



**This 50th Anniversary Program is dedicated
to the heart and soul of
the Augusta Rugby Football Club,
Dr. William "Bill" Welsh.**



**Elected captain for life by his teammates,
Bill has always led the Mad Dogs from the front. Bill, in partnership with our
Coach Emeritus, Dr. Edouard Servy, built a strong and respected rugby club
that has lasted 50 years. The club has toured the world and was invited to join
the famous French old boys association, Les Archiballs, as Archiballs USA.**

**Inside this program, you will read many examples of why we,
the old guard of ARFC, love and respect our Captain.**





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Members from left to right: David M Kraebber MD, Deborah Hess, MD FPMRS, Mary Feinour PA, Clare Robinson NP, Kathryn Duncan Pelvic Floor Therapist



"After 50 years, we still have your balls covered"

— Dr K



Scrum Dawg Here:

(anonymous voice of Mad Dog Rugby)

Stop the presses, stop lifting up those hind legs to water the local fire hydrant..... Your “Olde Scrum Dawg” is back and barking loud as ever!!

Step up, step up my fellow Mad Dogs, you young (think you can play with the “olde boys”) Puppies, and those sexy Feline Furries..... it’s time to open this program and get to the ‘Nekkid Truth.’ (line made famous by LV!)

This olde scrum dawg knows no other way to say it besides just spitting it out with some juicy slobber on the side! We are dedicating this celebration of 50 years of Augusta Mad Dog Rugby to the most coveted, beloved, cherished, and gifted player of our club, our very own G.O.A.T. The epitome of rugby runs thru his veins, paws, ears, even to his tail-bone....hell, all of his dog parts! May he forever be known and called: “Le Capitaine”, “El Capitan”, “Il Capitano”.....

Players, Family, and Friends.... It is my greatest

honor and privilege in presenting this prestigious award to..... William J. “Bill” Welsh MD!!!

Bill’s presence on the pitch at hooker was as imposing as facing a pit bull in a closed caged dog fight! Much less his pack of hungry, ugly, tobacco chewing scrum dogs following him in hot pursuit. As a fellow front row player, I never felt we were ever going to lose a match with Bill at hooker. I’ve seen him hook a ball with his “head” he would get so low to the ground! The consummate competitor, the face, the heart & soul of Augusta Mad Dog Rugby!

Bill, this club owes you so much more than we can ever hope to repay. You forever have our undying LOVE and ADMIRATION!! You have been the greatest player and friend this club has ever known.

*Yours forever in rugby,
Scrum Dawg*





Happy Half-Century to the Augusta Rugby Football Club!

Rugby is not just a game, it's a way of life. It doesn't care about your background, your identity, or your abilities, rugby embraces everyone. You'll join a family of kind and helpful folks who share your enthusiasm and principles. Rugby is not only enjoyable and demanding, but it also helps you develop as an individual. You'll learn how to cooperate as a group, honor your rivals, and cope with stress. Rugby gives you the courage and skills to thrive in life, both on and off the pitch.

Rugby makes you awesome.

Kudos to two of my best buddies Grady Leonard and Eddie Powers!



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Foreword

It's hard to believe that it has been 50 years- half-a-century- since Jim McMillan, Dan Ferguson and Tom Hazelhurst sat one afternoon at Squeaky's and while sipping cold beer decided to bring rugby to Augusta. They combined their college experience (Clemson, Princeton and Stanford), their preaching and charisma to convince MCG freshman classmates to follow their path. Jim, who later became "Jim Rugby", devoted much of his time to organize, gather and coach. Since the team was, at first, mainly composed of future M.D.'s he chose the name Mad Dogs.

They were able to recruit about 20 players in a class containing 120 students. Nowadays, it would be impossible knowing that the ratio girl/boy has gone from 5% to a little more than 50% and the mode of medical student recruitment has dramatically changed. In the late 1970's, the faculty was looking for "well rounded" people, athleticism being a plus. Now they give preference to bookworms or nerds, most of them lacking social skills or being boringly studious.

Bill Welsh and Mike Harrison joined the team and took part in the first games. A few months later, Bill who knew I had played rugby stopped me in the hallway to announce to my great surprise that the Medical College of Georgia had a rugby team. I was in my first year of Obstetrics/Gynecology residency at MCG when Bill, Junior medical student, invited me to join them for practice at Richmond Academy. I thought when leaving France, a few months earlier, that I had left rugby forever behind me, my main hobby and entertainment. Was it predestination? I guess Providence was watching after me.

There are many good memories that when we, the old boys, meet we can talk for hours and recall spicy stories and events that took place on and off the field, at games, parties or while traveling. Camaraderie on the rugby field leads to friendship forever.

Many thanks to Bill Welsh, Grady Leonard and Bartley Payne who have sacrificed a lot of time to organize our 50 year Jubilee. Grady asked me to try to compile memories and pictures regarding the first 20 years of our club's existence. It's dangerous to ask an old man to write his memories. I celebrated this year my 80th birthday and fortunately I still have a pretty good memory. At least, that's what my friends and relatives say. I'm sure I will miss a few important events or anecdotes but I will do my best.

*Edouard Servy M.D.
Mad Dog Coach Emeritus
May 30, 2023*

We Used To Work in Chicago...

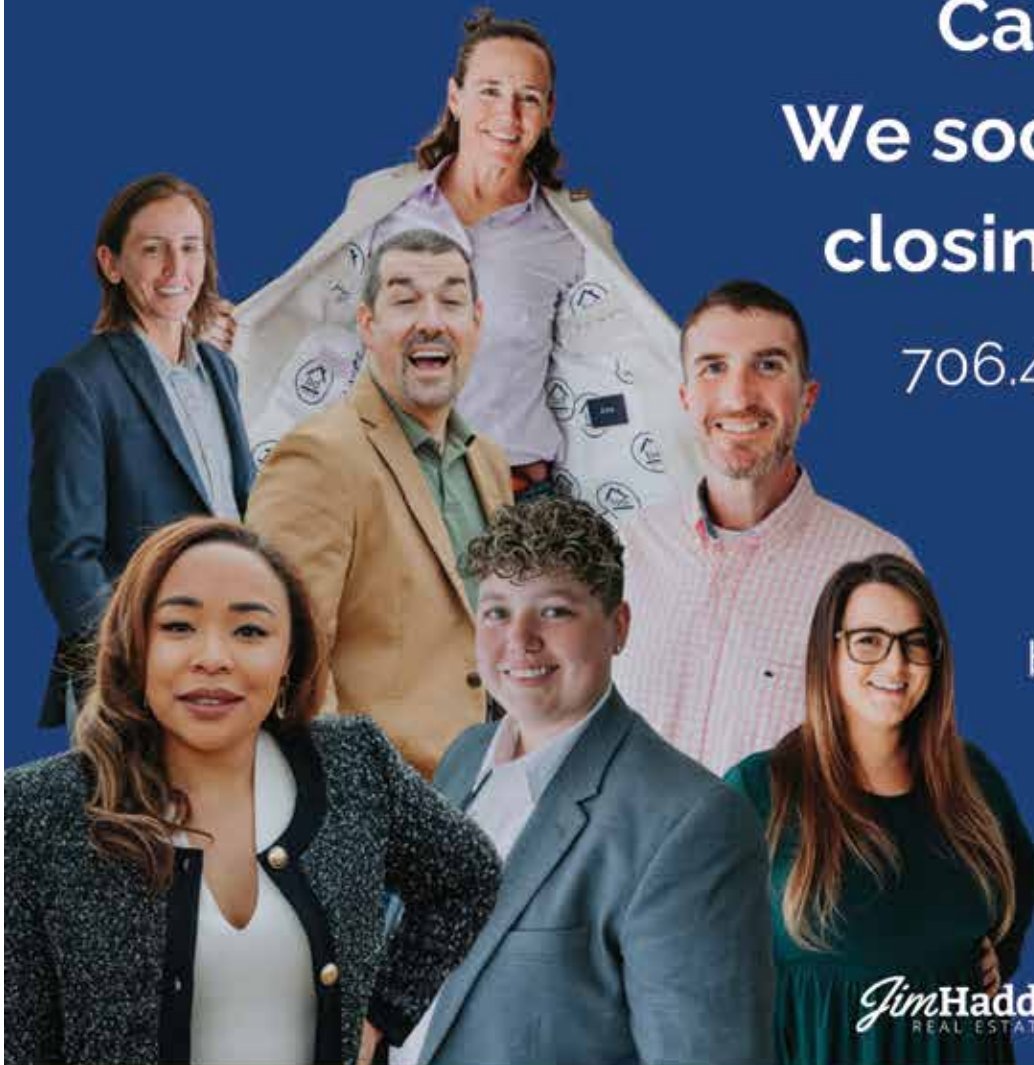
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Thanks for the memories!

-Glenn & Melissa DeGuaat



MAD DOG Reminiscence

Fifty years have already passed since Bill told me during hospital rounds that a new rugby team made of medical students had just been founded. I thought my rugby life was over when I started working in Augusta, but the atmosphere and the enthusiasm generated by the Mad Dogs was contagious. These young sportsmen who had been raised playing baseball, basketball or football were eager

to learn and practice this new discipline that would keep them in shape and healthy during the time of their medical studies. In order to play rugby, you have to run, push, jump, throw and catch the ball, but above all, you must not be afraid to get hurt.

Bill has always been on the front row of the action on or off the field. Being the hooker, he was the first one taking the hits and leading the pack. He was not afraid to get hurt. Even though his spirit remained strong, all the hard playing took its toll on his body. I could not give a list of all the bruises, cuts and broken bones he had to endure but I believe the first fractures started on his hands.

The first real rugby accident that struck me is the one that occurred in 1980 during our tour in Southern France. We were playing against the “old blacks” from Le Boucau. Bill had to leave the field because of a fractured fibula of his right leg. He was taken to the hospital, diagnosed and treated with a knee-high cast and advised to rest in bed for the rest of the night. As always, the players of both teams celebrate after the game and our hosts took us to a night club in Biarritz. Shortly before midnight, we saw Bill coming accompanied by Theresa with his cast and walking with crutches. Despite the medical advice, he had decided to take a taxi cab and join us. Not only he drank beer with everybody, but he soon decided to dance on the floor, holding on to his crutches. That’s Bill. He’s always wanted to take part of the action.

A lot of other adventures took place in and off the rugby pitch. We can think about compression fractures of the spine during a game in Atlanta against the Renegades, broken ribs and nose in Argentina. The list is long but we cannot tell all the stories. I’m sure all the Mad Dogs, old or young players have a story to tell. Mike Wheeler has a good one.

A memory from Mike Wheeler:

“After 30 years of playing beside Bill, there are many episodes in great matches to share, it’s difficult to pick just one. So, let’s go back in time to 1984, the place ... Charleston SC, the Citadel playing their A-side in a friendly match, or so we were led to believe. Very young boys, barely out of puberty or even able to grow hair oh, I forgot, their heads were shaved for school!! Citadel requirement!

Their coach must have fired them up pre-game as their testosterone level was high, they were hitting hard and playing fast. About the third set piece, as we came together, their hooker made the most fatal vocal mistake of his young rugby career he called Bill an “old fart!” Immediately after the set, Bill grabs my collar and said, “let’s pick them up next scrum.” In our rugby day, there

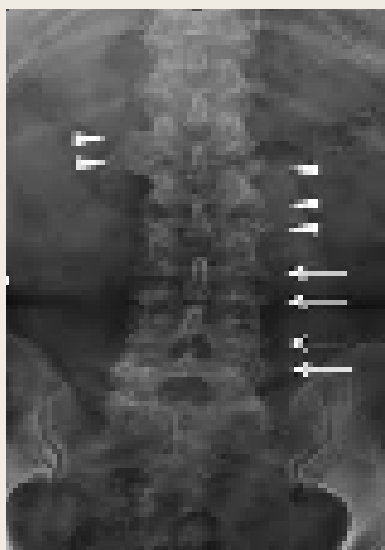


continued

were no rules up front such as now with shoulders staying above waist level. So we got low, very low, underneath their entire front row. (As Larry Munson would say on the bulldogs play by play, “Get tha pictcha!”) As the ball came in, we actually lifted all of them off

their feet, putting their respective chins touching their sternums, thereby cutting off their breathing, feet dangling, completely off the ground!!! After 5-7 yards of pushing their scrum backwards, we graciously let them down. Funny how no oxygen supply causes one to apologize and promise not to mention “old fart” ever again!!”

In 1992, I had coached the Mad Dogs for nearly 16 years. One Tuesday morning in September, while I was in the Doctors’ lounge at the University Hospital waiting to start a routine gynecology surgery, my friend and colleague Clint Massey -a neurosurgeon- entered the room with a folder containing X-rays. He slapped two of them on the view-box and said: “Edouard! Look at this! What do you think?” “Well, I answered, it doesn’t look good.” Even with my naked-eyes -not specialized in radiology and/or neurology- I could



tell that the exhibited spine had suffered. “Yes, he said, it’s the spine of your friend, Bill. There are signs of old cervical compression fractures and multiple bone spurs on the thoracic and lower spine. I told him he could not play rugby anymore. I’m not sure he listened to me. Please tell him to stop.”

The fall season was about to start and the following weekend we were at Aquinas for a practice game. It was a delicate subject. I knew Bill very well. I knew that being an enthusiast, dedicated and stubborn ruggger he would not take my friendly advice very well. I related the story to Glenn DeGraff who being a Chiropractor -experienced in spinal injuries- would agree with our neurosurgeon friend’s recommendations. His presence and opinion might help us to be more convincing. When we arrived, Bill was already dressed to play. I called him. “Bill! We need to talk to you.” We wanted to keep it down to a private conversation. First, I related to Bill what Clint showed me and told me. Then, Glenn tried to be persuasive and corroborate the professional recommendations.

We looked at each other waiting for an answer. We didn’t have to wait too long. Bill kicked some dirt, looked down bending his neck like a Mad Dog hooker about ready to enter in a scrum then he looked up and said “F ... you! I will go play with Charlotte.” Without wasting any more time, he turned around and ran to join his teammates. End of the story.

In summary, what can we say? Bill is courageous, tenacious and stubborn, always ready to help and show his teammates and friends the example. He’s a good friend you can always count on, but when he makes up his mind stay out of the way.

Edouard
Mad Dog coach emeritus





**Richard Law, John Luther, Brian Welsh,
Alan Thompson, Bartley Payne**





From the beginning to the end, what a wonderful trip it has been.

Eternal gratitude to Rufus Moondog Freight Train Weaver Jr. for dragging me to that first rugby practice.



I would've missed The Game otherwise.



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Founding Meeting at the Tip Top according to Mike Harrison

“You’re right, it was started by Jim McMillan, Danny Ferguson, Tom Hazelhurst and Tad Porter at Squeaky’s one afternoon in August of 1973. All were Freshman medical students at the beer bust after their first exam. Danny Ferguson was my friend, and I was sitting at the table with them. Someone mentioned Rugby and all their ears perked up! Turns out each had played rugby at Princeton, Clemson, Stanford and Vanderbilt respectively. They decided then and there to start a club, and I became its fifth member. Our first match was in September 1973 at Clemson. It’s been a great 50 years!

**Mike Harrison scored the first try in club history against Clemson*





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for 50 Successful Years, with Many More to Come!*

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To an Athlete Dying Young

BY A. E. HOUSMAN

The time you won your town the race
We chaired you through the market-place;
Man and boy stood cheering by,
And home we brought you shoulder-high.



Today, the road all runners come,
Shoulder-high we bring you home,
And set you at your threshold down,
Townsmen of a stiller town.

Smart lad, to slip betimes away
From fields where glory does not stay,
And early though the laurel grows
It withers quicker than the rose.

Eyes the shady night has shut
Cannot see the record cut,
And silence sounds no worse than cheers
After earth has stopped the ears.



Now you will not swell the rout
Of lads that wore their honours out,
Runners whom renown outran
And the name died before the man.

So set, before its echoes fade,
The fleet foot on the sill of shade,
And hold to the low lintel up
The still-defended challenge-cup.

And round that early-laurelled head
Will flock to gaze the strengthless dead,
And find unwithered on its curls
The garland briefer than a girl's.





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MCG Rugby Mad Dogs



Recruitment

The sport is considered as being rough. “We say a ruffian’s game played by gentlemen.” Each team starts the match with 15 players. It’s remarkable that our three founding members were able to recruit nearly 30 players in two classes of medical school. It’s probably due to the way the students were selected in the seventies. The faculty was looking for “well rounded” people, meaning that they had different types of skills and abilities, sports activity being included. It has nothing to do with the way students are now recruited using only college grade point average and Medical College Admission Test (MCAT) score. In other words, they don’t select athletes anymore. They give preference to bookworms or nerds, most of them lacking social skills or being boringly studious; plus, the fact that the ratio girl/boy has gone up from 20 percent to what is now above 60 percent. So, it is now unusual to find a medical student on our local rugby team. Today, there are 230 students per class at the Medical College of Georgia (MCG). In 1973, they were 150.





Soon our rugby team attracted students from other areas like the Dental school, the Ph.D. and research program and older medical students like Bill Welsh who was the first one to talk to me about the Mad Dogs. He invited me to join them at practice. Most of them being neophytes, I think they were happy to find someone like me with a long rugby career and experience. I joined them for practice on Tuesday and Thursday evenings and weekend games when I could. Unfortunately, because of my crazy ob-gyn residency schedule, I was only able to be with them for half of the events. After the end of my residency my working schedule improved and allowed me to participate in all practices and games, and in 1976, they asked me to be their coach. I liked the team, the players, their great attitude and mentality. They were my kind of people and I gladly accepted the job as a volunteer. I don't know why I call it a job because it was fun and entertaining, more like a hobby. However, I did perform the task seriously. I coached and played the first few years then I only coached. I was an atypical coach for this country. They were used to their high school educators who were always using positive comments and encouragements. I was raised with a different mentality. My French coaches never wasted a chance to criticize us when we were making mistakes and I practiced coaching the way I learned it. Some players complained that when they were making a mistake, not only did they feel depressed about it but also, I would make it worse with my critiques by pushing their heads deeper into the mud. I must not have done too much of a bad job for they have kept on reelecting me for an uninterrupted period of 15 years. In 1991, when I retired from the position, they named me "Mad Dog coach emeritus," a title that I received with pride.

We always trained on the football practice field at Richmond Academy. The games were played Saturdays or Sundays in the afternoon. First, we built a field on Harper Street near University Hospital at the present site of the Radiation Therapy Center, then we played near the Gracewood State Mentally Deficient School on the old Savannah Road, then Paine College. Later on, we were allowed to use the Aquinas Football field for many years. Now, the team has now its own Mad Dog rugby field on Division Street near West View Cemetery obtained from the city with a long term, thanks to the intervention of friendly Augusta commissioners.

Mad Dog Van

Away games and tournaments were occurring on weekends in cities that could be as far as 150 to 400 miles away. I decided to buy a big blue Ford van to take the family with me, so did Bill Welsh who had six children. On my spare-tire

cover, there was a nice painting executed by the husband of one of my patients, representing a fierce bulldog with the words "Mad Dog." On occasion, Cheryl was driving and when a car was passing us on the highway, its occupants would invariably stare, I guess by curiosity. She eventually got used to it. Bill who was the team hooker had a license plate with the word "SCRUM." While their fathers were getting bruised and having fun on the field, the kids were playing on the sideline. Cheryl and Theresa Welsh were watching husbands and kids. It was a nice way to spend weekends with family. We would go to three or four tournaments a year in various places like Golden Isles, Hilton Head, Savannah, Orlando, Charleston, Atlanta, Chattanooga; where we would spend the whole weekend. At the tournaments, we were playing at least three games per weekend and it was exhausting. The family did not always come with us. The students had a restricted budget, so the ones who could afford it would get a hotel room and the others would invade the room with their sleeping bags. One time, I counted five nonpaying guests in my room. One was in the tub, three on the floor and one in my bed. I guess we had to make special efforts to have a full team on the field.

Bruised and Battered

Every weekend we were getting battered and exhausted. On Monday morning we were feeling the after-effects, going back to school or to work with sore muscles, moving slowly; some of us with a limp, some with a black eye, some with a bandage on any body part. But it did not matter, we were young and we were recovering fast. After three days we were back, running at practice. There were very few serious injuries. Bill was bringing his surgical kit and would often sew cuts on scalp, eyebrows or hands and apply splints on injured joints.

The games against Life Chiropractic Clinique of Atlanta were quite a show. We were bringing our ambulant infirmary and they were putting adjustment benches on the sideline. One time, after playing three games in a tournament I tore an ankle ligament and the following week, I performed surgery standing with a knee on a stool, walked on crutches to see patients and to fly to Chicago to take my specialty oral boards.

Bill has had his share of injuries. Being the hooker, he was in the middle front of the scrum, which means the most exposed position. One time, after a furious game against the Renegades in Atlanta, he had a neck injury. We feared for a spinal lesion. We brought him back to Augusta, lying flat on the floor of the van. A neurosurgeon friend saw him after we arrived. Fortunately, he reassured us about the gravity of the injury but Bill had



to wear a Minerva neck brace for one month.

Coaching a bunch of young men who were discovering a new game was not too difficult. Most of them had played American football in high school. They were very good at tackling but I had to remind them that in rugby we play without protections, so the impact has to be softer and it's better to tackle at the belt or lower. Some of them, who could not want to lose their high school habits, would inevitably suffer from concussion, head or shoulder injury.

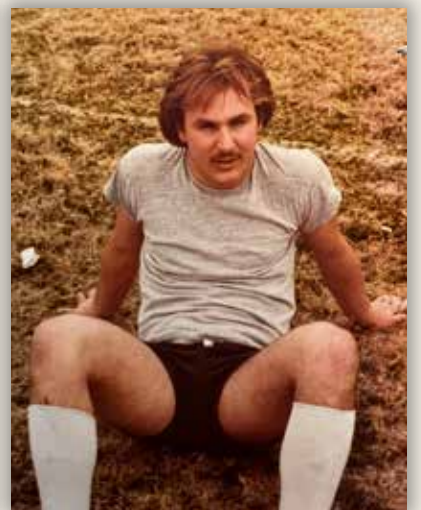
They all could run but they had to learn new positions and a new technique for passing the ball laterally. All of them wanted to kick but only a few could. It is something that is difficult to learn if you have not played soccer at an



early age. Besides that, we had to work on physical shape and endurance because during a game we had to run for 80 minutes. In the good old time of amateurism, no substitutions were allowed and it was unusual for a team to lose a player because of injury. Nowadays, with the advent of professionalism, there are new rules allowing eight substitutions and more brutality. Severe injuries and concussions are much more common.

We managed to have a good team with honorable results. The team won an unforgettable tournament in April of 1978 on Hilton Head, a result that will

stay in all the participants' memories, for we defeated soundly high caliber teams from Maryland, Virginia and Atlanta. It was the beginning of a long series of pleasant and competitive games for many years to come.



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Archiball USA Association



For some of us rugby has provided so much joy and entertainment that it's difficult to hang up the cleats and get rid of the old jersey. In fact, many of our aging Mad Dogs, who in the mid 1980's were gaining weight and losing speed, were wondering how they could continue to play rugby, travel and enjoy the camaraderie. A friend who has shared sweat, bruises, the joy of victory or the agony of defeat on the rugby pitch is a friend forever.

In the winter of 1985, five of us joined the "Archiball Cote Basque" team for an old boy winter tour of the West Indies with Bill Welsh, Mike Harrison, Steve Taylor, Frank Wadford and I. This is when Bill and I decided to create an "Archiball USA" team. It happened during the spring 1986 Mad Dog European Tour. The average age of our old guard nearing forty, it was time to think about our post-prime rugby future. Maurice Tardits who was our guide, was then president of the "Archiball Cote Basque" and we were visiting in La Rochelle, Yvon Caris, the man who had founded the Archiball Association in the early 60's with a



group of architects and builders retiring from active rugby, “Archiball” being a blend word of “architect” and “ball.” What a great opportunity to create our own Old Boys Club! We had dinner in an old-fashion seafood restaurant. Inside, the atmosphere was warm. We sampled all types of fish and shellfish elegantly prepared in order to open our appetite. They were served with a delicious cold Muscadet, a regional dry white wine fitting perfectly the menu and our songs. Yvon Caris, the founding father of all the Archiballs blessed that evening the birth of our “Archiball USA Association.” Yvon and Maurice were the Godfathers and we named three club officers. Ricky Clinton, architect on Hilton Head being our first president, Bill Welsh our treasurer and me, secretary. Later that night, Yvon gave me a copy of a book he had just written about his rugby experience and published with the title of: “The Line of Advantage” For the readers who have some knowledge of rugby, the line of advantage is an imaginary line drawn across the center of the pitch when there is a breakdown in open play, such as a ruck, maul or scrum.

Yvon said: “The advantage law is the best law in rugby, because it lets you ignore all the others for the good of the game.” The book is also narrating Yvon’s long rugby experience. I have kept it preciously in my personal library. On the first page, the following dedication is handwritten: “To my friend Edouard Servy, declared tonight Archiball









Consul in the USA by the founding president of the association. La Rochelle, March 16, 1986.” Thirteen years after the birth of our rugby club, the Old Boys section was taking its first breath.

Why should you join? As Archiballs, you can keep playing your favorite sport after reaching 35 years of age in a way that gives absolute enjoyment on and off the field, court, pitch or course. You can stay active and participate without bumps, bruises, aches and pains of serious





competition, but at the same time play to the best of your ability and enjoy it!

Historical review: The first Archiball team was created in 1966 in La Rochelle by the architectural firm of Yvan Carris ; the Archiballs spread to Bordeaux in 1967, the Basque coast in 1969, Béarn in 1975, the Caribbean in 1984, and to Augusta, USA, in 1986. Since 1995, the concept of a rugby alumni club has exploded, and the number of clubs in France and around the world has become countless.



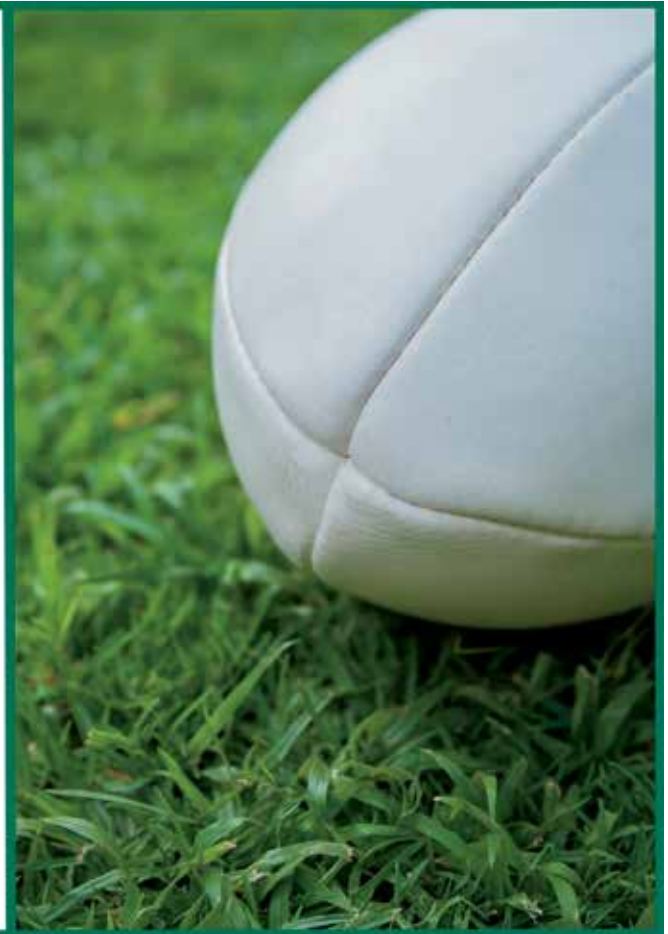


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ARFC and Archiball USA Deceased

Dominic Kiomento	1985
Joe “Joe Spaghetti” Lampiasi	
Ron Owens	
Dr Gerald Gussack.....43	1997
Larry Bray	40
Dr Larry Pig.....60	2007
Vince Spivey.....51	2007
Dr Chris “Zipperhead” Waites	38
Hutch Zettler	57
Andre Servy	75
Ed “Big Ed” Wadford.....63	2011
Greg Meagher	57
“Rufus Moondog Freight Train Weaver Jr”	68
Charles Kircher.....69	2013
Franklin McKie	63
Joe Tante.....81	2015
Tim Griffin.....63	2017
Dr Eugene Long	71
Greg “The Hammer” Poteet.....50	2020
	2021
	2021
	2021
	2022
	2022
	2022





The Hammer



Buzz, We called him the Hammer. Never tackled by just one man. We were up in Charlotte in a playoff game against the mighty Charlotte Rugby Club. Greg was our starting right wing. The reserves for each team sat together on a small bleacher. The Charlotte reserves kept calling, “Go left, get it wide left!” I guess they had a speed merchant on their left wing. We were laughing and telling

them, “don’t go left, that’s where the Hammer Lives!” Finally they get it wide left and its speed merchant against the Hammer. It looked like a cartoon, Greg had him up on his shoulder and whipped him into the ground. The carcass seemed to go into the ground and a mighty dust cloud came up about it. We were howling with laughter and yelling, “We told you! That’s where the Hammer lives!”



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In Memory of Greg Meagher



On behalf of

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and the Meagher family...

Congrats on 50 Years, ARFC !!!



Richard Tardits aka Le Sack

AFRC's USA Eagle

The Côte Basque Archiballs were on tour in 1983 and being hosted in Augusta. The Archiballs were led by Maurice Tardits who mentioned to his friend and host Edouard Servy that he had a 17 year old son, Richard, he wanted to send over to learn “American English”.

Richard arrives in June for a summer visit, he had already been selected to the French National Rugby squad for his age range and was also an excellent tennis player.

Richard sees USFL football on the tv and asks “how can I play that game?” Naively, Edouard answered “come and see us next year after you finish high school. If you go to college over here we will try to make you join a football team.”

Richard arrives back in Augusta in August of 1984, accepted to Aquinas High School. It was found that as Richard had completed the four year high school requirement in France he was not eligible to play football at Aquinas. He did play for ARFC and was a positive influence on their winning 1984 campaign.

Spring of 1985 Richard started attending UGA. Richard attended his first football walk on tryout in rugby kit. “He dressed with shorts, long striped socks and a rugby jersey when everyone else was wearing football attire,” wrote Bob Rope, long time UGA football videographer. When asked by Coach Dooley, after being introduced by team physician Dr Mixon Robinson-a former Mad Dog rugger, if he was trying out for kicker his reply surprised Dooley, “No Sir! I came here to play football.” Richard’s athletic ability enabled him to be one of the few walk ons to make it through the selection process.

Richard moved to the athletic dorm and benefited from the “force feeding” program. Power lifting and “excessive” ingestion of highly caloric meals, loaded with vitamins and carbohydrates enabled Richard to gain 30 pounds of muscle and change his physiognomy. Now his neck, chest and shoulders were well in proportion with his thigh and leg muscles. His father, Maurice was upset when he saw

him “so fat”, thinking he would lose his best attribute, his quickness. No worries, Richard trained his heavier body to move as fast as it used to in leaner times.

Not selected to the travel team to the first game of the season against Alabama, he was added to the kickoff team for the second game against Clemson. He did not miss any game for the rest of his four year eligibility.

A member of the kickoff team he also practiced at backup defensive end. He developed a personal and original scheme to bypass the massive offensive linemen using his rugby talents: fakes, change of speed with lateral and diagonal moves.

In 1986 at spring practice Richard sacked Quarterback Todd Williams four times. Coach Dooley called for a break and putting his hand on Richard’s shoulder said, “If you stop sacking my Quarterback, I will grant your request. Congratulations Richard! You have been awarded the BATTLEFIELD scholarship!”

In four and a half years he graduated with a BS in International Business and with an MBA in Finance and Computer Science. During his Senior year he was a double NCAA All American as a player and as a scholar. Richard set the UGA records for sacks per game, per season and per career. He received another nickname, “Le Sack.” While at UGA Richard continued to play for ARFC every chance he could.

Richard entered the NFL after leaving UGA, first playing for the Arizona Cardinals, then 3 years for the New England Patriots. After his eight years of American Football Richard returned to France where he played rugby for Paris University Club. Later Richard returned to Atlanta and played rugby for a top USA side Life Chiropractic. He was selected by the USA Eagles where he played for both the full side and the 7’s side.

Richard is now a successful business man and President of Côte Basque Archiballs living in Biarritz, France.





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Congratulates Dr. Bill Welsh on his long support of the Augusta Rugby Club and the far-reaching accomplishments and differences he has made in the Medical Community and the Greater Augusta Area over the past 50 years.

Thank you, Dr. Welsh





The MCG "OLDE BOYS" after 10 years of eating their dead.







Overseas Players for ARFC

Glenn de Graaf, South Africa - #8/Coach
Henk de Graaf, South Africa - Flanker
Jake de Graaf, South Africa - Center
Melvyn Garrett, England - Flyhalf
Philip Greyling, South Africa - Winger
Richard Law, Scotland - Flanker/Referee

Edmund Sao, American Samoa - Tighthead Prop
Edouard Servy, France - Flanker/Coach Emeritus
Richard Tardits, France - Flanker/USA Eagle
James Wainwright, England - Hooker
Phillipe Erramuzpe - Chef/Wing

The Augusta Rugby Club has been blessed to welcome numerous Overseas players/Coaches into our Club. Thankfully the first was Edouard Servy (Fast Eddy) an experienced player from a top-level club in France. Edouard took on coaching an inexperienced rugby club still in its infancy and immediately raised the level of play. The years Fast Eddy spent building our club alongside Bill Welsh paid off. Let's raise a glass to the guys that kept the club alive and growing. Bill and Edouard! Our next big Coaching influence came from South Africa, Glenn de Graaf, a #8 from the top levels of South African Rugby. Our already good pack improved technically, physically and mentally. Glenn taught us how to rip a ball using technique and leverage, he taught us how to roll a maul the South African way, he tightened up an already good scrum and when on the field led from the front. Let's raise a glass to the de Graaf brothers, Glenn, Henk and Jake who showed us how they do it in South Africa!

In 1985 a 17-year-old French teenager, Richard Tardits came to stay with Edouard to Americanize his English. Richard an excellent athlete attended Aquinas High School as a Senior and started playing for ARFC. Bill says he taught us the 8-9-7 move off the scrum and the first time we used it we scored a try to steal the State Championship from Greenville. Bill was smiling as he told me how unhappy Greenville was over our last-minute win. Richard went on to great things at UGA, the NFL and the USA Eagles, our National Rugby Team. Let's raise our glasses to our own USA Eagle, Richard Tardits!

About the time Glenn started with ARFC an Englishman, Melvyn Garrett arrived in Augusta. Melvyn is a scrumhalf like Michaelangelo is a painter. If I can't have Jonny Wilkerson on my dream 15, I'll gladly take Melvyn. I once saw him stutter step, hop and change gait, his man marking him bamboozled and befuddled fell down. Come and find me with an extra whiskey in your hand and I will tell you the Legend of ARFC beating Life Chiropractic on their home field. Let's raise a glass to a rugby artist, Melvyn Garrett

Philip Greyling is a South African Track Star who came over on a track scholarship to Clemson. Luckily for ARFC he came to Augusta after college. Philip was always the fastest man on the field, and he brought South African skills and toughness into the team. I played Fullback behind his Flyhalf one game. I had never seen a Flyhalf turn into an SEC Linebacker before. He would run cover directly behind our backs defensive line and demolish anyone attempting to break our line. Let's raise a glass to Philip Greyling!

James Wainwright is an English Hooker, a damn good English Hooker. He broke me of the spin move. Playing Flyhalf in an Old Boys v Flat Bellies game I did a spin move on my opposite number too close to the end of a lineout and James blasted me as I came out of it. Last spin I ever did. Let's raise a glass to Hookers and to James Wainwright!

Back in the Olden Days, early 80's, I played for Hilton Head Island RFC. Augusta RFC and HHIRFC usually ended up playing each other 2,3,4 times a year. We were rivals but we were tight. Augusta had an incredible pack, complete badasses. Edmund Sao, a soldier, Samoan, strong, tireless, was the tighthead. He moved around the pitch like a flanker. Let's raise a glass to soldiers and Edmund Sao!

Our latest arrival is a Scotsman, Richard Law. Richard is a fine player who will play wherever and play well, but Flanker is his position. Richard has moved into Refereeing and has quickly become a respected "Sir". Let's raise a glass to the man in the middle, Richard Law!



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for 50 Great Years

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ad to be inserted here



Maddogs & Furies

Representing Augusta Rugby Around the World

The Augusta Maddogs and Furies have had a long history of success around the world with players and coaches traveling around the country and world representing the values and traditions of Augusta Rugby. For the last 50 years, Augusta Rugby has had the privilege and honor of assisting in the formation of great rugby players and being fortunate enough to welcome them when they have returned from their elite playing sides. Rugby is the sport of inclusivity and we welcome all, but it is not without the guidance of those who have sacrificed their time, energy, and body in order to achieve their dreams of high level rugby that our local club can continue to grow. Rugby is a sport where all people can come to blend into a true melting pot and become one community. With all of our differences as people, there is one thing that lifetime ruggers can all agree on and which brings us together all those Tuesday and Thursday nights and Saturday mornings...our love for this great game and our openness to accept all people who are willing to put in the work to become the best rigger they can be. Every Augusta rigger who has put this club and their respective side before him or herself, who has sacrificed their time to train, and who has shown up to support their brothers and sisters on that pitch is a true champion.

Augusta Rugby can stand tall with our head high when we are asked as a club to present our best. Our elite level personnel ranges from the Georgia State High School Champions in 2010 with two Augusta Players coaching and developing multi-sport local athletes into what would produce high level contributors to the men's side along with two collegiate national champions and professional rugby player within Major League Rugby (MLR) all the way to the two most decorated ruggers in recent Augusta history (see Richard Tartis article in program) – Alex Burr who was selected into the USA Women's National training side and player pool and Jam Reinhardt who was capped with the USA Women's National side while playing in the 2017 Women's World Cup in Ireland. Amongst our great history we have had professional players in Brian Welsh playing in France

(Biarritz) and Jamal Hadley playing in the MLR with Rugby United New York along with representatives in four of the five All-Service sides (excluding the Coast Guard), two of which (Don Zuehlke & Boomer Hickey) were multi All-Service Champions representing the United States Air Force during their service's 14 year run of the All-Service tournament (go Zoomies!).

Augusta Rugby has also been fortunate to have been the benefactor of the recent resurgence of select sides in the south. The USA Rugby South defeated 9 national sides on their way to upsetting the Trinidad & Tobago national side in Port of Spain in 2013 and became the first American rugby 15s side to win an international sanctioned tournament (North American and Caribbean Rugby Association) since the US National Side defeated the French in Paris in the 1924 Summer Olympics. Boomer Hickey claimed 4 Man of the Matches in the South's run to include the championship match along with being awarded the Augusta Sports Council Amateur Athlete of the Year in 2013. Jamal Hadley played a significant role in leading the USA Rugby South to their following tournament championship in the newly formed Rugby Americas North Championship (RAN) in 2017 when the South traveled to Guyana to avenge the double overtime, last second penalty kick loss in the NACRA Championship in Atlanta from three years prior. Pete Redmond continued the momentum left by the prior South squads and elevated the championship atmosphere and winning environment of the USA South and Augusta rugby as he continued his stellar coaching career as assistant coach on the 2017 USA Rugby South RAN Championship side. Shawn Elms went from Augusta player to touring rugby player in Europe. Afterwards he returned to Augusta for MCG and was a player-coach during the 2012 run of Augusta's to the sweet 16 D2 playoffs. A more lasting legacy was working with Pete Redmond to carry on the high school rugby team initiated by Alexis Servy. Over five years, two of the local sides won state championships (D1 & D2), created two collegiate national champs, a number



of young men that went on to create collegiate rugby programs at the college they matriculated to and scores of future Augusta Maddogs. Shawn founded and ran the Morehouse College RFC for 6 years and eventually rose to become the attack coach of The USA South Panthers. Over the most recent years The South has defeated the national teams of Austria, Hungary, Colombia, every Caribbean nation, a handful of MLR academy's and lost to the Czech Republic, all with a Maddog on the coaching staff or roster.

Brian Welsh was contracted to play professional rugby at Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque for the 1991 – 1992 season as a flanker. The experience and knowledge which he gained allowed him to return to Augusta, following an injury which abruptly ended his professional career, to assist in continuing to build the solid foundation of Augusta Rugby which had begun a decade before by the founding members of this club.

Jamal Hadley dipped his toe into the seductive waters of rugby in 2010 when a high school friend asked that he fill a spot in a local high school match (Augusta Barbarians). Jamal ended up joining the Barbarians, leading them to a state championship, accepting a rugby scholarship to AIC, winning a collegiate national title at the D-AA level, moved to New York to play for Old Blue, and eventually being recruited and contracted to play for Rugby United

New York (RUNY) for their initial season in Major League Rugby, prior to returning to Augusta to become the current player-coach and paying it forward to the next generation of Augusta ruggers.

Richard Shore, hailing from South Africa graced Augusta with his presence for a deep run into the D3 playoffs in the late 2010's which provided him an opportunity to progress to a higher level of rugby by earning a starting role in Atlanta Old Whites D2 side and eventual leadership role in both the USA Rugby South and the Atlanta 404 (Rugby ATL Academy).

Augusta continues to move forward under the leadership of the perpetual president of Matt Keck who has grown the Augusta Rugby Club to its current 501(c)3 status and ambitions of permanently acquiring our own land to build multiple pitches, rebuilding our recording/observation tower, building a clubhouse fit to honor the generations which have come before and have provided so much support for this club and sport (to include a deck and bar!!!), along with growing this game to include individuals and communities from all corners of the CSRA. Augusta Rugby continues to expand their community outreach to serve the greater Augusta area and leave not only a superb athletic impression within our city, but a humanitarian legacy which is unmatched from other non-profit organizations in our area.







**Georgia High School State Champions
2009 & 2010**

****Aquinas–Richmond**
GaHS Rugby Association D2– 2009**
****Augusta Barbarians**
GaHS Rugby Association D1– 2010**
Jamal Hadley
Daniel Jones
Tyler Pearre
Noel Mankin
McGuire Welsh
Tyler Snead
Shawn Elms (coach)
Pete Redmond (coach)
Alexis Servy (initiating member)

Collegiate Rugby

Jamal Hadley
(AIC; Won 2 ACRC Bowl Games, 7's National Title,
3rd at D-2A Nationals 2015)
Daniel Jones
(Lindenwood; 2011 D2 National Champions)
Shawn Elms
(coach, Morehouse Rugby founder, 2016)

Elite 7s

Don Davis (Legion of Doom Touring Side)
Eric Rogers (USA Rugby South)

All–Army Rugby

Forrest Neal
Pete Redmond
Justin Tetreault
Brian “Moose” Kaufman
Edmund Sao
Courtney Sullivan (Fury)
Madison Hovren (Fury)
Kayla Williams (Fury)

All–Air Force Rugby

Stephen “Boomer” Hickey
(All–Service Champions, multi-year;
USA–NZ–AUS All–Air Force Paul–
Milne Shield Champions 2011)
Don “Silky” Zuehlke
(All–Service Champions, multi-year)







All-Navy Rugby

Jam Reinhardt (Fury)
 Alex Burr (Fury)
 All-USMC Rugby
 Mickey Bressler
 Ruben Bramhall

Professional Rugby

Brian Welsh
 (Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque)
 Richard Tardits
 (Biarritz Olympique Pays Basque)
 Jamal Hadley
 (Rugby United New York – RUNY)
 Richard Shore
 (404 – Rugby ATL Academy)
 Richard Law
 (Gala RFC & Currie RFC)

USA Rugby South

Stephen “Boomer” Hickey
 (2013 NACRA Championship Champions,
 2014 NACRA Championship Runner-Up)
 Jamal Hadley
 (2017 RAN Champions, 2018 Central European Tour)
 Austin Grant
 (2017 RAN Champions)
 Richard Shore
 Ernie Silva
 Eric Rogers
 Jessica Keagle
 (Fury; U-23)
 Shawn Elms
 (player 2003, coach 2018-current)
 Pete Redmond
 (coach, 2017 RAN Champions)
 Kristine Devine (Fury)



USA Rugby

Richard Tartis
 (multi capped Eagle along with
 French U-18 National Side)
 Jam Reinhardt
 (Fury; capped 2017 World Cup)
 Alex Burr
 (Fury; player pool/training selection)



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ARFC Presidents

1973.....	Jim McMillan	1995.....	Bob Gendron
1974.....	Tom Hazelhurst	1996.....	Bob Gendron
1975.....	Danny McBrayer	1997.....	Danny Hanson/Mike Harrison
1976.....	Mike Freeman	1998.....	Steve Toon
1977.....	Mike Freeman	1999.....	Mike Harrison
1978.....	Tom Little	2000.....	Mike Harrison
1979.....	Mike Harrison	2001.....	Mike Perkins
1980.....	Sandy Simmons	2002.....	Bob Nelson
1981.....	Martin Truett	2003.....	Bob Nelson
1982.....	Bob Remler	2004.....	Shawn Pruitt
1983.....	Jerry Wackerhagen	2005.....	Shawn Pruitt
1984.....	Edouard Servy	2006.....	Mike Wheeler
1985.....	Bill Welsh	2007.....	Mike Wheeler
1986.....	Bill Welsh	2008.....	Ben Frey
1987.....	Bill Welsh	2009.....	Luke Cain
1988.....	Greg Bowles	2010.....	Brian Kaufman
1989.....	Donnie Hayes	2011.....	Brian Kaufman
1990.....	Larry Vaughn	2012.....	Brian Kaufman
1991.....	Mike Wheeler	2015.....	Ben Frey
1992.....	Willie Caldwell	2016.....	Stephen Hickey
1993.....	Willie Caldwell	2017through 2023	Matt Keck
1994.....	Scott Smith		

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Sharon Caskey, *Chef/Manager*

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ARFC Through The Years



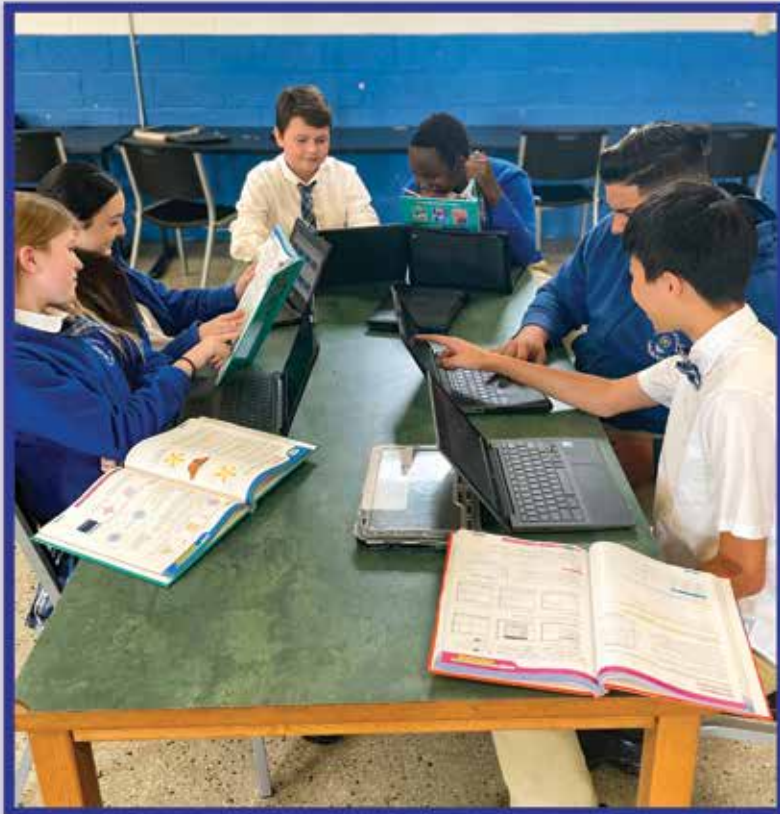


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We will always remember you!



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THE RUGBY RELATIONSHIP

LOVE IT AND HATE IT



I hated when you came home with black eyes, scraped up cheekbones, and bummed up knees.

You loved the cuts and bruises and wore them like badges of honor.

I hated that game day did not include you sitting next to me watching a college football rivalry.

You loved that on match day you played a gentlemen's game like an unarmored ruffian. Or was it a ruffians' game played by a gentlemen that I only caught a glimpse of every once in awhile?

I hated that Saturday date night included kegs and grown men (many who had yet to shower post match) singing about titties.

You loved the keg beer, casual date attire, and singing while dancing in circles with your finger on another man's head.

I hated that Rugby taught our 4 & 6 year old daughters how to tap a keg, flip hamburgers over a grill while standing on a soap box at the after parties, and how to dance on the bar at the Red Lion Pub.

You loved that from attending Rugby parties our girls learned how to throw a great party without the need of a bartender or caterer as well as the ability to provide entertainment with awesome dance moves.

**Mark Caroline and Carter safe from becoming Waffle House grill masters and exotic Vegas showgirl dancers.*

I hated that our anniversary usually included a trip to Statesboro, almost always in yucky weather, keg beer, burgers, and black rose t shirts commemorating the Black Rose Rugby tournament.

You loved that our anniversary and Valentine's Day almost always included a Rugby tournament at your alma mater and reminded you to get me, Caroline, and Carter roses (even if it was on a Rugby t shirt) and dinner out (even if it was a rugby party).

Hold up...tables turned...

I loved driving your fancy Lincoln Mach V that rivaled a pimp mobile.

You hated when LV and Wacker put the "HERS" license plate on it.

I love Rugby reunion banquets that include a "cute buns" contest that not even the Chippendales could rival.

You hate that your wife started that contest and you have to remember to wear nice boxers on banquet night.

Bless Greg Poteet for being commando at the 25th and shaming fellow ruggers into shining their a**! And shout out to Ruthie*

Caldwell for being a sport at the 30th by entering the first women's cute buns contest when the Furies joined in the fun!

I loved all the far away places Rugby events have taken us.

You hated that when traveling with the wifey the hotel room bidet could no longer be used for washing muddy cleats.

Aaaaaah...We are finally on the same pitch...

I loved that Caroline, Carter, and I proclaimed Thursdays as a "Girls Night Out".

You loved that you no longer got grief about heading out on Thursday for practice and beers.

**So many Thursdays the girls and I would run into little Tyler Snead at Cap'n D's. Who knew back then he would become a star on your high school rugby team and go on to be a damn great MadDog.*

I loved your commitment to be MadDogs' President in '87.

You appreciated the opportunity to lead and serve in continuing to build the club.

I loved when you were awarded the Golden Jock Trophy in '88/'89.

You felt so honored by your teammates.

I loved and admired your support of local Rugby by starting a high school team for ARC/Aquinas with Willie Caldwell and John Hayes.

You loved the opportunity to get back in the game and spread knowledge about rugby to young people.

I loved seeing you honored at the 40th reunion for your continuing commitment to the Augusta Rugby Club.

You humbly received the MVP award.

We love our Rugby family and hate that it takes 10 years for a major reunion to get us back together again.

Cheers to my rugger, Greg Bowles, his fellow MCG-Augusta MadDogs, the Furies, the fans, and Especially the WIVES, GIRLFRIENDS, and RUGBY BRATS, who have loved (and hated) Rugby throughout the years!

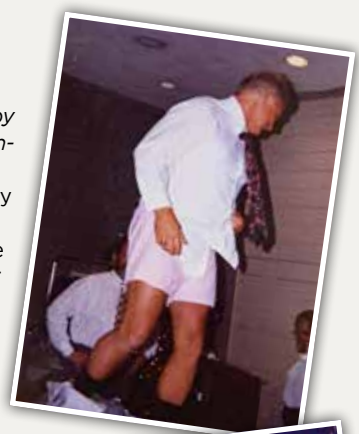
Raise your glass and drop your boxers! Cause ruggers rarely miss an opportunity to show their a— (cute buns)!

Hip hip Hooray!

Hip hip Hooray!

Hip hip Hooray!

PS - Surprise Honey! Not at all the page you were expecting. And I'm sorry 'bout the cute pink boxer pic. It had to be included but I did add an embarrassing one of me too.





ARFC Through The Years



ARFC Through The Years





ARFC Through The Years



ARFC Through The Years





ARFC Through The Years





Contributors

This program is the result of the hard work and dedication of many people who have contributed to the success of the Augusta Rugby Football Club. We would like to acknowledge and thank the following individuals for their roles and responsibilities:

Dr. Bill Welsh, Elite Player, Captain for Life, Event Coordinator, Mug Coordinator, and Program Advisor, OG MCGRFC

Dr. Edouard Servy, Elite Player/Coach Emeritus, Principal Writer, Gala Master of Ceremonies, ACC Golf Host

Lynn Welsh, Co Event Coordinator, Program Advisor, Mug Coordinator and Co Gala Finance Manager

Grady Leonard, Editor and Assistant to the Event Coordinator

Bartley Payne, Gala Coordinator and Program Business Manager

Leanne Mulherin, Program Ad Sales and Program Advisor, Silent Auction

Robin Cole, Program Ad Sales

Tyler Snead, Co Editor, Fund Raising Chair and Field Marshal, Silent Auction

Bob Nelson, Co Editor, 50th Anniversary Master of Field Ceremonies

Mike Harrison, Writer and OG MCGRFC, scorer of first try in club history

Matt Keck, Contributor, Gala and Program Financial Manager, ARFC President

Stephen “Boomer” Hickey, Elite Coach, Writer and Former Team Captain

Richard Law, Elite Coach, Contributor, Co Master of Field Ceremonies, Solemn Voice of the Club and Player/Referee

Brian Welsh, Elite Coach, Contributor, Audio Visual Producer, Gala advisor and Solemn Voice of the Club

Liam Welsh, Audio Visual Director

Shawn Elms, Writer

Dr. Jim “Rugby” McMillan, Contributor, Founder and #1 Original MCGRFC Gangster

Pete Redmond, Elite Coach, Contributor, ARFC Coach, USA Rugby South Assistant Coach, Georgia USA RFU International Liaison

Jane Carter of Jane Carter Design, Program Graphic Artist

Claffey Printing, Printer

Donna Whaley of Squeaky’s Tip Top Print Artwork: Original Artwork donated by the Artist

Greg Bowles, Framed Rugby Artwork and Major League Rugby Balls donation

The Hawk Law Firm, Cooler donation

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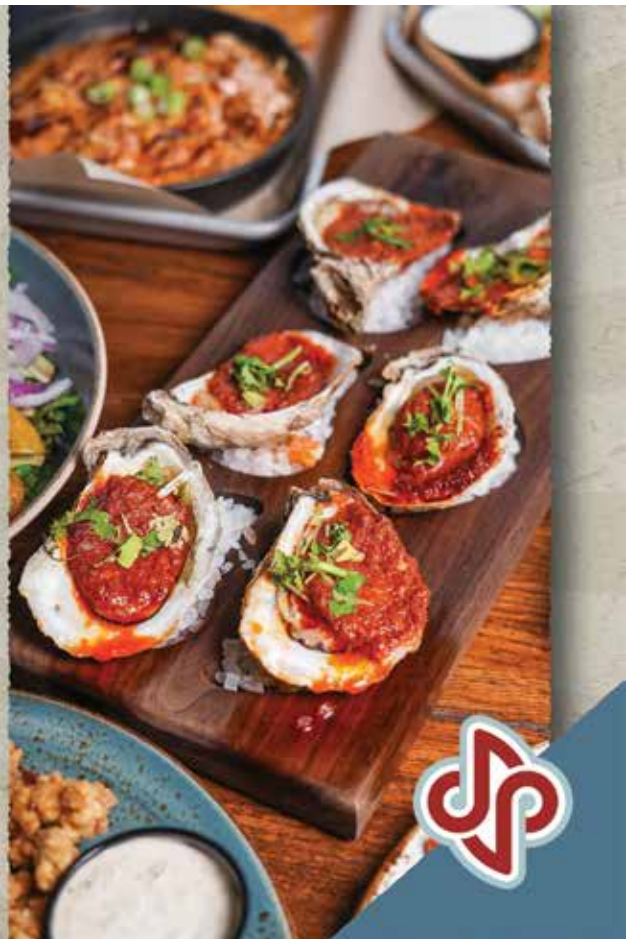
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CJ Bray

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"CARRYING ON THE CSRA LEGACY OF LARRY BRAY AKA THE BIG CHEESE"

I was born in Augusta and I'm extremely happy to have received the opportunity to serve as your local State Farm Agent. I have been a licensed insurance professional with State Farm since 2017 and proudly opened my own office in December of 2021.

In Loving Memory of My Uncle, Larry Bray



Licensed in GA, SC, NC, and FL, providing Insurance and Financial Services!