



Issue 30

European Golden Oldies Rugby Newsletter

www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com

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

The Official Bulletin of - EUROPEAN GOLDEN OLDIES RUGBY



Spring 2015

President's Welcome

On behalf of European Golden Oldies Rugby, I wish to extend all our Best Wishes for the coming year. It is a very busy year, with our 13th European Festival fast approaching. We are all looking forward to this Festival, which shall be our biggest, with 60 Teams expected to participate from all over Europe.....and I am delighted, once again, to welcome Guest Teams from Australia and Argentina.

The 6 Nations Competition has also started, and we hope for many good Games. Later this year, the Rugby World Cup commences in September, with the Opening Match between England and Fiji, being played at Twickenham Stadium in London which will also host the Final. The European Nations participating, are spread over the four Pools, with England and Wales being in Pool A; Scotland being in Pool B; Georgia in Pool C and the busiest Pool for European Teams is Pool D, with France, Italy, Ireland and Romania. The 2015 Rugby World Cup is the eighth Rugby World Cup, which will be hosted in England from 18 September to 31 October 2015. Full details of all Fixtures, Venues etc, may be found at - www.rugbyworldcup.com...and for all the Latest News - www.rugbyworldcup.com/news. The 2019 Rugby World Cup shall be held in Japan.

It is good to see so many Teams throughout Europe who are organising their own local Festivals....keep up the good work ! Why not organise an Event as the first National Golden Oldies Rugby Festival in your Country. In July this year, we have the 7th Scottish Golden Oldies Rugby Festival, being held at *Kinloss Eagles RFC* – celebrating 70 years of Rugby at the Club - with around 20 Teams taking part from all over Scotland....and beyond. At last year's Scottish Festival, we had Guest Players from Belgium, France....and Israel !

Dave McDonald EGOR President.

San Sebastian Festival

The 13th European Golden Oldies Festival 2015, taking place in beautiful San Sebastian in June, is chasing a Festival Record and the Local Organising Committee is thrilled to have up to 60 Teams entering the Festival...19 teams more than in Madeira in 2008. In order to hold such a large event, the LOC have arranged for the Games to be played in a single venue, with 5 playing fields - 3 with perfect green natural grass and another 2 with third-generation artificial grass. The playing field is **Zubieta**, next to the original planned location at the Race Track. It is the venue of *Real Sociedad FC*, for Training and Junior Teams and is only 15 minutes from San Sebastian city centre. The 1600 + Players expected and their companions will enjoy this unique facility for the 2 Game days.



The Platinum Category is SOLD OUT, with the 12 teams for the Platinum Category already being confirmed but there are still 2 spots to fill in the 35 + years Golden Oldie Category.

Teams from Croatia, Czech Republic, England, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, Switzerland and Wales, will be represented...along with Guest Teams from Argentina and Australiawho shall all join the local Spanish Teams, in celebrating a fantastic Festival.

Future EGOR Festivals.....2017 ??

Any EGOR Member Club may submit a Bid for a future Festival and Guidelines and Festival Criteria are available on our Website. The number of Pitches decide the number of participating Teams and the support of your Local City or Regional Authority is essential....and hopefully the support of the National Rugby Union. Sponsorship needs to be obtained to try and keep the individual costs as low as possible to the Players and Families. EGOR Festivals are held every second year, always trying to source new locations where the Festival can be used to develop Rugby in the Host Venue. If all Criteria are met, the Executive shall have the powers to allocate a Festival to any City or Club, who may have a special reason for Hosting the EGOR Festival outwith the two year cycle. The next Festival shall be two years thereafter. Priority is given to Clubs which have attended previous Festivals and understand the Golden Oldies Ethos of – *Fun, Friendship and Fraternity*. . Several Cities from throughout Europe are seeking to Host our 2017 European Festival.....so if you are interested, please look at the Festival Criteria listed on our Website....and then contact EGOR. However, we try to encourage all Teams to Host a local Festival where they invite 6 – 10 Teams for a small one day Golden Oldies Event. Anyone wishing further information about our Festivals, or wanting to get involved with a Golden Oldies Team, or thinking of creating a new one..... E-mail – info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com – for details.

2016 World Festival in Cardiff

The 21st World Golden Oldies Rugby Festival, now organised by *Vintage Sports Limited*, will see the Golden Oldies Rugby Movement heading to the Heart of Rugby – Cardiff, Wales – a city steeped in Rugby and Rugby traditions and the focal point for the highly respected Welsh Rugby Team. The Festival shall take place from the 21st – 28th August, 2016. World Golden Oldies Rugby Festivals have been staged in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, South Africa, Canada, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Japan and Argentina but never in Wales. At last, teams, players, wives, partners, supporters and officials will be able to enjoy the renowned Welsh hospitality, soak up the incredible Rugby atmosphere, visit their wonderful pubs and restaurants, browse their extensive retail complexes and enjoy the many attractions the city has to offer. Full Festival details are available at - www.goldenoldiessports.com
Festival Contact Details For all European Teams - Shirley Rattray - Phone: +44 (0) 7908 370968 or by E - mail rugby@goldenoldiessports.com or..... shirley@vslevents.com

A Great Rugby Book by - Dr Tom Johnston Father of World Golden Oldies Rugby !

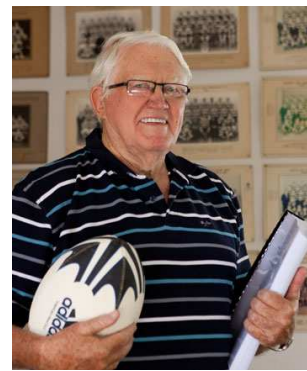
I had the pleasure and privilege of making the acquaintance of Tom Johnston Esq at the Christchurch World Golden Oldies Rugby Festival, in 1995..... and we have kept in touch regularly..... even more so now, with the advent of E – mail.... Tom was the driving force in New Zealand who set up the World Golden Oldies Rugby Organisation, along with the support of Air New Zealand. Tom received his Doctorate (aged 74) after completing a PhD on the culture of winning in the All Blacks, for his Book – **Legends in Black: New Zealand Rugby Greats on Why We Win**

Dave McDonald

The title of a book “ *The Game They Play in Heaven* ” (by Dan Crowley, an Australian Rugby Union footballer who played for the Wallabies 38 times and earned over 100 caps for the Queensland Reds) says it all for me. Growing up in an egalitarian New Zealand society as a kid, Rugby gave me a competitive sport to try to excel at, a source of enjoyment and camaraderie, helped establish my sense of values, and high regard for my fellow man. As one of the Founders of the concept of Golden Oldies way back in 1977, I am delighted to write a few words of Congratulations and Best Wishes to Dave McDonald, President of both the European and Scottish Golden Oldies and all Golden Oldies taking part in your Festivals. I admire you all keeping the spirit alive and trust the whole Festival provides you with the Fun, Friendship and Fraternity that is the guiding tenet of the movement. Dave is one of those remarkable Rugby Men I first met with the *Aberdeen Strollers* who epitomizes all that is good in our Game.

Best wishes to you all.

Tom Johnson



Social Media

If you have not yet, please **Like Us** and **Join Us** on our Facebook Page - **European Golden Oldies Rugby** - and please also consider adding a Hyper Link from your Website to our EGOR Website....?? This will help spread information about European Golden Oldies Rugby. www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com

New 6 Nations Cup



Each year, *the RBS 6 Nations Championship Trophy* is competed for by England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales. There is a brand new Trophy for the 2015 Championship which will replace the 1993 edition and is the first to truly represent all six participating Nations in the *RBS 6 Nations Championship*. The body of the Trophy is crafted from a single sheet of Sterling Silver, with the six-sided shape representing each competing Nation with each Nation's crest, as well as the year they joined the Championship engraved on the plinth. The old Trophy, had a capacity of 3.75 litres – sufficient for five bottles of Champagne. I wonder if the new Trophy can hold six Bottles....??

And Finally..... Record Rugby Win....

A Belgian Rugby Team playing in the Country's top division has won a Game 356-3. The match saw *Royal Kituro* run in 56 tries and 38 conversions to *Soignies'* lone drop-goal - which equates to more than four points a minute on average. The problems began for *Soignies* in the run-up to the Game when the Referee failed to turn up on time. The away Team's Coach and most of the Players then left, assuming the Game was off. However the Referee did eventually appear, more than an hour after the scheduled kick-off, and the Game went ahead. The 16 *Soignies* players still available seemingly did not compete in protest. *Soignies* President - Guy Calomme - described the result as "catastrophic", while a *Kituro* spokeswoman said *Soignies* "didn't really play". Footage of the Game shows the away Team allowing the opposition to run past them uncontested and repeatedly touch down under the posts. The away Team were effectively forced to play and gain the ' loser's point ', rather than forfeit the Match and earn no points at all. And despite *Royal Kituro's* hammering of *Soignies*, the losers still sit above *Kituro* in the league by one point. *Soignies* occupy third place in the table, although they now have a points difference of minus 264 !!