SPLIT GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY FESTIVAL

35th Anniversary of Ragbi' 59 and 50th Anniversary of Nada RFC Split
Split (Croatia), June 19-20th contact: ragbiveteran@st.t-com.hr Sinisa Tartaglia

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY IN EUROPE – E. G. O. R. SERIES 2009

Greece

THE FIRST ATHENS GOLDEN OLDIES FESTIVAL

Golden Oldies Rugby has a longer tradition in Greece as the contest game, ATHENS SPARTANS RFC, led by President Ted Cypriot, are existing more than two decades and had participated among various GOR events also European Festivals in 1994 (Heidelberg) and 1998 (Aberdeen). This May the 1st they succeeded to organize the first ever GO Rugby event in Greece.

Ted Cypriot, who is also Greeks EGOR Representative, with his organisational team attracted well known golden oldies teams from Switzerland and Israel to participate: Swiss Gnomes with Over 50 and "Spring Cows" teams from Zurich, The Elders of Zion from Tel Aviv, Attica Springboks Vets and of course two Athens Spartans teams. Festival games took place at the picturesque "Sweet Water" playing field outside Athens and the "closing" match of over 50's teams from Zurich and Athens "fired the audience" with proper golden oldies rugby, among them at most the ambassador of Israel, Mr. Ali Yahya. The special importance to this first ever GOR event in Greece was given by European Golden Oldies Rugby organisation – three Committee members were present in Athens – Robert Joel Dean (Switzerland), Edwin Freedman (Israel) and Marko Protega (Germany).



Athens Spartans Over 50's



Elders of Zion (Tel Aviv)

Among different Festival Awards three of them drew the attention of the audience and the players at most:

The ugliest Front Row – combined of the players from Athens Spartans and Elders of Zion

Kirk O'Connor Cup that went to Over 50's Team from Zurich

The Oldest Festival Player was Colin Brown (73) from Swiss Gnomes



Attica Springboks Vets (green jerseys) with Athens Spartans (under 49)



Swiss Gnomes (Zurich) Over 50's



The three oldest players of the Festival, (from left to right) Martin Albrecht (59), Colin Brown (73), Robert Deau (72)



Colin Brown (Swiss Gnomes) in „action“

„Old Pumas“ are inviting the Europeans...

ARGENTINA OLDIES FESTIVAL 2009

November, Mar del Plata

More information at www.oldiesfestival.com.ar

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY IN EUROPE – E. G. O. R. SERIES 2009

Scotland

THE FIRST SCOTTISH GOLDEN OLDIES FESTIVAL

This Innaugural GOR event was held on April 19th at Perth Rugby Club (North Inch) with the participation of 14 teams. Jin Stevenson, Scottish Rugby Union President, making the experience as the player in Edinburgh World Festival have sent a message to Perth :” I am sure this year Innaugural Scottish Golden Oldies Festival will be no different.....I look forward to seing and playing against you there ! ”

Lawson Doe, the President of Perthshire RFC welcomed the participants with the words: ”It is a huge honour to be hosting this first Scottish GOR event at North Inch and you can be rest assured that we aim to make it a day to remember for all those who are taking part and for those raising the noice levels on the sidelines with their generous support. ”

On the one of the hottest April days on record, around 300 Rugby Folk enjoyed the games, not only of those seasoned golden oldies teams as Zingari from Kirkcaldy and Strollers from Abedeem, but also from those that made their ”new experience”.

A big Thank You goes to the Famous Grouse and Highland Spring, Premier Inns and specially to the organising team headed by Andy Cummins, to the Refs, Medics and Physios.

Among the Festival Awards, sponsored by Air New Zealand GOR, the ”most precious” were those to the Oldest Player – Fred Crowe (71), Strattmore Griffons and the Festival Personality Award – Andy Goudie, Perthshire RFC.

The 2nd Scottish Golden Oldies Festival in 2010 would be awarded again to Perthshire as it coincides with the 800th City Celebration and the big support is expected from the Council and other Agencies.....if selected.



Aberdeen Strollers (yellow jerseys) Post Match v. New Zealand Opposition at Edinburgh World Festival

More about other European GOR festivals on the website:

Garryowen FC Veteran – Fallen Stars Festival (Limerick, Ireland)
www.garryowenrugby.com

”Die Boskokken” Huxley Old Boys Festival (Hilversum, Netherlands)
www.rugbyclubhilversum.nl

Juromenha Oldies Festival Porto da Ravessa (Juromenha, Portugal)
www.crugbyjuromenha.com

UFAR National Tournament (La Teste de Buch, France)
www.ufar.fr

Havirov Turkey Tournament (Havirov, Czech Republic)
www.havirov.rugby-cz.com

International Festival ”Cita di Rovigo” (Rovigo, Italy)
www.oldrugbyrovigo.it

International Festival Rugby Vets – BP GAS (Évora, Portugal)
www.crevora.net or www.fpr.pt

13th PORTO OLD GREENS FESTIVAL

Porto (Portugal), June 20-21st

Contact: Jose.Belo@afaplan.com José Filipe Belo

MEMORIAL TEGHINI

Turriaco (Italy), June 20th

Contact: derosastef@gmail.com Stefano di Rosa

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY IN EUROPE – E. G. O. R. SERIES 2009

Spain

ELX PATRIMONI DE LA HUMANITAT Golden Oldies Festival

For the first time ever one Romanian team took part at the European Golden Oldies Rugby event.

Since 2004 Alicante is not only magic attraction for the tourists from all over the world but it is also the “meeting point” for rugby veterans. Veteranos Elche C.R.U. with its oldies festival attracts always new european teams to come and play under the motto Fun, Friendship & Fraternity. Tomas Espinosa Lidon, Club President welcomed this year the first ever GOR team from Romania – Dracula Old Boys, from Bucaresti. Andrei Petrescu, the Team Manager and Ioan Gheorghiescu Romanian EGOR Representative, two active members of European Golden Oldies Rugby succeeded to form a club with quite a number of former Romanian internationals and so to “restart the rugby activities”, this time participating festival in Spain. Andrei Petrescu and his team mates experienced this first step under the sunshine of Alicante and with the unforgettable “third halftimes” will be the best ambassadors of the golden oldies rugby spirit. The “second step” will be surely the participation at 10th European Festival in Wales next year...



Dracula Old Boys (blue-yellow jerseys) with the hosts of Elche Veterans



Elche C.R.U. Veterans organised successfully their second Festival



Romanian and Spanish captains exchanging teams souvenirs

<p>5th CHALLENGE MARCELLO RIDOLFI Walferdange (Luxembourg), June 27-28th Contact: mianier@namsa.nato.int Michel Lanier</p>	<p>2nd BRAV INTERNATIONAL VETERANS TOURNAMENT Albena (Bulgaria), June 29-30th Contact: g.popov@inet.bg Gancho Popov</p>
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