

FOUNDATION AND ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY (2002 – 2008)

In front of you are the facts achieved in the past years, as well as the persons that contributed to those achievements.

At the end of this Report you will find the main aims that European Golden Oldies Rugby Committee set up immediately after the foundation of the European Veteran Rugby Organisation in June 2002, as well as the aims that arose afterwards, as the consequence of our development.

Introduction

In some European countries GO Rugby has the tradition longer as half a century – but the first organisation of Rugby veterans in Europe was founded in 1982 in France – Union Francaise Ancient Rugby (UFAR).

Couple of years after the 1st World ANZ GO Rugby Festival was held in 1979 (Auckland,NZ), the International World GOR Secretariat nominated Jeff Butterfield (1929 – 2004) as the European Representative (including UK).

During that period European Golden Oldies Rugby was “treated as the regional – UK/Europe – part of World GO Rugby organisation”, seated in Auckland (New Zealand).

Jeff was the motor of such European GO Rugby for more than 23 years and due to his commitment and work Europe hosted, for the first time ever, one World festival – in 1985 in London.

As at that time European Veteran Rugby had not had the organisation of its own Jeff nominated “inofficial European Committee” to help him organising and promoting GO Rugby.

“ Jeff ´s Committee” members were:

Terry Porter (England)	Peter Hodgson (England)	Dr. Simon Cereso-
Marko Protega (Yugoslavia)	David Haynes (Netherlands)	Torres (Spain)
Dave McDonald (Scotland)	Sergio Caggia (Italy)	

One of that “committee” aims was to try to organize the European GOR Festival – the idea/proposal came from Marko Protega (Yugoslavia) – the first festival to be held in Split in **1992**....but due to the civil war in former Yugoslavia in summer 1991 the first European Festival had to “move” to another country – to The Netherlands.

David Haynes (Festival organiser) with his Dutch Exiles overtook successfully the organisation of this first ever European GOR event.
In Hertogenbosch 18 teams from 8 nations took part.

David Haynes & Dutch Exiles established the most precious EGOR Festival Award – The Battered Relic Trophy.

In **1994** the 2nd European Festival was held in Heidelberg (Germany), organising Committee headed by Claus-Peter Bach and the Festival Director Marko Protega succeeded to gather 20 teams from 12 nations.
Final Festival Report “committee” had recieved in October 1994.
This was the first ever Final Report on one European Festival.

The third European Festival, organised in **1996** in Verona (Italy) by the veteran team I Cangrandi with Festival Director Sergio Caggia.
25 teams from 12 nations took part.
Final Festival Report the "committee" had received in October 1996.

In **1998** Aberdeen (UK, Scotland) the 4th edition of European Festival took place. The organisers Aberdeen Strollers and the Chairman of Organising Committee Dave McDonald were satisfied having 20 teams from 10 nations.
Final Festival Report the "committee" had received in November 1998.

In **2000** the 5th European Festival was held in Moscow (Soviet Union) with 12 teams unfortunately without any team from western Europe.
No Final Festival Report was ever received.

YEAR 2001

After more than 20 years of sponsoring World GO Rugby Air New Zealand withdrew in 2001 the financial support partially.
Such decision reflected on the situation in European GO Rugby "committee" as no more funds were available for the work of Jeff Butterfield and his "committee" members.
The proposal to solve that situation came from Marko Protega (Croatia) – foundation of independent **European Veteran Rugby Organisation**.
Jeff Butterfield, the Chairman of the "European committee" accepted the idea and they both made the complete proposal (foundation, persons & functions) to be realised at the next European Festival in 2002.

YEAR 2002

During the 6th European Festival held in Split (Croatia) in June 2002 at the General Festival Meeting, held in Split on June 1st 2002, EGOR was founded with the following members of the Executive Committee:

Dave Mc Donald (Scotland), President	Marko Protega (Germany), Vice-President/Secretary
Sergio Caggia (Italy), Vice-President/Treasurer	Bryan O'Neill (Ireland), Vice-President / Marketing
Rolf Keppler (Germany), Member	Edwin Freedman (Israel), Member
André Plantié (France), Member	Stefan Landgren (Sweden), Member

Jeff Butterfield (England) was appointed as Honorary Life President and Dr. Simon Cereso Torres as Honorary Life Vice-President.

It was decided too that the reelection of the Committee members should be done every second year at the General Membership Meeting at the EGOR Festival.

It was decided that Annual Subscription Fee should be introduced in amount of 120,- Euro per year for all kind of memberships.

This was the only source of EGOR financing until the Executive Committee decided to introduce an obligation that each Team/Club has to contribute this amount to be able to participate EGOR Festival (started with Benidorm Festival in 2004).

Beginning August EGOR Secretary sent out Introductory Letter (signed by President and Secretary) to all FIRA/AER member countries, asking to nominate their Representative.

In September EGOR Treasurer Sergio Caggia opened the EGOR Bank account in Verona

In November EGOR official website started (creation & design Dave McDonald, EGOR Webmaster).

Beginning December at FIRA/AER meeting in Paris Claus-Peter Bach (Germany), one of FIRA/AER Vice-Presidents, have had initial talk with the President Jean-Claude Baque relating the possibility that FIRA/AER recognizes EGOR as European Veteran Rugby governing body.

This talk was the result of the initiative that started from EGOR Secretary and André Plantié, at that time UFAR President and the member of EGOR Executive Committee. FIRA/AER response was positive and André & Marko prepared the Agreement to be signed.

Criteria for Hosting European Festival (M.Protega, E.Freedman, D.McDonald) was produced as EGOR received five bids for 2004 Festival (Benidorm, Prague, Rovigo, Tallin and Vilnius).

EGOR Committee decided, among these five bids, that 7th EGOR Festival will be held in Benidorm (Spain), June 6th - 9th 2004.

In December too the first issue of EGOR Newsletter, EGOR Official Bulletin, was printed in Heidelberg.

Editor Marko Protega and design + lay out Phillip Emenet, Digital Druck Heidelberg. This first and all further issues were dispatched to all EGOR members, Clubs/Teams, Rugby Unions/Federations, Individuals, FIRA/AER President and Secretariat, other friends - partners of EGOR.

At the end of 2002 EGOR had fourteen (14) countries as members: Estonia (John Slade), Czech Republic (Andrej Hronec), France (André Plantié), Germany (Rolf Keppler), Ireland (Bryan O'Neill, since 2005 John Teeling as contact person), Israel (Edwin Freedman), Italy (Sergio Caggia), Lithuania (Dima Regimantas), Norway (Trond Are Johnson), Portugal (Joao Pedro Pinto de Sousa and Miguel Vareta, since 2005 Fernando Bacelar de Avezedo Menezes), Scotland (Dave McDonald), Slovenija (Niko Kosanovic), Spain (Ignacio Davilla, since end of 2004 Carlos Romero Moreno), Sweden (Stefan Landgren).

At the end of the same year EGOR had only 13 "Full paid up members" from all fourteen countries: 4 Clubs/Teams, 8 Individuals and 1 Rugby Union (for details see the List at the end of this Report Enclosure 1)

End December 2002 the 1st EGOR Secretary Report (made each three months further on) was sent out to all EGOR members, to all Country Representative, to all Rugby Unions/Federations, to FIRA/AER.

This procedure did not change until beginning 2007.

Since then two Secretary Reports a year are written and sent out to all members.

YEAR 2003

In this year 8 new countries joined EGOR after continuous correspondence between EGOR Secretary and those countries: Bulgaria(Georgi Marinkin), Croatia(Sinisa Tartaglia), Georgia(Givi Mrelashvili), Hungary(Stigmayer Gabor, since 2005 Bela Koermoecki), Netherlands(Piet van den Deijssel), Russia(Vladimir Dorofeev), Switzerland(Colin Service, since 2007 Markus Koch), Serbia&Montenegro(Dusan Novakov).

In this year EGOR had 22 "Full paid up members": 11 Clubs/Teams,7 Individuals and 4 Rugby Unions (for details see the List at the end of this Report – Enclosure 1).

Italy with eight clubs/teams (due to engagement of Sergio Caggia) stood on the top of the EGOR Club Members List that year.

In this year we were able to contact 343 clubs/teams altogether, directly or through the Regional UFAR Committees.

Four candidates shown interest to host 8th EGOR Festival in 2006: Colleferro Rugby (Italy), Old Boys Praha (Czech Republic), Swiss Gnomes (Switzerland), Gelezinas Vilkas (Lithuania).

Old Boys Praha postponed their bid for year 2008 and Gelezinas Vilkas withdrew their bid. By the end of this year two complete written bids entered EGOR: Colleferro (Italy) and Swiss Gnomes (Switzerland).

On December 6th 2003 at FIRA/AER meeting in Paris the presidents Jean-Claude Baque and Dave McDonald signed the prepared Agreement that authorizes EGOR as the governing body of the European Rugby Veterans.

World Vintage Sports and World International GOR Secretariat contacted EGOR as the answer to our initiative for mutual cooperation.

International World GOR Secretariat signed (late this year) the Agreement of mutual cooperation.

EGOR was informed that the Committee member responsible for Marketing, Bryan O'Neill, is in the same time professional Carnival Director of the 1st World Vintage Carnival, already since 2002.

As this was in contradiction with voluntarily work of EGOR like such, the Committee elected the new person for that part of the European organisation.

EGOR Membership Form 2004 was prepared and sent out, by EGOR Secretary, to all EGOR members (actual and potential ones).

Three Newsletter issues (2,3,4) were printed in this year.

YEAR 2004

In this year 12 new countries joined EGOR as the results of FIRA/AER – EGOR Agreement and of the permanent contacts through EGOR Secretary with possible candidates: Armenia(Jean Jacques Chechirian), Austria(Daragh Braiden), Cyprus (Duncan Kirby), Denmark(Jörgen Vidfeldt Larsen), Finland(Christophe Croze), Greece(Ted Edward Cypriot), Latvia(Aivars Pilineiks), Luxembourg(Lanier Michel), Monaco(Gilles Pouget), Romania(Ioan Gheorghiescu), Ukraine(Yuri Georgievich Birulia), Wales(Emrys Llewellyn Jones).

In Festival year 2004 EGOR had 49 "Full paid up members" : 37 Clubs/Teams, 8 Individuals and 4 Rugby Unions(for details see the List at the end of this Report – Enclosure 1)

In April 2004 died Jeff Butterfield at the age of 74 – “The Father of Veteran Rugby” as he was called by Paul Gleeson, the man that started World GOR Festivals in New Zealand.

In Benidorm(Spain) the **7th EGOR Festival** was hosted by Villajoyosa Rugby Club.

The biggest ever EGOR Festival gathered 32 teams from 15 nations.

At the General Membership Meeting in Benidorm Robert Joel Dean(Switzerland), proposed by Dave McDonald, was elected as the Executive Committee member responsible for Marketing/Sponsoring and as one of the EGOR Vice-Presidents.

At the same occasion EGOR Committee thanked Bryan O’Neill bearing the functions of Marketing/Sponsoring Vice-President and Irish CR for two years.

John Gardiner, the Referee Organiser at Benidorm Festival, together with EGOR Secretary, prepared the EGOR Booklet of the Laws of the Game (2nd edition).

This edition was reprinted in January 2005 in Heidelberg and was sent by EGOR Secretary to all EGOR members, FIRA/AER and world GOR organisations.

The 1st edition of Laws of the Game was prepared and distribute by EGOR Secretary to all teams that participated Benidorm Festival.

John stopped being EGOR Committee member by the end of 2006.

EGOR Committee decided that the organisation of the **8th European Festival 2006 goes to Swiss Gnomes (Switzerland)**. The Gentlemen Agreement with the Festival Organiser (FO) representatives was signed already in Benidorm.

The Agreement has been prepared by EGOR Treasurer Sergio Caggia.

World Vintage Sports (World Rugby Carnival) agreed and signed the Agreement of mutual cooperation with EGOR.

One of the EGOR aims – that National GO Rugby should be recognized by National Rugby Unions/Federations showed first results, the following member countries recognized it: Andorra, Armenia, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, England, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Isreal, Italy, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Poland, Russia, Ukraina, Wales.

For more than 2,5 years the German rugby friends and UFAR had financialy contributed, through the action of EGOR Newsletter editor, in distributing our official bulletin (see **Enclosure 2**).

In this year two issues (5 and 6) of Newsletter has been printed.

EGOR Membership Form 2005 (for Clubs/Teams, Rugby Unions/Federations, Individuals), prepared by EGOR Secretary, was sent out at the end of the year to all EGOR members (actual and potential ones).

YEAR 2005

In this year 4 countries joined EGOR: Belgium(Eddy Wanderborck), Bosnia&Hercegovina(Mirza Kapic), England(David Gershlick), Poland (Leszek Samel)

By the end of the year EGOR had 30 “Full paid up members”: 17 Clubs/Teams, 9 Individuals and 4 Rugby Unions.

For the first time the Calendar of European GOR events 2005, prepared by EGOR Secretary, was put on the EGOR website.

The following year (2006) happened the same – this was introduction to EGOR Series that started in 2007.

At the beginning of this year the Questionary Form for hosting 9th EGOR Festival 2008 was sent out to all EGOR members and Rugby Unions/Federations.

In spite of several reminders from EGOR President, Treasurer and Secretary the Organisers of Benidorm Festival did not sent Final Reports at all. The EGOR Committee has discussed this very unusual situation, at great lengths and in detail, and have decided that Mr. Ignacio Davila, as the Chairman of the local Organising Committee, can no longer be EGOR Representative for Spain.

The final texts of EGOR Constitution (made by Edwin Freedman), Criteria for Hosting European Festival (Protega, Freedman, McDonald) and The Guidelines how to organize European Festival (Protega) were adjusted as the consequence of the FIRA/AER recognition and due to the increased number of member countries.

Dave McDonald and Marko Protega "produced" the leaflet "An introduction to Golden Oldies Rugby in Europe" as the promotional material that has been sent to all CRs, FIRA/AER and Rugby Unions/Federations.

Dave McDonald "produced" the same year EGOR Blazer badge for EGOR Committee members and CRs.

On the proposal of EGOR Secretary, Mr. Barbara Butterfield agreed to sponsor "**Jeff Butterfield Trophy**" for the Oldest Festival Player.

For the first time this Trophy was awarded at Zurich Festival 2006.

EGOR Committee decided (on proposal of EGOR Secretary) that **John Gardiner is the new Committee member**, responsible for The EGOR Laws of the Game and the Refereeing.

For the **9th EGOR Festival 2008** the following clubs/teams shown the interest to host this event: Old Boys Praha (Czech Republic), Old Greens Porto (Portugal) and YGOGS Caernarfon (UK, Wales).

Edwin Freedman made the **Contract/Agreement EGOR – Festival Organiser**, this document was approved by the Committee and is valid for all future Festival organisers.

Three issues of the Newsletter (7, 8, 9) were printed in this year.

EGOR Membership Form 2006 (Clubs/Teams, Rugby Unions/Federations, Individuals) was prepared and sent to all EGOR members (actual and potential), by the EGOR Secretary.

YEAR 2006

Two countries joined EGOR: Andorra (Felipe Gallardo) and Malta (Phillip Gibbs). In this Festival year EGOR had 53 "Full paid up members": 34 Clubs/Teams, 13 Individuals and 6 Rugby Unions (for details see the List at the end of this Report – Enclosure 1).

EGOR Committee decided that **Andrej Hronec (Czech Republic)** is the new Committee member, who should assist EGOR Secretary and coordinate EGOR Series, to start in 2007.

In Zurich (Switzerland) 8th EGOR Festival took place, organised successfully by Swiss Gnomes and supported by Swiss Rugby Federation. 23 teams from 12 nations participated this event.

EGOR Committee meeting (June 23rd 2006) and EGOR General Meeting (June 24th 2006) took place during the Zurich Festival too.

EGOR Committee coopted the new member (on the proposal of Robert Dean) **Joao Pedro Pinto de Sousa (Portugal)** – the Chairman of 9th EGOR Festival OC – for the next two years (2006-2008).

With Secretary Report October – December 2006 all members were informed about the future EGOR Series, to start in 2007, and were invited to enter these Series with local-national GOR event(s).

M. Protega, E. Freedman, A.Hronec produced the Obligations & Rights for the EGOR Series organisers that each of entered event's organisers got from the EGOR Secretary.

EGOR is informed that André Plantié, our Committee member and UFAR President stepped down and that his successor is Mr. Patrick Darricarrere (Nantes).

EGOR Membership Form 2007 (Clubs/Teams, Rugby Unions/Federations, Individuals), prepared by EGOR Secretary was sent out by the end of the year to all members (actual and potential ones).

By the very end of the year **EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES SERIES 2007 CALENDAR** was prepared and sent to all members.

This Events Calendar had 22 GOR events in 14 European member countries.

Three issues of Newsletter (10,11,12) were printed in this year and sent out to all members, CRs, FIRA/AER, different EGOR friends/partners, as it is usual from the very beginning in 2002.

By the Committee decision (Zurich June 2006) EGOR Newsletter are additionally available on the websites of Madeira Festival, some Club members as Old Boys Praha and YGOGS as the 2010 EGOR Festival organiser.

Starting with June 2007 (NWSL Nr. 14) EGOR Newsletter are available on the FIRA/AER website too.

EGOR "Regional Divisions" – EGOR Executive Committee was not satisfied how the link "Country Representative – EGOR" was functioning between 2002 – 2006.

At the General Membership Meeting 2006 in Zurich was decided to form so called "Regional Divisions" from the existing country members that will be "in responsibility" of each of the EGOR Executive Committee members.

Regional Divisions plan was made by the EGOR Secretary and was adopted at the Committee meeting in Nantes (France) in September 2007.

10th EGOR Festival 2010 – by the unanimously decision of EGOR Executive Committee **Y GOGS (Caernarfon, Wales, United Kingdom)** was appointed to be the host and organiser of this EGOR Jubilee Festival in 2010.

YEAR 2007

No additional country entered EGOR. We have 40 countries as the members now. From all FIRA/AER members still to become the status of EGOR member remain three countries: Azerbaidjan, Moldova and Slovaqia.

In this year EGOR has 42 "Full paid up members": 23 Clubs/Teams, 9 Individuals and 10 Rugby Unions.

EGOR Series started successfully in January with two "Snow GOR events" – 5th Memorial Boris Gavrilov (Moscow) and International GOR Tournament (Kiev), followed by Old Boys Festival (Hilversum), Torneo Citta di Rovigo (Rovigo), 3rd Havirov Turkey Tournament (Havirov), 1st Haifa Oldie Festival (Haifa) and 5th Georg Holek Cup (Barcelona). More about these events in EGOR Newsletters Nr. 14, 15 and 16.

Relating to **EGOR website** the Committee has decided (in Zurich, October 2005) that it is necessary to adapt it to be more European – EGOR informative, and to find the new webmaster to create such site.

The EGOR Committee made this decision by the end of June 2007.

With great majority of votes it is decided that the new webmaster is

Mr. Pedro Vareta (Portugal).

On December 6th at FIRA/AER Annual Meeting in Paris **Mr. André Plantié** was appointed as the EGOR Representative at that European rugby governing organisation.

EGOR MEMBERS 2007 – EGOR has three kinds of members Club/Team, Rugby Union/Federation and Individual ones.

Annual Subscription Fee for all is 120,- Euro per year.

EGOR had in this year 48 "paid up members": 27 Clubs/Teams, 11 Rugby Unions/Federations, 10 Individuals

EGOR Secretary led the procedure for electing **Patrick Darricarree (Nantes)** as the new EGOR Executive Committee member.

Unanimously voted through "Internet Committee meeting", Patrick is the new member starting with May 2007.

Three issues of Newsletter (13,14, 15) were printed in 2007.

YEAR 2008

The AIMS that EGOR Committee set up for the European Golden Oldies Rugby organisation in 2008 and onwards:

- Further developmet of indenpendent European GOR, registered as non-profit organisation in Heidelberg (Germany), closer cooperation with FIRA/AE,
- that Rugby Unions/Federations, FIRA/AER members, recognize national GO Rugby as the part of its organisation. Continuos contact with such rugby governing bodies is needed,
- to establish and develop further the network of Country Representatives as the link EGOR Committee - National GO Rugby,
- to help increasing the number of GO Rugby clubs/teams in Europe,
- to organize European Festivals, each second even year, by finding the "right place and the right organiser" (by bidding procedure) and to help them in matters of preparation/organisation.

Intention of the EGOR Committee is to have European Festival each time in

- to organize EGOR Series to draw more attention of possible sponsors, on European and National level,
- to develop Marketing/Sponsoring programme to be able to raise money to cover administrative costs of the Organisation,
- to look for the Main EGOR Sponsor,
- to have new official European website and further on European official bulletin – EGOR Newsletter.

Rugby Legends Cup

On the initiative of André Plantié, EGOR Representative at FIRA/AER, Annual Meeting of this European Rugby Associatio, held in Paris on December 6th 2007, accepted to support EGOR in organisation of this first ever International Tournament for Veteran National Teams.

From two candidates, Al Ain Amblers RFC (United Arab Emirates) and Rugby Comité Roussillon FFR (France) the decision has been made in favour of France....so the Rugby Legends Cup 2009 will be held in Argeles sur Mer on April 10 th – 14 th. EGOR Secretary and EGOR Representative at FIRA/AER has finalised the needed documents and the invitations has been sent out by the begining of March to all IRB and FIRA/AER member countries.

The first edition of Rugby Legends Cup will be limited by the participation of 16 national veteran teams.

9th EGOR Festival , Madeira (Portugal), June 19 th – 23 rd 2008

After the date to enter the Festival had expired the Organising Committee of Old Greens Porto, headed by Joao Pedro Pinto de Sousa, announced that 40 teams from 12 nations will participate this biggest ever European Golden Oldies Rugby event.

EGOR New Treasurer

With the begining of this year EGOR opened the new bank account in Heidelberg and nominated Mr. Wolfgang Mund (St.Leon-Rot) as new EGOR Treasurer.

Mr. Mund is the vice-president of oldest German rugby club Heidelberger Ruderklub 1872 e.V. and member of the team HRK 1872 Oldies.

New EGOR Bank Account

Name: Rugby Verb Bad Wuerttb – EGOR Oldies
 Bank: Heidelberger Volksbank eG
 Adress: Kurfürstanlage 8 69115 Heidelberg, Germany
 IBAN: DE 53672900000025947517
 BIC : GENODE61HD1

Use this bank account only for the future financial transactions.

EGOR SERIES 2008

In the second year of existence the Series are organised in association with **Wooden Spoon Rugby`s Charity and SOS International Rugby Board Kit Aid.**

24 events, starting with February and finishing in November, will take place in 16 European countries – EGOR members.

Events Calendar is on the official new EGOR website.....www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com

EGOR MEMBERS

Just in three first months of this year 77 members joined EGOR – 15 Individuals, 54 Clubs/Teams and 8 Rugby Unions/Federations.

20 members are from Germany, due to the efforts of the new EGOR Treasurer Wolfgang Mund (St.Leon-Rot), EGOR Committee member Rolf Keppler(Frankfurt) and the EGOR Secretary Marko Protega (Heidelberg).

Germany is followed by Portugal with 13 members, then comes Spain with 7, Italy and Switzerland with 5 members each, and so one.....

In the whole year 2007 EGOR had altogether 48 members.....

EGOR organisation has three kinds of members:

- Clubs / Teams
- Individuals
- Rugby Unions/ Federations (FIRA / AER members)

*According to the EGOR Constitution **Full Membership** (with right to vote) is available to European GOR Club/Team and to European National Rugby Union / Federation.*

Such Country Member is entitled to one vote only.

Individual rugby players and other persons, interested in the aims of EGOR, can be

Associate Member – such member have no right to vote.

EGOR Executive Committee members have one vote each.