



EDITORS WORD

E.G.O.R. GROWS FAST



Golden Oldies Rugby has been played in Europe since 1970s but until 2002 there was no official European GOR organisation.

1980s Jeff Butterfield, former England International and British Lions player became the UK/Europe Representative of the World GOR organisation - Air New Zealand World GOR International Secretariat - from Auckland.

Jeff had in several countries so called "subrepresentatives" who helped him developing the interest for Veteran Rugby. The first big Oldie event, thanks mostly to Jeff efforts, was the ANZ World Festival held in London in 1985.

Although there were not many European teams that participated, this Festival was "a positive signal" to European veterans. The first ever European GOR Festival was held in 1992 in Her-togenbosch (Netherlands), to be followed by Heidelberg(Germany) in 1994, Verona(Italy) in 1996, Aberdeen(Scotland) in 1998 and Moscow(Russia) in year 2000.

In town Split (Croatia) during the 6th European Golden Oldies Rugby Festival 2002 European Committee was elected to manage and govern veteran rugby.

The "founding countries", that actually joined EGOR as the first, were Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Norway, Scotland, Slovenija, Spain and Sweden.

The year 2003 brought eight new members: Bulgaria, Croatia, Georgia, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, Serbia&Montenegro and Switzerland.

In December (in Paris) same year FIRA/AER recognized EGOR as the governing body for European Veteran Rugby.

A year after, in 2004, many countries, some of them known as "small rugby nations" wanted to become the members.

The result was that thirteen of them joined EGOR with the intention to develop veteran rugby in their respective countries and so also to contribute to Oldies Sport as such: Armenia, Austria, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Latvia, Luxembourg, Monaco, Netherlands, Romania, Ukraina and Wales.

Greece became member even before the National Rugby Union was formed and Cyprus as the only country that is no member either of IRB, or of FIRA/AER.

In the first nine months of the year 2005 "only" three new countries were registered as the members: Bosnia&Hercegovina, England and Poland.

The most significant was the joining of England, after almost three years of EGOR attempts, the "Homeland of Rugby Football" officially recognised that also Golden Oldies Rugby exists....

In past four years two countries lost their country representatives and membership (Ireland and Spain) but they are again on the good way to join EGOR once more.

Efforts are also constantly made that remaining countries, FIRA/AER members (Andorra, Belgium, Malta, Moldova, Slovakia) join European Golden Oldies Rugby organisation.

Not all national rugby unions/federations have recognized Golden Oldies Rugby as integral part of its organisation.

Bosnia&Hercegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Italia, Israel, Luxembourg, Monaco, Poland, Russia and Ukraina have done it.

The remaining rugby unions/federations has to be only aware of "the natural laws of any development" and to recognize veteran rugby as the source of possible rugby administrators, coaches, referees, helpers etc.....and use them....

For the National Country Representatives and EGOR Committee this is one of main aims for the future..

Marko Protega

3rd GEORG HOLEK CUP FOR VETERANS



LUXEMBOURG OLD LIONS (light blue jerseys) on the way to 8th EGOR FESTIVAL 2006



RBW Oldies Celebrating „Georg Holek Cup“ Award 2005

Photo: V. Bollinger

On September 16-17th the 3rd Georg Holek Cup for rugby veterans was held in Rottweil (Germany). The original idea of yearly Rugby Meeting of Veterans from Czech Republic, Germany and Switzerland is already the past.

This year event was truly "multinational" and gathered teams from Ukraina, Luxembourg, Czech Republic, Spain and Germany, altogether about 200 players.

Rugby Club Rottweil organised this Cup in the name of Rugby Union Baden-Württemberg, the most developed RU within Deutscher Rugby Verband (German RU).

Unusual great number of spectators admired the games that had shown that Spirit of Rugby does not vanish with the age.....

Farewell Party, organised in a very rustical "Stallhalle", was the culmination of this rugby happening.

The Mayor of Rottweil, Mr. Thomas Engeser awarded the team of Baden-Württemberg Rugby Union (RBW) with the Rugby Cup, donated by Edeltraut Holek, Georg's widow - a great friend of GO Rugby.

Her husband initiated it all three years ago.....

RBW Vice-President, Mr. Roland Geuss was very satisfied. " We were surprised with the very international response, especially we were honoured that teams from Ukraina and Luxembourg, as well as from Spain, took part for the first time."

Tournament Organiser Karlheinz Eigenmann, responsible for Oldies within RBW too, could not find the right words at the end of the Farewell Party to express his satisfaction: "We have done good job, our friends from Ukrainian Veteran Rugby Union will organize 2006 event in Kiev (October) and Barceloan Veterans have shown the interest to host the oldies in RWC year 2007!"

EGOR Secretary Marko Protega, from Heidelberg, took this possibility to promote the next European Festival to be held next year in June (22nd-25th) in Zurich.

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8th E G O R FESTIVAL, ZURICH 2006

Eight months before the European Golden Oldies players meet in Zurich the preparations are rolling on....

At the moment eleven teams from seven countries has been registered - Italy(3), England and Germany (each 2), Lithuania, Russia, Wales and Switzerland (each 1).

According to the Organising Committee Secretary, Nick Wilkinson, the following contracts has been made with various partners of town Zurich:

Matches - all games will be played on five pitches at Allmend Brunnan Playing & Sports Complex,

Medical Service - The local Medical authorities will provide doctors at the grounds during the playing days,

Welcome Party - will be in Kaufleuten in the City Center, the "biggest and best" disco in Switzerland,

Farewell Dinner - will be in the Maag Areal with the capacity for 1.100 persons. Swiss food and wines will be served parallel with usual Awards Ceremony, speeches , entertainment, etc

Accommodation - Zurich Tourismus keep until the end of this year capacities, with wide range of special prices, for the Festival participants.

Starting with January 2006 the availability and prices may change, so it is very important that all teams book their hotels as soon as possible, but not later than December 31st 2005,

The "Meeting & Greeting" - is being organised. Teams will be met at the airport, station or hotel - depending on their mode of travel. Event Manager is trying to arrange "hostesses" available to speak the native language of any team that may attend.

Festival Package - each participant will receive a "package" including the Festival Brochure, his Identity Badge and a Welcome gift. Identity Badge, that must be worn to all official functions as admission, will allow free transport (trams, buses, local trains) within Zurich City for the duration of the Festival,

Merchandising/Photos - Swiss companies, with strong Rugby tradition, are fully in arrangement with Golden Oldies aims/motto Fun, Friendship&Fraternity.

All those wishing to know more, click on Festival website www.egorf2006.ch <<http://www.egorf2006.ch>> , or send an email info@egorf2006.ch, or write a letter to Festival Organisers EGOR 2006, c/o Xavier Speckert, Hardtturm Str. 103, CH-8005, Switzerland.



Fun, Friendship & Fraternity in Rottweil Country Representatives (left to right) from UKRAINA (Yuri Birulia), GERMANY (Rolf Keppler), LUXEMBOURG (Michel Lanier) with EGOR Secretary Marko Protega

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY IN EUROPE

BOSNIA & HERCEGOVINA



Country Representative:

Mirza Kapic

Londza 92, 72000 Zenica

Tel: +387-61-477 973 mobile

Fax: +387-32-242 379

e-mail: rugbybih@bih.net.ba and

bhrugby_kmirza75@yahoo.co.uk



Ragbi Klub "Celik" - Zenica, late 70's

THE TIME TO START WITH OLDIES ...

Exactly before 33 years the first rugby clubs was formed in Bosnia&Hercegovina, at that time one of the six Yugoslav Republics.

Returning from studies in Ljubljana (Slovenija) Raif Hadzic and former RK "Zagreb" player prof. Suad Kapetanovic awaked the interest for Rugby Football in the Town of steel (celik).

Suad Kapetanovic coached R.K. "Zenica" for many years and from the very beginners he made one of the most successful teams in former Yugoslavia.

In 1978 RK "Zenica" joined the Sport Society "Celik" and this name has the Club still today.

Rugby Union of B&H was founded in 1992, today after 13 years there are 7 clubs in this small Balkan state.

Generation of players of mid 70's has been spread all over the Europe, but Suad (living now in Prague) with Mirza and their friends decided to try to play Rugby again together - as GOR Team of Zenica.

Let us hope that the next EGOR Festival in 2008 will be "richer" for one more team....

NETHERLANDS BOOT TROPHY



Since 19 years in Oisterwijk rugby Oldies are playing for BLUE OLD OYSTER TROPHY (shortly BOOT Trophy).

Because of its friendly atmosphere this event is rapidly gaining international recognition -this year also teams from England and Russia took part. Warm and sunshine day in May, in a beautiful woodland setting, made teams even "more eager" to play for the BOOT Trophy - the Award to the team which embodies at most the Oldies spirit, respect to the opponents and the referees and with sportive behaviour are making positive contribution to the Tournament atmosphere.

This year such a team were O'Garruts whose players were celebrating with big bottles of champagne at the Tournament Ball, made possible through many various sponsors.

The 2006 edition of BOOT TROPHY will take place on May 6th and twelve teams will be allowed to enter.

More info from Tournament organiser Henrie de Ruiters at info@oysters.nl



COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES OF E.G.O.R. COMMITTEE

With Poland and Bosnia&Hercegovina tha joined us last months we have now 35 member countries.
The actual list of EGOR Country Representatives is the following:

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Armenia

Jean – Jacques Chechirlian · 52 rue Mére elise Rivet · 69530 Brignais. France
Tel: +33-6-24 93 19 95 Off. · +33-4-78 05 08 85 H · Fax: +33-4-72 31 02 76
email: jjchechirlian@free.fr

Austria

Daragh Braiden · Gestettengasse 21/6 · A – 1030 Wien
Tel: +43-1-9949650 20 · Fax: +43-1-9949650 50
Mobile: +43-699-114 93759 · email: daragh.braiden@hermes-softlab.com

*Bosnia&Hercegovina

Mirza Kapic, Londza 92, 72000 Zenica · Mobile: +387-61-477973
Fax: +387-32-242379 · email: rugbybih@bih.net.ba
and bhrugby_kmirza75@yahoo.co.uk

Bulgaria

Georgi Marinkin · Bulgarian Rugby Federation · 75 V.Levski Blvd. · 1040 Sofia
Tel: +359 – 2 980 72 79 · Fax: +359 – 2 – 981 57 28
Mobile: +359 – 888 – 345 747

Croatia

Sinisa Tartaglia · Vukovarska 24 · 21000 Split · Tel: +385-21-346255
Fax: +385-21-243244 · Mobile: +385-098-557866 · email: tartaglia@inet.hr

Cyprus

Duncan Kirby · 3 Valtetsiou, Aglanja · Nicosia, Cyprus · Tel: +357-99-309 197
Fax: +354-24-664 442 · e-mail: duncanck@cytanet.com.cy

Czech Republic

Andrej Hronec · Strimelicka 2501 · 141 00 Praha 4 · Tel: +420 603400233
Fax: +420 603604389 · email: andrej.hronec@volny.cz
andrej.hronec@t-mobile.cz

Denmark

Jorgen Vidtfeldt Larsen · Tingbakken 11 · 2770 Castrup
Tel: +45-32-518701 H · Tel: +45-38-107 910 Off. · Fax: +45-38-882666
email: jl@w-vent.dk

England

David Gershlick · 20 A The Avenue · Potters Bar · HERTS EN6 1EB
United Kingdom · Tel: +44-7860-487 072 · Mobile: +44-(0)1707-644433
e-mail: dg@metrocoin.co.uk

Estonia

John Slade · Estonia Rugby Fed · Paldiski mnt. 77 A-2 · 10617 Tallin
Tel: +372 6565207 · Fax: +372 6565207 · email: rugby@hot.ee
email: johnslade55@yahoo.co.uk · www.rugby.ee

Finnland

Christophe Croze · Finnish Rugby Federation · Tommilantie 3B 15
36270 Kangasala · Tel: +358-40-870 2611 H
e-mail: christophecroze@yahoo.fr

France

André Plantié · 4 Chemin de la Garde · 31410 St.Sulpice-sur-Leze
Mobile: +33-(0)6 82 48 35 73 · Fax: +33 5 61980413
email: andre.plantie@wanadoo.fr

Georgia

Mrelashvili Givi · Zinamdzgvrishvili str. 17 · Tbilisi 380002
Tel: +995 32 958853 · Fax: +995 32 923384 · email: ugog@mail.ru

Germany

Rolf Keppler · Berger Str. 450 · 60385 Frankfurt/M · Tel: +49 69 457761
Fax: +49 69 46003032 · email: rugbyrolf@keppler-frankfurt.de

Greece

Ted Cypriot · 6 Tombazi Street · Voula 16673 · Tel/Fax: +30-210-8951484
email: tcypriot@ath.forthnet.gr

Hungary

Béla Körmöczi · Petőfi S. utca 1/A · Kecskemét · 6000 Hungary
Tel/Fax: +36-20-9441111 · email: papa@kecskemetsport.com

Israel

Edwin Freedman · 148 Menachem Begin Road · Tel-Aviv 64921
Tel: +972 3 6966611 · Fax: +972 3 6092266 · email: eaflaw@shani.net

Italy

Sergio Caggia, Via Magellano 38/B , 37138 Verona · Tel: +39-045-8341939
Mobile: +39-335-6057059 · email: caggia.sergio@virgilio.it

Latvia

Aivars Pilinieks · Krustpils 119 · Riga, LV – 1057
email: aivars.rugby@inbox.lv · email: info@remus.lv

Lithuania

Dima Regimantas · Kalvariju 284-1 · Vilnius LT-2057
Tel: +370 686 71187 · Fax: +370 5 212 37 54 · email: regrugby@yahoo.com

Luxembourg

Lanier Michel · 1, rue de Kopstal · L – 8291 Meispelt
Mobile: +352-021-140 675 · email: rugby@pt.lu

Monaco

Gilles Pouget · 17 Bd Albert 1er · MC 98000 Monaco
email: asm@monaco-rugby.com or gpouget@bluewave.mc

The Netherlands

Piet van den Deijssel · Bachlaan 29 · 3752 HD Bunschoten/Spakenburg
Tel: +31-20-4808104 office +31-33-2984919 home
Mobile: +31-6-48926214 · email: deijssel.i.s@tiscali.nl home
email: piet@rugby.nl office

Norway

Trond Are Johnsen · Riddersporen 25 · N-3032 Drammen
email: springbk@frisurf.no

*Poland

Leszek Samel, ul. Radzikowskiego 134/5, 31-342 Krakow
Tel: +48-50-1358071 · Fax: +48-12-4214985 · email: mikiss@op.pl

Portugal

Joao Pedro Pinto de Sousa · Rua Eugénio Castro 34-HAB 123 · 4100 Porto
Tel: +351 252 662388 · Fax: +351 252 662391 · email: admn@branded.pt
(Miguel Vareta)

Romania

Ioan Gheorghiescu · Str. Pietei Nr. 49 · Sector 1 · Bucuresti 012195
Tel/Fax: +40-21-2601343 · email: nelugh@hotmail.com

Russia

Vladimir Dorofeev · 35 Office, 77 Building · Pervomaiskaya Str., 105077
Moscow · Tel: +7-095-468 84 55 · Fax: +7-095-464 73 63
Mobile: +7-903 743 81 73 · email: i-dorofeev@mtu-net.ru

Scotland

Dave McDonald · 126 Osborne Place · Aberdeen AB25 2DU
Tel: +44 1224 644749 · Mobile: +44 7866 910865
Fax: +44 1224 4644749 · email: dave.mcdonald@btclick.com

Serbia & Montenegro

Novakov Dusan · M.Pijade 13 · 26000 Pancevo · Tel: +381 13 44849 and
41043 · Fax: +381 13 341667 · email: lkovac@panet.co.yu

Slovenija

Niko Kosanovic · Miklosiceva 19 · 1230 Domzale · Tel: +386 1 7213576
Mobile +386-70 730376 · email: rugbybezigradclub@hotmail.com

Sweden

Stefan Landgren · Utmarksvägen 17 · 22592 Lund
Tel: +46 135516 · Fax: +46 58274 · email: Stla18@skola.lund.se

Switzerland

Colin A. Service · Gen. Werdmüllerstr. 23 · 8804 Au · Tel: +41-1-384 7084
Fax: +41-1-384 7222 · email: colin.service@rothschildbank.com

Ukraine

Yuri Georgievich Birulia · Apt #1 49 Chirogin Street · Kiev 01042
Tel: +380-2-696511 · Fax: +380-2-4577637
email: ukroldiesrugby@ukr.net

Wales

Emrys Llewelyn Jones · Arllechwed, Ffordd Bangor, Cearnafon
Gwynedd LL55 1LR, Wales, U.K. · Tel: +44-1286-672 070 or 677 117
email: sylfaen@ukonline.co.uk

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY IN EUROPE

Y GOGS 2005 FESTIVAL

Saturday, June 11th saw the inaugural Gwyl y Gogs Festival at Caernarfon, Gwyned, North Wales.

Y GOGS (Geriatrics o Cymru) and Clwb Rygbi Caernarfon RFC arranged a four team event on Y Morfa Clwb Rygbi Caernarfon RFC playing fields.

Teams from Ireland (De la Salle, Palmestone), Scotland (The Scottish Strollers), North Wales (Ser Gogledd Cymru) and Y Gogs took part.

The organisers "arranged" perfect weather and this brought a large crowd of supporters to enjoy the rugby and drink the occasional pint of beer!

Fun, Friendship and Fraternity were in abundance during the day and night and the Festival gave the usual players the chance of a run out with many new faces showing an interest in joining Y GOGS and extending their playing careers.



Palmestone De La Salle Golden Oldies Team from Ireland

The EGOR President Mr. Dave McDonald was present, the Deputy Mayor of Caernarfon Mr. Ioan Thomas and Mr. Alwyn Jones Vice-Chairman of Clwb Rygbi Caernarfon.

A father and son played for the Strollers (Mick and Martin Marshall) and a father and son from Y GOGS also took part - Peter Doughty played and the son Daniel refereed.

There were no winners on the pitch, but each team were presented with a Red Dragon at the end of the games.

85 UKL was raised for the youth and junior sections of the local club through the auction of a Six Nations rugby ball presented by Mr. McDonald and further 250 UKL as donation by Y GOGS for the same purposes.

THE WAY OF E G O R FINANCING

The European Golden Oldies Rugby movement was founded in the early seventies by Jeff Butterfield.

Jeff, the British Lion of the fifties, was from the very beginning European Representative of International Golden Oldies Rugby Secretariat from New Zealand.

Actions initiated by Jeff were financially supported by Air New Zealand - "the main sponsor" of World Golden Oldies Rugby movement.

A few years ago Air New Zealand decided to limit this support in order to advertise and push their own flight destinations.

The European movement was suddenly left alone and without any funds available.

In spite of that bitter fact Jeff and his friends did not give up.

In 2002 European Committee was founded to manage Golden Oldies Rugby on the "Old Continent".

Jeff, as the Honorary Life President, with Committee members André (France), Bob (Switzerland), Edwin (Israel), Dave (Scotland), Marko (Croatia), Rofl (Germany), Sergio (Italy) and Stefan (Sweden) had proceeded to search the possibilities of EGOR financing.

Now a days the annual balance amounts to several thousands Euro what is just enough to cover expenses of EGOR official Newsletter and the Website, as well as Secretariat administrative costs.

Resources for this "budget" are coming from the generosity of EGOR members (clubs, teams and individuals) - officially known as "Annual Subscription Fee" - 120,- Euro yearly.

After Jeff's death (in April last year) the members of European Committee, who are all volunteers, set an unique target:

- more and more aged people to be seen on the green grounds running with the white oval ball, and

- to raise significantly financial means coming from regular team fees, from the advertisement in EGOR bulletin, sponsorship and through voluntarily contributions.

To achieve all these aims the most important role (besides those of the Committee) have the country representatives (35 at the moment) and the team managers, who are really the columns of our movement.

May be one day EGOR will be able also to support the teams wanting to participate at European Festival but their economic situation could be an obstacle to reach this aim.

Sergio Caggia,
Vice-President / Treasurer

The EGOR Committee Bank Account:

GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY COMMITTEE
c/c 22600
c/o Banco di Brescia – Filiale Verona 1
Largo Caldera 13, 37122 VERONA
Cod. CAB 11700
Cod. ABI 03500
Cod. IBAN IT24T0350011700000000022600
Cod. BIC BCABIT21

The EGOR Committee adress for

Correspondence:
Marko Protega
Hecker Str. 25
69124 Heidelberg, Germany
Tel/Fax +49-6221-78 35 99
email: marko.protega@arcor.de

Visit us on:

www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com
Dave McDonald
E-mail us on:
info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com