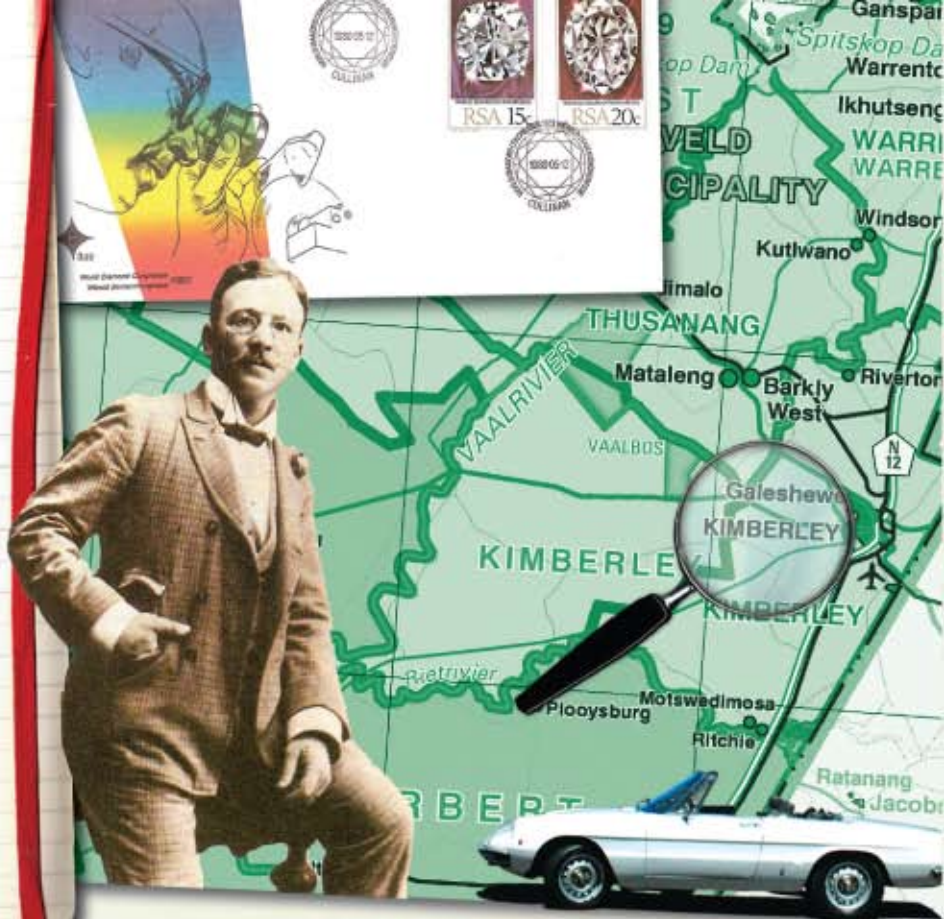


Kimberley

Diamonds made Kimberley and it did so at a great rate. Diamonds were found in the area in 1866 and Kimberley was founded in 1871, turning the Colesberg Koppie into the biggest man-made hole in the world in the feverish search for the wonderful gems. It became the richest diamond mine in the world and made many people wealthy, including Cecil John Rhodes. Geographically, Kimberley being between the confluence of the Vaal and the Orange, belongs in the Free State, but the British had an interest in what was underground that the Boers did not have.

The Boers besieged the city during the Second South African War in search of freedom. Kimberley took its name from John Wodehouse, the first Earl of Kimberley and the colonial secretary. Wodehouse succeeded his grandfather as Lord Wodehouse in 1846 when he was 20. In 1866 he was created Earl of Kimberley a small town in Norfolk near Wymondham. The Diamond City takes its name from that village.

Kimberley with its conglomeration of physically active young males, also became a sporting centre. Rhodes was the quarantor for the first-ever overseas rugby tour to South Africa and Griqualand West was the first team to hold the Currie Cup.



Kimberley Boys' High



FOUNDED: 1887
MOTTO: PER LABORES AD HONORES
(SUCCESS THROUGH EFFORT)
ADDRESS: DALHAM ROAD,
KIMBERLEY



School History

Kimberley Boys' High's lineal ancestor was founded in 1887 in the Trinity Wesleyan Church Hall and moved the next year to Lanyon Terrace as Kimberley High School. That year, De Beers Consolidated, which was to become the school's main benefactor, was founded. The school was closed during the siege of Kimberley and in 1913 moved to its present site — Monument Hill, a gift from De Beers. Its foundation stone was laid by Viscount Gladstone, the Governor-General of South Africa and Kimberley Boys' High, with its Cape Dutch architecture, arose.

Rugby History

The first match was played in 1901 against St Cyprian's Grammar School. Originally the school used public fields, but then it took over the bankrupt Pirates Club (including its pavilion). The big match of the year was regularly played against Christian Brothers College at the Kimberley Athletic Club on a Wednesday afternoon. Now matches are played at the school.

Kimberley Boys' High has a long list of great players, but then Griqualand West is the second-oldest union in South Africa and used to host Test matches. It was stronger than provinces like Transvaal and Natal for several years. When the 1891 side came from Britain they brought with them the Currie Cup, which was to be given to the first team that played best against them and then to become a floating trophy. They presented the trophy to Griqualand West, who were reluctant to part with it when it was to become a floating trophy. Provinces have been reluctant to part with it ever since.



"Kimberley Boys' High School invoked a passion for rugby in me. I have vivid memories, as a boy, of a photo in the school foyer which had 5 Boks from Kimberley Boys in it. That was inspirational, as was legendary coach Ian Kirkpatrick."

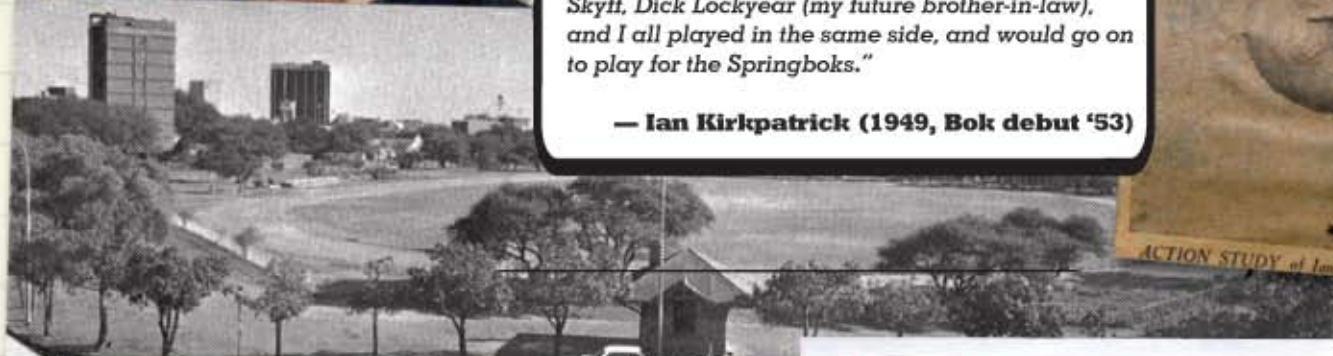
— Ken Ball (Coach: Grey '83, Dale '87-'88, Hudson Park '89-'92, Selborne '93-95, SACS Headmaster)



In the past, Kimberley Boys' High School was often fed by Transvaal parents who wanted to get their boys out of the rapidly growing Johannesburg. Many Rhodesians also ended up in Kimberley. So of course our hostels were a good size and were largely the backbone of our rugby. But what really annoyed me about being a local boy in the hostel was the end of a term. I couldn't leave hostel until 10 am on the Friday, whereas the Rhodesians could leave school on the Wednesday before, and the Transvalers on the Thursday before, to catch their train, to satisfy the law requirements that all boys should arrive home on the same day!

The dynamics of rugby and age divisions was rather different to when I was playing. In one year alone, I played for the Under-14, Under-16 and Under-18 sides. But I was fortunate to play with some great players. From '45 to '48, Jack van der Skyff, Dick Lockyear (my future brother-in-law), and I all played in the same side, and would go on to play for the Springboks."

— Ian Kirkpatrick (1949, Bok debut '53)



The school has a number of Old Boys who played international rugby for South Africa, some of whom include Fred Alexander, Sid de Melker (who was the last husband of the notorious Daisy, the last woman publicly executed in South Africa), Rajah Martheze (who was born on Robben Island), Ian Kirkpatrick (who was for many years a national selector and top coach) and his brother-in-law Dick Lockyear, Bertie Powell (who played cricket for South Africa and whose younger brother Jackie also played for South Africa; as well as Fred Smollan, Jack van der Schyff, Jack Gage (who played for Ireland before playing for South Africa in 1933) and Thabang Molere (who played SA Schools and for the Bulls and Lions).

Internationals

South Africa:

Jack Braine, William Cotty, Sid de Melker, Jack Gage, Bertie Gibbs, Sep Ledger, John McCulloch, Rajah Martheze, Klondyke Raaff, AD van der Hoff, Ginger Clarke, Ned Delaney, Uncle Dobbin, Ian Kirkpatrick Dick Lockyear, Cooper Meintjes, Bertie Powell, Fred Smollan, Jack van der Schyff, Jack Gage

Ireland:

Jack Gage