



European Golden Oldies Rugby Newsletter



www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com

13th EGOR Festival 11th - 14th June, 2015 <http://egor2015.com>

Issue 29

The Official Bulletin of EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY

Winter 2013

President's Message

On behalf of the European Golden Oldies Rugby Committee, I wish to extend warm Festive Greetings to all Golden Oldies...their Families and Friends...as another year rushes to a close. I hope you all have a great time, and are looking forward to a new year of Rugby. Although we do not have our European Festival to look forward to in 2014, I hope that many of you shall be involved in Golden Oldies Events in your own Countries, over the coming 12 months. Why not think about hosting your own 1st National Festival...?? 6, 12, 18 Teams...it does not matter the size of the gathering...the Golden Oldies ethos of – *Fun, Friendship and Fraternity* – is what matters. Guidelines are available from our Website... www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com or please feel free to give me a call for all details. info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com. Also, if planning any Golden Oldies Events, please let us know, so we can add them to the EGOR Series for 2014.

We would also appreciate any comments about EGOR...and also any location you would like to visit, to attend a future EGOR Festival. We are a Democratic, Voluntary Organisation...we love to hear from our Members.

I look forward to seeing you on the side of a Rugby Pitch.....and at the " Third Half ".....

San Sebastian Hosts our next EGOR Festival

As you should be aware, the beautiful Basque City of San Sebastian, has been selected to hold the 13th edition of the most iconic Golden Oldies Rugby event in Europe, in June 2015. This EGOR Festival, created in 1992, has become a major event for Rugby Golden Oldies across Europe and further afield. Interest in attending, has already been shown by an Australian Team. *Bera Bera R.T.*, one of the most prominent Rugby Clubs in the Basque Country, are our Hosts and the Local Organising Committee have been hard at work planning the Festival, since they returned from Prague. A full Programme shall be issued early in the New Year...so watch out for the information. To ensure your Team's place at the Festival, register your interest now, to save disappointment. A fantastic Festival of - **Rugby, Sea & Food** - is being planned...check their Festival Website. I hope to see you there.....I know you shall enjoy a memorable Festival...in a picturesque location.



EGOR 2015
EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY FESTIVAL
DONOSTIA • SAN SEBASTIAN

For the latest Festival Information -
and to register your interest
in attending the Festival -
egor2015@berabera.com
<http://egor2015.com>



World Festivals

As you may have seen, Air New Zealand are no longer involved with the World Golden Oldies Rugby Festivals, which are now under the banner of *Vintage Sport & Leisure*, and the 2014 Festival shall take place in Mar del Plata, Argentina from 21st – 28th September - www.goldenoldiesports.com/world-rugby-festival-argentina-2014. I was notified by VSL that they wished me to sign a contract with them, guaranteeing 15 Teams from Europe at the World Festival. All involved with G O Rugby, as Team Managers, Team Secretaries etc.....can send out Festival information...but you cannot force Teams to participate. As with all our EGOR Executive Committee, I am a volunteer and have given of my time for over 30 years, to promote, support and hopefully develop Golden Oldies Rugby wherever possible. We do this, for the Game we all Love....not for financial gain. I have been replaced, by VSL, as the European Representative on the World Committee by - Jean-Francois Monfraix – from France, and I wish him well. I am, as I always have been, still fully committed to EGOR and the development of Golden Oldies Rugby throughout Europe, for as long as my Health allows. At the time of writing this Newsletter, only two European Teams have entered...World Festival stalwarts - *Old Vulgarians* from England and *Clontarf* from Ireland. A similar Fate has also happened to my friends and Golden Oldies colleagues – Davie Graham – from Canada (1 Team entered so far) and Fred Alexander in America (8 Teams so far entered) who were also asked to guarantee a specified number of Teams each. My old World Committee friends – Lindsay Parke in New Zealand (16 Teams) and Allan Forno in Australia (48 Teams) have no trouble making the numerical targets. Many Thanks to former Air New Zealand Events Team for all their help over the years.

Although made up of many Nationalities, EGOR has a very strong bond of – *Fun, Friendship and Fraternity* – and this can always be seen at our Festivals. Many Golden Oldies people around the World are awaiting the outcome of the 2014 Festival....and interested to see VSL's future Policy regarding their future Festivals. With your help, we can try and assure the future of Golden Oldies Rugby all over Europe, where we support Rugby and Children's Charities. I sincerely hope that you shall wish to continue to support the original Organisation which promotes and supports the great Game we all Love – European Golden Oldies Rugby !!!

Other Festivals

I have had requests from several Clubs from various parts of Europe, who have expressed an interest in being the Host for our 2017 Festival...!! Guidelines etc for Hosting an EGOR Festival can be found on our Website and if you are thinking about submitting a Bid, your initial request should be submitted as soon as possible. A Closing Date for Bids shall be intimated on the Website and then a short list shall be selected and visited by Members of the EGOR Executive Committee, before a decision is made. If interested, submit your Application....NOW !! You can also hold smaller, local Festivals at your Club with just a few Teams....the number of Teams participating depend on the number of Pitches you have available. I hope that every Country shall look at the possibility of starting their own National Golden Oldies Festivals.....they do not have to be too large...and can move around your Country's Clubs each year, supporting the development of Youth Rugby and Local Charities ! If you wish any advice, suggestions etc...drop me an e-mail. I have pleasure in wishing well, the following events –

5 th Old Prague Ham	Prague, Czech Republic	May '14	prague-ham@estec.cz.
9 th Beauvais Rugby Festival	Beauvais, France	May '14	Guy.Quaranta@saint-gobain.com
Flanders Rugby Festival	Dendermonde, Belgium	June '14	gert.vandensteen@cm.be
Masters Games - Rugby	Split, Croatia	October '14	info@splitgradsporta.hr

UK Festivals

I'm delighted that following the World Golden Oldies Rugby Festival, held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 2008, Scottish Golden Oldies Rugby has gone from strength to strength, with the 6th Scottish Festival taking place at Hillfoots RFC, Central Scotland, on 16th August, 2014. Around 20 Teams, including a French Touring XV, shall be participating.- and new Teams have been formed for each Festival.....including a Referee's Team! Many Clubs also hold regular gatherings...and whoever turns up, make up Teams on the day. Fixtures are also planned in Italy, France, Ireland, Wales, England and Scotland to coincide with the forthcoming Six Nations Tournament. www.pitchero.com/clubs/scottishgoldenoldiesrugby..... or [join us on Facebook](#). The 3rd English and 3rd Welsh G O Festivals are being planned for 2014, and I also hope to get the 1st Irish G O Festival arranged.

IRB Hall of Fame

Sincere Congratulations are extended to Gavin Hastings OBE, on being inducted into the I R B Rugby Hall of Fame, at a Dinner held recently, in Dublin. The IRB Hall of Fame covers players, coaches, administrators, match officials, institutions and other individuals. The Ceremony was staged as part of the inaugural IRB World Rugby Conference and Exhibition. Eleven legends of the Game, with nearly 500 caps between them, were inducted into the IRB Hall of Fame at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. Gavin was the Golden Oldies Festival Ambassador in Edinburgh in 2008 and fellow Inductee – Mark Ella - was the 2010 Festival Ambassador, in Sydney.....and is an excellent Golden Oldie. I'm sure that Golden Oldies all over Europe shall have enjoyed their Playing over many years. Strangely, they both also have Brothers who represented their Countries. The IRB Hall of Fame was launched in 2006, at the IRB Awards ceremony held in Glasgow, Scotland with the induction of - Rugby School and William Webb Ellis. Since then the following legends have been inducted - Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Dr Danie Craven, Sir Wilson Whineray, Gareth Edwards, John Eales, The 1888 Natives Team and Joseph Warbrick, Ned Haig and the Melrose club, Dr Jack Kyle, Philippe Sella, Hugo Porta, William Maclagan, Barry Heatlie, Bennie Osler, Cliff Morgan, Sir Anthony O'Reilly AO, Frik du Preez, Dr. Syd Millar, Willie John McBride, Sir Ian McGeechan, Jean Prat, Lucien Mias, Andre and Guy Boniface, Serge Blanco, Harry Vassall and Alan Rotherham, Cardiff RFC and Frank Hancock, David Gallaher, Barbarian FC and WP Carpmael, Mike Gibson, Dr Roger Vanderfield, Richard Littlejohn, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, John Kendall-Carpenter, David Kirk, Sir Brian Lochore, Nick Farr-Jones, Bob Dwyer, Francois Pienaar, 1924, Richard and Kennedy Tsimba, Alfred St George Hamersley, Vladimir Ilyushin and Waisale Serevi.Kitch Christie, Rod Macqueen, Gareth Rees, Sir Clive Woodward OBE, Jonah Lomu, Jake White, Brian Lima, Agustín Pichot, Martin Johnson CBE, John Smit, Sir Gordon Tietjens, Ian & Donald Campbell, Yoshihiro Sakata, the 1924 Romanian Olympic Team, the gold medal-winning USA Olympic Team of 1920 and Richard and Kennedy Tsimba, Alfred St George Hamersley, Vladimir Ilyushin and Waisale Serevi.

Website / Facebook

The Executive Committee, wish EGOR's Website to be full of YOUR News !! If you are planning any Event or Festival, please let us know, so we can enter it in our *Golden Oldies Series* Page and afterwards, please send us a short Report and some Photographs. We have added a number of Documents to assist you, if you are planning a Golden Oldies Event.....but if you have any queries, please e – mail.....info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com We wish Golden Oldies Rugby information, from all over Europe. Please look through the Website and send us your comments....and any other items you wish included.... We also have our European Golden Oldies Rugby Facebook Page – please tell your Team about it....and we hope they will **Like**and **Join Us**.....and add their Golden Oldies stories and photographs.....

For our new Website, we are trying to get an extensive List of Golden Oldies Rugby Teams throughout Europe and to get up to date contact details about all our Member Clubs, to check our information is going to the correct person....and if not, alter our Mailing. Also, for Clubs who were not at the European Festival, or have not already paid, your Club Annual Subscription of 100 euros is now due and a Form is available online. We are all volunteers....so please reply promptly.....we hope you shall wish to support us. If you wish your Team listed on our Website.....please contact us. However, if you do not wish to receive any more information from us, please send me an e – mail....and this will stop you receiving any more communications from us..... We hope you shall wish to stay with EGOR.....and enjoy your Golden Oldies Rugby, in **Fun, Friendship and Fraternity !!**

And Finally.....

Once again, I wish to take this chance to wish you, your Family, Friends and Golden Oldies....every Best Wish for the Festive Season....and Health and Happiness to enjoy your Rugby in 2014 !! Please forward this E – mail, to all your G O Friends

Dave McDonald President **European Golden Oldies Rugby**

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