

The Hermanus Rugby Story

FORGOTTEN HEROES



ALL DRESSED UP: Looking resplendent in the Springbok blazers they received at last week's Sarfu 'Yesterday's Heroes' Banquet in Johannesburg and again during the GWRU's Year End Function on Saturday night were (from left, back) Dennis Jacobs, Piet van Wyk, Faizel Adams, John Rooiland; (front) Freddie Fredericks, Tommy Musson and Alwee Aysen. Absent: Bunny Hermanus.

Arthur Robert Hermanus (Uncle Buns)



Uncle Buns comes from a very talented family of sports enthusiasts. He is the son of Arabian College and GWRFU stalwart and rugby great, Jananthal Hermanus who was a founder member of the ACRFC in 1903. Uncle Buns was married to Koelsum Jardine, daughter of the late great Abdulla Jardine, who was also a founder member of the ACRFC in 1903. He was well known in the building industry and served on the builders union for many years. Uncle Buns was always a very big man in stature, and an even bigger man in principle. As an all-round sportsman he represented GW at rugby, hockey and swimming. Many of the adults of today will attest the broad knowledge and life skills which Uncle Buns imparted on them, and how he taught them to swim. He is still known as the 'gentle giant' of the game with not even an ounce of arrogance around him. As a sports personality, community icon and Father figure, he was always very highly respected in the building industry and more especially within sporting circles around South Africa.

He started playing rugby at the age of 13 for Arabian College RFC for the second team. At the age of 16 Uncle Buns played for the first team and in that same year he was selected to play for Griqualand West Rugby Union. He played for Griqualand West since 1946 and in every Griqua match up till 1959. He captained the Griqua side from 1949 to 1958. In 1959 he was selected for the last time, before retiring as a player.

Arthur Robert Hermanus was also a man with vision, selflessly sacrificing his own resources to ensure that the Coloured community of Kimberley has a home for the sport which they chose to participate in. Together with another icon of ACRFC, GWRFU and SARU - Mr AR Abass, they ensured that the Union Grounds was secured as the home of GWRFU Rugby.

Uncle Buns played for the South African Coloured Rugby from 1951, and also played against the South African Bantu 15 many a time. A South African mixed Bantu and Coloured 15 was selected to play against Fiji Islands but because of a political argument the match was cancelled. Tommy Musson and Uncle Buns were selected to travel with the side, but the match was cancelled.

He was elected as chairman of the Griqualand West Rugby Union from 1960 and retired as chairman in 1984. He coached and managed the GWRFU teams for a long period of time while also serving as an administrator. Uncle Buns ended his career being the vice-chairman of the Unified Griqualand West Rugby Union.

Uncle Buns Hermanus was also later honoured by the unified SARU with a Springbok Blazer.



SA Coloured Rugby Football Board winning team of the second Test, 7 July 1951, at Port Elizabeth
 Back row: E Moore (Griquas), A Lewis (WPU), C Sharpe (Tul), A R Hermanus (Griquas), W H Basson (Border) and S Ruiters (NWC)
 Middle row: Y Kannemeyer (WPU), P Hopley (SWD), D Josephs (SWD), C Saaid (WPU), I Bohardien (WPU), J Jephtha (WPL) and S Baster (SWD)
 Front row: T Musson (Griquas), G D Davids (manager/selector), 'Henecke' Daniels (captain; WPU), J D Kester (president), L Mattheus (vice-captain; EP), A R Abass (hon. secretary) and C Julius (WPL)



SARU Players who emerged from GWRFU:

Back Row L – R:- Freddy Fredericks, Jan Rooiland, Dennis Jacobs, Alwie Aysem

Front Row L – R :- Piet Van Wyk, Thomas Musson, Arthur Robert Hermanus



**MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
GRIQUALAND WEST RUGBY UNION
MR. A. R. HERMANUS**

On behalf of the Griqualand West Rugby Union I want to extend our Union's heartiest congratulations to the Arabian College Rugby Football Club on the occasion of the club's 75th anniversary.

Being personally connected with the club for some years, I would like to extend my personal congratulations to the club. I would like to pay a special tribute to the present youthfull officials and members of the club because during the sixties and the early seventies, due to lack of support from retired members and officials, the foundations of the club seemed to be cracking.

These gallant youngsters then took over the helm of the ship, and with the help of one or two senior members, they steered their ship back to an even keel.

Happily the ship is in port again, and the club is once again on a solid foundation.

My message to the members of Arabian College is, keep up the good work, consolidate your resources, and grow from strength to strength.

A. R. HERMANUS (Uncle "Buns"),
President Griqualand West Rugby Union.



ACRFC 75th Anniversary Gala Dinner at the Sunarama

Orignaland West Coloured Rugby Football Team

Runners Up Rhodes Tournament 1959





Standing -7th from Left – AR Hermanus



Standing from Left 8th Roland , 10th AR Hermanus
GWRFU Team 1985

SOUTH AFRICAN RUGBY UNION



COMPUTERISATION FOR
SACOS SPORTS FESTIVAL
by
COMPACCOUNT
S&S Centre, Belgravia Rd, Athlone

SACOS Games in Port Elizabeth:- GWRFU Vs Tygerberg
Cousins in Arms L – R:- Roland Hermanus, Ralph Mahoena, Charles Hermanus, Sharfy
Alexander



GWRFU SA Cup Team Final of 1973 Reunion:-
L – R:- Piet Van Wyk, Freddy fredericks, Uncle Buns Hermanus, Tommy Musson
Front:- Desmond Barnes



GWRFU Vs Boland:- Charles Hermanus converting a goal kick

Griqualand West — 1947 Triple Rhodes Cup Holders



Back Row – 5th from Left – Bunny Hermanus



GWRFU Team:- 3rd from Left - Charles & 5th - Roland Hermanus



Griqualand West Coloured Rugby Football Team

Runners Up Rhodes Tournament 1959.

Back row: Jaap Kruger, Lionel van Aswegen, G (Cakes) van Wyk, Dave le Roux, Jackie Lewis (Captain), Clifffie Fredericks, A (Bunny) Hermanus, A (Doesie) Adams, G (Jim) Summers. Middle row: Gerald Jampies, John Kester, Tommy Musson, Robbie Burgess (Griqualand West Coloured Rugby Football Union Secretary), J Beckett, A R (Dullah) Abass (former South African Rugby Union President and Griqualand West Coloured Rugby Football Union Treasurer), Tommy Musson (jnr), Gesant Jardine. Front row: Boetie Jardine, Herbie Rose, V (Flash) Fredericks, Alwie Aysen, Freddie Fredericks, D (Eier) Jacobs.

Photographer: Sterling Studio.



GWRFU Vs WPRFU 1973 SA Cup Final
Seated 6th from Left – Uncle Buns Hermanus



GWRFU Vs Transvaal RFU – 1983 – Roland Hermanus - Captain



GWRFU Was Eastern Province RFU :- the late Brian Hermanus, Roland Hermanus



GWRFU Forgotten Heroes

L – R:- Buns Hermanus, Jackie Lewis, Jaap Kruger, Mr Fredericks, Alwie Aysen
Front L – R:- Tommy Musson, Mr Madella, Cassie Carls, Freddy Fredericks

Profile of Roland Robert Hermanus

Roland Robert Hermanus is the son of the late rugby great Uncle 'Buns' Hermanus and grandson of rugby icons and founder members of ACRFC, the late Janathal Hermanus. His late Mom is Koelsum Hermanus, who is the daughter of ACRFC founder member and one of the all-time greats of GWRFU and the South African Coloured Rugby Board, the late Abdulla Jardine. The sports blood flows deep in the veins of Roland and his family, so deep that it almost seems like an unfair advantage. His Mom was a fantastic athlete and excelled especially at hockey, being a GW stalwart for many years. His Dad was an ACRFC, GWRFU and SARU representative and the best of administrators.



Talents and skills:

Born from a family rich in sporting history, Roland was an excellent swimmer and represented GW Swimming at provincial galas. He was also a very good cricketer with the ability to bowl a mean ball using his height to generate extra bounce, and also represented his province in this sporting discipline from 1977 to 1987. As an avid cricketer Roland believed in bowling a stringent line and length that earned him a place in the history of GW Cricket Union where he played with legends like Gama Jinnah, Dennis Jacobs, Abe Williams, Yasien Snyders, Ahmed Jinnah, Tommy Gertze to name but a few.

Roland was part of the historic group of ACRFC players who were the main catalysts for the revival of GW Mens hockey, and he was selected in the first ever GW Mens hockey team after its revival. He played for Diamond Spurs and was selected for the GW Mens hockey side on a number of occasions. The problem for excellent all-round sportsmen and women is that they have to make choices, and in Roland's case the winner was always going to be the game of rugby.

At school he excelled as an athlete and was selected in the GW Schools Athletics teams for javelin, triple-jump, high-jump and sometime he did the 800 meters when he was in the mood. He had great strength and stamina and was good at middle distance running as well.

Where Roland started playing rugby:

More affectionately known as 'Rola' or 'Cappie' (short for captain), Roland always led his teams by example and showers his team mates with inspiration to give their all. Roland started playing rugby at Transvaal Road Primary School and was coached by the late Mr Herby Rose and Mr Des Summers and he displayed his early talents which he honed with his brother Charles and his cousins on the front lawn of his late Aunty Tima Alexander. As a captain, this is where it all started.

When he moved to Floors High School, Roland was already known as a player with above average talent and a mind who could read the game and rally his troupes. He became captain of the senior Floors High team and throughout his high schooling, the captain of the GW Senior Schools rugby teams. He was noticed by the selectors at the South African Senior Schools Sports Association tournaments, and although he was already told by the convener of selectors that he was in the national side, he had to withdraw as a result of a damning knee injury in the final game. Roland also took to refereeing and provided his services to GWRFU for many years, in a time when it was difficult to referee while being an active rugby player.

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Roland at senior rugby level:

Roland stands about 1,92 meters tall and never carried big bulk, but he was always heavy-boned. He joined ACRFC while still at Floor High School in the mid 1970's and captained the second and first teams for many years. At the time when GWRFU was still in the big leagues, Roland's captaincy and style of play earned him the respect of players from Western Province, Tygerberg, Cities and Eastern Province These include SARU greats Clive Thomas, Peter Jooste, Riyaad Najar, Aslam Toufie, Allistair Coetzee, Desmond Booyesen, Desmond Kramer and Charles Kleinbooi. Roland was selected for the SARU Invitation team to play at the SACOS Games in 1981,

but unfortunately the team selections had to accommodate local player from the Western and Eastern Cape to curtail costs. He served ACRFC with distinction as captain for many years, and is hailed as one of the best captains by many of his team mates.

"Fondest Memory":

His fondest memory was playing his first game against Unies and securing good lineout ball at number 2 with his second team coach and hooker 'Boy' Alexander whom he saw as being instrumental with the late Gesant Jardine and Tasliem Alexander on his flanks.

"Proudest Moments":

Receiving his 1st Griqua Cap from his Father the late Uncle Buns Hermanus.
Being honoured by Arabian College RFC with a commemorative neck tie.
Playing rugby with younger brother 'Charlie Hermanus' who was the youngest ever GWRFU player at the tender age of 16.
His nomination as GWRFU Sportsman of the year to represent rugby for the ACRFC Sportsman of the Year awards.
Honoured at ACRFC 2015 Reunion as the 'Best Captain' ever.

"Most Fulfilling Moments:

Playing provincial rugby with his life-long friend Ganief 'Beatle' Mills and his hero Eric 'Buks' Damons, whom he believes groomed him for the GWRFU captaincy.
Scoring a try in a game against Eastern Province at the Union Grounds against a star studded EP side which won the '81 SA Cup.
Winning a game against WP Board in Gugulethu.

"Disappointments":

- Not being recognised by the present GWRU as a player and captain of the so called previously disadvantaged GWRFU.
Not attaining his SARU colours, but also proud that he was ousted by SARU greats like Clive Thomas and Charles Kleinbooi whom he greatly respected as players. He proudly reflects how much he had enjoyed his journey in trying to achieve this goal.

Roland's long time friend and team mate Eugene Jacobs once told a story of how the GWR Cricket team played a junior league tournament in Kwazulu Natal, how the youngsters found the going tough, and how this gentle giant named 'Roland Hermanus' came up to them and inspired them to such great heights. One cannot deny the presence of greatness, of a man who always led by example, who walked the talk, who earned the respect of those who had the privilege to walk with him.

" Saddest Moment":

ACRFC merging with Hoffe Park, losing our identity as a great community based club with a strong Muslim background, losing over 90 years of history dating back to 1903. It is only natural to wonder what the multi-talented sportsmen would have achieved in all codes of sport were it not for the 'Apartheid Laws' who deprived so many great athletes. Roland also pays tribute to the dearly departed souls of so many great sportsmen and women whom he was able to rub shoulders with.

Roland's Inspiration:

*"O POWERS MAKE ME TO OBSERVE
AND KEEP THE RULES OF THE GAME;*

*HELP ME NEITHER TO OFFER
NOR TO WELCOME CHEAP PRAISE;*

GIVE ME ALWAYS TO BE A GOOD COMRADE;

*HELP ME TO WIN, IF I MAY;
BUT....AND THIS, O POWERS, ESPECIALLY....
IF I MAY NOT WIN;*

*MAKE ME A GOOD LOSER"
(RANJITH SINGH)*

**"THESE WORDS WERE INSTILLED IN ME BY MY MENTOR AND
CONFIDANT ALWEE ALEXANDER"**



Charl & Nadia Hermanus



Mandy & Charles Hermanus

Profile of Charles Hermanus

Charles Hermanus is the grandson of the late great Janathal Hermanus and the youngest son of the late Arthur Robert 'Buns' Hermanus. Like his elder brother Roland, Charles has been blessed with a multitude of sporting talent. He is a soft spoken gentle person who seems oblivious of the amazing talents and achievements which his 'blood stream' has produced. Charles is more affectionately known as 'Birdie' by his ACRFC team mates, a nickname bestowed upon him by his late Aunty Tima Alexander due to his ability to swoop across the field to safely catch the ball.



Talent and Skills:

Charles literally possessed a 'wheel barrow' full of talent. Any type of sport or game which came on the market would have Charles as the best performer. Back in the day growing up in Utility with brother Roland and his cousins, he was a champion at Yoyo, Dingbat, kenetjie, cricket, swimming or just running for the fun of it. Charles excelled at rugby, swimming, cricket, athletics, karate, hockey and soccer. He gained provincial colours in every sports discipline which he competed. He also represented GW Schools at cricket and was selected with Khaya Majola in the SASSA Cricket team.

Introduction

During his childhood years Charles stayed in Utility just off the main road (Transvaal Road) and school was three minutes' walk away. Utility was one of the so called elite Coloured areas built in a circle with a big opening in the middle and this was the place where the youth came together to play after school and during the school holidays. They used to play all the games you could think of and to name just a few, block, kenietjie, marbles, top and of course rugby. At this early stage every game they played was seen as a competition and everybody wanted to win or be part of the winning team or side and this is where his passion for winning started.

The Utility area back then, could also be known as the heart of Arabian College Rugby Football Club where the majority of the Arabian College families lived namely: **the Alexander, Aysen, Samson, Thomas, Mahri, Connor, Engelbrecht, Mills, Snyders, Jacobs, King and Hermanus Families.**

Elementary School Years

Transvaal Road Primary School

School Coaches :Mr. Rose, Mr. Summers

Teams played for: Transvaal road Primary School under 35, 45, 55,60Kg. And the South African Primary School Association

Wednesdays @ Union grounds. Saturdays (Curtin Raiser for league matches)

School Jersey Colours: Green & Gold

Back then teams where selected according to your weight and Charles being skinny and light outplayed the players in the under 35 kg team and it later became the norm that he had to play three games the same day as long as you are not overweight being under 35.45 and 55kg's and his elder brother Roland Hermanus played for the under 60kg's. Later when he was in Standard 4 he played for the under 55's and 65's , in that same year he was selected for the (S.A.P.S.A) South African Primary School Association where he played against an under 65kg Invitation Team in Uitenhage Eastern Cape at the end of the tournament.

High School Years

Floors High School

School couches: Mr. Visagie, Mr. Strause Mr. Lewis

Teans played for: Floors High School UNDER 60,65,75& 85Kg. And the South African Senior Secondary School Association.

Thursdays @ Union grounds.

Saturdays (Curtin Raiser for league matches)

Blue & Peacock White

From a Rugby perspective being a regular in all team selections, he again had to play two games on a Thursday afternoon. In 1976 he was selected to play for the G.W. Senior School Team in Worcester (High School Tournament) and he recalls the day the National Selectors noticed his talents and ability of scoring points that they arranged a special meeting with him to inform him that he was voted to be in the SASSA team but unfortunately his weight was against him.

Fortunately he had the opportunity and second chance in 1978 the same year of ACRFC's 75th Anniversary to play in the SASSA tournament in Mosselbay. He was then the only Griqua player that was selected for the SASSA team and it was in

this tournament that he became friends with **Gerald Majola** who was also selected in the SASSA Team.

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Club League Years

Arabian College Rugby Football Club

Second Team

In 1974 he joined the Arabian College Rugby Football Club and he immediately fell in love with the ACRFC jersey's being white with a red and green strip across the chest and was so impressed with the club for the simple reason that they were strict with their dress code, track suits as casual, silver grey pants tie and blazers for Dances, before a match and during meetings. While playing for the second team he recalls that the majority of the spectators moved over to the B grounds just to enjoy the type of rugby they played. Here they were groomed to be tough because some patches on the field had thorns and if you were tackled out of the touch line you would land into thorn bushes. After a few matches he was selected for the first team and that did not mean that it is the end of second team rugby, he still had to play two matches in one day first for the second team and later for the first team.

Arabian College Rugby Club

First Team

First team rugby was tougher, faster and most players looked like giants against him at that time, therefore he had to use his skills and tactics strategically to outplay his opponents. Luckily he had coaches like Alwie Alexander who taught him the fundamentals of basic rugby and fitness, when you score a try using the special move they practiced during the week he would smile and give the thumbs up. Boeta Alwie Aysen who taught Charles that striking a rugby ball from different angles and points, will perform exactly the way you want it to. He even joined a Karate Club to better his performance on the rugby field by conditioning his body and to be disciplined.

He also spent hours practising kicking to the poles not only to score points but to use it as an advantage to be selected every week. Using his talents and passion to win there was times that he scored all the points in a match.

Provincial League

Griqualand West Rugby Union

In 1976 while practicing at ACRFC a few members of the Griqualand West selectors came to the ACRFC practice ground to inform him that he had been selected to represent the Griqualand West Team against Transvaal. The ACRFC Coach Alwie Alexander was in shock and told them not to joke because Charles was only 15 turning 16 in July that year. Playing for the GWRU was a privilege and a great achievement and Charles had the chance to play against great names such as Cassiem Jabaar of Western Province near to his retirement, Peter Jooste from Tygerburg, Alistair Coetzee, Desmond Booyesen and Charles Kleinbooi from Eastern Province, Cheeky Watson, Peter Makata, Temba Ludwaba and the Majola's from KWARU.

GWRFU PRESENTATION BALL



Roland Hermanus receiving GWRFU Player of the Year Certificate



Roland Hermanus and Ambrose Phillis – GWRFU President



though. The dog has
ken to the baby:

MRS F. A. Abass presents, Charles Hermanus, the Arabian College captain with the Wilfred Orr league trophy at the Griqualand West Rugby Union's cup presentation, held at the Sunarama Hall in the city over the weekend.



CLIVE STEYN, Griekwas se slotvoerspeler, met die Eddie Memorial-gedenktrofee wat Young Collegians gewen het. Dit is aan hom by die bekeruitdeling van die GW-rugbyunie in die Sunarama in Kimberley oorhandig.

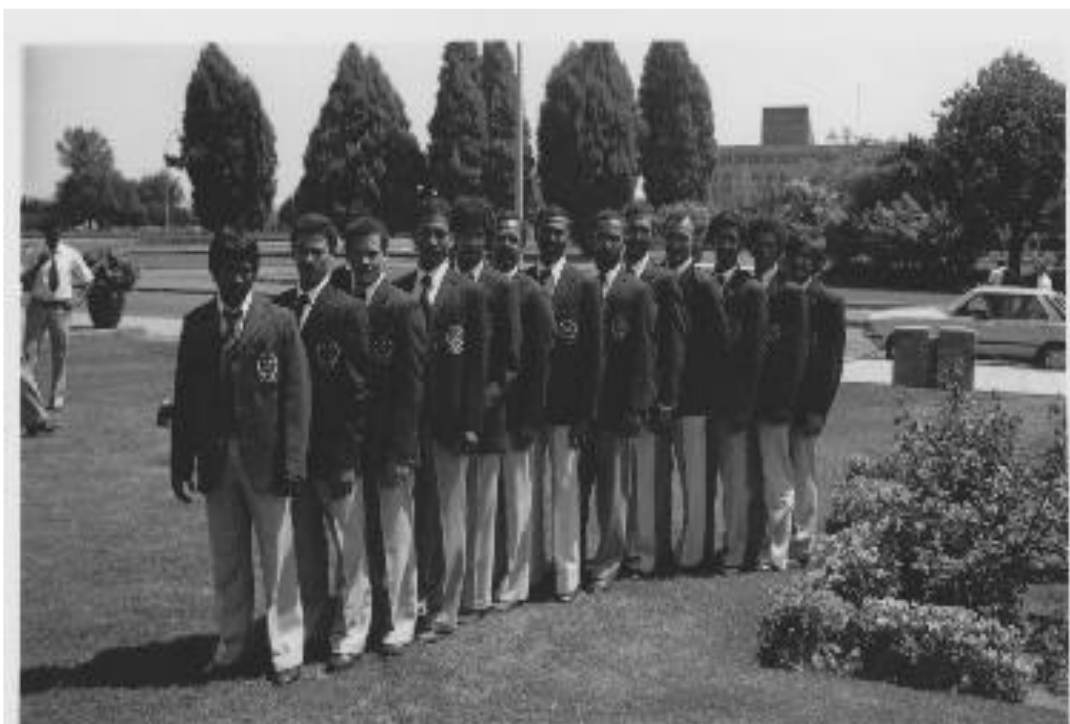
ROLAND HERMANUS, bekende kaptein en agsteman van Griekwas, met die Blacklaw-skild wat Arabian College — die 'Bye' — gewen het. Dit is aan hom oorhandig by die bekeruitdeling van die Griekwaland-Wesse Rugbyunie.





Captain of the ACRFC Grand Slam Winning Team – Roland Hermanus







Second League Team Captain – Roland Hermanus





1944 ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM

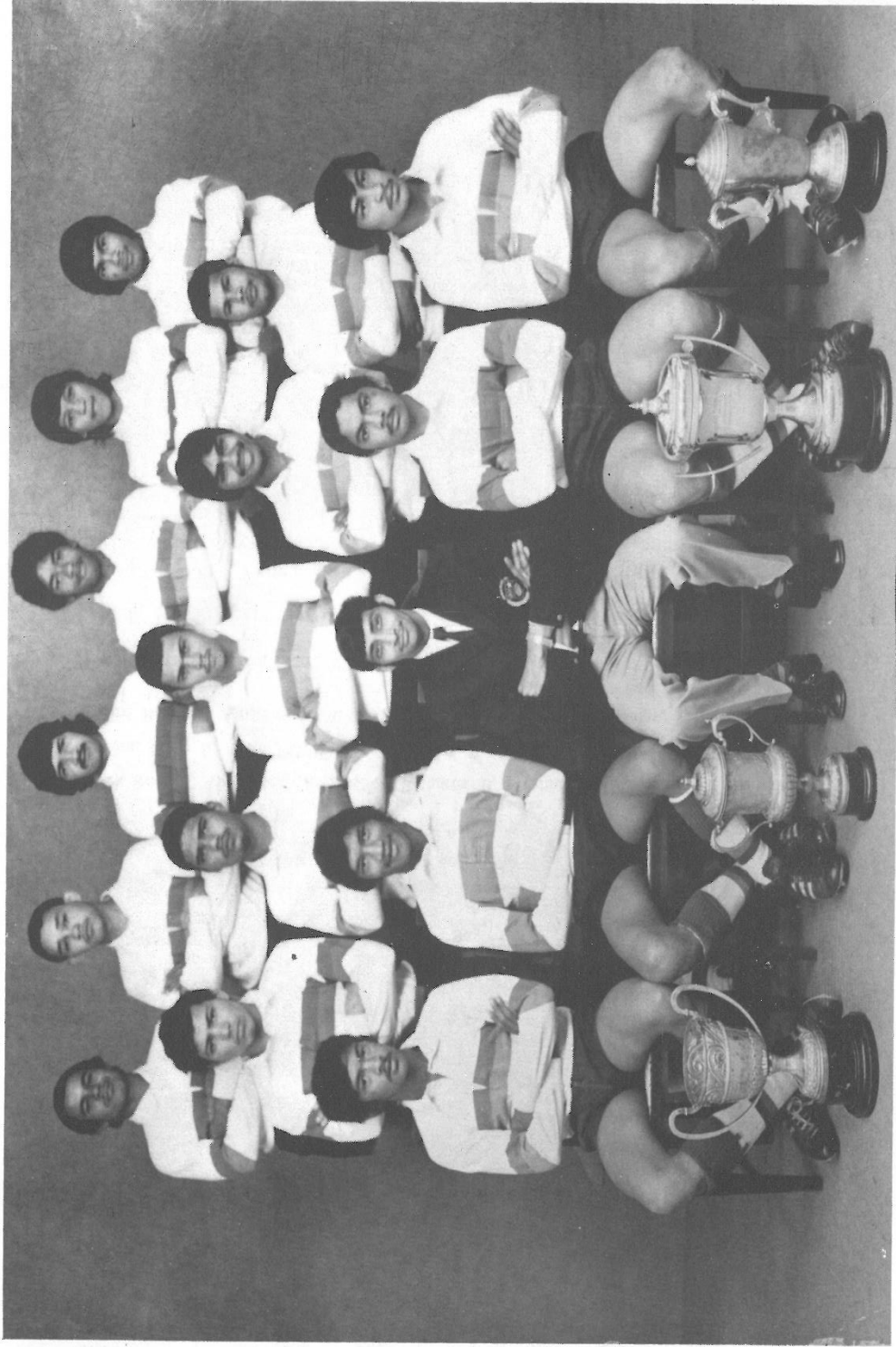


Back Row: C. Snyders, E. Barnes, S. Frédericks, H. Alexander, D. du Plessis, A. Hermanus,
J. Bam.

Second Row: G. Isaacs, L. Hunter, M. Barnes, J. Snyders, A. Abass.

Front Row: M. Aysen, V. Mills, S. Barnes.

THE PRESENT ARABIAN COLLEGE SECOND TEAM



Back Row: G. Carlo, A. Johnson, F. Hunter, C. Hermanus, S. Jacobs, G. Mills.
Second Row: R. Jardine, M. Limburg, N. Jansen, N. Samaai, S. Snyders.
Seated: A. Alexander, R. R. Hermanus, M. C. Osman, S. Alexander, F. Cader.

ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Representing Griqualand West at the City & Suburban RFU
'Top Eight' Champion of Champions Competition 1986 in Cape Town*



Back Row (Standing): I Tait; G Alexander; Y Gool; F Adams; C Williams; W du Plessis; F Norman; R Hermanus; R Jardine;
P Simons; M Kenny.
Second Row (Seated): A. Alexander; Y Alexander; S Alexander (Captain); M A Alexander (Chairman/Coach);
J Adams (Vice-Captain); T Wilkinson; Y Snyders.
Front Row (Sitting): F. Aysen; F Mahri; G Mills; S Mahri; A Fredericks.

ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB -- 1987



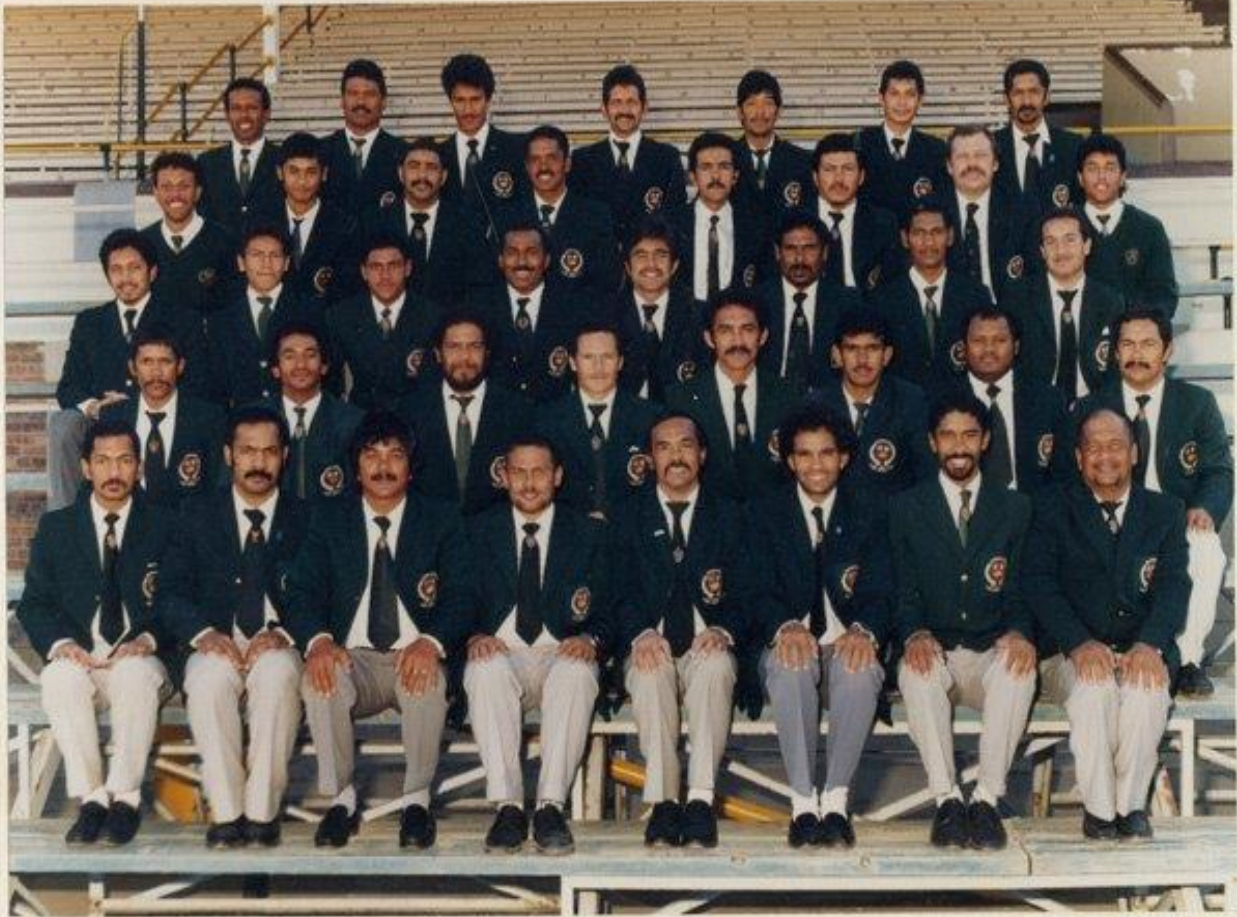
FIRST LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1978-1987

*Winners of Wilfred Orr League;
Blacklaws Shield; Kim-by-Nite
Knockout Trophy; Triangular Trophy.*



KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. (0531) 21712

Front Row: Y. ALEXANDER; A. ALEXANDER (Trustee); A. ALEXANDER; F. THOMAS (Treasurer); P. PAULSE.
Second Row: G. MILLS; A. ALEXANDER; M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); S. ALEXANDER (Captain); A.B. RICHARDS (Vice-President);
 C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain); F. AYSEN.
Third Row: S. MAHRI; Y. GOOL; F. NORMAN; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; F. ADAMS; T. WILKINSON.
Fourth Row: F. MAHRI; E. OBARAY; W DU PLESSIS; R. JARDINE; F. HUNTER; Y. SNYDERS.



KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. 0536 21762

Front Row: A. ALEXANDER (Treasurer); S. ALEXANDER (Captain, First Team); F. THOMAS (Treasurer); F. AYSEN (Secretary);
M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); F. NORMAN (Vice-Chairman); C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain, First Team);
A. ALEXANDER (Trustee)

Second Row: S. MAHRI; J. VAN DIEMEN; P. PAULSE; Y. GOOL; F. ADAMS; S. ALEXANDER; Y. SNYDERS; G. MILLS.

Third Row: A. RICHARDS; C. CLOUTS; T. WILKINSON; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; A. FREDERICKS; S. AYSEN; Y. GOOL.

Fourth Row: R. THOMAS; G. ISAACS; E. OBARAY; Y. ALEXANDER; R. RICHARDS; R. JARDINE; A.M. NACKERDIEN;
R. BROOKER (Captain, Second Team).

Fifth Row: E. MOBARA (Vice-Captain, Second Team); F. MAHRI; W. DU PLESSIS; F. HUNTER; I. MAHRI; N. ALEXANDER;
A. ALEXANDER.







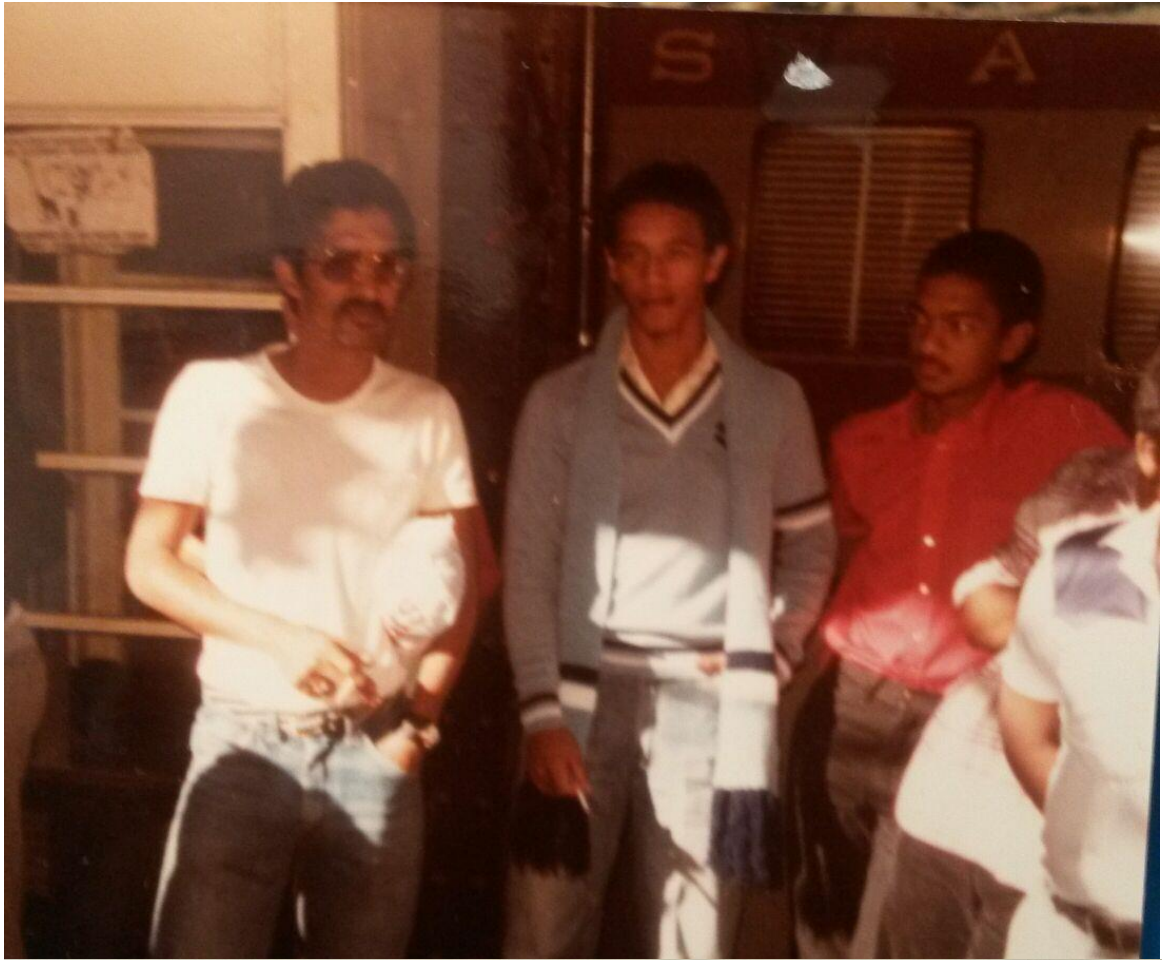
















GRANEF: THE KOP KAH GEWIDIG KOD, JAWOY MPET
BY N KAPPE BOA.

RELLIE:
TOO MUCH GUITAR
PULGING FOR THE SAND

CASUALTY DEPARTMENT.



SATURATED OR INTOXICATED



PRESENTS THE CATCHES SUNDAY WITH LAMP TO ASBA
FOR EVERYWHERE IN LAPE TOINN.



HOME SICK OR BEER SICK



Back to School
Boys' Blue and
White
School Shirts
R3,99
EBBIES

Diamond Field Advertiser



Founded 1878

Kimberley Friday January 14 1985



PART of the Arabian College tour party which left B. J. Vorster for Johannesburg yesterday en route to London: Rashaad Jardine, Stafford Jacobs, Charles Hermanns, Yusuf Alexander, Yeobh Snyders, Keith Connor, Genodien Adams, Boy Alexander and (front) Alwin Alexander.

MYSTERY DEPARTURE OF SACOS CLUB



PART of the Arabian College tour party which left B. J. Vorster for Johannesburg yesterday en route to London: Rashaad Jardine, Stafford Jacobs, Charles Hermanus, Ysef Alexander, Ycoob Snyders, Keith Connor, Genodien Adams, Boy Alexander and (front) Alwie Alexander.

JAN 1983



The AYSEN FAMILY FOREWORD by Faisal Aysen

The Arabian College Rugby Football Club name comes from as far back as 1867, when groups of players in Cape Town, in the Malay area known as the Bo-Kaap decided to form two rugby football teams. The one was Good Hopes Rugby Football Club and the other was Arabian College Rugby Football Club. During the early 1900's when part of the Jardine and Jabaar families settled in Kimberley, Abdulla Jardine (father of the late Tima Alexander) and Mr A Sello (my great grandfather) was part of a group of people who established the Arabian College Rugby Football Club in 1903 in the Malay Camp of Kimberley.

I am the eldest son of the late Moosa Aysen, grandson of the late Jaynie Aysen, and great grandson of the late Mr A Sello – founder member of Arabian College Rugby Football Club. I am 4th generation and like our fore-fathers, we were born with a rugby ball in our hands. Rugby flows strongly in our veins, and yet today, our children know nothing about this, and that is the sad thing.

This great sport of rugby has unified our communities, strengthened our brotherhood and presented our youth with a healthy alternative and way of life. The ACRFC was also a basis for educating each other, from the disciplines of club rules, behavior, dress-code, meeting procedure, public speaking and finances to general administration. In our adult lives, in our professional careers and businesses, what we apply today is a product of what we learnt at ACRFC.

The Kimberley community shares a mutual passion for rugby, a passion which drives us to be rugby players. This passion that we share has brought us together from different walks of life. Let us value and cherish the friendships which we have made through rugby, as they are founded in the strong common ground of brotherhood, which lasts forever. This brotherhood has been re-ignited with the 2015 Reunion of the ACRFC, and we trust that we will stay in touch for life.

I am privileged to participate in the efforts of capturing the history and memoirs of this great club, and it is only fitting to release a publication to share with the community of Kimberley and the rest of our sporting world.

FAISAL AYSEN



Origin of ACRFC



The Arabian College Rugby Football Club name comes from as far back as 1867, when groups of players in Cape Town, in the Malay area known as the Bo-Kaap decided to form two rugby football teams. The one was Good Hopes Rugby Football Club and the other was Arabian College Rugby Football Club. During the early 1900's when part of the Jardine and Jabaar families settled in Kimberley, Abdulla Jardine (father of Tima Alexander), Mr A Sello was part of a group of people who established the Arabian College Rugby Football Club in 1903 in the Malay Camp of Kimberley.

On the administrative side, the club was well endowed with the brilliance of men like Doella Abass, "Baby" Richards also Life Vice President, Boeta Jaynie Aysen (Grandson of founder member Mr A Sello), Latief Hunter, V Pitt, V Amsterdam, Moosa Aysen (Jnr), Mokes Aysen (CT) and Amien Aysen to name a few.

In 1978 Arabian College Rugby Football Club celebrated their finest hour, the celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the club. An historical occasion which was possible through the tireless and selfless contributions of ladies like Auntie Aysa Aysen, Shariffa Aysen, Haji Bahia Aysen and Nies Aysen who assisted with the catering, décor and overall organization of the Gala Evening Celebration Ball. Throughout the years, the success of the club was built on the efforts of the women behind the ACRFC men.

Profile of ALWIE AYSEN

Boeta Alwie Aysen, more affectionately known as Mr 'A', started playing rugby at school level. In 1950, he was selected to represent Griquas under 16 at fullback. In the same year he was selected for the Griqua under 16 soccer team to play in Cape Town. A true all-rounder, from cricket, rugby, swimming and diving to soccer, Boeta Alwie was top class in all codes of sport he chose to participate in. Mr 'A' was a disciplined administrator, player and coach and he demanded no less from his players. In 1978/79 Mr 'A' coached the Homevale Secondary School team who were victorious in beating Arabian College in the final for the Abass Trophy in the GWRFU 2nd League.

The following are extracts from an interview with Mr 'A' in June 2000 when he was honoured as a sporting hero by SARFU;

My uncle Jaynie and my school coach, Mr Classen, encouraged me to play second league from 1953. I was on the reserves bench for a time and I played more soccer than rugby. I was selected to attend the Indian Soccer Union trials in 1955. I was not picked for the tournament but the late Mr AR Abass, then the team manager, asked the union to send me with the team. In 1955 I was included in the Sam China Team at Curriefontein in Durban. This was when I had the opportunity to play for Arabian College with my school team mate, Abraham Juries, who was the scum half with me at fly-half. In 1956 I started the season as Arabian College captain for the second league, but we had to assist the first team on many occasions when players did not turn up for games, then we were immediately drafted into the first team.

The best year of my life was in 1957 when I was picked for the Griqua Barnato Cricket Tournament in Kimberley and also for the Sam China Tournament in Cape Town. After the soccer tournament I was selected for the Griquas under 19 match against the African Rugby Union Griquas. The next year I was selected for the Griquas B team for the Easter Tournament in Johannesburg. In those years Transvaal had two unions namely; Malay Union and The Independent Union. The A team full back, Johnny Van Niekerk left Kimberley before the tournament and I was promoted to the A team. This tournament was used as trials for the young players which I was able to use to get the selectors to notice me and in 1959 I was picked for Griquas in the fullback position.

I played both fullback and wing in 1961 before being picked for the South African Coloured Rugby Union against the South African Bantu Union at Green Point Track in Cape Town. We won that match 11 – 9 and I played in three positions; I started off at wing for the first half, the second half I played fly-half for about 15 minutes before moving to fullback till the end of the game. Back in Kimberley, *I captained Arabian College from 1961 to 1970 and played for Griquas from 1958 to 1971, 106 times.* In those years we played our provincial tournament for the Rhodes Cup and in 1970 it was named the SA Cup. *I was Trustee for Griquas and Groundsman from 1961 to 1969 at the AR Abass Stadium.*

Playing for Arabian College all of my life was a great pleasure with great players like Gesant Jardine, Igsaan Alexander, Noor Moosajee and Salie Adams, not forgetting the Griqua players in Jackie Lewis, Roland Cader, Jaap Kruger, Jim Summers and Victor 'Flash' Fredericks.

I played soccer for Griquas Indian Union, cricket for Barnato 1957 – 1959, Sir David Harris 1966 in Durban and Griquas Board Rugby form 1958 to 1970.



FORGOTTEN HEROES



ALL DRESSED UP: Looking resplendent in the Springbok blazers they received at last week's Sorlu 'Yesterday's Heroes' Banquet in Johannesburg and again during the GWRU's Year End Function on Saturday night were (from left, back) Dennis Jacobs, Piet van Wyk, Faizel Adams, John Roodland; (front) Freddie Fredericks, Tommy Musson and Alwee Aysen. Absent: Bunny Hermanus.

Fuad's contribution on his Father:-

Alwie Aysen, more affectionately known as Mr "A", started playing rugby at school level. In 1950, Alwie was selected to represent Griquas under 16 at fullback. In the same year he was selected for the Griqua under 16 soccer team to play in Cape Town. A true all-rounder, from cricket, rugby, swimming, boxing, diving to soccer, his father was top class in all codes of sport he chose to participate in. Mr 'A' was a disciplined administrator, player, manager and coach and he demanded no less from his players.

In 1959 Alwie Aysen and Boeta Doesie Adams were the two Arabian College members who was part of the Griqualand West team who were runners up in the Rhodes Tournament. It was also in 1959 according to his father that they, Griqualand West rugby team (South African Rugby Union) played against the De Beers team (South African Rugby Board) on the KAC rugby ground. During the time the bulk of the Griqualand West (South African Rugby Board) players came from the De Beers Team.

In 1978/79 his father coached the Homevale Secondary School rugby team who were victorious in beating Arabian College in the final for the Abass Trophy in the GWRFU 2nd League. He also at one stage coached Universals Rugby Football Club who beat Arabian College First Team 18 - 13 in a GWRFU League match. The Sunday after the club meeting the entire Executive of Arabian College Club appealed to Mr 'A' to rather coach Arabian College and not our opponents.

After retiring from rugby his Dad became the coach of Spades Soccer Club. In 1984 Spades became the first Kimberley soccer club to play in the SASF Knock Out Cup final where they lost to Batswood of Cape Town.

Kimberley Celtic later approached Mr 'A' to coach them. During his term as their coach Kimberley Celtic won the local league trophy and also went on to play in the Champs of Champs tournament in East London.

With the revival of Mens Hockey in Kimberley, and because his brother Yassiem excelled in the sport his father became interested and started coaching Hockey. Yassiem was selected for the national SASSA team in 1989. Mr 'A' started off coaching Diamond Spurs and went on to Diamond Park Hockey Team. He also coached the Griqualand West Hockey team who lost 2 – 0 to Western Province in the final at the Athlone Stadium in 1998. He served either the Griqualand West Hockey Manager or coach after the unification of Hockey.



Boeta Alwie, Mrs Aysen, Fuad Aysen



Pen Sketches 1978 - Moosa, Amien, Alwie, Alwee, Boy



Standing – Far Right: - Boeta Alwie Aysen



SARU LEGENDS:- Standing Far Right – Mr Alwie Aysen



Mrs & Mr Alwie Aysen – 2015 ACRFC Reunion

Boeta Jaynie and Boeta Mai Aysen.

The two brothers were uncles of Mr 'A' and also played for Arabian College.

Boeta Jaynie played rugby for Arabian College and also Captained the Goodehope Cricket club who won the 1st league trophy as well as the NK Pillay trophy in 1948- 1949. He also served as the treasurer of Arabian College.

Boeta Maai played rugby for Arabian College and it is said that Boeta Maai was a very good rugby player and represented Griqualand West on many occasions including in 1947 when Griquas was the holders of the Triple Rhodes Cup.

Moosa Aysen the son of Boeta Jaynie, played and was also manager of Arabian College, he also played cricket and represented the Griqualand West Indian Cricket team in 1953 under the captaincy of Mr. AR Abass. He represented the Kimberley Soccer team together with Noel Aysen in June 1951 when they played a Vryburg team.

The brothers Noel and Eric Aysen also played rugby for Arabian College, while Noel played and preferred to play soccer for Trojans Club.

Sallie Aysen, Mr 'A' brother, first played for Arabian College and later was one of the 13 Arabian College players who broke ranks with Arabian College and formed Young Lions Rugby Football Club.

Egsaan Aysen his father's baby brother played second team rugby for Arabian College but preferred to play in his grandmother's band as a drummer.

Quinton Aysen the son of Salie, represented William Pescod Rugby team while at high school and was also selected to the Griqualand West schools teams that played in the SASSA tournament. Quinton also excelled in athletics, beating the 100m sprint record which was held by Faisal Adams at the time. After he matriculated he joined Arabian College and was also selected for the Griqualand West Rugby team until he moved to Johannesburg.

Moosa Aysen Junior and Amien Aysen, cousins of Mr 'A' played rugby for Arabian College but was very active on the administrative side of the club. Moosa Junior was active within the club until he moved to Cape Town.

Fuad's cousins Faisal Aysen son of Boeta Moosa Snr Aysen and Saligh Aysen son of Boeta Amien both joined and played for Arabian College after they matriculated.

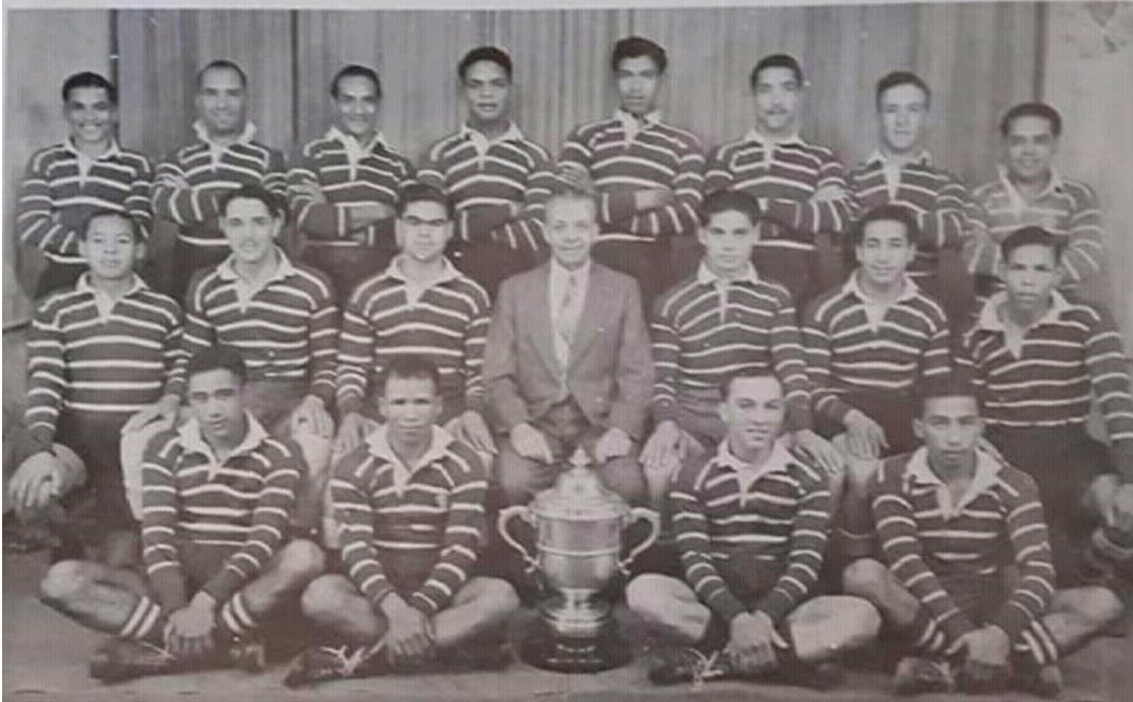
Boeta Alwie's wife's brother Rodney Boy Williams played in the first team at the time when Mr 'A' was still playing.

1953 ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



Back Row: Aysen, Aysen, Chetty, T. Amos, C. Calmeyer, Snyders, H. Nassiep.
Second Row: C. Amsterdam, O. Cader, V. Pitt, M. Aysen, J. Aysen.
Front Row: S. Adams, B. Richards, E. Aysen, J. Coburn, M. Aysen.

Griqualand West — 1947 Triple Rhodes Cup Holders



Profile of Moosa Aysen:-

Boeta Moosa, son of the late Boeta Jaynie Aysen who was himself a great administrator and executive member of ACRF. His cousins include Boeta Alwee, Amien, Mokes, Noel and Salie Aysen and the great Boeta Mai Aysen was his uncle. He was an ACRFC stalwart and a regular selection in the GWRFU teams during his time. Boeta Moosa's son Faisal also played for ACRFC and was part of the historical touring to Europe in 1982.

His interest in rugby is a family thing, from grandfather, father, uncles and cousins who all played rugby. Boeta Moosa used to watch them play and enjoyed it so much that he could not imagine himself not playing rugby. He joined ACRFC in 1947 and today in 2015, Boeta Moosa and Boeta Billy Cader are the longest surviving members of ACRFC. He started off as fullback, then fly-half and later he moved to flank forward as his physique and solid frame developed. Boeta Moosa was always steadily built and had a 'big boot' with the ability to kick the rugby football very far. He smartly reflects how he kicked the ball at KAC grounds from Kimberley right into Cape Town station. You see, he says, 'the ball landed on the train which was on route to Cape Town'.

He passionately shares memories of how the business of ACRFC was part of his life growing in the Aysen home. His Dad was a long standing Executive member and coach of ACRFC and use to apply ingenious methods to raise funds for the club and community members. Boeta Moosa speaks of how his Dad was able to make a plan to pay the wages of a few aspirant cricketers who were hospitalized as a result of an accident while they were travelling from a cricket match outside of Kimberley. With Boeta Salie Adams his Dad used to quickly organize and sell raffle tickets to generate funds for ACRFC. In times of desperation, Boeta Jaynie even did the 'Farfie thing' all in aid of ACRFC fundraising. His Dad, Boeta Jaynie Aysen was the Events Manager and Treasurer of ACRFC, who was always busy planning events and raising funds for the club and the needy. Boeta Jaynie was instrumental in running the club and its activities.

His late Uncle Ishmael (Mai) Aysen was a brilliant forward and represented GWRFU every tournament in his prime. In 1947 they were joint holders of the Rhodes Cup. Uncle Mai captained ACRFC on many occasions. Cousin Eric was very fast, he played on the wing and also represented GWRFU. His late cousin Noel Aysen was a brilliant scrumhalf and represented GWRFU, he died suddenly which was also a great loss to rugby.

In his time Boeta Moosa, Uncle Ishmael, Noel, Eric and Alwie were of the Aysen clan who regularly represented GWRFU. Ebrahim Aysen, Boeta Mickie Aysen, Braim Aysen and all his uncles played for ACRFC. His proudest moment was when ACRFC played against Thistles and beat them, and they walked off the field. At the time there was only a few coloured teams, and Thistles went to join the Bantu Union. His most memorable moment was an ACRFC trip to Cape Town when they played against Roslins Rugby Club.

Boeta Moosa was inspired by the late Mr AR Abass and his Dad who were always there to encourage him.

As a retired player and administrator, he always supported the club at meetings, matches, functions and on tours.

Boeta Moosa participated with pride in the 2015ACRFC Reunion, and sadly passed on in 2016.





Boeta Moosa & Haji Bahia Aysen



Faisal & Geyria Aysen



Rozanna, Geyria, & Friend



Tahzier & Nazley

Profile of **MOOSA AYSEN** (CT)



Moosa's grandfather and his brother was part of the group that formed Arabian College R.F.C. back in 1903. All of his family played for the club. He is married to Geyroniesa who is the second eldest daughter of the late Aunty Tima Alexander.

He started playing at the age of 15. Arabian College was going through a lean period as most of the senior players were getting on in years and stopped playing.

When he turned 16, six or seven second team players and Moosa had to play both second team and first team games on a Saturday. He also used to referee two junior matches on a Saturday morning.

Rugby kept most of the youth busy during their teenage years and some into their 30's.

They used to practice after 5pm Mondays to Thursdays and sometimes the whole of Sunday.

He was a well known sports administrator and ACRFC stalwart, a courageous flanker and above average player who played for ACRFC, Griqua Colts and GWRFU. Boeta Moosa excelled as an administrator and like his uncle Jaynie Aysen, he represented ACRFC at GW union meetings. Moosa served the club for many years on the executive as Secretary, Chairman, Vice Chairman and Treasurer.

Moosa left Kimberley at the age of 25. By this time there was a big group of youngsters ready to take over and they did us proud for the next 15 to 20 years. His home in Mitchell's Plain became the head-quarters of ACRFC on all their tours to Cape Town.

It was no big deal to host a bus load of players and with the assistance of neighbours and cousins Tima and Faried Barnes, no one was ever left hungry. ACRFC players will remember how the bus stopped at the flats in the Bo Kaap and how Tima and her family fed the entire ACRFC groups.

It's a pity that 3 of the clubs stopped playing. He believe that the state our youths finds themselves in is partly due to the demise of those clubs.

Moosa Aysen

Mitchell's Plain

Cape Town



Moosa & Nies Aysen



Mohammed & Saeeda Sulliman

Profile of Amien Aysen:-

Boeta Amien Aysen joined ACRFC in the late 60's as the Brother of Moosa and nephew of Boeta Jaynie Aysen and cousin of Alwie Aysen. He married into the Alexander family in his union with Shariefa, eldest daughter of Tima Alexander. Shariefa assisted ACRFC with club events from baking, cooking, designing outfits, sashes and banners to designing crowns for beauty pageants.

Boeta Amien played on the wing and was a disciplined member of the club. As a colleague and mentor of Alwee Alexander in the printing business, Boeta Amien was responsible for much of the ACRFC printing of raffles, dance tickets, brochures, letterheads, envelopes and programs. Even after he retired from active rugby, he still supported club activities and even trained with the team. Boeta Amien served as Secretary and Treasurer of ACRFC under the Chairmanship of Mr Deeru Diya.

Boeta Amien is a high standing member of the Kimberley Muslim Community and was instrumental in arranging a trip to Mecca and Medina for about 65 Senior Muslim Citizens of Kimberley in 2013. He served as Secretary and Treasurer of the club under the chairmanship of Mr Deeru Diya. Boeta Amien was always very active and in his late 50's he often ran the Sunday morning 10km on the Jhb road, embarrassing some of the youngsters.



Boeta Amien & Shariffa Aysen



Nasneen & Shaheed Aysen

Profile of Fuad Aysen:



Fuad is the eldest son of the great Kimberlsy sports personality Alwie Aysen. He attributes his involvement with rugby to the influence and association the Aysen family played in rugby and various other sporting codes in Kimberley.

He first started playing rugby at scrum half and flank position while he was attending Transvaal Road Primary School. At the time he played in the Arabian College 3rd team on Saturdays and on Wednesdays represented Transvaal Road Primary School. The teacher's that coached at Transvaal Road Primary School was Messrs H. (Herbie) Rose and D. (Des) Summers. Arabian College meetings were held at the Chairman, the late Boeta Sallie Adams's house in Stamford Street.

He attended Floors High School and was coached by Mr. M. (Martin) Visagie and Mr. E. Strauss. During his school years he still played on the scrum half and flank position. It was then when he started playing for Arabian College in the Second Team, but not on a regular basis. During his high school years Arabian College were coached by the likes of his father, Alwie Aysen, Boeta Doesie Adams and Gesant Jardine to name some of the great players who coached the club.

It was only after his high school years and with the persuasion of the Executive at the time namely Alwee Alexander (Chairman and Coach), Frikkie Norman (Vice Chairman), Boy Alexander (Trustee) that Fuad really became more involved in rugby and started playing in the second team on a regular basis, it was also during this time when he started playing in the front row as a "prop" (Front Ranker). It was also at about this time when under the Chairpersonship of Alwee Alexander when he was elected as Secretary of the club, a position he held for 4 years. He was later elected treasurer of the club in 1989. In 1987 Russel Brooker was elected as captain and Fuad the vice-captain of the second team.

As the older first team players started to hang up their boots, Fuad found his way into the Arabian College First Team where he played in the row under, whom he consider great captains, the likes of Roley Hermanus, Sharfy Alexander, Faisal Adams, and obviously coached by one of the best rugby

coaches in Alwee “Doc” Alexander. His most memorable first league match was when they played in the final against Universals, the day they played the Rocky theme song “The eye of the tiger” when they ran onto the field. It was and still is a great pleasure for Fuad to be associated with the Arabian College Rugby Football Club both as a player and as an administrator.

Positions Fuad held on the Executive of the Griqualand West RFU.

He first represented Arabian College at the Griqualand West Rugby Union meetings and also at the Griqualand West Referee’s Association meetings as a delegate in about 1985, and was later elected Secretary of the Griqualand West Rugby Union, and in the following year he was elected Secretary and Match Recording Secretary of the Griqualand West Referee’s Association. He served as Secretary of both the Griqualand West Rugby Union and also the Griqualand West Referee’s Association until the amalgamation in 1993.



Profile of Saligh Aysen:-

Saligh is the eldest son of Boeta Amien and Shariffa Aysen. He joined ACRFC in the early to mid 80’s. As the eldest grandson of Tima Alexander, it was inevitable that Saligh would prosper on the rugby field with his seven Alexander uncles. A mechanic by profession, Saligh is employed by the South African Police Services, and holds the rank as Captain.

His preferred position was lock forward as an understudy of the late Sharty Jardine, who helped hone his skills as number two line out jumper. A mechanic by profession, just like his uncle Sharfy Alexander and second cousin Sharty Jardine, Saligh was quite strong and very effective in the tight-loose and mauls.

He was a no frills forward who played his rugby hard and with no fuss. Saligh loved to tackle and did so with much vigour. As a lock forward he was talented enough to drop-kick a ball accurately at any given time. Playing with his uncles, Saligh grew up as the youngest brother to the Alexander's. He served the club as second team vice captain for some time. He loved touring with the club and still enjoys a good game of rugby. Today as a retired player he is an avid All Blacks, Crusaders and Hurricanes supporter and his favourite player is Cory Jane.



Badia & Saligh Aysen



Standing – Extreme Left :- Boeta Jaynie Aysen, 6th.. Moosa Aysen
Front – 4th.. Alwie Aysen

1965 ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



Back Row: I. Alexander, D. Daya, A. Richards, B. Erasmus, N. Moosajee, A. R. Fredericks.
Second Row: S. Aysen, M. Aysen, Z. Bhayat, R. Alexander, W. Pitt.
Third Row: C. Amsterdam, A. B. Richards, A. R. Abass, S. Adams, V. Pitt, A. Adams,
 J. Aysen.
Front Row: A. Aysen, Starr.



NEW MEMBERS AND THOSE WHO MISSED THE PHOTOGRAPHIC SESSION

Seated – Center with Blazer:- Boeta Moosa Aysen - 1978

Seated – Front Row, Extreme Left:- Faisal Aysen

ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Representing Griqualand West at the City & Suburban RFU
'Top Eight' Champion of Champions Competition 1986 in Cape Town*



Back Row (Standing): I Tait; G Alexander; Y Gool; F Adams; C Williams; W du Plessis; F Norman; R Hermanus; R Jardine; P Simons; M Kenny.

Second Row (Seated): A Alexander; Y Alexander; S Alexander (Captain); M A Alexander (Chairman/Coach); J Adams (Vice-Captain); T Wilkinson; Y Snyders.

Front Row (Sitting): F. Aysen; F Mahri; G Mills; S Mahri; A Fredricks.

ARABIAN COLLEGE
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB -- 1987



GRAND SLAM WINNERS
First & Second League
Competitions
1978-1987



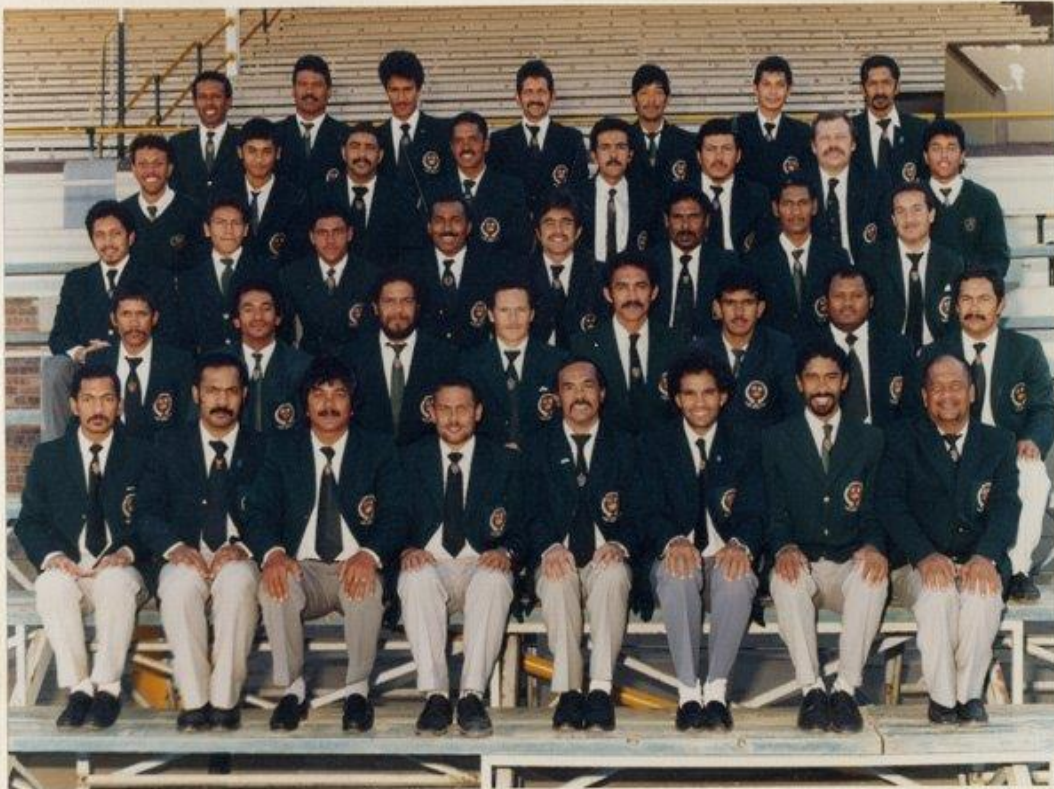
KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. 0510 21712

Front Row: A. ALEXANDER (Treasurer); S. ALEXANDER (Captain, First Team); F. THOMAS (Treasurer); F. AYSEN (Secretary);
M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); F. NORMAN (Vice-Chairman); C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain, First Team);
A. ALEXANDER (Trustee)

Second Row: S. MAHRI; J. VAN DIEMEN; P. PAULSE; Y. GOOL; F. ADAMS; S. ALEXANDER; Y. SNYDERS; G. MILLS.

Third Row: A. RICHARDS; C. CLOUTS; T. WILKINSON; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; A. FREDERICKS; S. AYSEN; Y. GOOL.

Fourth Row: R. THOMAS; G. ISAACS; E. OBARAY; Y. ALEXANDER; R. RICHARDS; R. JARDINE; A.M. NACKERDIEN;



KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. 0510 21712

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A. ALEXANDER (Trustee)

Second Row: S. MAHRI; J. VAN DIEMEN; P. PAULSE; Y. GOOL; F. ADAMS; S. ALEXANDER; Y. SNYDERS; G. MILLS.

Third Row: A. RICHARDS; C. CLOUTS; T. WILKINSON; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; A. FREDERICKS; S. AYSEN; Y. GOOL.

Fourth Row: R. THOMAS; G. ISAACS; E. OBARAY; Y. ALEXANDER; R. RICHARDS; R. JARDINE; A.M. NACKERDIEN;
R. BROOKER (Captain, Second Team).

Fifth Row: E. MOBARA (Vice-Captain, Second Team); F. MAHRI; W. DU PLESSIS; F. HUNTER; I. MAHRI; N. ALEXANDER;
A. ALEXANDER.



L-R, Back Row:-3rd.. Amien Aysen, 5th.. Moosa Aysen



L-R:- ... , ... , Darren Hermanus, Yumna Aysen, Nisreen & Miekha-iel Aysen



1981 – ACRFC Tour of Cape Town:-

Stafford Jacobs, Gym Alexander, Fuad Aysen, Yusef Alexander



L-R:- Ms Williams, Mrs Aysen, Mr Alwie Aysen, Zane Masoet, Moosa Aysen



2015 – Moosa, Alwie, Amien

Aunty Kulsem Hermanus, Boeta Alwie Aysen



ACRFC – Seated, 4th.. Alwie Aysen

Profile of Salie Mahri:

Salie Mahri started his rugby career in 1967 at Floors High School (F.H.S.) and never played 2nd division rugby at school, he was always in the first team. While at high school he was selected to represent GWRFU in the B team.

Talent and Skills:

Salie played in the backline and was quite fast. He could play anywhere in the backs from flyhalf, in the centers and on the wings. He was always fearless in his approach to rugby and has no problem running into a tackle to ensure that the team keeps possession of the ball. Salie was rarely seen actually kicking the rugby ball and preferred to beat the opposition with ball in hand. Team mates will remember how they used to shout, "Salie pass die ball". He took many knocks for his team and was dogged by injury at the most inopportune times. Salie Mahri also represented GW Mens Hockey for many years as a founder member of the revival of the sport in Kimberley.

Rugby at ACRFC:

In 1970 Salie joined AC with the likes of Gesant Jardine, 'Shorty' Adams, Pat Steyn, 'Boetie' Jardine, Rashaad Alexander, Tasliem Alexander, Scott Connor, Ronnie Engelbrecht, Ishie Mills to name but a few. The following year he was elected as captain of the ACRFC first team. Being Captain he had to motivate and drill the players to report for matches. Salie had to shuffle his family commitments around so that he could pick up the guys and make sure they have at least 15 players for the match on the Saturdays. In some cases he had to disrupt the players' social lives as many of them would be at the movies - here Drox Alexander was the culprit and Salie had to fetch him at the Lyric Cinema at the times when the first team needed to play. He even sponsored match fees for the Mahri twins because their father did not want them to play rugby. All his friends Frikkie Norman, Al Alexander, Attie Thomas and Joey Samson played for the 2nd team of ACRFC.

He even sponsored match fees for the Mahri twins because their father did not want them to play rugby. All his friends Frikkie Norman, Al Alexander, Attie Thomas and Joey Samson played for the 2nd team of ACRFC. The 2nd team played better rugby than the 1st team or rather they had better team spirit. The 1st team's lack of commitment drove Salie to be even more committed to make the team work as Rugby became his life. ACRFC survived and later most of the 2nd team's players were promoted to the 1st team which made it a team to be reckoned with.

Serving ACRFC:

His commitment to AC even included him being secretary, which is something he had very little knowledge of, his wife assisted him by writing my minutes and he does admit, 'they were done just before the meeting while he got dressed'. AC meetings were another "mickey mouse" game. There were General meetings and Executive meetings, but more members attended the executive meetings, 'you know "coloureds" like food' he says jokingly. The Executive meetings were held by player's homes where their wives/partners had to prepare the eats. Exactly why there were more members at the Executive Meetings, for the 'lekka kos'.

The Executive had organised a trip to Cape Town and Salie was one of the organisers. Some members could not afford it, so they collected money every end of the month, they sold curry and rice and had raffles just to make up the cost for the trip. They collected enough money and in the end they were the first and only coloured team to fly as a club to Cape Town. What an awesome achievement!

GWRFU representation:

Salie first played for the GWRFU in 1969 in the B-Team while still a learner at Floors High School. Since starting off at ACRFC he was a regular selection choice in the GWRFU team and played at center and on the wing. In 1971 he was selected to represent GW in the last SA cup tournament.

Salie the Pioneer:

In the late 70s Salie Mahri was instrumental in revival of men's hockey in Kimberley. This historical move came when ACRFC played hockey against Athenians ladies every Sunday to assist each other with fitness training. He was approached by Dr Norman Mahraj and Dr Nolan Macdonald about the possibility of forming a mens hockey club having witnessed the hive of activity between Athenians and ACRFC every Sunday. Hellenic Mens Hockey Club came into being and the rest is history. The first GW Mens hockey team consisted of about 8 AC rugby members. Boeta Salie Mahri and the late Alwee Alexander assisted with the development of a constitution and were part of the initial Executive of the revival of the GWMHU.



Back L-R: Gym Alexander, Dr N Macdonald, Dr N Mahraj, Gasson Williams, Tony Jacobs, Salie Mahri
Middel L-R: Farrell Moses, .., Sharfy Alexander, Attie Thomas, Stafford Jacobs
Front L-R: .., Drox Alexander, Dicky Adams, Raymond Raynders

Salie the 'Joster':

In the early 80s Salie and his family moved to JHB and he played rugby for Jaguars in the Transvaal Rugby Football Union, where he played until he retired. ACRFC travelled to Durban by air, stopping over in JHB. Salie Mahri and his family hosted the entire 56 member group at his home in Modderfontein for an entire day whilst awaiting a connector flight to Durban.

Proudest moment:

In 1978 he was elected to represent AC invitational team to play against a star studded SARU invitational but withdrew due to shoulder injuries. The game was organised at AC 75th Anniversary.

He commends members who gave their all for AC and proudly mentions Alwee, Boy, Attie and Frikkie to name a few. Salie himself was a stalwart of ACRFC and those who were involved with the club fondly acknowledge his 'one man' efforts in a time when the ship could so easily have sunk.

"The ACRFC had its fair share of 'ups and downs' but we survived. In the end, unification in rugby resulted in breaking up Arabian College (AC) at the cost of merging with a white club".

ACRFC owes a lot to this man who refused to give up the battle when the club was at an all-time low. It is through his dedication that he kept the club going to enable the new generations to enjoy the magic of 'the Red - the White and - the Green'.

In 2015 Boeta Salie unfortunately missed out on the ACRFC Reunion, where he was honoured for his major contribution towards ACRFC, the award was accepted on his behalf by his brother, Boeta Braim Mahri.

Extracts from player profiles about Boeta Salie Mahri:

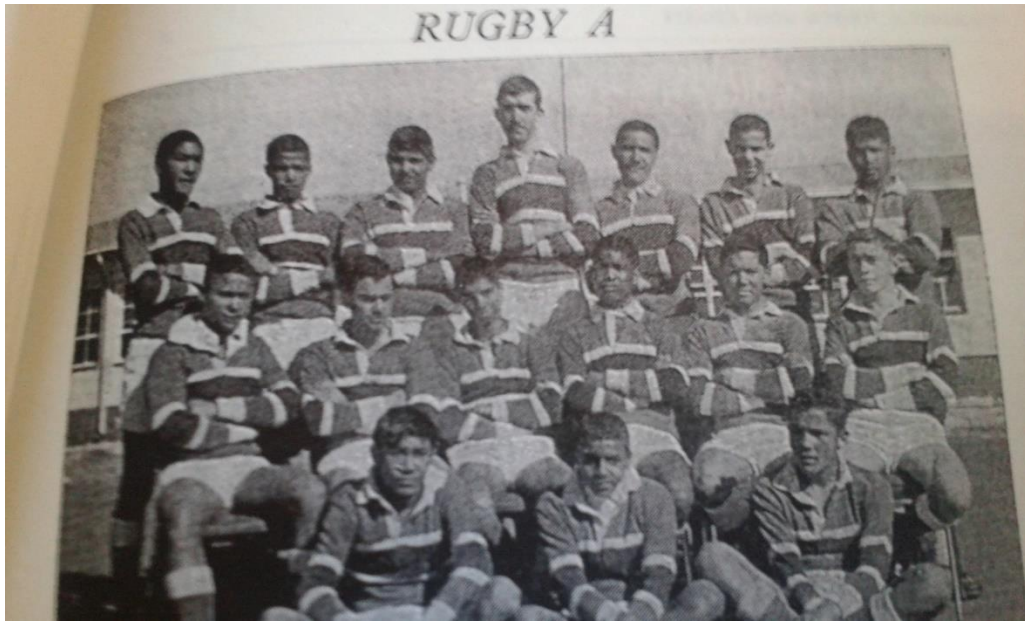
"Drox Alexander speaks passionately about how Salie Mahri had to stand in as Chairman, Secretary, Treasury, Coach and Captain in those challenging times."

From the profile of the great Phaldie Cader:- "Salie Mahri took up the reins as captain on the rugby field, and sometimes secretary, as well as chairman in club meetings. Once again, the Arabian College grit and tenacity was witnessed, as Salie, soldiered on to ensure that the team returned to its former glory.

Transition had its own peculiar dynamics, but according to Phaldie, Salie Mahri's fierce commitment to the club, prevailed.

Club meetings were moved from the Adams home to Ebrahim Mahri's home in Stamford Street, and at the best of times, Salie went as far as sacrificing his family's weekly food stipend, to fund the expenses of the club."

The Floors High School A-Team



From back Left: Mickey Le Grange, Dawie Kruger, Thomas Jossie, Jimmy Kinnear, Vincent Pieterse, Cecil Abrahams, D Fredericks.

From Left Middle: Lesley Abrahams, Stephen Delport, Lionel Marthinus, *Abdullah Alexander*, Warren Adamson, Mark Job.

From Left Front: **Sallie Mahri**, Joseph Samson, Eddie Hicks. (Captain)

DFA 1978 - Salie Mahri selected for the AR Abass Invitation Team V/s the SARU Invitation Team to celebrate the 75th Anniversary of ACRFC



THE PRESENT ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



Back Row: A. Thomas, S. Mahri, G. Jardine, F. Norman, E. Mahri, P. Cader, T. Alexander.
Second Row: A. Alexander, D. Ross, A. Osman, K. Connor, F. Cader, S. King, T. Jossie, B. Alexander, M. Gool.
Seated: R. Jacobs, M. A. Alexander, C. Osman, H. Paulse, J. Samson.



1981 In-flight to CT: Gesant Jardine, Salie Mahri, Tasliem Alexander, Boy Alexander, Gym Alexander, Frikkie Norman



Salie Mahri relaxing at the hotel in CT - GWRFU Vs WP



Salie Mahri, Ganief Mills @ ACRFC Annual Dinner Dance



Salie Mahri, Winston Du Plessis, Frikkie Norman
2015 at KBLY Golf Club - receiving ACRFC Reunion memento's from Winston

Profile of Thomas JOSSIE:-



At the age of 16 Mr Thomas Jossie's *introduction to sport administration* started when he became Secretary of the GW Indian Football Association, under the guidance of the doyen of sportsman – Mr Paul Augustine. During his term the union competed in two Sam China Tournaments (in those days soccer was played on racial lines – soccer for “Indians”, “Coloureds”, “Africans and Whites”).

As time progressed he served as recording Secretary and General Secretary in many sporting organizations:- These included – Mintonians Football Club, The GW Coloured Soccer Association – under the chairmanship of Mr Henry Hopley; Gladiators Cricket Club; Burma Lads Cricket Club and GW Cricket Board (often referred to as the Malay Union). It is not his intention to often refer to racial terms, but the crux of the matter, it was reality in those days. Mr Jossie also enjoyed serving in this capacity in the Kimberley Primary Schools Sports Association under the chairmanship of the late Christiaan September and soon he was involved with Kimberley Senior Schools Sports Union, with Mr Robert Burgess as his mentor.

Rugby became part of his administrative role. The members of the Arabian College RFC honoured Mr Jossie with the Secretarial post. A highlight here was when ACRFC celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the club. Players were invited from all over South Africa, which included Mr Cheeky Watson – then the only “white” player to play among our ranks and current President of Eastern Province RU; Mr Peter Jooste – the current National Selector and many other great players to our celebrations. He then became a delegate of ACRFC to union meetings – there was a vacancy for a Secretary and he was duly elected as Secretary to the GYRFU (SACOS).

In 1971 he was part of the Perseverance Training College which took part in

the Inter College at Hewitt Training College in Cape Town.

Together with Mr Eric Gossman he served as a Secretariat of the amalgamation talks with *Diamond Fields Cricket Union and GW Cricket Board (Malay)*, at that time the African Cricket Union was non-existent. This was an historic meeting under the chairmanship of Mr Rashied Variawa. This marriage was short lived and then “real” unity talks started with the dawn of Mr Hassan Howa, who fought for non-racial cricket. Today we can salute the efforts of Mr Hassan Howa.

In the late eighties and early nineties there was a rebirth of non-racial sport. School sport had to change and a meeting of all rugby schools was convened. A joint committee was elected to administrate school rugby in the Kimberley region. At this meeting together with Daan Du Toit he served as the secretariat under the chairmanship of Mr Benna Koertzen and Martin Visagie. Mr Jossie served in this capacity for two seasons – frustrations within the system made him quit, for reasons he would rather not expand.

In the days of Management Committees, he had the opportunity to serve as Secretary of the *Municipality’s Indian Management Committee*.

Even in church he was able to share his expertise as a Secretary of the Assumption Church’s working Committee.

Before Pro Sano Medical Aid Scheme joined hands with Bonitas, Mr Jossie duly served in the *Northern Cape / Free State Regional Committee* of the scheme as a Secretary.

His interest moved to Finances as was growing tired of all the writing and typing. First as *Treasurer* of the Cape Professional Teacher’s Association (Kimberley Branch) and when the National Conference was held in Kimberley he served as the Treasurer of the Conference. Then Mr Jossie served on the Parish Council of the Church of Assumption for two years, declining re-election.

Thomas Jossie’s desire to become involved in other fields – As a rookie in the field of welfare, Thomas and Conrad Jampies and the late Don Miller were elected to serve on the Committee of Resthaven Old Age Home. They were young and inexperienced but people like Albert Miller, Adrian Daniels, Isgaak Jarodien, Alfred Hicks and Mr Borraine guided them until politicians had agreed to take over.

New Challenges Awaiting : - Convenor for the rugby code of SA Primary Schools Sports Association for its winter tournament which was held in Kimberley. He was also Convenor of the selection panel for GWRFU (SACOS). For two bi-annual school tournaments Mr Jossie managed the Provincial Schools Team in Worcester in 1976 and in Mossel Bay in 1978 and at the same time served on the selection panel of the SA Senior Schools Sports Association National Team. His administrative role continued when he became Deputy President of the GWRFU (SARU) and in so doing he also represented the Union at various SARU meetings. On one occasion Mr Jossie managed the provincial team when they played Tygerberg in an SA Cup fixture.

In order to compete in the strong school's league after unity, the **AR Abass Junior Club** was established to promote the game among "so called under performing schools". For two years he chaired the meetings of the Club and then family commitments put an end to this chairmanship.

In the **religious field** there was a need to care for the needy and in our church, the St Vincent de Paul Society presented him an opportunity to serve on this organization. Having served for nearly a year, an amputation put an end to many of his administrative roles. But he thanks his creator his God that he could use his talents and to serve the sporting, welfare, education and religious organizations which he was involved in. As he ends the chapter of his administrative role in Society, he want to pay tribute to two persons, Lionel Kow and Brian Lenders who got him involved in the work of the Church of Assumption, first as an Altar Server, then a Proclaimer, a Eucharistic Minister and Community Service Leader.

Coaching Rugby : Thomas Jossie was involved in various forms of rugby coaching. Bulftontein / Homevale Secondary School and Progress Primary School. In 1978 he was fortunate to be part of the SARU coaching clinic which was held at the University of the Western Cape in Belville. Five Colleges participated – Perseverance, Hewat, Rand and Bechet South Cape.

As A Rugby Player.

Mr Jossie achieved much as a player. In 1969 Floors High School did not have a second team to play in the school's league but Martin "Chooks" Visagie forced him into playing rugby. He could not play at primary school and the earlier years at high school because there was discrimination against boys who were "overweight". In 1970 a team from the University of Western Cape toured Kimberley and he was chosen to anchor the combined Kimberley team. He wants to pay tribute to Mr Visagie for his role in the love for rugby, as coach, manager, and administrator.

From 1973 to 1975 he played for Thistle Rugby Football Club and then joined Arabian College RFC in 1976. Thomas went on to represent GWRFU while at ACRFC and my highlight was the 75th Anniversary Celebrations in 1978 where he gained selection to the AR Abass SARU Invitation Team to play against an ACRFC Invitation Team, captained by the great Peter Jooste from Tygerberg.

As Educator:- Primary schools were well organized in the late fifties and sixties. Some of the schools who participated on Wednesday afternoons included Perseverance, St Francis Xavier, New Main Street, Pan, St Sylvesters, Floors North and Endeavour. Some of these schools no longer exist.

As Scholar:- Although he was a learner at St Francis Xavier, he was never afforded the opportunity to play in the colours of SFX due to some sort of discrimination against heavier kids. He therefore never experienced our school's rugby. Thomas is certain that it was at Perseverance Primary School that the rugby career of the late Alwee Alexander started. When he thinks of him he must have played in the weight division of 50 to 60 pounds. The teachers at the school must have observed his talents as a rugby player and as time progressed Alwee developed a genuine flair for the game.

Having entered high school Mr Jossie had to wait until he was in standard 9 to play rugby. Being exposed to rugby by Mr Martin Visagie, he made his first encounter with the likes of Alwee Alexander and Chris Ludick who played for the unbeatable and well drilled William Pescod High School. In many of these hard fought matches, Alwee impressed him with his diminutive size and his exceptional skills on the field. Alwee was a gentleman of the game and he often recall despite his size, he loved tackling those who outsized him, Thomas being one of the bigger who felt his ferocious tackling. The success of William Pescod in the school's league was truly because of Alwee Alexander's leadership.

Senior Rugby:-

After high school Thomas Jossie played for Thistles for about three seasons and then joined Arabian College. Alwee continued to rise to another level when he started playing for Arabian College First Team. He was a true gentleman of the game especially after each match, first to applaud his opponents and also encourage his own team mates when things did not go the way of the team. What a sight to have 7 Alexander brothers playing with Alwee. This must have pleased their mother Mrs Tima Alexander, who occupied a seat at the end of the stand, cheering and making it known when Arabian College were playing below par. Even Alwee and Thomas were subjected to her anger.

As he progressed into the executive of the club, Alwee started coaching the club's junior team and later he coached the first and second teams. He proved beyond doubt that he had skills to coach and impart his knowledge. Alwee became a respected person within the club and by a wide spectrum of the community. This was evident by the many people who made their last respects at his Janazha (funeral). As one gets older the legs cannot stand firm anymore, and as I went through leg amputation, so Alwee was affected by suffering 3 strokes.

Secretary to ACRFC:-

Thomas was afforded the opportunity to serve as Secretary of Arabian College under the chairmanship of Alwee Alexander. It was in the administration that this well-liked friend and colleague proved his mettle, he became chairman of the club when matters in the club degenerated but he engineered the lifting of the club to its former glory. They worked together very well and Alwee was hands-on in the affairs of the club. Very seldom did Alwee delegate to be done by others during his reign when the club celebrated its 75th anniversary and the success of these celebrations was due to his hard work and dedication.

Mr Jossie gained selection in the 1978 AR Abass SARU Invitational Team who faced the ACRFC Invitation Team, rubbing shoulders with SARU greats like Cassiem Jabaar, Themba Ludwaba, Salie Fredericks and Clive Thomas to name a few.



MESSAGE FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY CLUB, MR. T. E. JOSSIE

It is with much joy that I write a small contribution for my club's brochure, the compilation of which is a fitting manner in which to commemorate its 75th Anniversary.

When Arabian College was established in 1903, its path has not been a bed of roses, compared to what some of the more fortunate clubs enjoy to this day. Our efforts have been costly, but we still carry on.

Over the years the household name of Arabian College and outstanding achievements (provincial selections and players selected for the South African Rugby Union) were noted and esteemed very highly by visitors from other parts of the country.

The moving force behind the club were men such as A. Jardine, L. Jabaar, B. van Heerden, the Barnes' brothers, A. R. Abass, Snyders, Aysens, A. B. Richards, Hermanus, Adams and others far too numerous to mention who have guided the club along the path to its present day. Many memorable happenings have been arranged by the club — the undertaking of various tours to other parts of the country, where not only rugby was played, but new friends were met and in so doing, the circle of friends became bigger and bigger.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all firms, business houses and individuals who have donated in taking advertising space in our brochure. We do appreciate it.

To the officials of the Griqualand West Rugby Union for their unselfish co-operation shown towards the club so that rugby could be fostered and to all my colleagues, supporters and friends a hearty thank you.

“Sport should develop a harmonious and balanced outlook on life”.

T. E. JOSSIE,
Hon. Secretary.



PETER JOOSTE (25) van Tygerberg, speel vir die rugbyklub Tigers voorry en is kaptein van Tygerberg. Hy het ook in die rugbyraad van Somerset-Wes gedien. Jooste is as kaptein van die A. R. Abass-span aangewys. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



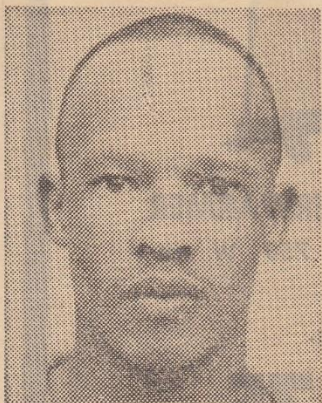
SHREEF ABASS (22) van City and Suburban, wat flank speel vir die rugbyklub Primroses. Hy het Tygerberg in 1976 verteenwoordig en City and Suburban in 1977 en 1978. Abass het vroeër vir Arabian College gespeel. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



PAUL MULLER (35) van Noordwes-Kaap wat heelagter speel vir die Rugbyklub Rivertons. Hy het sy provinsie 35 keer verteenwoordig. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



THOMAS JOSSIE (26), voor span van Arabian College. In 1971 en 1972 het hy vir Persverance - Opleidingskollege gespeel en die volgende twee jaar vir Thistles. In 1975 het hy by Arabian College aangesluit en het reeds 53 wedstryde vir die klub gespeel. Jossie het die Griekwas se o.19-span verteenwoordig. asook die senior span by twee geleenthede. Hy is sekretaris van sy klub en die K.S.S.S.U. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



ADAM OOR (32), senter van Noordwes-Kaap, speel vir die rugbyklub Wolves en het Griekwas en Noordwes-Kaap al verskeie keer verteenwoordig. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



DESMOND KRAMER (23) van die Oostelike Provinsie, wat van hy junior was, vleuel speel vir die rugbyklub Walabies. Hy verteenwoordig die O.P. sedert 1975 en was kaptein van die S.A. Kolleges se span. Kramer was gekies vir die uitnodigingspan wat die S.A. bekerkampioene van 1975, Kwaru, geklop het. (Foto: Joseph Pillay.)



THE Arabian College Invitation XV's front row of Gesant Jardine (left), Boy Alexander and Tommie Jossie will have to produce the goods this afternoon for their opponents are among the best in the country.

Top SA players in city

By **LESLIE ABRAHAMS**

SOME of the best rugby seen in Kimberley for many years should be in the offing this afternoon, when a number of the top players of the South African Rugby Union take their place in the Arabian College 75th Anniversary Rugby Derby at the Union Grounds.

The main game of the day will feature an Arabian College Invitation team against the A. R. Abass Invitation XV.

The Abass side includes Western Province's Cassim Jabaar at scrumhalf with Kwaru's Peter Makata his halfback partner.

Jabaar is considered one of the top scrumhalves in the country and the Arabian College team's scrumhalf, Ganief Mills, will have to watch him like a hawk.

The Abass XV's star line-up includes Peter Jooste of Tygerberg, Sharief Abass of City and Suburban, Clive Thomas of Tygerberg, Jan Orr of North West Cape and D. Watson of Kwaru.

The Arabian College Invitation XV have among their ranks the Griqua flyer Bernard Bennett, as well as his provincial teammates Chris Ludick, Eric Damons, Roland Hermanus and Alwie Alexander.

The battle of the fullbacks should attract quite a lot of attention, as Griquas' up-and-coming Charles Hermanus takes on North West Cape's Paul Muller, who has represented his province 35 times.

The main curtain-raiser will be between an Arabian Colts side and a Barbarians XV.



CASSIEM JABAAR (nr. 9 in gestreepte trui) gereed om die bal te laat loop na Tommy Jossie (regs) in die wedstryd waarin hul span — die Abass-uitnodigingspan — deur Arabian College in Kimberley verslaan is. Ander spelers is Paul Muller en Arabian College se Boy Alexander, wat gereed is om Jabaar laag te vat. Die wedstryd was deel van die viering van Arabian College se 75-jarige bestaan. (Foto: Lennie Himson.)

In conclusion Thomas Jossie wants to leave the younger generation with this quotation by the great Indian Cricketer “Ranjith Singh” which Alwee introduced to the club – he surely based his involvement in the game of rugby on this;

“O powers, make me to observe
And keep the rules of the game;
Help me neither to offer
Nor to welcome cheap praise;
Give me always to be a good comrade;
Help me to win, If I may;
But – and this, O Powers, especially –
If I may not win;
Make me a good loser.”



2015: - Mr Jossie & Son at the ACRFC REUNION



Boy Alexander, Thomas Jossie

THE PRESENT ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



Back Row: A. Thomas, S. Mahri, G. Jardine, F. Norman, E. Mahri, P. Cader, T. Alexander.

Second Row: A. Alexander, D. Ross, A. Osman, K. Connor, F. Cader, S. King, T. Jossie, B. Alexander, M. Gool.

Seated: R. Jacobs, M. A. Alexander, C. Osman, H. Paulse, J. Samson.



Robbie Thomas & Mr Jossie receiving Certificate of Recognition



Mr Jossie, Boy, Tima, Doreah

ACRFC PROFILES

Profile of Mohammed Shariff MAHRI

Mohammed Shariff Mahri was born on the 25 August 1960, and resides in Johannesburg for the past 15 years with his wife Anisa who was a very good hockey player for Athenians, and their children. He is an Emergency Rescue Professional and a member of the Gauteng Metropolitan Disaster Management Team.



Shariff was born in Kimberley and attended school at William Pescod High School. As a student playing rugby for the school was very difficult as he had to face the might of a team that was his dream team.

Shariff comes from a family that was involved with sports. His father Abdullah (Boykie) Mahri (may Allah bless Boeta B and grant him Jannatul Firdous , Ameen), was the President of the Griqualand West Soccer Federation and very involved in sport. Soccer was always the favoured sports of Abdullah Mahri and was a founder member of Dundee United FC. Boeta Boykie was a highly respected religious leader in Kimberley and was very influential as Madressa School Teacher. Boeta Boykie was a staunch ACRFC supporter and travelled with the club many a time.

Shariff is the brother of the late Isgaak Mahri, Fuad, Doellie and Sumaya. He is the cousin to Ganief Mills, Salie and Braim Mahri, Fazel and Yusuf Mahri, Yasien, Salie and Koubie Snyders all of whom played for ACRFC.

When Shariff finished school he joined Arabian College and played in the second team. It was very challenging because they were the best team in Kimberley at that time. He had to train hard to make the side as the competition was tough. His dream was to represent the First team but he had to deal with top players like Yunis Gool, one of the best wings of the club and GWRFU..

Skills and Talents

Shariff is still active and was a great all round athlete at school. He is of short and stocky build with enough pace to burn as a sprinter, and not shying away from the medium to longer distances. He represented GW Primary and High Schools as a 100m and 200m sprinter as well as the long jump events. On occasion he was appointed as team captain for the

GWSSS Athletics having held sprint records at various stages. He was also a fantastic gymnast and represented his school and province with great pride, When Brevten Paulse of Stormers and Springbok fame did a flick-flack and somersault after scaring try, all the ACRFC guys remarked that, 'Ag, Shariff was the first to do that'

Shariff is a real fitness fanatic and was most competitive at club training sessions. The guys remember the early Sunday morning runs on the Johannesburg Road and he was a front-runner psyching out his competition, just ask Anwar Salo. He gave 110% with each instruction shouted out by the coaches, and this encouraged his team mates to also compete harder.

Achievements:

Arabian College Second Team:

Position - Utility Back, Fullback but preferred Wing; Captain, Vice-Captain

Other Achievements: Highest Try Scorer ; Winning seven a side team for 3 years.

Arabian College First Team:

Position - utility back

To be in the First Team was one of his biggest achievements; Secondly to be part of a team that was the best team who dominated for 14 years; and won all the trophies on offer. His best ever achievement being selected for the ACRFC Team to represent GWRFU at the prestigious TOP EIGHT hosted by City and Suburban Rugby Union at City Park in Cape Town.

He obtained his Griqualand West RFU colors and played against the best teams in SARU - Western Province, Tygerburg , Eastern Province.

Shariff and his wife Anisa was instrumental in the success of the ACRF Reunion in 2015, having designed and supplied the memento's for the historical event which was flighted on SuperSport.



Anisa and Shariff Mahri

ARABIAN COLLEGE
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB -- 1987



GRAND SLAM WINNERS
First & Second League
Competitions
1978-1987



KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. 08343 21712

Front Row: A. ALEXANDER (Treasurer); S. ALEXANDER (Captain, First Team); F. THOMAS (Treasurer); F. AYSEN (Secretary);
M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); F. NORMAN (Vice-Chairman); C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain, First Team);
A. ALEXANDER (Trustee)

Second Row: S. MAHRI; J. VAN DIEMEN; P. PAULSE; Y. GOOL; F. ADAMS; S. ALEXANDER; Y. SNYDERS; G. MILLS.

Third Row: A. RICHARDS; C. CLOUTS; T. WILKINSON; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; A. FREDERICKS; S. AYSEN; Y. GOOL.

Fourth Row: R. THOMAS; G. ISAACS; E. OBARAY; Y. ALEXANDER; R. RICHARDS; R. JARDINE; A.M. NACKERDIEN;

**ARABIAN COLLEGE
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB -- 1987**



**FIRST LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS 1978-1987**

*Winners of Wilfred Orr League;
Blacklaws Shield; Kim-by-Nite
Knockout Trophy; Triangular Trophy.*



KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. (051) 21712

Front Row: Y. ALEXANDER; A. ALEXANDER (Trustee); A. ALEXANDER; F. THOMAS (Treasurer); P. PAULSE.
Second Row: G. MILLS; A. ALEXANDER; M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); S. ALEXANDER (Captain); A.B. RICHARDS (Vice-President);
 C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain); F. AYSEN.
Third Row: S. MAHRI; Y. GOOL; F. NORMAN; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; F. ADAMS; T. WILKINSON.
Fourth Row: F. MAHRI; E. OBARAY; W DU PLESSIS; R. JARDINE; F. HUNTER; Y. SNYDERS.

ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

*Representing Griqualand West at the City & Suburban RFU
'Top Eight' Champion of Champions Competition 1986 in Cape Town*



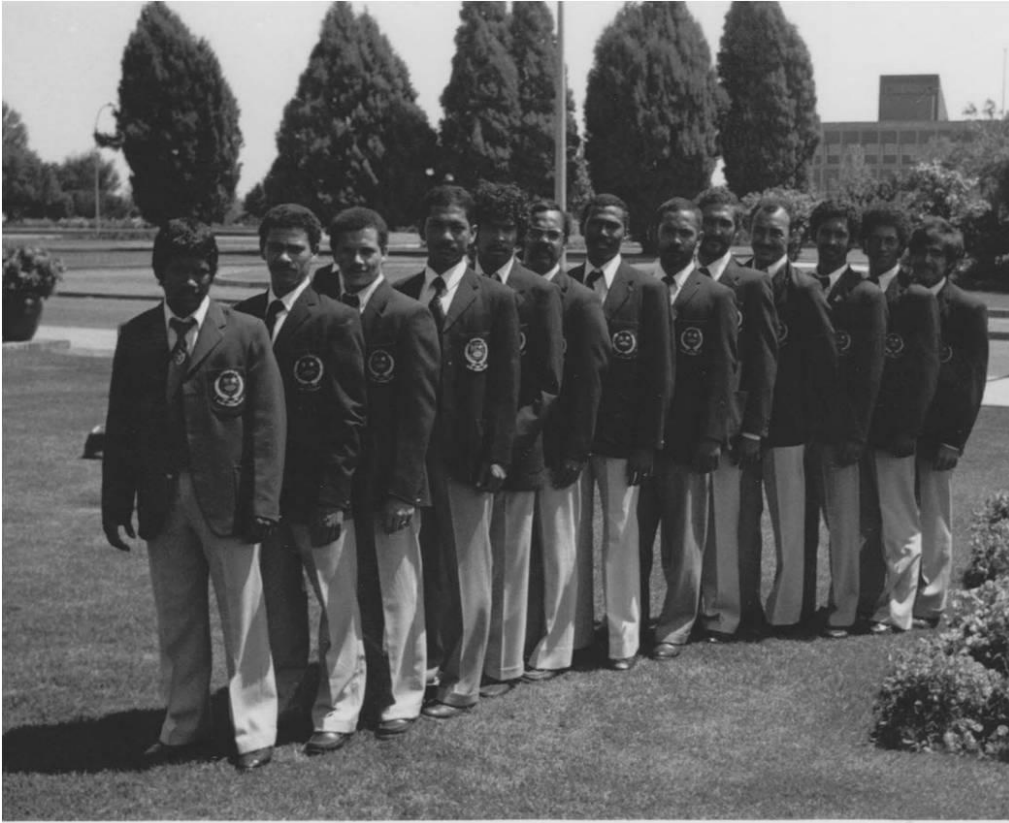
Back Row (Standing): I Tait; G Alexander; Y Gool; F Adams; C Williams; W du Plessis; F Norman; R Hermanus; R Jardine; P Simons; M Kenny.

Second Row (Seated): A Alexander; Y Alexander; S Alexander (Captain); M A Alexander (Chairman/Coach); J Adams (Vice-Captain); T Wilkinson; Y Snyders.

Front Row (Sitting): F. Aysen; F Mahri; G Mills; S Mahri; A Fredericks.







Shariff Mahri, Mark King, Yunos Gool, Azies Alexander, Abduragmaan Fredericks, Alwee Alexander, Moekie Kenny, Sharfy Alexander, Fazel Adams, Phaldi Cader, Gym Alexander, Stafford Jacobs, Janodien Adams







ABOVE: Sharief Mahet pushes 'vambou' into his stomach, while his younger brother follows suit.



RIGHT: Mr. Igouah Mahet, of the Kimberley community has his chest pierced by an 'vambou'.

Skewer hammered through cheek

NOBODY held their breath when the Khalifa hammered a skewer through Iqbal Mahr's cheek.

Everyone knew he would feel no pain, and there would be very little, if any blood.

He, and about 30 white-clad men and young boys were taking part in a Muslim ceremony (the Khalifa-digra) at the Lakeland Park Centre at Sutherland Park on Sunday.

They danced, accompanied by the sound of drums and the wails of the Koran, with many women dancing from their heads, while they cut themselves with swords and pierced their skin with 'bamboos'. This is a rite.

There was almost no blood and no evidence of pain. One bystander said: 'If you start bleeding, just get a prayer mat and pray.'

When one participant, Mr. Anikar, held the skewer to his cheek, a thin trickle of blood ran down his cheek, but stopped after a few seconds. Some times you can see a little red, but not, really. They're not even hurt.

marks on his face, behind or neck where it had inserted the skewer.

They had arrows stuck into their tongues in the Khalifa.

The Khalifa (leader) had just hammered bamboo into stomachs with a needle, with no marks of blood or pain afterwards. 'No one would see.'

The intention, said Mr. Mahr, was to show, and another.

The Khalifa-digra, as the ceremony is called, is a combination of faith and is made in a way which gives almost no pain.

The ceremony was held at Lakeland Park Centre, a primary school, and was held by the Kumbherly Muslim community, with the help of the Maffraing Islamic Centre.

The Khalifa for the rite was Mr. Yallop Hendricks, of Maffraing. The rite was organized by the chairman of the Lakeland Islamic Centre, Haidar Dabbas, and the pastor, Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite. Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite, was with the rite.

They were Abdul Aziz, Haidar Dabbas, and Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite. Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite, was with the rite.

They were safe who did the rite and ceremony with God, with no pain, really. They're not even hurt.

in Muslim communities, but has died out over the past 20 years. Mr. Mohammed Kamin, one of the elders in the Kumbherly Muslim community, said there now seems to be a revival after the ceremony. 'One must have faith in times like these,' he said.

The next participants in rite were a type of rite, when they heard the drums and the Koran.

A group who practice rite was started in Kumbherly about six months ago by Mr. Anikar, and they practice every week.

Sunday's ceremony was held to raise building funds for the Lakeland Islamic Centre, a primary school, and was held by the Kumbherly Muslim community, with the help of the Maffraing Islamic Centre.

The Khalifa for the rite was Mr. Yallop Hendricks, of Maffraing. The rite was organized by the chairman of the Lakeland Islamic Centre, Haidar Dabbas, and the pastor, Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite. Mr. A. Mahr, who was with the rite, was with the rite.

They were safe who did the rite and ceremony with God, with no pain, really. They're not even hurt.

They were safe who did the rite and ceremony with God, with no pain, really. They're not even hurt.



KHALIFA Yallop Hendricks hammers a 'bamboo' into the cheek of a member of the Kumbherly Muslim community, Mr. Iqbal Mahr.







Fazel Mahri, Mohammed Sulliman, Shariff Mahri











The Griquas Rugby Club
came from Kimberley to
to play against the EP Rugby
Club. On the photo app
check your name down



Naeem Samaai, Braim Adams, Moekie Kenny, Noor Daniels, Shariff Mahri, Roland Hermanus



Back L-R:- Pat Steyn, Boy Alexander, Moosa Aysen, Riaan Richards, Doella Richards, Charles Hermanus, Roalnd Hermanus, Tiemie, Thomas Jossie, Nick Jansen, Faisal Aysen, Fuad Aysen, Naeem Samaai, Phaldie Cader, Imraam Cader, Fazel Adams, Lameez Adams
 Front L-R:- Shariff Mahri, Drox Alexander, Moh Sulliman, Yusie Alexander, Azies Alexander, Mark King, Shaheed Alexander, Mugsien Gool



Back L-R:- Russell Brooker, Rashard Jardine, Aziz Fredericks, Brian Van Rooyen, Alwee Alexander, Frikkie Norman, Mugsien Gool
 Front L-R:- Ganief Mills, Ishaam Hassen, Shariff Mahri, Tash Wilikinson, Moekie Kenny, Zain Panker



Mr A Mahri, Mr Farrell Moses, Mr B Fillis



Mr A Mahri presenting to Mr Charles Amsterdam



Aunty Joggie Mahri presenting to Chris Ludick



Mr Popham, Sponsor, Mr Abdullah Mahri, Mr Farrell Moses, Mr Kammies

Profile of Ron ENGELBRECHT:-

Ron Engelbrecht, better known as Ronnie to those close to him, was born and bred in Kimberley. He schooled at William Pescod High and was always a very active individual. Ron was blessed with a solid frame just like his Dad, who was a policeman, and brother Aaron who was a very strong midfield rugby player. Ronnie was a qualified electrician at the Kimberley Municipality where he worked for many years.

At William Pescod he was a regular choice as 8th man, where he could stabilise the scrum or break away with the ball tucked in one of his huge hands. After finishing his school career, Ron went on to play for Arabian College RFC and gained selection as 8th man for GWRFU. He was a scholar who was mentored by the late legend, educator, principal and historian Mr Robbie Burgess.

Talented sportsmen like Ron Engelbrecht always had to make difficult decisions, and he too had to choose between playing rugby or cricket. The eventual winner was cricket and he excelled to great heights in his chosen sports code. Ronnie reached his peak performance in difficult times when sport was very much segregated, between the 'white' sports boards and the 'non-white' sports unions who were mostly affiliated under the SACOS banner. He started off at Beaconsfield Wanderers and later joined Pirates Cricket Club.

The 'white' GWCB recognised the talents of quite a few of the 'coloured' players and presented them with opportunities which meant that their decision could 'exile' them from their own communities. These players included Ron Engelbrecht, Alwie Aysen, Yassiem Snyders, Devreaux Visser, Keith Hartszenberg, Abe Williams, Des Apollis, Charles Jacobs, Mervyn Wentworth, Tommy Whitten, Keith Conner and many others. Ron was one of the first players of colour to represent the GWCB where he rubbed shoulders with the likes of Mike Doherty, Athol Metheven and the Schonegevel and McLaren brothers. Ron was a very talented fast bowler who used his height and strength to great advantage. He gathered quite a few awards for his bowling prowess. At a certain stage in his cricketing career, Ron was rated in the Top 20 SA Cricket All-Rounders, having excelled with the bat, ball and out in the field.

After retiring from competitive cricket, Ron started spending more time on the squash court and even more time on the golf course. In 2021 at the age of 70, Ronnie is still active of the golf courses around the country. He also contributed greatly toward the administrative management of the Kimberley Golf Club.

GRIQUALAND WEST TEAM



Seated Left to Right:

D. Appolis, A. H. Jeenah, B. H. Leendertz (Manager),
D. Summers, Y. Snyders.

Middle Row:

A. B. Williams, K. Hartzenburg, I. Hendricks, C. Jacobs,
K. O'Conner, T. Gertze.

Top Row:

T. Whitten, C. P. Fredricks, D. Visser (Captain), R. Engel-
brecht (Vice-Captain), K. Simons, K. Bavesah, L. Crawford.

[Ronald Engelbrecht profile and biography, stats, records, averages, photos and videos \(espnricinfo.com\)](#)

FULL NAME

Ronald Daniel Engelbrecht

BORN

March 03, 1951, Kimberley, Cape Province

AGE

70y 208d

BATTING STYLE

Right hand bat

BOWLING STYLE

Right arm fast medium

TEAMS



Griqualand West

CAREER AVERAGES

Batting & Fielding

FORMAT	MAT	INNS	NO	RUNS	HS	AVE	100S	50S	CT	ST
FC	24	40	11	433	65	14.93	0	1	9	0
List A	6	5	0	70	47	14.00	0	0	2	0

Bowling

FORMAT	MAT	BALLS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	BBM	AVE	ECON	SR	4W	5W	10W
FC	24	3488	1607	47	5/52		34.19	2.76	74.20		2	0

FORMAT	MAT	BALLS	RUNS	WKTS	BBI	BBM	AVE	ECON	SR	4W	5W	10W
List A	6	294	234	5	3/53	3/53	46.80	4.77	58.80	0	0	0

DEBUT/LAST MATCHES - PLAYER

FC Matches

Span

1972/73 - 1984/85

List A Matches

Span

1977/78 - 1984/85

In his heyday, Ron Engelbrecht was ranked as high as 19th as an all-rounder, bowling, batting and fielding.

Stas below from:- <https://www.crichq.com/>

Career

Batting & Fielding	Mat	Inns	NO	Runs	HS	Ave	SR	50	100	4s	6s	Ct	St
First Class	23	38	10	410	<u>65</u>	14.64		1	0	0	0	8	0
List A	5	5	0	70	<u>47</u>	14.0		0	0	0	0	2	0
Bowling	Mat	Inns	Balls	Runs	Wkts	BBI	BBM	Ave	Econ	SR	4w	5w	10
First Class	23	39	3264	1527	46	<u>5/52</u>	<u>9/137</u>	33.2	2.81	70.96	2	2	0
List A	5	5	258	205	5	<u>3/53</u>	<u>3/53</u>	41.0	4.77	51.6	0	0	0

GRIQUALAND WEST RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION

A. Aysen (Vice-Captain)
D. Barnes
E. Geduld
A. Boraine
H. Adams
A. Jackson
S. Mahri
D. Jacobs
F. Fredericks
R. Adams
G.J. Summers
T. Alexander
I. Goliath

J. Olivier
P. du Toit
R. Williams
P. van Wyk (Captain)
R. Jacobs
B. Alexander
H. Fillis
M. Visagie
R. Engelbrecht

Manager: Mr. A.R. Hermanus

Referee: A. Osman

ITINERARY

WELCOME RECEPTION DANCE

Saturday, 26th June — 8 p.m. - 12.00

Drill Hall, Darling Street, Cape Town.

MAYORAL RECEPTION DANCE

Monday, 28th June — 8 p.m. - 12.00

Darling Street, Cape Town

CONCERT

Guest of Cape Malay Choir

Friday 2nd July

FAREWELL

Saturday, 3rd July

S.A. Invitation XI vs. W.P. 1973



Back Row – 2nd from Left:- Ron Engelbrecht



Pirates Cricket Club

Back row..Murasiet Harris..Rudolf Ludwig..Ronald Engelbrecht..Devevereau Visser..Noel Andrews..Allan Borraine..?
Middle row..Peter Moss..Billy Joseph..Edwin.Abrahams..Basil duToit.... See

Profile of Abubacker 'Baby' Richards:-



Abubacker 'Baby' Richards is a well-known Kimberley businessman, sports personality and Muslim Senior citizen. The Richards families are rooted into the history of Arabian College RFC and non-racial sport in general. He is married to Sadia, daughter of ACRFC icon the late Nasirien Alexander, and sister to the late Igsaan, the late Tasliem, Rashart and Dr Ali Alexander.

He was an all-round fantastic sportsman and excelled in tennis, rugby, swimming, rugby as well as body building, the latter of which won him various provincial and the Jnr Mr South Africa title. Richards family rugby players include - Baby, Doella, Ballie, Gani, Gesant & Ficky & Ashraf & Shaheen (sons), Jimmy, Riyaan.

Uncle 'Baby' Richards played scrumhalf for Arabian College where the Griqua selectors showed an early interest in his ability to read the game well. His interest in rugby started in Morris Street in Malay Camp and he was encouraged by the late Latief Barnes. When he joined ACRFC he was the youngest member of the team. Uncle 'Baby' served ACRFC as captain, vice captain, Secretary and Chairman over a period of time. Uncle 'Baby' was honoured as Honorary Life Vice-President by ACRFC in the late 1970's. He is a prominent Kimberley businessman, highly respected community member and senior citizen of the Kimberley Muslim community. Uncle 'Baby' served ACRFC with distinction and followed in the footsteps of the great late Mr Dullah Abass. He was Chairman of the GW Referees Association for many years and put GWRFU on the map by serving as President of the SARU Referees Association for many years.

He was a very good athlete who spent time working on his fitness and physique, and he represented Griquas from 1953 to 1968. In the Griqua team he was noted for his controlled variation and tactical kicking as scrum-half. He served GWRFU as captain and vice captain for several games. 'Baby' was invited to the trials at national level but was unfortunate not to make the SARU team. He was part of the historical ACRFC touring group who travelled by train from Kimberley to Cape Town, and then from Cape Town to Durban by boat in the 1960's.

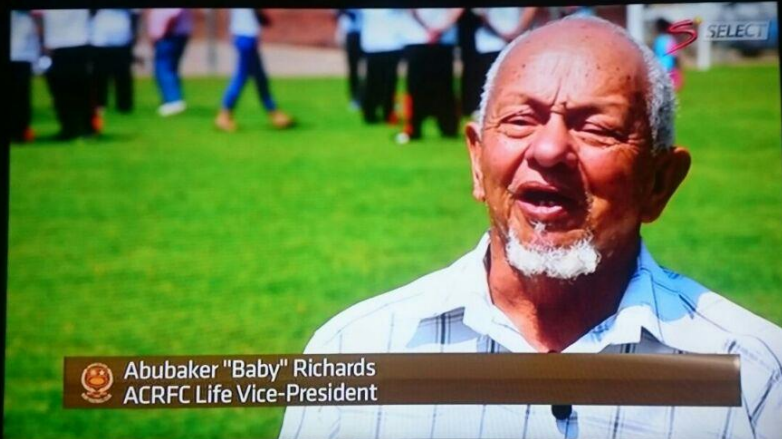
He left an indelible mark on the administration of Arabian College RFC, and GWRFU as Secretary, Referee, President and Chairman. He also served on the Executive of SA Referees Association and as President of the Unified GWRB. Uncle Baby Richards was also honoured by ACRFC as Life Vice-President. He conducted the ceremony of the official opening of the AR Abass Rugby Stadium in Kimberley.




Uncle Baby Richards - Standing - Far Right



Aunty Sadia and Uncle Baby Richards - ACRFC REUNION 2015



 Abubaker "Baby" Richards
ACRFC Life Vice-President



Message from the President of GWRU Mr AB Richards

AS President of the Griqualand West Rugby Union it gives me great pleasure to extend a message of goodwill to this centre — GRIQUALAND WEST — on the celebration of their centenary.

The contribution made by Griqualand West to non-racial rugby in South Africa is one that would be very difficult to emulate and to try and express it in words would only do an injustice to the materialism put in by Messrs Kester, Abass, Calvert, Barnes and various other persons.

May I also take this opportunity of thanking Mr ES Patel who has thought of this idea of paying Griqualand West the honour of celebrating the Centenary in Cape Town and thus showing the same unselfishness as his predecessors.

GWRFU Centenary Celebrations @ UWC Sports Grounds

1965 ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



Back Row: I. Alexander, D. Daya, A. Richards, B. Erasmus, N. Moosajee, A. R. Fredericks.

Second Row: S. Aysen, M. Aysen, Z. Bhayat, R. Alexander, W. Pitt.

Third Row: C. Amsterdam, A. B. Richards, A. R. Abass, S. Adams, V. Pitt, A. Adams, J. Aysen.

Front Row: A. Aysen, Starr.



Front - 4th from Left: - Uncle Baby Richards - Historical Tour by Train, Road and Ship

ARABIAN COLLEGE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB -- 1987



FIRST LEAGUE CHAMPIONS 1978-1987

*Winners of Wilfred Orr League;
Blacklaws Shield; Kim-by-Nite
Knockout Trophy; Triangular Trophy.*

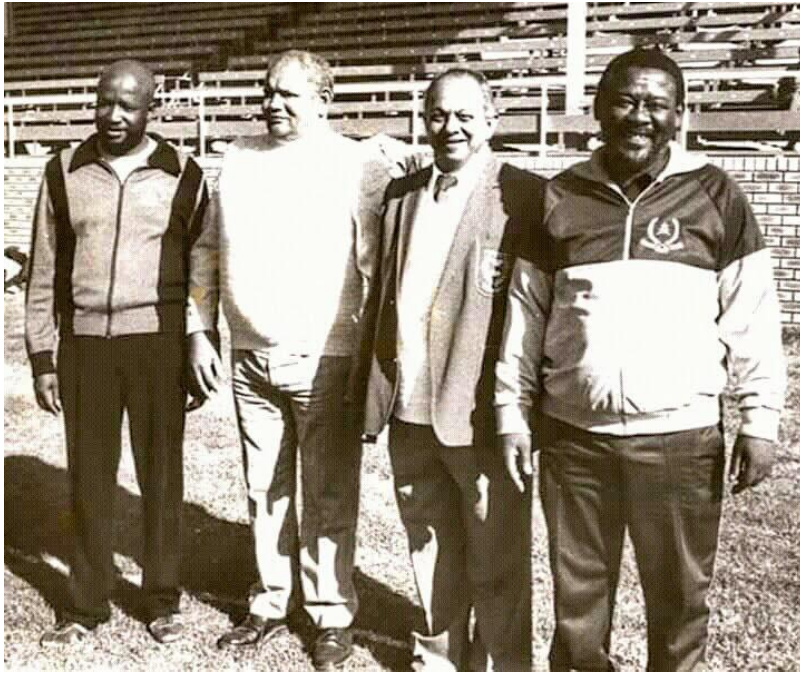


KIMBERLEY PHOTO SERVICES TEL. (0531) 21712

Front Row: Y. ALEXANDER; A. ALEXANDER (Trustee); A. ALEXANDER; F. THOMAS (Treasurer); P. PAULSE.
Second Row: G. MILLS; A. ALEXANDER; M.A. ALEXANDER (Chairman); S. ALEXANDER (Captain); A.B. RICHARDS (Vice-President);
 C. HERMANUS (Vice-Captain); F. AYSEN.
Third Row: S. MAHRI; Y. GOOL; F. NORMAN; M. KENNY; J. ADAMS; F. ADAMS; T. WILKINSON.
Fourth Row: F. MAHRI; E. OBARAY; W DU PLESSIS; R. JARDINE; F. HUNTER; Y. SNYDERS.



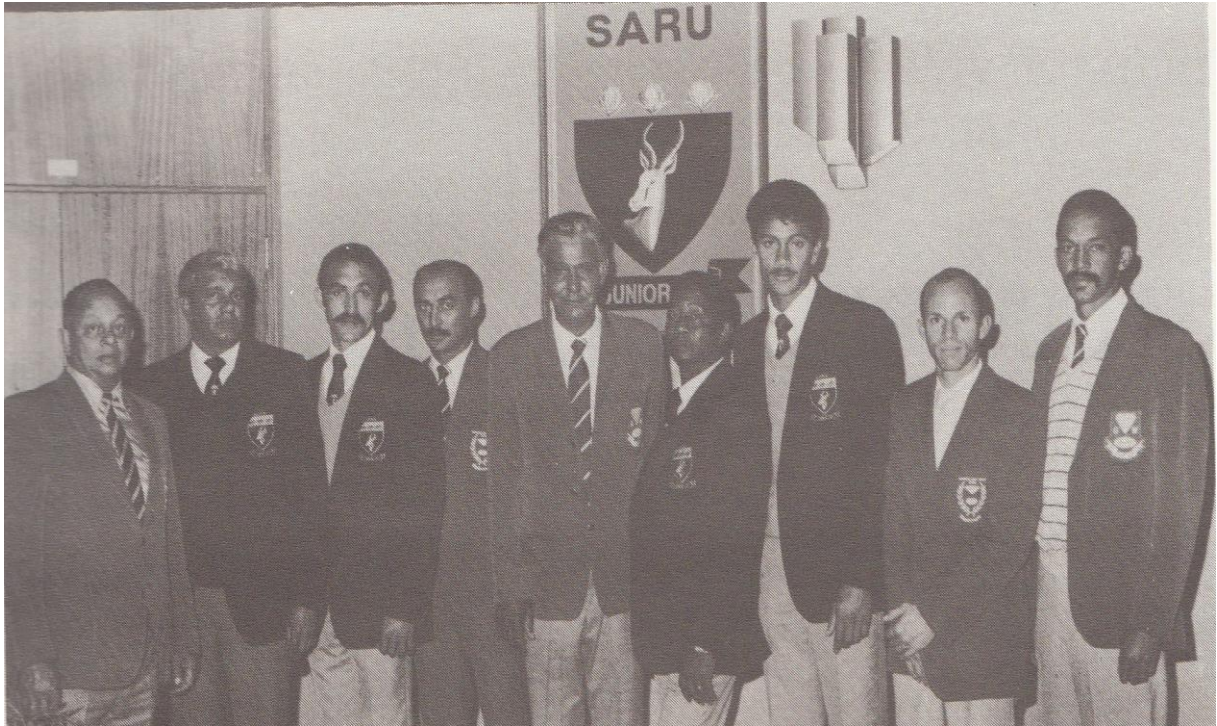
TALLEY JAYSEN, N KESTER, J CALVEET, J BROOKER, M LEWIS, F CALVEET, D JACOB, H MASHEP
 EBRAHIM RAFFE DOOTIE ADAMS, A.R. ABASS, M.G. CADER, A RICHNESS
 EAST LONDON OSAMU MAHRI, S. ADAMS, NOEL AYSEN, H BARNES, M AYSEN
 JUNE 1954
 TOURING - DURBAN, EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH + CAPETOWN



L-R 2nd Mr M Visagie, 3rd Mr Babay Richards



Uncle Baby Richards - Jnr Mr South Africa



Uncle Baby Richards - Far Left - GWRFU 100 Years Celebration



1965 ARABIAN COLLEGE FIRST TEAM



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J. Aysen.

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**ARABIAN COLLEGE
RUGBY FOOTBALL
CLUB -- 1987**



**FIRST LEAGUE
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Front L-R:- 4th – Baby Richards