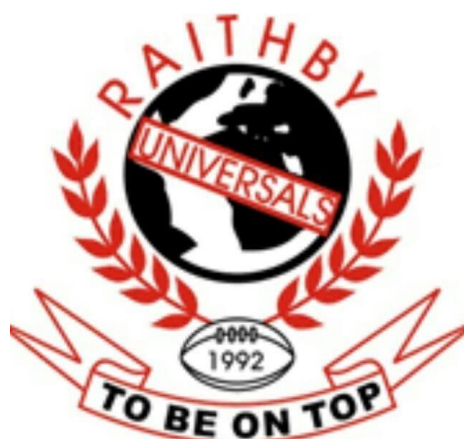


## Rugby

Rugby is the biggest and most important sport in Raithby. 1902 was the official founding date of the Universals rugby club. The whole village played for the team and was a strong contender to play against.

During Apartheid there came a split between communities and sport. There was the SA Rugby Board and the SA Rugby Union (SARU). The coloured players broke away from white sport and played for SARU.

In those days the clubs played two rounds, a home game and then an away game against the same team. The big strong men played the home games. They were tough men, who mostly worked on their agricultural plots, referred to as 'gardens'. During the games they liked fighting and beating up the other teams. For the away games they sent the younger players, so they got the hiding on that side. They weren't up for that anymore and decided to form their own club.



The Raithby Rugby Club was founded in 1979. The Universals made sure that SARU didn't accept them. They were called rebels. They then played for the SA Rugby Federation (also for coloured players) an affiliation of the SA Rugby Board (White players). And therefore, Raithby rugby club played with and against the white and black players.

Raithby's rugby field was from east to west and in the middle was a gravel pitch with a mat over. So, if you knew the field you wanted to tackle your opponent that he goes down on the pitch. Ouch. The field also sloped downhill towards the church's side.

Across the field was a house that was used as a cloakroom, or rather the stoep thereof. When the Universals crossed the road, the crowds went crazy with excitement. The field was lower than currently, and everyone could watch the game.

In 1992 the teams became one again and the new name was the Raithby Universals. The clothing was basically the Raithby club's clothing. White Jersey with red stripe, black shorts and black socks with a red and white turnover.

They affiliated into the Western Province rugby union.

Then there are some of the people that made Raithby proud:

Isaac Jenecke and John (Tiny) Isaacs received their national colours and after the amalgamation they both received their official Springbok colours.

Then there was Dennis Rabie a referee that received test status. He for instance refereed the 'rebel games' during the Apartheid era.

Some other referees are Mervin James and Eugene Gordon. Eugene's daughter Tiffany Gordon recently became the 1<sup>st</sup> Junior woman referee in Western Province. Some players include Heinrich Gordon, played for the Lions and super rugby. Keagon Gordon played Craven week and for the Blue Bulls. Jarek Haznar played Maties Varsity Cup, Blue Bulls and Lions. Currently Hayden Groepes is assistant coach for the Blue Bulls.

*As told by Eugene Gordon*





UNIVERSALS se vroue-rugbyspan se puik balbeheer in hul wedstryd teen Hotspurs van Strand-Unie het groot indruk gemaak op die skare teenwoordig by die viering van Unversals van Raithby naby Somerset-Wes, se 80ste bestaan. Agter van links is: Noreen McLaren, Ethel Samuels, Ann May, Ann Hendricks (bestuurderes), Judy Samuels en Jennifer Hendricks. Middel: Elizabeth Jooste, Angeline Samuels, Gertrude Rose, Sue-Ann McLaren, Shirley Rhoda en Beverley Jooste. Voor: Delorus Jooste, Joy Williams, Gillian Samuels en Ann May. (Foto: Jack Lestrade)



70th ANNIVERSARY — 1972

A and C Section Champions of Stellenbosch and District Coronation R.F. Union



PHOTO VISION

PAIRWAYS

Back Row: G. Abrahams B. Gordon J. King J. Herbert F. Martin G. Williams L. James L. Titus  
W. Hendricks  
Standing: J. Gordon R. Hendricks B. Hendricks H. Herbert E. February P. McLaren C. Jooste  
C. May N. Titus D. Rhoda  
Seated: B. Hendricks B. Daniels A. February M. McLaren (Treasurer) M. Isaacs (Chairman)  
A. McLaren (Secretary) J. Rose (President) N. Robertson D. May

# UNIVERSALS RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB

OFFICIALS 1972



PHOTO VISION

*Standing:* J. ROSE (President)    C. HENDRICKS    N. ROBERTSON  
*Seated:*    M. F. McLAREN (Treasurer)    M. ISAACS (Chairman)    A. G. McLAREN (Secretary)

FAIRWAY





