

# European Golden Oldies Rugby Newsletter



Issue 23 July 2010

The Official Bulletin of  
**EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY**  
[www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com](http://www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com)



## 10th Festival Celebrated in Great Style !

From the fantastic Opening Ceremony held in the ancient Caernarfon Castle, to the giant Conga snaking its way around the Final Dinner, the **10th European Golden Oldies Rugby Festival** will be remembered, for the right reasons, for years to come ! Not only by all who participated...but by the good Townsfolk and Business folk of Caernarfon who were delighted with the Event.

Over 30 Teams had registered from as far afield as Russia and Israel and from Argentina came the – *Club de Gimnasia y Esgrima* - who were the Guest Team. Following the Managers' Meeting, everyone made their way to ancient Caernarfon Castle where the Opening Ceremony took place on the slate dais on which Prince Charles was invested as Prince of Wales by his Mother - HRH Queen Elizabeth 2nd in 1969. Short Speeches were given by the Festival Organising Committee Chairman - Emrys Jones, Huw Edwards ( Mayor of Caernarfon ) , Garin Jenkins, ( Festival Ambassador ) and Dave McDonald ( President European Golden Oldies Rugby ) Superb entertainment was supplied by the excellent - *Cor Meibion Caernarfon* (Male Voice Choir) and the traditional sounds of - *Band Pres Llanrug* (Brass Band) From *Quattro Cats*. a great selection was played on the Bagpipes by Enzo Sangio Sangiovanni



As darkness fell and the socialising slowed down, the Teams meandered back to their Accommodations...via the many Bars along the way !

Two Venues hosted the Festival...the School Pitches at the Tennis Centre and Y Gogs - Clwyb Rygbi which was the Festival H.Q.. Friday evening saw the Golden Oldies enjoying the delights of Caernarfon. On Saturday, the free day, the Teams took Train Journeys, Climbed the Mountains of Snowdonia, took to the water for Cruises etc and enjoyed another beautiful day. The Executive Committee and General Membership Meetings took place in the late afternoon, which included a very interesting update on the 11th Festival, being held in 2012 in Trieste in Italy by Festival Chairman....Stefano de Rosa.



The second Games Day got under way and in the afternoon, the Festival had the first rain of the Festival...but it was perfectly dry inside the Rugby Club House and Beer Tents.... Later, the Teams made their way to the Tennis Centre which had been converted for the Grande Finale Dinner. Traditional Welsh Entertainment was provided by -'Ar Log' - Folk Group and the local *Band Jazz Ieuectid Gwynedd* (Gwynedd Youth Jazz Band) and Teams also performed their own Party Pieces. Again, after a few short Speeches of Thanks, the Awards were presented as follows –

TROPHY	WINNER	PRESENTED BY
Jeff Butterfield Cup Oldest Player	Michel Prudent Rascasse France 76	Dave McDonald EGOR President
Kukri Cup Best Shirts	Galicia Old Boys Spain	Mike Evans Kukri Sports
Herald Cup Furthest Travelled Team	Gimmasia y Esgrima Argentina	Alex Hickey Herald Newspapers
Tafran Y Porth Cup Combined Average Age	I Tandoi Italy Average Age 49	Garin Jenkins Festival Ambassador
The Big Bottle Best Supporters	Roosevelt Ladies France	Jessica Davis Y Gogs
Crocks of the Festival	Juromehna Portugal	Dr Orna Donahue
Battered Relic Spirit of the Festival	Rhineland Methusalems Germany	Emrys LI Jones Y Gogs

The reaction/appreciation around the town was unbelievable, from all sorts of people who are telling of one of the French teams in their underwear singing in the fountain on the Maes, the *Swiss Gnomes* spending a fortune on Lobsters in a restaurant....etc Up to 30% of participants asked said that they would return with their families for vacations. This is of a long term benefit to Caernarfon as well as the huge financial boost it gave over the weekend.



**A great Festival held in the spirit of – Fun, Friendship and Fraternity ! Over to you, Trieste !**

*Dave McDonald*  
 President

## Our EGOR Logo



It was interesting to find out at the Festival that a number of the Teams participating for the first time were unaware of the significance of our Logo.....whether in square, or linear form –

- Firstly, we show the symbol for - Europe or European**
- Next, Au, the Chemical symbol for - Gold**
- Thirdly, the European symbol for the Elderly**
- Fourth being a Rugby Ball, the symbol for Rugby**

Put them altogether and we have – **European Golden Oldies Rugby !!**



## Team Reports

"Les Rascasses d'Aubagne" want to say a big "thank you" to all the people who took part in preparation and organisation of the Festival. It was a great and unforgettable event for us, we enjoyed the friendship and kindness of every people and the perfect organisation during 4 days. We hope it will be possible to meet you again in the future !

Best regards, from South of France

**Philippe Giovannetti**



The **Frankfurter Bembelschwenkers** took part at the 10th European Golden Oldies Festival in Caernarfon, Wales along with 32 other Teams from around Europe with nearly 1200 players and friends. The opening ceremony was in the old castle of Caernarfon, and on Friday and Sunday, each Team played two games. The *Bembelschwenkers* played against *Aberdeen Strollers* from Scotland, the *Swiss Gnomes* and the *Ageing Pandas* from Switzerland and the *Juromenha* from Portugal. All the games were played in a friendly atmosphere. The Saturday was free and every one did what they wanted. The final Dinner was on Sunday evening at the Arfon Tennis Center. It was a big Party and I think it was a very good Festival. Thanks to **YGogs**.

**Mit ovalen Grüßen**

**Rolf Keppler**



*One of the furthest travelled Teams to the Festival were EGOR Stalwarts – The Elders of Zion - these are their comments –*

The Elders Of Zion departed on its journey to the EGOR Festival in Caernarfon at 10:00AM on June 10 from Ben Gurion Airport near Tel Aviv. For the first time, we actually had a couple of reserves on our team, to the great relief of those who had reached the age of coloured shorts. We were also successful in recruiting some 'younger Oldies' who were making their first ever appearance in an Oldies Festival. We reached Heathrow in the afternoon and then began our 4 car convoy of rental cars to Caernarfon. Thanks to Brian Robert's excellent directions, we make the 5 hour drive without a single wrong turn. Brian's directions could not however, help one of our cars which lost its clutch somewhere near Manchester. While ¾ of us arrived just after the Opening Ceremony, the last car didn't arrive until after 2:00 AM. Driving through the winding roads of North Wales, we were sure that Caernarfon was no longer in existence and that we would be playing in a sheep pasture.

When we reached the town, all of us were immediately charmed by its unique character and location. We were fortunate to be staying at the **Black Boy Inn** which is within the walls of the old town. Not only was it a special place to lodge, it's pub and restaurant turned out to be one of the town's biggest attractions.

The first days games we played at the school. We thought that it was a nice idea to play adjacent to the school grounds where the kids could see the games and get some feel for rugby. They apparently were not that familiar with the game, as some of them asked us for autographs. We readily complied, feeling satisfaction at finally having obtained star status. The Elders were joined by two players from the *Vintage Vikings* ( Sweden ) who have become an integral part of our team over the years.

Our first game was a spirited match against our friends Civitavecchia. We both agreed to loosen some of the Oldies restrictions and the referee was very cooperative. The game was played with great enthusiasm and enjoyed by all as the mad rush for joint / post game pictures attests. After some schedule readjustments due to teams dropping out, we played our second game against Galicia. This was also a match which got everyone's adrenalin flowing. No comment as to the referee.

Friday night was a delight. We thoroughly investigated the local pubs and felt the full force of 1,000 Oldies getting together for Rugby and Fun. One of our players decided to challenge the mechanical bull located in a plaza near our hotel. We believe he set a new Guinness record for dismounting in the shortest time. You can view the historic ride on *You tube*. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5JDzLrsO0Fc>

Saturday was spent riding the scenic railway, with our younger players renting bicycles which were loaded onto the train and biking back from the last stop. On Sunday, we finally began our first game at 2:00PM, having warmed up so many times that the rain was a welcome relief. We survived two more well played and enjoyable games, first against *Cascais* and then against *San Giorgio*. We were very pleased with the cooperation of the referees and their friendly but firm attitude. They let us play and did not make themselves the focus of the game.

The farewell party was an opportunity to meet with many of the players who we did not encounter during the games. In many ways, it's the event that most symbolizes an EGOR Festival, with the exchange of shirts and plans to meet at future events.

We made our way back to Israel the next day without losing anyone on the way and with great anticipation of the next EGOR Festival.

**Edwin Freedman Elders Of Zion**



## And from our Hosts.....

Unquestionably the 10<sup>th</sup> Festival was a huge success and of great financial benefit to both Caernarfon and the surrounding area.

However, Sadness has left a cloud over the Festival with the sudden death of Mr Bob Anderson who was one of the Organising Committee Members. Bob was a Town businessman and Councillor and he greatly appreciated the work done to achieve the success which the Festival has proved to be and the benefits which Caernarfon has seen. We all send our condolences to Bob's family.

Our gratitude goes out to: The Medical support of all kinds and especially the Paramedics who saved Mr Kevin Phelan's life, the Stewards, Marshals and Meet and Greet teams, the local businesses who made a tremendous attempt to welcome our friends from all parts of Europe and from further afield, I sincerely hope that they profited from the experience. Clwb Rygbi Caernarfon and its entire staff for the professional way they prepared the food and served at the bars.

We equally thank both Welsh Assembly Government and the local authorities, Gwynedd and the Town Council who gave their financial support as well as some community councils. A special thanks to the Mayor and Mayoress of Caernarfon, Councillor Huw Edwards and his wife Tegwedd for taking time to meet and talk to the Teams and their supporters and to the Festival Ambassador Garin Jenkins for becoming one of Y GOGs. I'm certain that if Garin had a GBP for each photograph he was in, he'd be a rich man today!

32 teams from all parts of Europe and further afield took part in a weekend of Fun, Friendship and Fraternity which is what Oldies Rugby should entail. Y GOGs threw in Family as well and Caernarfon's people and families welcomed all who took part and assisted in a truly friendly Festival.



The Organising Committee through their tireless work, will benefit both Caernarfon and it's Rugby Club for years to come as it has put our town on the European map and ensured that as many as 30% of the participants will return to the area on vacation with their families in the future.

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Diolch yn fawr i bawb. Thank you all

**Emrys L I Jones**  
**Festival Chairperson Y GOGs**

## Trieste 2012 Festival

The Official 11th EGOR Festival will be held in Trieste (Italy) from June 14th - 19th, 2012. This will be the second European Festival to be staged in Italy as Dott Sergio Caggia and his Organising Committee hosted a great 3<sup>rd</sup> Festival, in 1996.

*I TANDIO F.V.G. Old Rugby Club* will be the organisers of this prestigious European event in 2012, supported strongly by the Friuli-Venezia-Giulia Autonomous Government and political administration, of the Province and the Municipality of Trieste, National Olympic Committee (C.O.N.I.) and the Italian Rugby Federation (F.I.R.). It is hoped that as happened in Caernarfon, many Teams will take the opportunity of participating in one of our European Festivals for the first time.

Information on the Festival, is available from the President of the Local Organising Committee – [egor.trieste2012@gmail.com](mailto:egor.trieste2012@gmail.com) and the new Festival Website will be launched soon.

## New Secretary For Egor

At the Executive Meeting during the Caernarfon Festival, Matthias Schenker ( Swiss Gnomes ) was appointed as the Interim Secretary of E.G.O.R. It was decided to replace Marko Protega as Secretary / Vice President and discontinue his Membership on the EGOR Committee. We thank him for his contributions. He no longer represents us in any position connected with European Golden Oldies Rugby. A new, permanent E.G.O.R. Secretary will be elected in Trieste. Matt, who is an experienced Rugby Secretary, is also involved in web design and will take on the distribution of our Newsletters electronically. It is hoped each Country Representative will forward the Newsletter to all his various Clubs and to each Team Captain / Manager. They in turn should circulate / transmit the Newsletter to all their Team Members. The Newsletter will also appear on the Website. But, we need your Club News, Stories and Photos..... Matthias Schenker can be contacted on - [matthias.schenker@gc-rugby.ch](mailto:matthias.schenker@gc-rugby.ch)



## Thanks to Y GOGS

On behalf of my Colleagues on the European Golden Oldies Rugby Committee and all Golden Oldies Rugby Players who participated, I wish to Thank the Local Organising Committee and all who were involved – the Welsh Assembly, Local Authorities, Sponsors, Medical Teams, Ground Staff, Volunteers and Y Gogs - in producing an excellent, most memorable Festival. We have come a long way since our first Festival in Holland....and it was good to see our 1st Festival Chairman – David Haynes – in Caernarfon.....who knows where our next 10 years will take us.....

***In Fun, Friendship and Fraternity !.***

**Many Thanks,**  
**Dave McDonald - EGOR President**

## Picture Gallery



It's no wonder that the *Methusalems* won !



Appropriate Sponsor....



Mopi's a bit tired...been a long Festival...

Oh yes.....there was Rugby played as well.....!!



Send your Festival Photos to the Festival Website – [www.ygogs.com/2010](http://www.ygogs.com/2010)

## Caernarfon Festival Newsletter....

This Newsletter is coming to you, at NO cost to European Golden Oldies Rugby, courtesy of the **Smith Family of Repro - Overflow Ltd in Aberdeen, Scotland**. You will receive future copies in this way and it is expected that you will be able to then forward to all your Players, Supporters, etc. each time a Newsletter is produced. Our Website will also be getting a 'makeover' and we want it to be more user friendly and giving information about what is happening in your Club and Country to more Golden Oldies ....so let us know what is happening with YOUR Golden Oldies .....

Let us hear from you.....Stories, Festivals, Photos, News.....[info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com](mailto:info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com)  
[www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com](http://www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com)