

Fun,

Friendship

and Fraternity

Golden Oldies Rugby – History

For years, and in some cases many, many years, over 35's throughout Europe, have played Rugby under various names – *Old Boys, Old Crocks, Buffties* etc but the first Official World Golden Oldies Rugby Festival took place in Auckland in 1979, organised by former New Zealand Player – Tom Johnson - and they have been organised every two years since, alternating from Southern to Northern Hemisphere, by Air New Zealand. In 1985, the World Festival was staged in London, organised by Tony Carter, Jeff Butterfield and their Team. The first European Festival took place in Denbosch, in Holland in 1992 when Teams from 8 countries took part. The European tradition had begun thanks to local organisers from *Dutch Exiles* led by David Haynes. They introduced the *Battered Relic Trophy* at this first ever Festival and since then, this Trophy is awarded to the Team showing the most Golden Oldies Spirit during the Festival - on and off the field....The second, was held in Heidelberg (Germany) in May 1994, hosted by the Rugby Union Baden-Württemberg, headed by Chairman Claus-Peter Bach, and attracted 20 teams from 12 countries. The 3rd Festival in 1996 was in Verona (Italy) where Sergio Caggia as Festival Director with his team *I Cangrandi* were proud to announce that 25 teams had visited the town of Romeo and Juliet. For the first time ever a non-European team participated - *Gauteng Oldies* from South Africa. The 4th Festival was in Aberdeen (Scotland), the Silver City by the Grey North Sea, where *Aberdeen Strollers* and Dave McDonald as the President of the Festival Organising Committee, welcomed in September 1998, 20 teams from 10 countries. A Guest G O Ref from Australia participated. The 5th Festival in 2000 was in Moscow (Russia) was exclusively a local Russian event because no teams outside Russia took part due to extreme weather conditions. However 12 Russian Teams participated. The 6th Festival was held in Split (Croatia) in 2002 hosted by local veteran clubs *RK Split 59 and RK Dalmatia*. Director of the Organising Committee was Siniša Tartaglia. Playing all the games on only one pitch of *Nada RFC* in the town centre, this event attracted 16 teams from 8 countries. The *Elders of Zion* (Tel Aviv, Israel) took part as the first team from the Middle East. The 7th Festival in Benidorm (Spain) in 2004 - 31 teams from 15 countries - was hosted by *Villajoyosa Rugby Club* with Director – Ignacio Davila.

For the first time a team from America came to our European Festival - *Ancient Aztecs* (San Diego, USA) as part of their Planning ahead of staging the 15th World Air New Zealand GOR Festival in 2005. The 8th Festival was held in Zürich (Switzerland) in 2006 attracted 23 teams from 12 countries. The organisers - *Swiss Gnomes* under the direction of Bob Dean, Nick Wilkinson and Xavier Speckert, with the help of the Swiss Rugby Federation, hosted around 600 participants. The 9th Festival in Madeira (Portugal) in 2008 was hosted by *Porto Old Greens*, managed by Miguel Vareta and José Filipe Belo and attracted 41 teams from 14 European countries and one GOR Team from Argentina – the first, coming from South America. The 10th European Festival was held in Caernarfon (Wales) when Y GOGS Directors Emrys Jones and Brian Roberts hosted the EGOR Festival in 2010 when 32 teams from 14 different nations with about 1,100 participants enjoyed Welsh hospitality and the EGOR Jubilee Festival. The 11th EGOR Festival was held in Trieste (Italy) from June 14-19, 2012. Directors Stefano de Rosa and Elio de Ana and *TANDOOI F.V.G. Old Rugby Club* were the organisers of this event. For the third time, Argentina were represented and joining them from overseas were the *Golden Lions* from outside Sydney ! An excellent Festival took place in Prague, in June 2013, organised by Andrej Hronec and his Team...and plans are well under way, for the 2015 Festival being held in San Sebastian, Spain. <http://egor2015.com>

Future Festivals

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 / Regional Authority is essential....and hopefully the support of your National Rugby Union. Several Cities from throughout Europe are already seeking to Host our 2017 European Festival !! However, we try to encourage all Teams to Host a small one day Golden Oldies local Festival. 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@europeangoldesnoldiesrugby.com

Funding

The European Golden Oldies Rugby Executive Committees are all Volunteers and as yet, there is no specific Sponsorship for our Golden Oldies Rugby, or Festivals, although we are always looking for a generous Rugby benefactoror two! All aspects of Sponsorship are available, from major Corporate Sponsorship, smaller amounts of Sponsorship – with a Financial contribution, Product or Services in kind, Festival Brochure and Pitchside Advertising, also being amongst the options. E-mail EGOR for details. A Newsletter is issued on a regular basis and Advertising or Sponsorship can also be agreed. Sponsor Golden Oldies Rugby.....and you will definitely get a Game - if you so wish !! Over the years, Golden Oldies have supported many Charities, both Local and National, usually with the emphasis on Youth / Children's Rugby and Rugby Charities We endeavour, where possible to make our Festivals eco – friendly.

Committee

President	Dave McDonald	Scotland
Vice President	Dr Sergio Caggia	Italy
Vice President	Bob Dean	Switzerland
Secretary	Matthias Schenker	Switzerland
Committee -	Werner Czerny	Germany
	Patrick Darricarrere	France
	Ed Freedman	Israel
	Andrej Hronec	Czech Republic
	Etor de Goicoechea	Spain
Referee Adviser	Ray Mellis	
Rugby Europe Rep	Menachem ben Menachem	
Media Adviser	Beat Schneider	
World G O Rep	The President	

info@europeangoldesnoldiesrugby.com

Your Local Representative is

European Festivals

Golden Oldies Rugby has been played in Europe for many, many years, but the first Festival was in 1992.

1992	Denbosch	Holland
1994	Heidelberg	Germany
1996	Verona	Italy
1998	Aberdeen	Scotland
2000	Moscow	Russia
2002	Split	Croatia
2004	Benidorm	Spain
2006	Zurich	Switzerland
2008	Funchal	Madeira
2010	Caernarfon	Wales
2012	Trieste	Italy
2013*	Prague	Czech Republic
2015	San Sebastian	Spain

* The change in year, from even to odd, was to have the 12th Festival included in Old Boys Prague 25th Anniversary Celebrations.....13th EGOR Festival in June 13-17, 2015 <http://egor2015.com>

Generally, the normal Laws or Rules of the Game apply, with some minor alterations... Unlimited Substitution, Shorter Playing Times, over vigorous Play is discouraged and at all times, the emphasis for all Players is always on - "Fun, Friendship, Fraternity and Family !" Age is shown by the colour of Shorts being worn – and over 60's cannot be tackled !

Formally set up in 2002, Saturday 6th December, 2003 was a very important day in the History of the European Golden Oldies Rugby Movement, with the acceptance of mutual Terms of Agreement, when President- Dave McDonald was invited to the Annual Conference of F.I.R.A. / A.E.R. being held in Paris. The Agreement means that the *European Golden Oldies Rugby Organisation* is recognised as a key partner of F.I.R.A. / A.E.R. and the Official Organisation for Golden Oldies Rugby in Europe and we have a Link on their Website, to EGOR. FIRA / AER is now – Rugby Europe.

Since then, our Membership has grown from strength to strength and at present, Golden Oldies Rugby is played all over Europe, with dozens of Countries involved. The Golden Oldies Rugby Committee, all Volunteers, represent eight Countries..... Czech

Republic, France, Germany Israel, Italy, Spain, Switzerland,and Scotland !

World Festivals

The World Golden Oldies Rugby Festivals were organised by Air New Zealand - now, by Vintage Sports.

1979	Auckland, New Zealand	1998	Cape Town, South Africa
1981	Long Beach, U. S. A.	1999	Adelaide, Australia
1983	Sydney, Australia	2001	Toulouse, France
1985	London, England	2003	Brisbane, Australia
1987	Auckland, New Zealand	2005	San Diego, U. S. A.
1989	Toronto, Canada	2006	Wellington, New Zealand
1991	Perth, Australia	2008	Edinburgh, Scotland
1993	Dublin, Ireland	2010	Sydney, Australia
1995	Christchurch, New Zealand	2012	Fukuoka, Japan
1997	Vancouver, Canada	2014	Mar del Plata Argentina

For further information, on the next World Festival, log on to the 21st World G O Festival Page - <http://www.goldenoldiessports.com/eventpage/events/2016-golden-oldies-world-rugby-festival-cardiff/welcome-105> If you wish to enter a Team, a few Players...or participate as an Individual, you shall always get a Game, at our Festivals. Contact EGOR and find out how to enter your Team, or become involved by joining up with another Team.

Facebook

European Golden Oldies Rugby now has its own Facebook Page.....if you wish to support us, please join up with us ...and spread the Golden Oldies Word to all your Players and Rugby contacts.... find us at - www.facebook.com/groups/138012189607654/#!/GORugby

Membership

For details of EGOR Membership for your Club or Team, contact info@europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com

A History of Golden Oldies Rugby



www.europeangoldenoldiesrugby.com



<http://www.rugbyeurope.eu>



Let the love of Rugby take you places

www.goldenoldiessports.com