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A WORD FROM YOUR SECRETARIAT

We start off this month's newsletter with a farewell to our long standing stalwart of Golden Oldies, Allan Dumbleton who retired last month.

Our 17th World Festival in Edinburgh continues to attract worldwide attention and we detail the latest teams to enter and other developments as we count down to September 2008. Our Edinburgh - based Golden Oldies Europe President 'waxes lyrical' about his beloved Scotland, his wife searches for meaning (and Nessie) in a Scottish Loch and the Frogs Kilt up for Edinburgh!

We review more Golden Oldies Rugby mini-festivals from around the world and detail Air New Zealand's continued support of US Rugby, concluding with news of up-coming events on the Golden Oldies world-wide Rugby calendar.

Read on.

DUMBLETON HANGS UP SECRETARIAT BOOTS

Allan Dumbleton's name is synonymous with Golden Oldies. He has been at the coal face of the Golden Oldies movement since its inception.

Allan was part of the team that established the movement and set up the Golden Oldies World Secretariat, as well as growing it into a worldwide movement and organisation over the past 30 years.



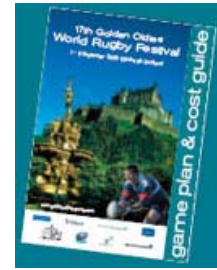
www.goldenoldiessports.com

He tried to retire a few years ago but we called him back, providing the organisation with his invaluable experience especially in the area of establishing future venues for all of our Golden Oldies sports of rugby, netball, hockey and cricket.

Now Allan is leaving us for the final time. And he says he is taking his phone off the hook. In fact he and his wife will be traveling themselves to visit their family. Perhaps you might even run into Allan somewhere around the world.



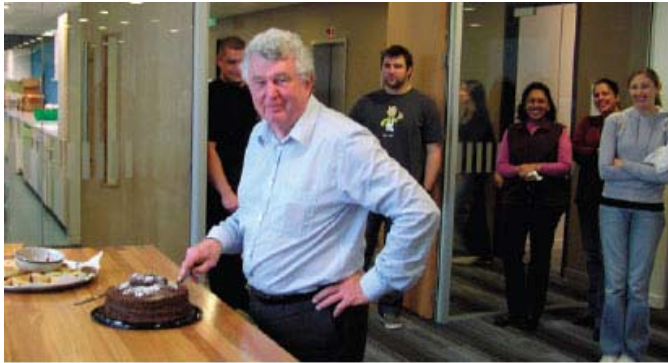
Allan and Connor (son of Toni Lithgow who looks after Netball and Hockey within the Golden Oldies Secretariat).



He leaves with the Golden Oldies Secretariat in strong and positive shape as we continue to grow and develop.

For Allan it has definitely been a case of 'Fun, Friendship and Fraternity'.

rugby@goldenoldiessports.com



Allan cutting the cake at his office farewell recently

2008 GOLDEN OLDIES WORLD RUGBY FESTIVAL EDINBURGH, SCOTLAND



What a truly International event our Festival is going to be! Over the last few weeks we have received **team entries** from eight different countries from around the world (a total of 13 countries are now represented!).

A big welcome this month to the following teams.

Australia

Burnside Blue Healers
Darwin Stubbies
Grafton Big River Bullrouts

Japan

Gunma Waku Waku Club

New Zealand

North West Galloping
Goannas
Queensland XXXX Goldies
Stillbillies

Bahamas
Cracked Conchs

Canada
McTarts

England
Cornwalls Cousin Jacks

Pakuranga Old Boys

Russia
Moscow Lads

Scotland
Aberdeen Strollers

USA
The Washington Poltroons 1
The Washington Poltroons 2
Whitsunday Whales USA
Chicago Frogs



Pre and Post Festival Tours

We have recently produced a range of Tours, especially for Festival participants and who are looking to tour further a field, pre or post their Festival experience.

Tours and prices (per person, share twin/double accommodation and based on a Group departure of minimum 40 persons, quotes can be given for individuals as well) are as follows..

London - Cardiff - Waterford - Dublin - Lake District -
Edinburgh 10 days/9 nights GBP683



Vienna - Munich - Lucerne - Heidelberg - Amsterdam
10 days/9 nights Euro967

Scotland One (Loch Lomond - Inverness - Potiochry -
Edinburgh)
6 days/5 nights GBP442



Scotland Two (Inverness - Aberdeen - Edinburgh)
6 days/5 nights GBP487

All registered Team Managers have been posted a copy of our colour brochure and the tours are also posted on our website
www.goldenoldiessports.com

Festival News

Issue One of the Edinburgh Festival Newsletter has recently been sent to all registered Team Managers. This publication is produced in conjunction with the Festival stakeholders and gives a fantastic 'backgrounder' to social function and playing venues, Edinburgh & Scottish sightseeing highlights and practical advise for visitors to Edinburgh. Issue One highlights include.

- review of 'Murrayfield'
- Edinburgh City highlights

- A guide to Edinburgh's world class Festivals

The newsletter is posted on our website www.goldenoldiessports.com and ask the Secretariat if you would like further copies.

Extra copies can be obtained from the Secretariat. Look out for Issue Two due out next month.

CEUD MILE FAILTE 'A HUNDRED THOUSAND WELCOMES!'

Our Golden Oldies Rugby Chairman for Europe Dave McDonald, is a proud Scot and anyone would think he is looking forward to showing off his country to Festival participants in 2008, if the following is anything to go by!.

SCOTLAND. a mystical, magical place. a place steeped in history, where majestic castles from a bygone age stand defiantly against the ravages of the elements; the birthplace of many of the world's foremost innovators and thinkers; a land truly blessed with some of Mother Nature's most beautiful and spectacular scenery.



To visit Scotland is to visit Paradise itself. From the haunting ruins of the Border abbeys in the south with their splendid architecture, to the raw, rugged beauty of the Highlands with their purple, heather-clad mountains and clear, sparkling lochs, there truly is something to enchant everyone. And don't forget the North East. Aberdeen, the Granite City and the Gateway to Royal Deeside, Whisky and great Golf Courses.

Tales of our great warrior heroes and their deeds on the stillrevered battlefields will enthrall you; (even if sometimes portrayed by antipodeans.!!) Stories of the ghostly goings-on in our eerie, mysterious ruins will appal you! The clash of steel on steel reverberates down the centuries, reminding us all of what our forefathers held so dear.

Be inspired as you explore our museums and galleries and follow in the footsteps of some of the greatest inventors who truly changed the course of modern history; perspire as you take a challenging walk through the glens, pausing only to drink in the breathtaking views. or, a glass of Malt !!

The world's finest golf courses throw down a friendly challenge; the King of Fish lurks in the dark pools of our glorious, unspoiled rivers, ready to do battle with your rod and line; and everywhere, a warm welcome awaits all Golden Oldies and their Families. Welcome to our land, welcome to Scotland -

Ceud Mile Failte

'NESSIE' SET TO WELCOME GOLDEN OLDIES RUGGERS



Recently, the European Golden Oldies Rugby President and International Representative, Dave McDonald spent some time in the Scottish Highlands, celebrating a special birthday of his good lady - Katie.

They took time off from their holiday to stop at Loch Ness. and Katie was able to inform Nessie (*a mythical - or maybe not - sea monster, said to inhabit the depths of Scotland's most famous Lake - Ed*) of the forthcoming - Monster Golden Oldies Rugby Festival taking place in Edinburgh. Katie is pictured giving Festival information to Nessie. from the Banks of Loch Ness.

Nessie may not manage to attend the Golden Oldies Festival. but all who do, will be guaranteed a MONSTER warm welcome on their arrival in Scotland. and also for the duration of their stay !!

We hope to see you Nessie!

FROGS' KILT UP FOR EDINBURGH

The Frogs Rugby Club, part of the Chicago Westside Condors RFC, USA, is comprised of players from all walks of life. They are jovial, passionate and wild characters. They love life to the full and like nothing more than being in a bar singing, dancing and romancing.

'We do not train, but play a great level of rugby and welcome everyone to our ranks. We normally have four games a season which start at noon followed by a very large night on the town. We are sponsored by Tennants of Scotland along with the Hye Bar located on Southport and Waveland. Stop by there anytime and you will see our jersey on the wall and probably a few Frogs trying to figure out the meaning of life.



One prerequisite for being a Frog is you must learn the words to the Scottish national anthem, Oh Flower of Scotland, along with the Bonnie Banks of Loch Lomond.

If you are interested in playing Frogs rugby, please contact the Frog, Adrian Nicolson e-mail anicolso@macneal.com. You will not regret it!!!



GOLDEN OLDIES MINI - RUGBY FESTIVALS AROUND THE WORLD



Continuing our reports on Golden Oldies Rugby Mini-Festivals held recently, we feature this month, events from three different parts of the world.

Holyland Oldies Festival, Haifa, Israel 17/20 May

Edwin Freeman from Haifa, Israel reports on the first ever Golden Oldies Rugby Festival to be held in the Holyland'.



Bob Dean of the 'Swiss Gnomes' is the man in the gold shorts. He is the oldest player to ever score a try in Israel. Besides the Gnomes, we had the 'St. Petersburg Golden Oldies Rugby Club', 'Israel Oldies Central Region' and 'Israel Oldies Northern Region' (see above - Ed) .

The Festival began Thursday evening, May 17 with a party in a pub in downtown Haifa. The street was closed off, a band played live music, the Mayor of Haifa attended the event and plenty of beer was poured.

Friday's round of games provided lots of excitement as the Gnomes preceded the opening game with a Swiss Haka, (somewhat less intimidating than the Kiwi version!) and showed their unique ability to play rugby and drink beer simultaneously. The St. Petersburg Oldies came out with a determined attitude and displayed some impressive rugby skills.

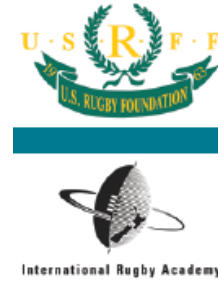
Saturday was set aside for sightseeing and Sunday saw the conclusion of the Festival. Israel's Didi Shalit was unanimously chosen as the player most deserving to get the boot, and showed great spirit in downing a pint of Israel's brew from his rugby boot. The concluding party was held in a middle-eastern style restaurant in the beautiful entertainment district of Haifa.

South Canterbury, New Zealand, 03 June

This year's Golden Oldies mini-festival hosted by the Temuka Magpies at Temuka also doubled as their 25th year in Golden Oldies Rugby celebrations. Eight local teams in the region joined the Magpies to retrace their steps down memory lane which also helped to attract several past members from visiting teams on that journey into the past.



Left: Plenty of hot food was on offer from an early stage of the day.
Right: Lindsay Parke in traditional Magpie's garb, with Jack O'Neil of the 'Raukapuka Roosters



The Festival attracted eight teams - Oxford Oldies, MSA Evergreens (Ashburton), Southern Spikers (Hind/ Mayfield), Raukapuka Roosters (Geraldine), Pleasant Point Stags (Pl.Point), Celtic Leprechauns (Timaru), Waitaki Wasps (Oamaru) and the Magpies.

Lindsay Parke, New Zealand Chairman, Golden Oldies Rugby

Lovedale, New South Wales, Australia 16/17 June

Allan Forno, our Golden Oldies Rugby, Australian Chairman reports.

"Lovedale went extremely well, especially as the weather was appalling on the Friday and Saturday. With more flooding predicted for the coastal area of the Hunter Valley, we were really surprised when nearly all of the teams that had registered turned up on the Sunday! Despite the weather (which included bitterly cold winds) you would have understood if the numbers had been low, but like true rugby players the dinner was booked out and at 1am was still going full steam! The 9.30am start the next day became the 10.30 start, with a port and coffee tempting everyone (or nearly everyone) onto the paddock!

The day resulted in six new country teams joining our fraternity, with one of them likely get a team together for our 2008 World Festival in Scotland".



The 2008 Edinburgh Festival was well promoted. . .



. . . there where some unique facilities (the 'Outfield Bar!') . . .



... and a great mix of teams participated!

US RUGBY FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 2007 GRANT RECIPIENTS



The United States Rugby Football Foundation recently announced that Shawn Pittman and Hamish Roberts had been selected as this year's International Rugby Academy of New Zealand grant recipients.



Pittman (pictured, top), a 6'3", 250 lb. prop from Chuckanut Bay, WA, and Roberts (pictured, bottom), a flyhalf from Woodlands, TX with eleven U19 caps to his credit, were members of this year's successful United States U19 team that played in the World Championships in Dublin. They will take part in the Advanced Player's course at the International Rugby Academy New Zealand Institute, at Massey University in Palmerston North in August.

Air New Zealand has once again supported the USRFF, to fly recipients of the annual awards to the International Rugby Academy of New Zealand in Palmerston North.

HEARD AT THE BOTTOM OF THE RUCK!

2007

Anytime! - The 'Creaky OI Convicts' Golden Oldies Rugby team from the tiny South Pacific Island nation of Norfolk Island are inviting Golden Oldies teams to come over and 'play!!' They would love to hear from you.

Contact: Brent Pauling "Creaky OI Convicts"
Phone: 006723 22639
Email: kiwicruisers@norfolk.nf

7/8/9 September - During the Rugby World Cup, the veteran rugby players (UFAR), a branch of the French Rugby Union (FFR), is organising Vet's Festivals in 8 towns hosting Rugby World Cup official games

- Friday 7th September, foreign teams can be welcomed to a UFAR club for a meal and to watch the opening match: Argentina-France.
- Saturday 8th September, there will be an exhibition of different regional produce close to the Gerland Stadium (Stade de Gerland) where the 3.30pm Japan-Australia match is to be played.
- Sunday 9th September, on the Lyon Rugby Committee grounds in Chaponnay (outskirts of Lyon), there will be a number of veterans' matches: a Japanese team (or a mix of

several groups), an Australian team, (or a mixed group) and 6 regional teams.

Contact: M.Vauthier
23, rue Emile Cheysson 69100 Villeurbanne France
Email: mv.ufargtv@wanadoo.fr
(please include " Festival Vet" as recognition code).

22 September - The Launceston "Thylacines" in conjunction with the Old Tassie Devils, will be having there second "Tiger Hunt" Golden Oldies Rugby Tournament at the Launceston Rugby Club, Tasmania.

The boys last year, not only lost the tiger but came back "mauled, pawed and clawed".

Any sides wanting some magnificent Tassie hospitality and some great Golden Oldie Rugby.

22 September - The veterans rugby club (Les Ducs de la Motte) situated in the eastern suburbs of Montpellier, France are organising a rugby tournament for veterans on the 22nd of September 2007, the eve of the Australia - Fiji world cup match.

Contact: Jean Bernard Vallet
Email: jb.vallet@free.fr

September/October - 'Bandar Log's', Marseilles, France welcome Golden Oldies teams to a series of Tournaments, being held during the World Cup as follows.

- Sunday 9th, the day after New Zealand - Italy
- Sunday 23rd, the day after Argentina - Namibia
- Saturday 29th, the day before France - Georgia
- October, Friday 5th, the day before the two quarterfinals

Contact: Pascal Manfrueli
Tel: (33) 06 15 84 16 15
Email: pascal.manfrueli@abcysonline.com
Net: jfmonfraix@wanadoo.fr

If you are looking for good accommodation during the Rugby World Cup period, Philippe Canourgues a Golden Oldie from Marseille and member of the 'Bandar Log' Rugby team can offer a typical provençal house that will accommodate up to six people.

Philippe reports. 'It's a very nice place to visit our region, seeing matches in Vélodrome stadium, enjoy provençal nights, restaurants, hiking, diving, golfing, visiting, which I can organize for you. We are near the beaches of La Madrague (20 min by car from Marseille) in Saint Cyr Sur Mer.



Cost per week is 800 euros or 3 days for 500 euros

If you are interested.

Contact: Philippe Canourgues
Tel: + (0)6 81 55 81 94
Email: philippe.canourgues@club-internet.fr

Contact: Andrew Jack
Email: ajack.ag@bigpond.com
Mobile: 0417 321487

06/07 October - 'TOPSI' (Top of the South Island - New Zealand) Golden Oldies Mini -Festival, Nelson hosted by 'The Buccaneers' and featuring Rugby and Netball

Contact: Andy Jennings
Address: 3/52 Tasman St Nelson
Tel/Fax: 03 5480931
Mobile: 027 4971695
Email: topsinelson2007@merlotconsulting.co.nz

12 October - 'Les Beti Bixkor' of Bretigny sur Orge (30km south of Paris) is organising a Veterans Rugby Tournament between the two World Cup semi finals. Open to all 'Old Rugby' players/teams.

Contact: Claude LESBATS
Tel: + 33 6 22 11 21 65
Email: claude.lesbats@wanadoo.fr
English speaking international contact: xchaveton@wanadoo.fr

2008

03/05 October - 'CONGO' (Central North Island Golden Oldies) Mini - Festival.

Contact: Steve Allright
Address: 204 Great North Road, Wanganui
Tel: 06 3471741
Mob: 021 425579
Fax: 06 3480445
Email: steve@halls.co.nz

IT'S A WRAP

That's the news for another month. Remember, if you have any information you'd like to share with other e-readers and rugby enthusiasts feel free to pass it on to the Secretariat. And if you know someone who would enjoy reading our monthly Rugby eNewsletter, get them to send their email details to the address below.

Tell us about yourself and/or your team, by completing our simple profiles. click on the buttons below!

Yours in Rugby!



Paul Tibbutt
Golden Oldies World Rugby Secretariat



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