

# Brits

Brits, in the North West Province, north of Pretoria and on the way to Rustenburg, was founded in 1924 on a farm belonging to Gert Brits, hence the name of the town. It is a farming area, well supplied with water from Hartbeespoort Dam, providing for tobacco, maize and citrus farming, and feeding the game farms in the area. De Wildt Cheetah Centre is nearby, as well as the Vaalkop Dam reserve.



## Hoërskool Brits



**FOUNDED:** 1942  
**MOTTO:** KOERSVAS NA DIE KRUIJ  
(PRESERVE AND DEVELOP)  
**ADDRESS:** JOHANSTRAAT 1, BRITS



### School History

Hoërskool Brits grew out of Brits Middelbareskool and took its current name in 1942, the cornerstone of the main building being laid in 1945. In 1947 it had 382 pupils. It now has some 1 200 pupils, about 480 of whom are boys.

### Brits Rugby

The Brits First XV played its first match on 7 May 1943. Their opponents were Affies of Pretoria. In that very first year the team played in the final of the Administrator's Cup, spoiling the romance by losing. Not satisfied with the effort, the coach at the time increased practices to four a week. The first cup for the school was won in 1949 by the Under-15 team. In 1950, A Herbst, captain for two years in a row, was the first Brits player picked for Northern Transvaal Schools. In 1960 the school undertook its first tour

(down to the Cape). In 1966, when Northern Transvaal still included Far North, South Eastern Transvaal and Lowveld, Brits became the Administrator's Cup champions for the first time. This, despite losing a player in the first minute to a serious injury when replacements were not allowed in rugby.

In 1980 the First XV were the Northern Transvaal champions, falling out in the semi-final of the Administrator's Cup. In 1995 Brits moved from Northern Transvaal/Blue Bulls to North West/Leopards, with immediate success in competitions. Down the years Brits has regularly been represented at Craven Week. By 1994, 25 players had played for Northern Transvaal and since 1995 many have represented the Leopards, including Rufus Holtzhausen, the 2005 First XV captain who was also at the 2004 Craven Week in Nelspruit. Hein Schnell captained the Northern Transvaal team and Stephan le Roux played for SA Schools two years in a row, though in 1994 it was for Waterkloof. JP Mostert captained the North West Craven Week team in 2006, and from there was selected for SA Schools. He is currently contracted to Western Province. Pierre Diedericks was selected for the SA Schools side that went to France in 2007. Prop Piet Kruger is the only Old Boy Springbok in the 15-man game, but Helgard Brink has played for and captained the Sevens Springboks. Old Boys' who have played provincial rugby include Hein Schnell (Western Transvaal), André Skinner (Northern Transvaal and Transvaal), Ronnie Levin (Northern Transvaal), Peet Kleynhans (Northern Transvaal, and Free State coach), Bobby Myburgh (Northern Transvaal), Chris Luther (Northern Transvaal) and Jan Viljoen (Leopards). The rugby writer George van Eck is also an Old Boy. The school has ten rugby teams.



**High School at Brits.**

A high school class has been opened at Brits, at present only one class-room is available but is adequate for scholars who passed their leaving certificate at the end of last year. Two additional teachers have arrived and many students who would perhaps have been compelled to leave school are now able to pursue their studies. A high school has been a long time wanted and is welcomed by all.

**Rennie's Apteek.**

K. B. 116. BRITS. 2008 66.  
 Die mees moderne Apteek in Brits  
 Die pick vir sulwer medisyne en  
 bevredigende bediening.  
 Alle fotografiese werk word  
 nagehoed.  
 Trein en pos bestellings word  
 dadelik verstuur.



**Internationals**

South Africa:  
 Piet Kruger

"From 2008 we have employed Drickus van der Walt as our Rugby Director. We were looking for someone to identify the talent in the area, especially disadvantaged players. Our aim is to be the best rugby school in the North West Province. We started a programme with legendary Northern Transvaal coach, 'Blikkies' Groenewald, who started a gym and fitness programme. We also set up the Brits Ondersteuners Club, which provides funds for boys in difficult situations. As we are situated in a rather rural area, many disadvantaged boys come to the school, so the Fund assists them in such things as transport costs and hostel accommodation."

— Johann Zwarts  
 (First XV coach for five years since 1997)

