

ARABIAN COLLEGE
RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

Reunion 2015



Golf Day (4ball)	25/09/15	- 07h00 AM
Gala Evening	26/09/15	- 19h00 PM

Please RSVP on:
082 419 2260 by
1 June 2015

Arabian College Rugby Football Club



REUNION CELEBRATION EVENTS – SEPTEMBER 2015

Thursday 24 September 2015 – Welcome – Clothing Issue @ Assumption Hall, Florianville :-

- 15:00 to 16:00 Task teams to ensure that venue and requirements are in place
14: 00 to 18:00 Potjekos competition begins *(if Eid is on Wednesday 23/09/2015)*
18:00 to 20:00 Welcome for members and families; Issue of clothing orders
PRESENT BLOW BY BLOW TO MEMBERS AND INVITED GUESTS
20:00 to 21:00 Presentation Drama by Ms Snyders
Entertainment, continue issue of clothing orders

Friday 25 September 2015 – GOLF DAY @ Kimberley Golf Club :-

- 07h30 KGC Registration Golf Task Team - Welcome by Faisal Aysen
09h00 KGC Tee Off Golf Task Team - for Muslim guys attending Jumuah
11h30 Break for Jumuah - Muslim Players
12h00 TEE OFF – FIELD 4 BALLS
14h00 Muslim Players Resume
17h00 Last Groups to finish
18h00 Prize Giving and refreshments

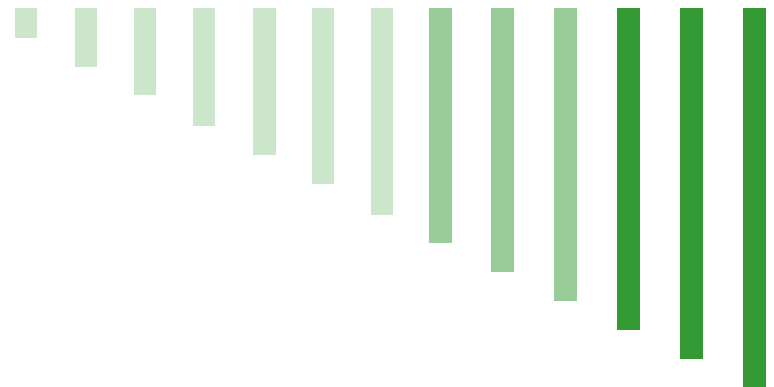
Friday 25 September 2015 – WELCOME BRAAI @ AR Abass Stadium :-

- 15h00 Task Teams ensure all requirements are at the venue
15h00 Start fires, braai, salads, drinks, lights, sound
19h00 Welcome, Announcements, Supper, Entertainment
PRESENT BLOW BY BLOW TO INVITED GUESTS

Saturday 26 September 2015 – GALA DINNER @ Mita Seperepere Convention Centre:-

- 08:00 to 11:00: Breakfast at AR Abass; walkthrough mock rugby match – referee Mr Z Pankar (rugby jerseys)
13h00 to 14h00: Dry Run @ MSCC - Setup at Venue = Tables, Chairs, Red Carpet, Banners, Décor
Position of Photographers, Cameras, Feed to Big Screen, Photographers Briefing
Task Teams Check Venue, Catering, Sound Check, Visuals, Red Carpet, Photographers

18h00 ACRFC Members and Guests arrive at MSCC
18h45 Group Photo – ACRFC REUNION 2015
19h00 REUNION PROGRAMME BEGINS



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ARABIAN COLLAGE FRC_x264.mp4

Arabian College Rugby Football Club



REUNION GALA DINNER PROGRAMME - 26 September 2015 @ MSCC

19h00	Opening by Mr Don Paulse	<i>PROGRAMME DIRECTOR</i>
	Mr Thomas Jossie	<i>PRAYER, BLESSING</i>
	Imaam S Motlekar	<i>PRAYER, BLESSING</i>
	Mr Faisal Aysen	<i>OFFICAL WELCOME</i>
	Mr H Paulse	<i>O' Powers</i>
	Mr Brian Van Rooyen	<i>KEY NOTE ADDRESS</i>
	Mr Eugene Jacobs	<i>AWARDS CEREMONY</i>
	Azies Alexander	<i>VOTE OF THANKS...</i>
	Mr Don Paulse - Set The Tone	<i>CANDLE CEREMONY</i>
	Mr Don Paulse	<i>TOAST</i>
	Mr T Jossie	<i>MEAL AND SERVING PLAN</i>

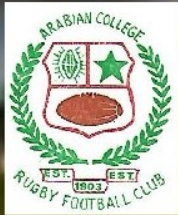
ENTERTAINMENT

DINNER IS SERVED - BUFFET

Main Meal

Desert

DANCE FLOOR IS OPEN



Better Ball ; Scramble Drive

Price: R1500 per Four Ball
(2 scores count)

Golf Day

Date: 25 September 2015

Price Includes Halfway Meal

Tee Off: From 06:30

Kimberley Golf Course

Contact Winston Du Plessis for information:
082 376 5306





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DAILY NEWS-SPORTS
WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23, 2015

FEATURE

Players remember rich history

**DAVE ALEXANDER
REPORTS**

KIMBERLEY'S Amabon College Rugby Football Club, established in 1900 as a community project in the corridors of the old Midag Zaaga, recently held a reunion with about 400 guests attending.

It was the first time in several decades that former players of the club got together. Although the club still exists in some form, it is no longer first-class. However, there is talk of reviving the club.

The club has a rich history and several making headlines in the late 1900s and early 1940s when players of the Amabon College team, including Booiba Adams and the three Barber brothers (Barley, Dick and Sid), took the game of rugby to a new level. ... the brothers taking the many who their father had taught them.

In the late 1900s, two players from the club - Oswald Jordan and Albert Brown - represented the South African Rugby Union (SARU) in Test matches against a South African Black XV. The two returned to Kimberley to receive a cup under the old SARU club player Paul Adams, a grandson of Paul Adams, who himself played in the first overseas Springbok team.

The late Albert Alexander, a former headmaster at the SARU, was chairman of the club during its 70th anniversary in 1970, while the 1980s saw players such as Pat and Don Peake, Eugene Jacobs (the present CEO of Northern Cape Cricket), Paul Aron Adams Alexander and Robbie Richards (the president of Northern Cape Cricket), taking the field.

Off the field the club operated as an integrated family and by supporting each other in more ways than one, while on the field the late Doc Dennis Crosson actually motivated at the age of rugby being played by Amabon College and to himself meant quite a lot about the game.

During an interview with Albert Adams, Albert, who was in the city for the reunion, he said that he was very surprised to learn that the rugby was being played in schools such as William Fered and Floors High.

"In earlier years there were several night or rain of these schools in the league with matches taking place at the Am Abon Stadium every Wednesday afternoon ... and about a thousand spectators attending.

"When club matches were played on a Saturday with some 25 clubs competing, there were between 3 000 and 5 000 spectators supporting their teams," Adams said.

He added that he and his two cousins were also really disappointed in the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture after the department took over the management of the Am Abon Stadium. Highly citizens not being allowed to use the stadium.

"Young members of the club are now planning to revive rugby at school level within the community in an effort to raise the standard of the sport from grass-roots level up to provincial level.

Adams agreed with a former club member, the late MBE for Sports, Arts and Culture, Brian Horrocks, who said that "a club in sport is a club out of court".

"When rugby in the community was at its peak, the Amabon College, Universal and Thistle clubs were the top performing rugby clubs. But now Universal is barely surviving."

The reunion included a golf day and a gala dinner at the Convention Centre.

PHOTO: Dave Alexander

PHOTO: Dave Alexander



RELIVING THE PAST: About 150 former rugby players from different generations met to reminisce over the good old days after nearly 20 years while watching the Springboks beat Samoa on Saturday. PICTURE: BERTIE SAM

‘Not enough done for rugby’

ZANDISILE LUPHAHLA

PEOPLE are complaining that rugby in the townships is dying, but not enough is done to develop the sport, former South African Rugby Union president Brian van Rooyen has said.

“Rugby is in our blood. We need to take it forward and make sure that our legacy is continuing,” he said on Saturday.

He was speaking at a gathering of former Arabian College Rugby Football Club players at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley.

The players, who featured in the

came together to watch the Rugby World Cup game between the Springboks and Samoa.

About 150 former players from different generations met to reminisce over the good old days after nearly 20 years. Joined by their families and friends, a group of older players made a grand entrance with a standing ovation from the crowd at the convention centre.

Among the guests was Northern Cape provincial MEC for corporative governance, human settlement and traditional affairs Alvin Botes.

The players said the idea to form the club was born at Kasiem’s Barbershop

“The idea of forming the club was raised by a group of men who were from Johannesburg and trying to get diamonds in the Kimberley pavements,” Van Rooyen, who is from Colville township, said.

Former provincial department for sport, arts and culture head Faisal Aysen’s great-grandfather, grandfather, father and himself played for the team.

“We were born in the family with a passion for rugby and we were born with a rugby ball but our children have since lost interest in it. They don’t know much about it. It is sad indeed,” Aysen said.

Proud roots of a folksy club that played rugby simple, but great too

BRIAN VAN ROOYEN

IN THE confines of Kasiem’s Barber at Malay Camp in 1903, the idea of forming the Arabian College Rugby Football Club (ACRFC) was conceived by a group of men either on their way to pick up the gold lining Johannesburg’s streets or set on finding the diamonds embedded in Kimberley’s pavements in the Northern Cape.

Besides starting a rugby club, these pioneers also assumed that a rich ladder of tales and anecdotes remained behind for today’s community to feast upon.

The late 1800s and early 1900s saw the emergence of the most talked-about Arabian College side, whose players brought immense glory to the club.

Players such as Duella Abass, who had the temperament of an Irishman, running the daylights out of his opposite number.

There was also the three Barman brothers – Moley, Sale and Eldies – who filled the flyhalf, scrumhalf and centre positions respectively.

They made the game of rugby so simple, reorganising the many tricks their father had taught them in his strict disciplinarian manner.

Other players who dominated this era as they displayed their rugby finesse were “Dummy” Hermanns, “Mama” Lottering, Sule Adams, Charles Steyners, Janie Aysen, “Shangri” Froedericks, “Mal” Aysen, “Leslie” Mills, “Dingetje” Du Plessis, George Isaacs, Dicky Fritz and a host of others too numerous to mention.

During the late 1960s the club was afforded the honour of having two of their players, Gessie Jardine and Abie Aysen, representing the South African Rugby Union (Saru) in Test games against a SA Black XV.

These two players thus equalled the feat of one of Arabian College’s stalwarts “Pitso” Ebdon, who played in the first coloured Springbok side with his grandson Pitso Adams being the last to receive a Saru cap.

On the administrative side, the club was well endowed with the brilliance of men like Duella Abass, “Baly” Richards (also life vice-president), Janie Aysen,



BONDING: Teammates of Arabian College Rugby Football Club were, to start with, united by the sport they loved but off the field they also cared for one another through thick and thin.

Lotsof Henner, V. Pret, V. Amsterdam, Moxon Aysen (Jnr), Sule Adams, Rashad Adams, Roppe Henderson, Kader Osman, Sule Mohr, Roy Alexander, Frikkie Norman, Zane Parker, Artie Thomas, Joe Sarawon, Abass Alexander (chairperson at the 75th anniversary) and Henry Paulse.

The following served during the 1980s: Gerald Carlo, Pit and Don Paulse, Eugene Jacobs, Faud Aysen, Mosen Adams, Rymon Richards and Apsis Alexander.

It is indeed with pride that Arabian College acknowledged the life president of the club, Duella Abass, who also sat in the president’s chair at Saru’s 17 years.

Abass held the post of Saru secretary for 23 years.

The services rendered by these administrators in the past have all contributed to making this club a great club with a great tradition.

In 1978 Arabian College Rugby Football Club celebrated their finest hour – the 75th anniversary of the club.

This was truly a historic occasion where a normal club from Kimberley managed to put together the All-Africa Saru Invitation Team to play against an

Arabian College Invitation Team – producing a level of rugby which Kimberley had never seen before.

Sadly though, unification came about in the early 1960s and led to the merging of GWRFU teams with GWFB teams, which sadly led to the loss of over 150 years of GWRFU history into clubs which existed for less than half the history of those clubs.

Sadly, Arabian College merged with Hoffs Park Rugby Club, Young Colleagues also merged with another club.

ACRFC was by no means a normal club, they operated as an integrated

family unit and supported each other by all means.

Teammates really cared for each other and looked out to protect the next person.

Those who know will tell you of the support in sickness, injury, celebration and death.

How the club stood together to render support.

We remember the times at Kimberley Hospital when the club members and supporters would crowd the hospital to visit or support one of our ones.

This care came along with generous

hearts and open wallets.

Where we would not leave anyone behind, even if it meant personal contributions to assist a teammate with flight and accommodation costs.

As a club it was not uncommon for ACRFC to dominate for long periods of time.

From 1908 to 1917, the ACRFC first team dominated GWRFU and won almost all trophies on offer.

A few lean years came by and then in the 1930s the club again emerged as the top club in GWRFU and in the same period produced the first Saru player in the late great Pitso Ebdon.

The mid to late 1960s again saw ACRFC at the top and then from 1972 to 1977 a second league team emerged with players so good and skilled they could challenge most first league teams.

This second league team moved on to dominate the first league from 1978 to 1985 and became the first and only GW club to represent at the national club championships in the Top 8 tournament at City Park.

The Club’s family rugby profile and that of others emphasise the greatness of ACRFC in that the late Dr Duella Croson marvelled at the style of play and operations of ACRFC.

And how much he learnt about rugby from his frequent visits to the table shop of the late Eldonius (Babes) Cader.

Behind every great man is an even greater woman.

Throughout our rugby playing days we were all well supported by the Adams, Alexander, Aysen, Mills, Paine, Norman, Mohr, Richards, Thomas, Osman, Coetzee, Hermanns, Waggle

Indies, to mention a few.

The approach of ACRFC in the game of rugby was quite unconventional, with great rugby minds such as that of the Barman brothers, Dummy and Janialah Hermanns, Jar Steyners, Gessie, Jardine, Duella Adams, Sule Adams, Abie Aysen, Rashard Alexander and Phadi Cader.

And arguably the most influential coach/player/administrator and scholar of the game – the late Abass Alexander. Brian van Rooyen is former president of the South African Rugby Union