

THE FIRST DECADE

an anecdotal history of the Texas Rugby Football Union

by S.G.B.Tennant, Jr.

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"Recent extensive researches", as the old song goes, have pried into the origins of the Texas Rugby Union; not always successfully. Nevertheless the characters and circumstances that built what we have today are a vibrant memory for many of us and so I am honored to draw the first pen across the page. Read on as the list of faces and facts are trundled out, and make gleeful or rude marks as you recognize kith and kin, all the while swathed in the joy and camaraderie that only an occasion such as the "Lost Afternoon" can provoke.

Rugby clubs grow like crustaceans, starting with a chunk of rock knocked off a distant club then swept across the oceans and dropped into an appropriate environment. They cling to the new soil, they cluster together, and before you can say "If she were my daughter . . ." you have a transplanted tradition, full of pride and vigor. What follows is an anecdotal highlight of that first decade in Texas.

1967 _____

Texas Rugby is whispered to have begun just this way. Her Majesty's frigate the H.M.S. Bumside was in port in Galveston, Texas in 1967; a few lads from the officer's mess were lounging around a sleazy bar along the docks when they spied three squeaky clean medical students from Baylor Med. doing research for their term paper. The navvies challenged the toffs to a game of "rugby" and the rest, as they say, "is history".

1968 _____

Dr. William Woodfin had a slight, previous taste of rugby from his Yale days, and along with Dr. Grover Bagby and Dr. Ralph Rucker and the rest of their classmates at Baylor Med they enthusiastically took to the game and vowed to train on. In doing this they spread the word, both high and low.

It seems that in those days Doctors were a sterner breed, and following Woodfin's example the Galveston Medical School, led by Dr. Larry Priano and others such as Ken Long quickly formed a rival club.

Combine that with the contemporaneously formed Austin RFC spearheaded by Al Hagan (U. of Indiana) and Nat Davis (Notre Dame) and P. Ordino from South Africa, including the below signed as neophyte, and 'voila', there are now three teams ready to play competitive rugby in Texas in 1968. You can hear the drums beginning to roll.

1969

Throughout the later parts of 1968 and into the Spring of 1969 there was a desultory rugby agenda, of sorts,. In Texas that meant lots of highway driving spread out between occasional games. This quickly led to the emergence of a few new teams with South African Roger Boos at Texas A & M; Ira Gruber at Rice University, and Dr. William Woodfin, again, but this time teaming with former Dallas Football "Texans" Andy Csvenko to form the Dallas RFC.

Not happy with the occasional pick-up game as substitute players for the Baylor team, four men in Houston; Wayne Baxter, Jim Savage, Lee Garner and Gall Tennant decided to form their own club, and called it the Houston Rugby Club.

It began with an August day, a barrel of beer and an ad in the newspaper. It quickly mushroomed with experienced players from France, Scotland, Argentina and England who had been idling their time away in the Bayou City. On that initial meeting in August 1969 the lads invented the world's first four-a- side indoor tournament in Tennant's nearly vacant house, and grew from strength to strength that Fall , eventually hosting the first Lone Star Invitational Tournament in November of 1969. And then they won it !

At the time, back in the scheduling meeting in September of 1969 when all seven teams were present, it was the wily Wayne Baxter, juggling the scheduling , who suggested that we should be better organized, and that good organization required the formation of

something called a 'union'. I quickly pointed out to Baxter that Unions were not very popular in Texas, but the assembled representatives shouted me down and I was nominated. We used my office address, 1599 Houston Club Building, as a mail center, and the horses were off.

It was in this context that the Texas Rugby Union was first established and began to operate. Commenting on these events a few years later in the tournament program, then Texas Rugby Union President Nelson H. Spencer, in 1975, said;

"The Lone Star Tournament, originally conceived in 1969 as the vehicle for determining the Championship club for the Texas R.F.U. has with the growth and development of our Union become a National showcase of rugby football prowess for our own member clubs in competition with the best clubs available outside of the Lone Star State"

1970 _____

Strength builds strength, of course, and over the next few months the number of clubs tripled; and their activities increased substantially. Houston RFC went to the famous Mardi Gras Tournament in New Orleans. At Mardi Gras, Houston RFC fought past Hammond RFC to face top seeded Wisconsin RFC where the superb athleticism of Buck O'Gilvie, with an 80 yard run during injury time won the game for us. We didn't win the tournament but the prospect of victory was in our collective vision.

But the expansion of clubs and unions was everywhere in the air. Chief among them was the recent convert Nelson Spencer, at that time a Dallas RFC member, whose appetite for

the rugby life prompted his formation, with others, of the Harlequins Rugby Club in Dallas in 1971. Beginning with an early note announcing his plans for the following year, Nelson Spencer's substantial commitment created the 'Quins' and kept them at the forefront of Texas and national rugby for the next forty years.

While Nelson was securing his rugby Quins franchise courtesy of his summer National Guard trip to Europe in 1971 I asked him to inquire whether the TRU could be recognized by the largest and oldest entity known as the "Rugby Football Union, or simply the RFU. We were told in a polite but firm way, that America should bring all its little tribes together in one union, and then be recognized.

And it was beginning to happen spontaneously. Across the nation the first faint rumblings of a move toward the formation of a United States Rugby Union were germinating., rugby folks were thinking big. Ed Lee, perennial Secretary of the Eastern Rugby Union, (the first Territorial Union which extended from Maine to Louisiana), wrote letters asking the Texas Union to join in the log rolling. There were a number of political obstacles, nationwide, but these began to look more and more manageable.

1971 _____

We expanded the TRFU letterhead and were extremely gratefully to have included the Honorable Carlos Puentes as Vice President, and the Honorable Mark Reldel as Treasurer to assist in the Union Management.

Refereeing was becoming an issue. In the early days, in the informal games between the fledgling clubs, Dr. Ira Gruber at Rice, and Roger Boos at Texas A & M were skilled and willing at the whistle job. Eventually, however, Wayne Baxter filled in, and the proper Texas Society of Rugby Referees was formed on September 22, 1971. Tony Ivan-Smith, J.A. McDonald and Frank Van Lear took the laboring oars from that date. Within a year or two, however both the number of clubs in the Texas Union, and the number of dedicated full-time referees had grown considerably. Charles L. Ehrhardt later served both as President and as Southern Counties Referee Secretary and has been active in refereeing for many years. Jim Russell from Denver has been another leader in the referee development of Western R.F.U., and a frequent contributor to Texas R.F.U. matches.

I recently telephoned Chuck Ehrhardt for an interview on this subject and to determine if he had any further insights into this development, but he was too shy to be interviewed over the telephone.

It was during 1971 that not only the promise of the Harlequins franchise first came to fruition, but the tireless Jim Johnson became master of Tournament Organization, and almost singlehandedly ran the Lone Star Tournament for years.

1972 _____

One of the most enjoyable aspects of the growth of the TRU was its use as a vehicle for hospitality and expanding horizons.. The much valued Carlos Puentes, the first Vice President to the first administration of the Texas RFU, was also a sage rugby hand, having

grown to full knowledge of the game in Argentina, and familiar with the personalities and intrigues of Austin Gold and Austin Black rugby.

One of his close back home contacts was the Club Champagnat, an upper class boys school, whose alumni often stayed on to play in the club fixtures. The Champagnat tour of Texas was the brain child of Carlos Puentes, and in February seventeen young men from one of Buenos Aires' top secondary schools played around our state, handily winning all games and all good wishes from their hosts. Roger Boos refereed many of the games.

Area rugby got a substantial boost from the walk on presence of a spectator named Davis Wallace, a rugby player from the 1920 Olympics. Dave gave the trophy away to the visitors, and was a steady visitor and supporter of Texas rugby thereafter.

With that Champagnat tour, our eyes were opened, our horizons expanded, and our understanding of just how much we still had to learn about rugby was more clear, but it all seemed worthwhile.

1973 _____

By 1973 the TRU had grown again and divided into 20 clubs, many with their own subdivisions as well as second sides. Nelson H. Spencer had become President of the T.R.F.U. which and for scheduling and administrative reasons had been divided into three divisions :

Northern Counties had : Dallas RFC & Dallas Alpha R.F.C.;
Denton Lions RFC;
Ft. Sill Gunners RFC;
Ft. Worth RFC;
Harlequins RFC;
Wildebeeste R.C.C. with Barrie Neller, chief instigator;

The Midland Counties boasted ;
Austin RCFC Black & Gold;
Kingsville RFC;
Saint Edwards, RFC;
San Antonio RFC ;
Texas A & M RFC (White and Maroon).

The Southern Counties: Baylor University Medical School R.F.C.;
Galveston (Univ. of Texas Medical Branch) RFC;
Houston RFC;
Huntsville Volunteers (Sam Houston State Univ.) RFC;
Old Boys RFC ('Gold ' and 'Blue') Teams;
Rice University RFC;
Sporstpage

The Western Counties: El Paso RFC;
Univ. of Texas of the Permian Basin (Odessa) RFC

And the emergence of Ladies rugby was represented by Zulu Warriors RFC. We now had an array of Rugby talent and interest at every level and we were prepared to enter the world of big time rugby – we thought !

Then the big boys came to town, and it was surely the crowning glory of plans laid down during my time at the helm of the Texas Rugby Union. As a result of a few lucky breaks the Impala Rugby Club, of Nairobi, Kenya agreed to accept our invitation and tour Texas for four weeks in 1973. It was an improbable story from the get'go.

It began back in 1969 when I had developed a whispering business interest in a small safari company in Nairobi which gave me an excuse to visit the New Stanley and its Long Bar, home of Hemingway exaggerations, and to glimpse a bit of the old time Colonial culture of a country that had only known independence from Britain for a few years.

The first thing I discovered was the Impala Club, a vigorous men's athletic club in the center of a large city, with a track, squash courts, swimming pools and, of course, rugby in the finest British traditions. I spoke on behalf of the Texas Rugby Union, and was quickly ushered into the company of Kevin Lillis, Rob Rowlands, Stuart Eastwood, Mike Andrews and a few others. They were the backbone of the rugby section and had toured Ireland with an all East African side the year before.

Over the period of the next year we visited back and forth and eventually agreed on an agenda. They raised the money, picked an all-star squad, and flew to Texas. When we drove into Houston from the airport I can still remember the squeals of excitement from these grown men, doctors, lawyers and accountants, at the sight of thousand of brand new automobiles lined up at the various dealers showrooms along the highway. This was America to them, and everything they had heard and read about.

What they had to show us was rugby. What we learned included organizing and staging a high profile match, complete with a Texas representative side, with selectors and coaches.

In the exciting final match Gail Tennant (Houston R.F.C.) was capped as a reserve while Dave Chambers (Old Boys RFC and later President of the USARFU) was scrum half.

During the tour Impala players were billeted with families in each venue, and hosted royally. White and black these Kényan citizens reveled in the new air and shared passion for rugby. One player, Chris Onsottie, a gifted track and field man, even came back for a term as a scholarship student at the University of Houston.

One of the Impala's very powerful second row, David Parsons, even became the first bartender at Houston's only dedicated rugby bar, "The Rooster & Roses" which opened its doors in 1975.

1974 _____

With the very capable Nelson H. Spencer at the helm of the Texas Rugby Union matters evened out into a continuing pattern of good management, aggressive development and high quality rugby for all.

Without question Nelson brought poise and perspective to the role of President the Texas Rugby Union. His attention to detail and forward vision allowed the Texas R.F.U. to become a leader in American rugby at a time when the field was getting very much bigger.

It was during Spencer's watch that I was detailed to develop contacts with Heart of America RFU (G.B.A.Seymour) and the Eastern Rockies RFU (Terry Fleener and Mike Daugherty). They became lasting colleagues and friends.

1975 _____

The tentative inquires about rugby union expansion and consolidation that Ed Lee had issued in 1970 had now become urgent and considerable. The English organization known as The Rugby Football Union held a conference at Oxford, at Corpus Christi College, and received delegates from the other United States Territorial unions (Pacific Coast RFU, Midwestern RFU and Eastern RFU) and raised the question of a unified American Union. The problems were simple, too much territory, and too little organization. Based on the existing constituency, three quarters of the United States territory was controlled by the aforementioned unions, and the remaining one quarter of the territory, an immense amount of acreage equal approximately to Australia, which lay between the Rockies and the Mississippi, was under the nominal control of some five different, smaller unions.

Nelson Spencer appointed Tennant to intercede with the usual list of suspects and consider the formation of a new union, eventually agreed upon and named the Western RFU. (the Mustangs) in March 1975

Bringing this last area under a unified rugby leadership was a challenge. The territory contained the Beehive RFU, the Eastern Rockies RFU, the Rio Grande RFU, the Heart of American RFU and the Texas RFU.

Western RFU, the amalgamation of the five, was formed to create the final broad canvas that spread across America; Eastern RFU from Louisiana to Maine (with the hold out New England RFU – Fritz Grunedbaum that didn't come into the fold until 1976); Mid-West RFU with Hilarove, Seaber and Dick Smith; and Pacific RFU with Moneymaker, Tony Pontin, Dennis Shanagher and Patrick Vincent.

Of course , we were challenged by space and time and ignorance, but in the next few years we placed Texas players in representative sides, demanded and obtained a transparency in USA RFU selections, and carved a niche for ourselves, while leaving still open the prospect of a nation united in Rugby power.

Now the stage was set for national unification, and by special arrangements with Amtrak the Western RFU delegation headed to Chicago for the appointed meeting and negotiation leading to the much heralded USA RFU in 1975.

The train pulled out of Union station in Houston with Tennant on board, collected Spencer in Dallas and Terry Fleener, of the Eastern Rockies near his in-laws home in Kansas., and Gerry Seymour a bit further on, rather like the land rush settlers. In the dome glass ceiling of the club car at the back of the train we lobbied all night and pulled into Chicago station the next morning , June 7, 1975, confirmed and ready for the fight.

For the purpose of creating the USA RFU by-laws we had agreed, as Nelson and I had affirmed in the Western formation beforehand, that every transaction, especially selection of representative teams must be transparent. We have long held that players fighting their way through the selection process must have confidence that the selectors are impartial, that the selectors are unbiased, and that the selectors and coaches are competent. It sounds easy in the abstract, but in application we had to insist on our own proportionate share of selectors, no matter that there were other, more obviously skilled players and coaches, standing by from the other Territorial Union members.

It worked and the caps earned for International play for one's home union by Barry Waite (Houston Old Boys RFC) and Manus O'Donnell (eventually Houston RFC) in the 1976 France match demonstrated that the process was clean, and the real electorate, our players, would feel that justice and honest merit were served. These caps were actually delivered to the players in 1979

1976 _____

At this stage I was both a founder of the USARFU and one of its officers, having taken the Treasurer's job. It kept me very busy and away from Texas rugby growth, but I was ever mindful of developments on the local scene.

And Texas Rugby Union was ever in the news . Was it not in the year 1976 that the Houston Heathens RFC was cobbled together, representing a third generational split in local clubs, and providing one of the powerhouse Texas clubs for years to come.

No sooner had we formed the USA RFU than challenges came bounding over the horizon. The first of these was the Australian RFU whose team of Wallabies had just spent 90 days in a long tour of Britain playing innumerable games and feeling slick and fit.

They contacted Professor Dale Toohey at Long Beach State, and asked if he could arrange passes for the team through Disneyland on their return flight.

Dale was on board, and agreed to the free passes all around, but only on the condition that the Wallabies would agree to a match against the recently formed USA RFU. The match was to be played in Long Beach.

The USARFU Board agreed and all engines around this country went into full drive, travel details, selection and more. The belowsigned rallied up a group of ten rugby men and we hired a photographer, built a camera tower next to the field, and filmed the first ever USA RFU international match against Australia in 1976.

The Aussies were full of tricks, including deflating the ball, and the "Up Your Jumper" kick off move that they had successfully honed during their long tour of Britain.

In this stunt the receiving team at kick-off has all forwards line up shoulder to shoulder with their backs to the approaching team. The ball is passed, or appears to be passed, back and forth, and the designated runner slides the ball under his jersey. His identity and the whereabouts of the ball are not obvious, and at a signal the formation dissolves and all Aussies rushed up-field simultaneously, scattered like quail.

The scheme caused considerable embarrassment for the various clubs that met it, unprepared, in Britain. But the Americans had heard about this stunt and Mickey Ordling was the designated "hit man" if the Aussie's tried to put that sleight of hand to use.

On game day, they did, and Mickey took the bloke out of the game with a chest high, head first spear tackle that sent the ball shooting out of his Aussie jersey and into touch.

We lost the game, but I gave the seven tins of the game film to Nelson Spencer in 1979 and Texas' interests are still being served.

1977

It was with immense gratitude and a sense of challenge that the USARFU received the next International invitation from England. The Rugby Football Union asked us to participate in an all expense paid tour for six weeks, culminating with sort of an international against England at Twickenham Stadium. One of the great aspects of this invitation was the time graciously allowed by our hosts for the USA team to coalesce, receive coaching, and

come together as a unit; events that weren't happening with our modest resources and our huge territory.

Just to be on the safe side, however, we trained for four days at the US Military Academy at West Point New York prior to our departure. Having lost two previous annual matches to Canada the USA RFU recognized that more than great athleticism was necessary at the international level.

The selection process for the team, and in fact , for the management of the tour, was a considerable and unique undertaking. Victor Hilarov, first President of the USARFU was circumspect and level headed in every respect, and eventually it was decided to send a delegation of three at the head of the team, a coach, Dennis Storer, a Manager, Ken Wood, and in a novel addition, a Chairman, the below signed.

My duties were expressly ceremonial and I was to give a speech on each appropriate occasion, and coordinate scheduling with our very generous hosts. They had our team booked in to Heythrop Park , a huge pile of a mansion and dormitories used as a bank executives training camp. We trotted about on manicured lawns, and did line out drills on the putting green. We felt indulged in what was the first unified American overseas tour since the 1920 Olympics . After a few days rest, we were plunged into action.

This all seemed quite removed, but one quickly learns on tour how compact is the experience, as each eager new host club and all of their 'allie 'ca dos' take over one's

schedule and itinerary in a complete revolution every three or four days. After a while, a speech to strangers every two or three days seems less challenging.

I thought it was a fairy tale when, following the Cambridge University game (which we won) I was asked to address the large, "black tie" crowd at the Old Kitchens, Trinity College, Cambridge University. Seated next to me on the dais was Lord Wavers of Wakefield, an octogenarian who had played distinguished rugby for Cambridge in the 1920's including the post War Olympics.

Our own tour was winding to a close, only one more week, so I decided to use my only prepared speech, the "Hic Situs Est Phaeton" bit of twaddle I had concocted from Ovid's Metamorphosis. In the speech I make allusions to Phaeton driving his father's chariot across the sky, and some imagined parallel to the USA learning to play international rugby against England.

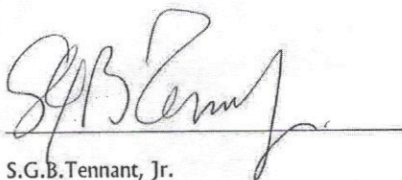
If I recall correctly it was at about the third line of Ovid that the first dinner roll came rocketing out of the audience. Then another, and at that point Lord Wavers tugged on my sleeve and motioned me to join him under the table, behind the table cloth, and in comparative safety.

As we waited on hands and knees for order to be restored, his Lordship nodded to me "Americans?" he asked in the rising voice of a hearing impaired codger. "Nice bunch. I had a few at my place, back then" he said. I nodded my thanks.

Surely the high point of the England tour was the 'test' match against England. They were very careful to give the event only provisional status in the press, calling it an "International XV" (not 'England')but we felt we were honored, and had arrived in the big leagues. Our team even scored a try in Twickenham Stadium, with the Stars and stripes waving proudly above.

I will always recall that at that milestone event there were two good old boys from the Texas Rugby Union sitting in the white wicker chairs of the Royal Box at rugby's greatest shrine. Across the crowd and the heads of the Sheriff of Nottingham, Sir Tony Wharton, and the Secretary of the R.F.U. Robert Weighill, I gave Nelson a "Thumbs Up" and he waved proudly back at me.

"Rugbeia Floreat Ubique", as G.B.A.Seymour used to day.



S.G.B. Tennant, Jr.

If you have comments or suggestions or additions you may write to me at P.O.Box 5, Karnes City, Texas 78118



Austin Rugby Club , Spring 1968

Tiger Stripe, B. Heyslop, Jeff, S.G.B. Tennant, Toby Law, Al Hagan, Rodger Smythe
Jim Beverly, Froggy Burg, Nat Davis, Montreee Chulasamaya, R. Ordino, Joe Hooker,
(absent Peter Edwards, Bill Ryder, Alfred Krautz, Mat Photogra

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TEXAS RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
2800 ROUTH ST. #220: DALLAS, TEXAS 75201
(214) 651-0129

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Nelson H. Spencer
2800 Routh Street, #220
Dallas, TX 75201

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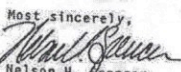
Dear Rugby Enthusiast,

It is a great pleasure for me on behalf of the Texas Rugby Football Union to welcome you, as a participant or spectator, to the Seventh Annual Lone Star Rugby Tournament. This tournament has, within the relatively few years since its inception, become one of the most prestigious events within the Western Rugby Football Union and throughout the United States. Testimony to the national import of the Lone Star Tourney is the presence this weekend of clubs representing three of the four Territorial Unions within the U. S. and selectors for the United States team to meet the Australians in January of next year.

The Lone Star Tournament, originally conceived in 1959 as the vehicle for determining the Championship club for the Texas R. F. U. has with the growth and development of our Union become a National showcase of rugby football prowess for our own member clubs in competition with the best clubs available outside of the Lone Star State. The winner of this event is still looked upon by many as the un-official champion of the Fall Season within the Texas Rugby Football Union.

As Texans we have a great deal of honor at stake this weekend in that our Representative XV are current champions of the Western R.F.U. Although members of that august team will be representing their own clubs in this competition, you should expect to see some outstanding rugby from each of the Texas R.F.U. representatives.

In closing I wish to extend my personal gratitude to the organizers and administrators of the Tournament; to Rice University for the generous use of their excellent facilities; to Lone Star Brewing Company for their unflagging support; to the Texas Society of Rugby Referees, and their guests from the Western R.F.U. Society, for their indispensable services and lastly, but perhaps most importantly, to you as a participant or spectator for your interest in the game of Rugby Union Football.

Most sincerely,

Nelson H. Spencer
President

**LONE
STAR**
**SEVENTH ANNUAL
RUGBY TOURNAMENT**
NOVEMBER 22 & 23, 1975 • HOUSTON, TEXAS

December 10, 1970

Mr. Gail Tennant
#2 Staples Lane
Houston, Texas

Dear Gail:

I have been a playing member of the Dallas Rugby Football Club since the spring of 1968. I have recently given considerable thought toward establishing a second club in this area. My reasons for deciding to undertake this venture are many, but probably foremost is my belief that a city the size of Dallas should be able to support two teams and allow both teams to benefit from local competition. As it is, we must travel at least 180 miles for a game. I feel that at least part of the success of the teams in your area is attributable to such local competition.

With this in mind I am writing to ask your assistance in obtaining a second Union "franchise" for the Dallas area. I would like to have information regarding application and fees as well as any other information pertinent to establishing Union affiliation.

The tentative name for the new club will be The Harlequin Rugby Football Club of Dallas. I will inform you when a final decision has been reached as well as choice of colors and officers. We hope to be able to organize ourselves and play some games during the spring season of 1971 and prepare ourselves to be a contender for Union honors during the fall season.

Thanking you in advance for your attention to this request, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Nelson H. Spencer

NHS:kf

Harlequin 1971-80 Annual



NELSON H. SPENCER - Secretary

Flanker 6'1", 190, 40 Real Estate Investor

Nelson is a co-founder of Dallas Harlequins (1971) and served as President 1971-73. He is past-president of the Texas Rugby Football Union (1972-76) and is currently Secretary of the Western (U.S.A.) Territorial R.F.U. Nelson is a Vice-President of London Welsh and life member of The Rugby Club (London) and The Rugby Football Club (Rugby, England). He is a former player for Dallas R.F.C. and Wildebeeste R.F.C.; currently plays for Old Hat (over 30's) R.F.C. and toured New Zealand this year with the U.S. Bald Eagles.

GAIL:
HERE IS A COPY
OF A HISTORIC TRU
DOCUMENT. THE DATE
IN THE SECOND LINE IS
INCORRECT. I BEGAN
WITH D.R.F.C. IN THE
SPRING OR WINTER OF
1969. BEST REGARDS,
N



THE SOCIETY OF TEXAS RUGBY REFEREES

~~NORTHERN CHAPTER~~

3204 Milton Avenue,
Dallas, Texas 75222.

214-369-2631

JOHN McDONALD
ROBERT SCOTT
FRANK VAN LEER
MAX LUMM

Dear Sir,

We would like to obtain the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all persons interested in refereeing, regardless of their status as referees. To this end we enclose a (hopefully) simple form and a stamped addressed envelope in which to return the information.

As you may know the Society was formed at College Station on 22 September 1971; Mr Tony Ivan-Smith being the first President. The present officers are, President: J.A. McDonald, Secretary - Treasurer: Frank Van Leer, Dept. of Geol. Sci., S.M.U., Dallas, Texas 75222.

At present no dues are required of Society members and our wishes are primarily to raise the standard of refereeing and to make it more consistent.

Sincerely,

J.A.
J.A. McDonald.

TEXAS RUGBY UNION

Directory

January 1, 1972

Austin Black and Gold (2 distinct 1st division sides)	Paul Kens	609 East 48th Austin 512-451-3957
A & M	Roger Boos	V31 Hensel Apts. 73-840 3301 College Station
Baylor	Matt Powers	1200 Moursand Houston 713-524-9749 713-526-8686
Dallas	Paul Johnson	4048 Lively Lane Dallas 214-351-1002 651-9138
Galveston	Les Demetri	2527 O St. Galveston 713-762-1422 713-762-5233
Dallas Harlequins 7/3/72	Nelson Spencer	2800 Routh St., Suite 220 200 Coy. Dallas 214-742-8679 528-92 651-0129
Houston	Buck Ogilvie	7519 Del Monte Houston 713-781-5987
Lake Jackson OLD BOYS (PROFESSIONAL BUSINESS) NASA Bay Bombers HAWK EAGLES	Barry Payne	500 Willow Drive, Apt. A4 Lake Jackson 713-297-5196 713-238-4787
	Steve Wolf	c/o Central States 4101 San Jacinto Houston
Rice	Greg Young	P. O. Box 2671 Lovett College, Rice Univ. Houston 713-523-1486
St. Edwards	Jim Hogan	1724 East Woodward Austin 512-444-5045
San Antonio	Harry F. Laws	5335 N.W. Loop 410, Apt. 108 San Antonio

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Galveston, Texas 77550
713-762-5233

CHAMPAGNAT, FEB 1972
MEMORIAL PARK, HOUSTON



1975

JUNE 7, 1975



Delegates to the USARFU formation meeting in Chicago are (L-R): Gerard Seymour, Pat Vincent, Dick Moneymaker, Keith Seaber, Bob Grierson, Victor Hilarov, Terry Fleeter, Denis Shanagher, Gail Tennant, Keith Haines, Bob Watkins, Joe Reagan, Ed Lee, Peter Baigent, Dick Smith.

Formation of USARFU



First U.S.A. R.F.U. Tour - England 1977 - The First Eagles
Chairman S.G.B. Tennant, Coach Dennis Storer, Manager Ken Wood, Captain Craig Sweeney