

INTERNATIONAL

RUGBY

BOARD

YEAR IN REVIEW 2007



Tournaments

Looking Ahead

Education

Strategic Investments

Game Development

IRB ELVs

Match Officials

Keep Rugby Clean

France 2007

All the results,
analysis and records...

Looking back on a Tournament of

**unprecedented
success**



France 2007



focus
participation
respect
control
discipline
commitment
desire
enjoyment
determination
courage
teamwork
sportsmanship
strength
entertainment
skill
camaraderie
agility
passion
spirit

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Rugby. A sport for all.



Dr Syd Millar

IRB investment paying dividends

The IRB set itself on a new course in 2005 with a new strategic plan and an unprecedented £30 million investment programme aimed at increasing the competitiveness of the Game around the world. The results of this investment were clearly evident at the Rugby World Cup in France.



The strategic investment expenditure was a direct result of the commercial success of the Rugby World Cup and we were perhaps a little conservative in thinking that we would not see any defined increase in competitiveness until RWC 2011. How wrong we were. RWC 2007 in France revealed that our investment in new Tournaments, player and coaching high performance programmes, Union and facility infrastructures and key resources such as people with expertise on the ground is already reaping rewards.

RWC 2007 may have seen record ticket sales, crowds and TV audiences but the key feature of the Tournament was undoubtedly the improved performance of the developing nations. Despite our proactive efforts to promote this strategic investment initiative that is changing the fortunes of the developing nations it has been somewhat disappointing how little information about the investment programme has been carried by the media.

For the record the IRB investment between late 2005 and the end of 2007 has seen: almost £16 million invested in Tonga, Samoa, Fiji, Canada, Japan, USA and Romania including the creation of four new Tournaments to create new player pathways – Pacific Rugby Cup; Pacific Nations Cup; North America 4 and Nations Cup. £12 million has been invested in Tier 1 Unions to maintain standards at the top level including £2.25 million for Argentina, and £1.5 million for selected Tier 3 Unions including those who qualified for RWC 2007.

The exciting thing is that the commercial success of RWC 2007 means we now have further significant funds to invest in the Game and the Executive Committee will decide the way forward in April 2008.

Other challenges we are now addressing include the global playing calendar of the professional Game as it is becoming severely congested. Understandably we are seeing

increasing tension between different levels of the which each require players to fulfil their various commitments in order to satisfy contractual, spectator and commercial demands.

The international Rugby calendar is built around the four-year Rugby World Cup cycle. Every Rugby Union wants to win RWC and their strategic plans measure their success by how well they do at the Tournament. Inevitably the Tournament adds even more strain to the playing calendar regardless of what time of year it is played in, especially when you factor in the need for appropriate player rest periods and warm-up matches prior to a Rugby World Cup.

The IRB is taking the lead in this search for a better balanced programme of matches and our aim, in conjunction with the Game's stakeholders, is to find the appropriate solutions for a better defined playing calendar that takes into account player welfare issues, relevance of the international match programme and the continued commercial appeal of the game. The start of this process was a successful meeting of all the Game's stakeholders in Woking, England in late 2007.

Linked to the development of an Integrated Season is a review of Regulations 4 and 9 which govern player status, contracts and movement, and availability. The IRB has already started work on this and has begun consultation with the Member Unions. This move recognises that the existing Regulations were written to suit a Game that no longer exists and new Regulations are needed to fit the modern professional Game.

Another interesting part of this whole equation is the way the Game is played. Presently the IRB is trialling a raft of experimental law variations (ELVs) around the world. I think most people associated with the Game, including spectators, would agree that the Game is in a very healthy state but that there are some fundamental problems creeping in. The Game is quicker, players

are stronger and faster, contact is more aggressive and physical, and the advancement of skill levels is putting strain on the Laws themselves in terms of the contest for possession.

There is an underlying consensus that Rugby does need an overhaul of the Laws of the Game. The IRB has been trialling the ELVs, under the auspices of a Laws Project Group, over the last two years around the world in competitions in South Africa, Scotland, Ireland, France, England, Australia and New Zealand. Analysis and review of the ELVs is ongoing and the Rugby Committee, to which the Laws Project Group reports, will make recommendations to Council in November 2008. It may well be that in the near future they are implemented at all levels of the Game for a trial period of 12 months. If successful and accepted they would then be adopted into the Laws of the Game permanently.

An important issue to note is that the ELVs do not in any way change the basic fabric of the Game in terms of its key elements – scrums, lineouts, the breakdown etc. And all through the project the IRB has adhered to one of the major elements of the Game's Charter – That Rugby is and must always be a Game for all shapes and sizes.

I would also like to report that the Rugby World Cup Board recommended to the IRB Council that Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand should comprise 20 teams. This follows a review of RWC 2007 and Council ratified this recommendation following a Special Meeting in November 2007.

Finally, I would like to wish Bernard Lapasset the new Chairman of the IRB all the very best for the next four years. He has been a huge contributor already to the Game's administration as President of the French Rugby Federation and as an IRB Council Member. Of course he was also at the helm in France to deliver a wonderful RWC 2007.



IRB Council AND Co

IRB COUNCIL 2006

Chairman

Dr. Syd Millar

Vice Chairman

Bill Beaumont

England

Martyn Thomas
Jonathan Dance

Scotland

Bill Nolan

Wales

Gordon McKie
David Pickering
Gerald Davies

Ireland

Noel Murphy
Peter Boyle

Australia

John O'Neill (IM)
Ron Graham (AM)
Gary Flowers (AM)
Paul McLean (IM)

New Zealand

Jock Hobbs
Chris Moller
Graham Mourie (IM)
Stev Tew (SM)

South Africa

Oregan Hoskins
Mike Stofile (AM)

France

Bernard Lapasset
Jacques Laurans

Argentina

Carlos Tozzi

Italy

Giancarlo Dondi

Canada

Chris Le Fevre

Japan

Ichiro Kono (AM)

FIRA-AER

Raul Martins

ARFU

Noboru Mashimo (IM)

CAR

Jamie Scott (AM)

FORU

Abdelaziz Bougja

NAWIRA

Harry Schuster

CONSUR

Pearse Higgins

(AM) Annual Meeting

– May 3, 2007, Dublin

(IM) Interim Meeting

– October 19, 2007, Paris

(SM) Special Meeting

– November 30, 2007 Dublin

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Dr. Syd Millar (IRB Chairman)

Bill Beaumont (IRB Vice Chairman)

Mike Miller (IRB Chief Executive Officer)

Oregan Hoskins

David Pickering

Graham Mourie

Paul McLean

Carlos Tozzi

Bernard Lapasset

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE

Chairman

Jacques Laurans

Members

Abdelaziz Bougja

Peter Boyle

Chris Moller

HIGH PERFORMANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman

Bernard Lapasset

Members

Jonathan Dance

Giancarlo Dondi

John Eales

Jean-Pierre Lux

Chris Moller

Noel Murphy

Harry Schuster

REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Chairman

Jock Hobbs

Members

Peter Boyle

Giancarlo Dondi

Oregan Hoskins

Jacques Laurans

Jamie Scott



IRB Council Dublin, May 3 2007

Back: G. McKie (Scotland), A. Bougja (CAR), G. Flowers (Australia), C. Moller (New Zealand), H. Porta (CONSUR), I. Kono (Japan), P. Higgins (NAWIRA), G. Davies (Wales)

Centre M. Miller (Chief Executive Officer), B. Nolan (Scotland), H. Schuster (FORU), M. Stofile (South Africa), R. Martins (FIRA-AER), J. Scott (ARFU), P. Boyle (Ireland), R. Graham (Australia), J. Dance (England), O. Hoskins (South Africa), C. Le Fevre (Canada)

Front: G. Dondi (Italy), J. Laurans (France), B. Beaumont (England), Dr. S. Millar CBE DSC (Chairman), J. Hobbs (New Zealand), C. Tozzi (Argentina), N. Murphy (Ireland)

Absent: R. Tuckey (Vice-Chairman), B. Lapasset (France), D. Pickering (Wales)

MEDICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman

Dr Syd Millar

Members

Dr Christian Bagat
Dr Conor McCarthy
Dr Chan Peng Mun
Dr Enrique Basso
Dr Filippo Bottiglia
Dr Ismail Jakoet
Prof Ichiro Kono
Dr Preston Wiley
Dr James Robson
Dr Martin Raftery
Dr Roger Evans
Dr Simon Kemp
Dr Steve Targett

The Medical Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the IRB on all Rugby and related matters and, in particular to identify medical needs and concerns of Member Unions and to recommend appropriate measures, maintain a watching brief and report on developments with Sports Medicine and to consider and recommend on matters referred to it by the IRB Medical Officer, Council or Executive Committee.

In 2007 the IRB Medical Committee published the Consensus Document for global injury definition protocol to assist in improved collation and analysis of injury data. For the first time it is now possible for Unions to compare one set of injury statistics with another. The committee conducted full injury research at all IRB Tournaments and in 2008 will conduct an in depth study looking at Rest and Recovery guidelines.

ANTI-DOPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Chairman

Dr Syd Millar

Members

Tim Greeson
Bill Nolan
Dr Barry O'Driscoll
Dr Ismail Jakoet
Prof Ichiro Kono
Dr Roger Evans
Gregor Nicholson
Graham Mew

Responsible for providing advice and assistance on doping issues and related matters, the Anti-Doping advisory Committee oversees the IRB's Anti-Doping Programme.

It also determines, in its advisory capacity, which samples should be returned to a Doping Tribunal, updates the IRB Doping Regulations, represents the IRB at international doping seminars and the International Olympic Committee and generally advises the IRB on active education anti-doping campaigns internationally.

During 2007 the Committee continued to work closely with the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on implementing the WADA code while a special Blood Test Working Group completed a thorough investigation into blood testing, including methods and prohibited substances that can be detected in blood, and its relation to Rugby. The decision to test blood at RWC 2007 was driven by the research of the working group in consultation with relevant experts in the field and WADA over the past 12 months.

RUGBY COMMITTEE

Chairman

Bill Beaumont

Members

Ron Graham
Jacques Laurans
Chris Le Fevre
Rod Macqueen
Raul Martins
Graham Mourie
Noel Murphy
Bill Nolan
David Pickering
Hugo Porta
Carlos Tozzi

COUNCIL MEMBERS RESPONSIBLE FOR SPECIFIC AREAS WITHIN THE GAME

Bill Nolan	<i>Laws</i>
Noel Murphy	<i>Age Grade</i>
Chris Le Fevre	<i>Women's</i>
David Pickering	<i>Referee Selection</i>
Dr. Syd Millar	<i>Medical</i>

DESIGNATED MEMBERS FOR RULINGS IN LAW

Chairman

Bill Nolan

Members

Jock Hobbs
David Pickering

JUDICIAL PANEL

Chairman

Tim Gresson

Key Council/EXCO decisions

2007

• Council



Bernard Lapasset was elected as Chairman of the International Rugby Board at the Interim Meeting of Council in Paris in October. The Frenchman, who started his four-year term on January 1, 2008, succeeds Dr. Syd Millar, who did not seek re-election. At the same meeting Bill Beaumont was re-elected as Vice Chairman. Council also approved a new four-year cycle for the IRB Executive Committee.

The IRB Executive Committee was also elected at the Interim Meeting of Council and comprises: Bernard Lapasset (IRB Chairman), Bill Beaumont (IRB Vice Chairman), Mike Miller (IRB Chief Executive Officer), Oregan Hoskins, David Pickering, Bill Nolan, Peter Boyle, Graham Mourie, Paul McLean and Carlos Tozzi.

• Membership



Council approved Mexico's application to become a full Member Union of the IRB following the Union's compliance with the membership conditions

set down at the Interim Meeting of Council in 2006. It was recommended that St. Lucia be downgraded from full to associate member level for a minimum of 12 months following a period of inactivity. Council also agreed that the Union known as Rugby Union of Serbia and Montenegro cease and be replaced by the Rugby Union of Serbia. The total membership was confirmed as 96 Full Member Unions, 19 Associate Member Unions and 6 Regional Associations.

The IRB hosted its eighth General Assembly in Paris during Rugby World Cup 2007. All Six Regional Associations and 110 Member Unions were represented at the biennial event. In Paris the delegates received presentations on all aspects of the IRB's business. Above all the General Assembly provides an important opportunity for the Rugby family to meet, establish close relations, and discuss issues affecting the Game.

Council also approved a new common association constitution designed to clarify the roles responsibilities of the IRB's Regional Associations.

• Union Banning process

At its May meeting EXCO agreed a new Union banning process to identify bands within which Unions are categorised and analysed for Development Grant funding. The bands, which replace the previous Tier system, comprise High Performance Unions, Performance Unions, Targeted Unions and Developmental Unions. These four bands have specific criteria applied to them for entry, and have different levels of developmental funding attached to them starting from 2008.

• Player Welfare

The International Rugby Board and the International Rugby Players Association (IRPA) signed a historic agreement during Rugby World Cup 2007 that will see both parties work together on matters of importance to professional players in the Game. The Memorandum of Understanding will see both parties work closely together to develop a positive and mutually beneficial relationship based upon shared purpose and a unified approach to issues facing the Game such as Player Welfare, while recognising the unique spirit, structure and ethos of the Game of Rugby Union.

Council endorsed the IRB producing its own Player Welfare Resource, Rugby Ready.

The IRB Rugby Ready programme has been launched to educate, aid and support players, coaches, match officials and Unions on the importance of proper preparation for training and playing so that players enjoy Rugby to the fullest while reducing the risk of injury. The programme features extensive injury prevention and rehabilitation guidelines.

• The Game

Council agreed to implement a two season research project with the RFU into the use of Artificial Playing Surfaces. A further research project in Hong Kong is also being investigated.

The IRB Council agreed to the implementation of Touch Judges performing the pre-match kit inspection according to Law 4 – Padded clothing, following a successful trial at the IRB Under 19 World Championship in 2007. Council also noted that Member Unions should be responsible for ensuring that their players comply with the terms of Law 4/Regulation 12.

• Tournaments



At its April meeting Council appointed Dubai as host Union for Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009.

The Tournament, which will be the first to incorporate a 16 team women's competition running alongside the existing 24 team men's competition, will be played from March 5-7. The voting process was managed by independent auditors, Price Waterhouse Coopers, and consisted of two rounds. No clear majority was reached in the first round and therefore the top two; Arabian Gulf and Australia progressed to a second round, with the IRB Council selecting Arabian Gulf as Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 Host Union.

Council agreed to introduce new Age Grade Tournament structures at Under 20 level to provide an Age Grade competition pathway that better suits the needs of the IRB's Member Unions. This includes the creation of two new Tournaments in 2008: the IRB Junior World Championship, incorporating 16 teams and the IRB Junior World Trophy incorporating 8 teams. A promotion/relegation system will operate between the two Tournaments on an annual basis.

The International Matches and Tours schedule for the period 2008-2010 was also approved by Council.

Meet the team...

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Bernard Lapasset
Chairman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Mike Miller
Chief Executive Officer

Siobhan Hughes
*Personal Assistant to the CEO
and Chairman*

Steve Griffiths
Strategy Development Manager

Chris Rea
Controller Broadcast Production

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Huw Morgan
Commercial Director

Anne Lee Murray
Commercial Manager

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Greg Thomas
Head of Communications

Lynda Glennon
Graphic Designer

Alison Hughes
Operations Manager, Communications

Dominic Kelly
Website Operations Manager

Seb Lauzier
Website Editor

Dominic Rumbles
Communications Manager

Chris Thau
Editorial Services Manager

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Robert Brophy
Head of Finance

Dominic Butler
Finance Assistant

John Corbett
Information Technology Manager

Ronan Donagher
Information Technology Officer

Margaret Downey
Sales Ledger/Accounts Administrator

Paul Pringle
Financial Accountant

Andrew Rook
*Tournaments & Events Finance
Analyst*

Susan Spellman
Finance Manager

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Darren Bailey
Head of Legal

Susan Ahern
Assistant Legal Counsel

Barbara Clancy
Assistant Legal Counsel

Joyce Hayes
Personal Assistant to Head of Legal

Caroline Nolan
*Personal Assistant
to Legal Department*

MEMBER SERVICES

David Carrigy
Head of Member Services

Ilaria Baudo
Anti-Doping Administrator

Gilles Fabre
Member Services Administrator

Myra McGlynn
Services Manager

Dr. Mick Molloy
Medical Officer

Amy Monaghan
Administrative Assistant

Tim Ricketts
Anti-Doping Manager

RUGBY SERVICES

Mark Egan
Head of Rugby Services

Philippe Bourdarias
Tournaments Manager

Charlie Carter
Referee Administrator

Beth Coalter
Tournaments Operations Manager

Bruce Cook
Development Manager

Will Glenwright
General Manager Pacific Islands

Mark Harrington
Training Manager

Rhys Jones
Game Analyst

Paddy O'Brien
Referee Manager

Anne O'Callaghan
Development Administrator

Tracy O'Callaghan
Tournament Administrator

Corris Thomas
Game Analysis Consultant

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGERS

Michel Arpaillange
Europe

Sas Bailey
Africa

Jean-Luc Barthes
Africa

Jorge Bracerias
South America

Jarrad Gallagher
Asia

Tom Jones
North America and West Indies

Lee Smith
Oceania

RUGBY WORLD CUP DEPARTMENT

Kit McConnell
Head of Rugby World Cup Department

Alex Hennessy
*Rugby World Cup Administrative
Coordinator*

Nicola Simpson
Rugby World Cup Project Officer

Ross Young
General Manager Rugby World Cup

TRAVEL

Alan Athey
*Travel and Accommodation
Co-ordinator*

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Strategic Investment

In 2005/06 the IRB embarked on a three-year £30 million strategic investment programme with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of the Game among the top 20 teams in the world.

The delivery of high performance programmes began among the 17 identified countries that received assistance. From early 2006 investments were made in the 10 Tier 1 Unions to ensure standards at the elite level were maintained, the seven developing Tier 2 Unions and a selected number of Tier 3 Unions with emphasis on their Rugby World Cup preparation and performance.

This included the earmarking of significant investment funds in Argentina as it was recognised as a special case in terms of funding requirements.

It was clearly evident at Rugby World Cup 2007 that the investment programmes are beginning to have a major impact. The performance of Unions such as Fiji, Tonga, Georgia and Portugal showed how effective the targeted strategic investments have been after such a short period. This bodes well for the future and the importance of continued investment.

Our target has always been to introduce long-term sustainable high performance programmes in the targeted Unions with a view to seeing tangible results in RWC 2011 and 2015.

This unprecedented investment was made possible by the commercial success of Rugby World Cup. This investment is over and above the annual Union development and Regional grants that are distributed to all 116 Member Unions and 6 Regional Associations of the IRB which themselves total £12 million per annum.

Presently in total the IRB is investing over £35 million per year in the Game via the strategic investments, the annual development grants and other educational and training initiatives. This also includes the employment of Regional General Managers and Regional Development Managers, coaching/refereeing development and education programmes, technical conferences and the organisation's operational costs.

The table opposite shows the expenditure breakdown of the initial strategic investment programme.

The range of programmes that the investments have underwritten include player welfare and injury research initiatives, the placement of specialised coaching personnel in Unions, high performance

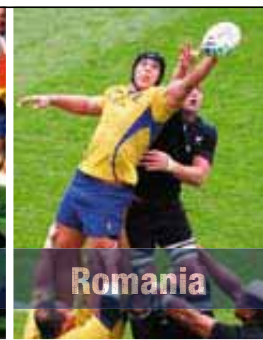




Canada



Fiji



Romania



Samoa



Tonga



Japan

the key to competitiveness

programmes, expenditure on union and playing facility infrastructures and of course the establishment of new Tournaments to assist player pathways.

These new Tournaments include the North America 4, Pacific Rugby Cup, Pacific Nations Cup and the IRB Nations Cup (reports on these Tournaments are on pages 34-38).

One exciting development has been the establishment of new player academies in Romania, Canada, USA, Fiji, Tonga, Samoa and Japan. These are now in place and receiving local players. All these Unions also have in place High Performance managers who are managing new player pathways, player and coaching development programmes and the academies. Samoa and Fiji in particular now have new Olympic standard training gyms, Romania has a new national playing facility, Japan has an overseas placement programme

for developing players, while USA is undertaking a complete review of its playing structures and competitions and will soon be appointing Regional High Performance Managers.

Since the implementation of the strategic investment the IRB has also redefined the way it classifies its Member Unions. In the past they have been grouped in Tiers but in 2007 the IRB moved to a banding structure that better identifies Unions in terms of their development status and performance record on the international stage.

Following the conclusion of Rugby World Cup 2007 and a full review of the current investment programme outcomes the IRB will announce in April 2008 the next phase of the strategic investment programme.

IRB £30 million Strategic Investment funding for 2005-2008:

Tier 2 Investment 2005-2008

Fiji	£800,000
Samoa	£1,500,000
Tonga	£830,000
Japan	£575,000
USA	£1,500,000
Canada	£1,500,000
Romania	£1,500,000

£8,205,000

Pacific Rugby Cup	£1,175,000
North America 4	£2,125,000
Pacific Nations Cup	£3,655,000
Romania ERC	£410,000

£7,365,000

Total Tier 2 Investment £15,570,000

Tier 1 Investment 2005-2008

¹ High Performance investment	£7,500,000
Argentina special fund	£1,500,000
² Competitiveness fund	£3,000,000

Total Tier 1 Investment £12,000,000

³ Tier 3 investment

	£1,500,000
Operational budget	£930,000

Total Investment

£30,000,000

¹ Tier 1 = England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Argentina

² Churchill Cup (Ireland A, Scotland A), Nations Cup (Italy A), special projects

³ Georgia £360k, Portugal £360k, Tunisia £180k, RWC preparation £300k, Special Projects £300k

Woking, England was the setting for a historic Global Rugby Forum at the end of November that brought together over 90 delegates from the Game's major stakeholders in a three day event that concluded with the establishment of a series of measures that are designed to continue the phenomenal growth of Rugby. This includes the latest blueprint for the playing calendar of the Game.

When considering the outcomes it is clear that the Forum concluded, after much debate and study, that the existing calendar is still the best vehicle for the Game and that with some modifications it will allow plenty of scope for the continued growth of Rugby.

The Forum delegates strengthened the basic structure of the calendar in the short-term while at the same time laying solid foundations for future change and growth. The stress areas in the calendar were addressed, including the June Test window. Further changes to the playing schedule could start by 2012 at the latest.

The delegates recognised its uniquely complex nature includes the varying

requirements of clubs, provinces and national Unions, the fact that there exist separate playing seasons in the two hemispheres, player welfare requirements and large distances between some of the senior playing countries. Finding tenable solutions that allow for growth while not potentially damaging the Game's existing fabric has been a challenge.

The forum forged stronger ties and relationships between the various stakeholders, including the clubs and their respective national Unions. This will augur well for the future as the IRB will ensure that all the Game's major stakeholders continue to foster strong relationships to work together in order to continue Rugby's growth and to ensure

that Rugby remains relevant and vibrant at all levels of the Game.

The Forum agreed:

- To adopt improved player welfare standards through the implementation of a minimum of 10 weeks player rest and pre-season conditioning as a building block of the calendar going forward
- To further study two formats that would enhance the value and prestige of the Inter-Hemisphere Matches in the June and November Test windows and to agree their implementation in 2008
- To cap the number of annual Tests that would attract automatic player release to 11 per year and that the English and French

Laying the foundations for the Game's continued growth



professional club seasons will finish by May 31 each year thus ensuring full strength international squads for the June Tests. These agreements highlight the continued improvement in the relationship between club and country in the Northern Hemisphere.

- The full integration of Argentina into the senior International calendar and the basis of a four-year transition programme to achieve that aim
 - New initiatives and new competition structures that will aid the development of the emerging nations
 - A permanent Rugby World Cup window of September-October
- Such agreements were only possible as a result of the



significant considered input of all of the Rugby stakeholders over the three days and the willingness of all to put all of their issues on the table, to listen to the viewpoints of others and to make concessions where necessary in order to achieve advancements in the best interests of the Game as a whole.

Importantly, the players played a key role in the agreement to build enhanced player welfare requirements into the international calendar. Richie McCaw, Augustin Pichot, Pierre Spies, Olivier Brouzet and International Rugby Player's Association representatives Richard Harry and Rob Nichol confirmed the crucial importance of a stand down period of at least 10 weeks to ensure suitable time

for player rest and pre-season conditioning.

The Forum agreed that a fundamental building block of the international calendar would be a minimum of 10 weeks away from competitive Rugby each year for each player to be used for rest, rehabilitation and pre-season conditioning and that individual player management programmes should be put in place during the season.

The delegates agreed early on the need to strengthen and add value to the June and November Test windows in order to see those windows continue their growth and development. The delegates asked the IRB to further explore two potential options to achieve this which arose out of the work of the Forum: a series format which would give ranking points to existing matches and could culminate in a grand final and a 12 team pool format run over two years between Rugby World Cups.

The representatives of the national Unions and the French and English clubs helped to ensure that the development of these ideas could become a reality by ensuring space within the calendar. Two key agreements will ensure that additional meaning and value can be added to the June and November Tests.

The first was the agreement to cap the number of Tests that would be played subject to Regulation 9 to 11 each year thus giving certainty and clear windows for the English and French clubs in particular to plan and run their seasons. The second was the agreement of the French and English clubs to end their seasons by 31 May each year therefore ensuring the best players will be available to play in the June Test window.

The Argentinian delegates worked tirelessly with the major Unions and the IRB to build and agree a blueprint for the future which through a four-year transition programme will lead to the full integration of Argentina into the senior

international playing calendar. This would mean that Argentina will play the same number of top class Tests as the other Tier 1 Unions.

The Forum agreed that the Pumas' future lies in the Southern Hemisphere. However, in the short-term there are major hurdles to the integration of Argentina into the Southern playing structure because the majority of their top players are based in Europe which leads to many practical and player welfare issues.

However, the UAR made a commitment to have its players contracted to the Union and for the majority of its players to be based in Argentina by 2012. The Forum agreed to assist Argentina to put in place pathways to get the players back to Argentina and to develop the next generation of home-grown Argentinian players, the majority of whom will hopefully play their top-flight Rugby based in Argentina. This includes looking at new competition structures in Argentina, the Americas and elsewhere.

This transition programme for Argentina includes:

- Steadily increasing the number and calibre of Test matches the Pumas play between 2008 and 2010 (2011 being a Rugby World Cup year) from the present six to nine per year.
- The Pumas to play four Tests in the June window (instead of the current three), three in the November window and two during the European 6 Nations window. This follows the agreement of the French and English clubs to release players during the 6 Nations window for the next three years.
- The progressive development of professional Rugby structures in Argentina during this period to develop player depth and to ensure that eventually the majority of top-class players stay in Argentina to play their Rugby so that Argentina can be fully integrated into the Southern

top-flight Rugby playing structure.

The Forum also looked at the important issue of the development of emerging nations and felt that competitions will play a major role in this in Oceania, Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. The forum agreed that the IRB should continue its policy of developing high level domestic and cross-border competition structures and high-performance initiatives and build on the new and successful Tournament structures that have been established for these nations over the past two years by the IRB.

The forum was managed on behalf of the IRB by Capgemini, an internationally renowned IT services and business consultancy company utilising its Accelerated Solutions Environment.

Attending the historic Forum were IRB Council members and representatives from IRB Member Unions, Ligue Nationale de Rugby (LNR), Premier Rugby Limited (PRL), European Rugby Cup (ERC), Celtic League, SANZAR, 6 Nations and Pacific Islands Rugby Alliance (PIRA), as well as players, coaches, managers, IRB management and commercial agents and consultants.

Breaking New Ground

The IRB fostered stronger relationships with a number of the Game's major stakeholders during 2007. In October the IRB and the International Rugby Players Association (IRPA) signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding which will see the two bodies working closely together on issues concerning professional players such as player welfare. The IRB played a major facilitator role in the agreement to ensure the long-term future of the successful European Rugby Cup competitions. It also hosted representatives from Premier Rugby Limited and the English Premiership clubs for a ground-breaking meeting in Dublin.

France 2007



Thrilling Rugby, competitive matches,
compelling viewing, festival atmosphere, record attendances
and broadcast figures – Rugby World Cup 2007
a Tournament to savour.





unprecedented success...



Rugby World Cup 2007 captured the hearts and the minds of the people of France and the wider global Rugby community with its special festival atmosphere and friendly welcome.

The Rugby was of exceptional standard, generating fascinating matches across both the pool stages and the knock-out rounds. Indeed Rugby World Cup 2007 produced the most competitive matches since the 1999 Tournament in the United Kingdom, Ireland and France.

The competitiveness of the so called smaller Unions, Fiji, Georgia, Namibia, Samoa, Tonga, USA and indeed Tournament debutants Portugal captured the imagination of the wider Rugby community with performances that underline the advances that they have made over the past four years with the help of the IRB's Strategic Initiatives.

Off the field the Tournament surpassed the record commercial, broadcast and attendance figures set by Rugby World Cup 2003 in Australia. A global audience of over 4 billion watched the drama unfold through their television sets with the final attracting the highest viewing figures for a single programme in the UK in 2007 with nearly 17 million tuning in to see whether England could successfully defend the Webb Ellis Cup. In France viewing figures were also exceptional with nearly 20 million watching the hosts take on old rivals England in the semi-final, comparing favourably with the Soccer World Cup final in France in 1998.

Attendances shattered the record set in 2003 with over 2 million attending a RWC for the first time, representing an average attendance of a shade under 47,000 for the 48 Tournament matches. Commercial figures were also impressive. RWC 2007 saw the growth of all commercial



Sebastien Chabal captured the hearts of the French people



USA made improvements



France caused the upset of Tournament, knocking out New Zealand in the quarter-finals

categories with commercial ticketing exceeding RWC 1999 and 2003 combined, while the overall surplus looks set to exceed £90 million.

Such strong figures mean that the IRB will have more money to invest in the Game through the Strategic Initiatives.

Underpinning the successful delivery of a memorable RWC 2007 was the exceptional work of the France 2007 Organising Committee. Bringing to the table major event experience the OC coupled with RWCL successfully implemented the logistical and organisational Tournament structures that made RWC 2007 the true spectacle that it was.

Outstanding venues, a strong ticketing programme, the successful inclusion of venues in Scotland and Wales (despite logistical challenges) the awareness and the buy in of the host-cities all contributed to the enjoyment of the travelling millions who attended one or more of the Tournament's 48 matches.



...billions and an audience of

Rugby World Cup 2007 was a global spectacle. Coverage of the Tournament in France was broadcast in an unprecedented number of countries.

Even before a ball had been kicked in France, record broadcasting deals in all the major Rugby territories represented a substantial increase on Rugby World Cup 2003, while enhanced deals for emerging Rugby markets including India, Portugal, Romania, Russia and USA ensured that more people than ever before were going to be able to view all the action live.

They were not to be disappointed. Compelling action on the field, encapsulated by the performance of the likes of Fiji, Tonga, Namibia and debutants Portugal, captured the imagination. The result was a significant global reach increase, surpassing record figures set by Australia 2003.

A global audience of over

4 billion watched the drama unfold through their television sets while the final attracted the highest viewing figures for a single programme in the UK in 2007 with nearly 17 million tuning in to ITV's coverage to see whether England could successfully defend the Webb Ellis Cup. England's semi-final coverage in the UK also peaked at 12.4 million and a 51 percent market share (a favourable return when considering prime time Saturday evening viewing).

In France TF1 and Eurosport's viewing figures were also exceptional with nearly 20 million watching the hosts take on old rivals England in a semi-final, representing an incredible 67 percent market share. Indeed Rugby World Cup matches occupied the top six positions in terms of viewing figures for all types of television programmes in France.

Importantly, the Tournament also captured the imagination of the sporting audience away from the major territories. Portugal, playing in their first Rugby World Cup, became

Total Cumulative Average Television Audience (1987-2003)

2007 France	4 billion (estimated)
2003 Australia	3.4 billion
1999 UK	3.1 billion
1995 South Africa	2.3 billion
1991 UK & France	1.4 billion
1987 New Zealand	230 million



national heroes and over 2 million tuned in to watch their match against New Zealand – a record for a televised Rugby match in the country.

Another strong feature of the coverage in France was the giant screens in town squares and prominent places throughout major towns and cities in France bringing the Rugby family and interested alike together in celebration of the Game.

While 81,000 packed into the Stade de France to watch the semi-finals and Rugby World Cup final, thousands more congregated in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower to watch the

drama unfold on a massive screen. In Marseille, host city of two quarter-finals, over 15,000 people gathered in the harbour to watch France defeat New Zealand, sparking scenes of celebration that had previously only been reserved for Soccer in a round ball mad city.

Shattering Records – Broadcast coverage RWC 2007

- 238 channels worldwide
- Global audience of over 4 billion
- Top 6 programmes of any kind in France in 2007
- Final – 20 million (France) and 17 million (UK)
- Female viewership almost 50% in France

The IRB is committed to a zero tolerance policy towards drugs cheats and the use of prohibited substances and methods in the Game.

Rugby has been at the forefront of the movement against drugs in sport and has undertaken substantial In Competition and Out of Competition testing programmes all over the world. This includes a record level of testing for both Rugby World Cup 2007 and the IRB's family of global Tournaments.

The IRB operates an 'anywhere, anytime, anyplace' testing policy and players have been tested at their homes, training venues, gyms and while in camp with their national teams. The breakdown of tests is highlighted in the table opposite.

RWC 2007 – Groundbreaking Programme Returns a Clean Sheet

Rugby World Cup 2007 saw the IRB run the most extensive anti-doping programme in the history of Rugby World Cup. In total 212 tests were run

across the 48 Tournament matches with two players from each team tested after every match. No positive tests were returned.

Additionally, a groundbreaking blood testing programme was implemented at a Rugby World Cup for the first time. The process involved the collection of blood serum from five members of each of the semi-finalists.

In 2006 the IRB established a Blood Test Working Group to run a thorough investigation into blood testing, including methods and prohibited

substances that can be detected in blood, and its relation to Rugby. The decision to test at RWC 2007 was driven by the research of the working group in consultation with relevant experts in the field and WADA (the World Anti Doping Agency) over the past 12 months. The IRB will consider the further implementation of blood testing across its family of Tournaments when the working group meets to evaluate the process implemented during the Tournament.

In a further groundbreaking move, blood samples collected



Leading

WADA Praises the IRB

In 2004 the IRB signed up to the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) code and has a close working relationship with the agency. WADA currently contributes to the IRB's testing programme conducting an additional 40-50 tests annually on players in the IRB's registered testing pool. Earlier this year WADA President Dick Pound singled out the IRB for its comprehensive testing

programme and firm stance in the fight against doping in sport. "The IRB has demonstrated a keen awareness of the problem of doping in sport and has worked on addressing the issue on a number of fronts in its own sport," said WADA President Richard W. Pound. "Not only are they taking measures to detect doping through testing, but they have also dedicated resources to deterrence through outreach

and education. In addition, their contribution to the development of regional anti-doping programs is helping to build a lasting legacy for the fight against doping in regions previously lacking in anti-doping testing and education. "The IRB, who are fully code compliant and have been long-standing partners of WADA, have set a positive example in the fight to keep drugs cheats out of sport that other sports

federations would do well to follow.

"Their in and out of competition testing programs are comprehensive, as shown by their anti-doping program for this year's Rugby World Cup which began just after the previous Rugby World Cup in 2003 with regular out of competition testing on players from the top 20 Rugby nations around the world."

at the Tournament were tested for Haemoglobin Based Oxygen Carriers (HBOCs) and while no analysis procedure for Human Growth Hormone currently exists, samples will be stored at the WADA accredited laboratory in Paris until such a test is available. WADA predicts this will be within the next 12 months.

The comprehensive testing process for Rugby World Cup 2007 started after Rugby World Cup 2003 with players from the world's top 20 ranked teams being tested out of competition on a regular basis. During 2006/2007 over 30 RWC

qualification matches were also subject to doping controls while the IRB also conducted 444 no notice out of competition controls on players in RWC squads from 1 January to 1 September 2007.

Keep Rugby Clean

The IRB's anti-doping awareness campaign Keep Rugby Clean is supported by a number of high profile ambassadors. The campaign is designed to raise awareness and spread the drug free message throughout the Game through a variety of eye-catching initiatives.

The Keep Rugby Clean message that was delivered at a number of IRB Tournaments during 2007. A Keep Rugby Clean day was organised at the IRB Under 19 World Championship in Northern Ireland, where players showed their support by wearing specially branded t-shirts on a designated match day.

In addition match and training balls were branded with the "in partnership with WADA" and "Play True" slogans, raising awareness and sending out a clear message to current and future players of the Game that doping in Rugby will

not be tolerated.

In addition match day programmes at the Under 19s, Sevens World Series and Rugby World Cup Tournaments all carried the Keep Rugby Clean message.

However, raising awareness is not just limited to passive audiences. All 750 players at the IRB Under 19 World Championship participated in the IRB's Outreach programme which was run in partnership with WADA. Players were educated using an interactive presentation and tested on the various areas of anti-doping.

Record Testing Programme

In 2007 the IRB conducted approximately 1300 Tests worldwide. The testing programme was expanded to cover the new Strategic Initiative Tournaments as well as incorporating the Regional Championships of Europe, Africa and Asia.

Discipline	In Competition	Out of Competition	Total	Anti-Doping Rule Violations	Outcome
RWC 2007 *	204	556	760	Nil	-
Under 19s	80	92	172	1 (Diuretic)	2 year sanction
Sevens World Series	96	150	246	2 (Cannabis)	3 month sanction
Strategic Initiative Tournaments**	52	-	52	Nil	-
Regional Championships ***	48	-	48	1 (Cannabis) 1 (Anabolic Agent)	3 month sanction Ongoing
Total	480 (38%)	798 (62%)	1278		

* Includes RWC 2007 Qualification match testing

** Includes – IRB Nations Cup, North America 4, Nations Cup

*** Includes – FIRA European Nations Cup, CAR Cup, ASIAD Rugby Championships
Correct as of 5 February 2008

the way

Keep Rugby Clean



Anti-doping Rule Violations

In 2007 under the IRB's testing programme a total of 5 players (as at 10 December 2007) have returned adverse analytical findings that have resulted in anti-doping rule violations.

3 players returned findings for Cannabis while 1 player tested positive for a diuretic and another for an anabolic agent.

In the period 2004-2007 the IRB handed down suspensions

to 19 players for returning positive tests for a variety of prohibited substances including performance enhancing and recreational drugs. These sanctions are in addition to the cases handled by Member Unions. The IRB adopts a supervisory role over the disciplinary process of Member Unions and since 2005 has successfully referred a number of cases to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).

fixtures attendances results

Group Stage

Match	Date	Group	Team 1	Result	Team 2	Venue	Referee	Attendance
1	7 Sep 2007	D	France	12 - 17	Argentina	Stade de France	Tony Spreadbury (ENG)	79,312
2	8 Sep 2007	C	New Zealand	76 - 14	Italy	Marseille	Wayne Barnes (ENG)	58,612
3	8 Sep 2007	B	Australia	91 - 3	Japan	Lyon	Alan Lewis (IRE)	40,043
4	8 Sep 2007	A	England	28 - 10	United States	Lens	Jonathan Kaplan (RSA)	36,726
5	9 Sep 2007	B	Wales	42 - 17	Canada	Nantes	Alain Rolland (IRE)	36,939
6	9 Sep 2007	A	South Africa	59 - 7	Samoa	Parc des Princes	Paul Honiss (NZL)	44,859
7	9 Sep 2007	C	Scotland	56 - 10	Portugal	St-Etienne	Steve Walsh (NZL)	34,162
8	9 Sep 2007	D	Ireland	32 - 17	Namibia	Bordeaux	Joel Jutge (FRA)	33,694
9	11 Sep 2007	D	Argentina	33 - 3	Georgia	Lyon	Nigel Owens (WAL)	40,240
10	12 Sep 2007	A	United States	15 - 25	Tonga	Montpellier	Stuart Dickinson (AUS)	24,243
11	12 Sep 2007	B	Japan	31 - 35	Fiji	Toulouse	Marius Jonker (RSA)	34,995
12	12 Sep 2007	C	Italy	24 - 18	Romania	Marseille	Tony Spreadbury (ENG)	44,241
13	14 Sep 2007	A	England	0 - 36	South Africa	Stade de France	Joel Jutge (FRA)	79,700
14	15 Sep 2007	C	New Zealand	108 - 13	Portugal	Lyon	Chris White (ENG)	40,729
15	15 Sep 2007	B	Wales	20 - 32	Australia	Cardiff	Steve Walsh (NZL)	71,022
16	15 Sep 2007	D	Ireland	14 - 10	Georgia	Bordeaux	Wayne Barnes (ENG)	33,807
17	16 Sep 2007	B	Fiji	29 - 16	Canada	Cardiff	Tony Spreadbury (ENG)	21,175
18	16 Sep 2007	A	Samoa	15 - 19	Tonga	Montpellier	Jonathan Kaplan (RSA)	24,123
19	16 Sep 2007	D	France	87 - 10	Namibia	Toulouse	Alain Rolland (IRE)	35,339
20	18 Sep 2007	C	Scotland	42 - 0	Romania	Edinburgh	Nigel Owens (WAL)	31,222
21	19 Sep 2007	C	Italy	31 - 5	Portugal	Parc des Princes	Marius Jonker (RSA)	45,476
22	20 Sep 2007	B	Wales	72 - 18	Japan	Cardiff	Joel Jutge (FRA)	42,558
23	21 Sep 2007	D	France	25 - 3	Ireland	Stade de France	Chris White (ENG)	80,267
24	22 Sep 2007	A	South Africa	30 - 25	Tonga	Lens	Wayne Barnes (ENG)	40,069
25	22 Sep 2007	A	England	44 - 22	Samoa	Nantes	Alan Lewis (IRE)	37,022
26	22 Sep 2007	D	Argentina	63 - 3	Namibia	Marseille	Stuart Dickinson (AUS)	55,067
27	23 Sep 2007	B	Australia	55 - 12	Fiji	Montpellier	Nigel Owens (WAL)	32,231



12-17



20-32



14-10



29-16



44-22



12-12



14-10



37-13

Match	Date	Group	Team 1	Result	Team 2	Venue	Referee	Attendance
28	23 Sep 2007	C	Scotland	0 - 40	New Zealand	Edinburgh	Marius Jonker (RSA)	64,558
29	25 Sep 2007	B	Canada	12 - 12	Japan	Bordeaux	Jonathan Kaplan (RSA)	33,810
30	25 Sep 2007	C	Romania	14 - 10	Portugal	Toulouse	Paul Honiss (NZL)	35,526
31	26 Sep 2007	D	Georgia	30 - 0	Namibia	Lens	Steve Walsh (NZL)	32,549
32	26 Sep 2007	A	Samoa	25 - 21	United States	St-Etienne	Wayne Barnes (ENG)	34,124
33	28 Sep 2007	A	England	36 - 20	Tonga	Parc des Princes	Alain Rolland (IRE)	45,085
34	29 Sep 2007	C	New Zealand	85 - 8	Romania	Toulouse	Joel Jutge (FRA)	35,608
35	29 Sep 2007	B	Australia	37 - 6	Canada	Bordeaux	Chris White (ENG)	33,805
36	29 Sep 2007	B	Wales	34 - 38	Fiji	Nantes	Stuart Dickinson (AUS)	37,080
37	29 Sep 2007	C	Scotland	18 - 16	Italy	St-Etienne	Jonathan Kaplan (RSA)	34,701
38	30 Sep 2007	D	France	64 - 7	Georgia	Marseille	Alan Lewis (IRE)	58,695
39	30 Sep 2007	D	Ireland	15 - 30	Argentina	Parc des Princes	Paul Honiss (NZL)	45,450
40	30 Sep 2007	A	South Africa	64 - 15	United States	Montpellier	Tony Spreadbury (ENG)	30,485

Quarter Finals

Q/F 1	6 Oct 2007	Australia	10 - 12	England	Marseille	Alain Rolland (IRE)	59,102
Q/F 2	6 Oct 2007	New Zealand	18 - 20	France	Cardiff	Wayne Barnes (ENG)	71,699
Q/F 3	7 Oct 2007	South Africa	37 - 20	Fiji	Marseille	Alan Lewis (IRE)	55,943
Q/F 4	7 Oct 2007	Argentina	19 - 13	Scotland	Stade de France	Joel Jutge (FRA)	76,866

Semi Finals

S/F 1	13 Oct 2007	England	14 - 9	France	Stade de France	Jonathan Kaplan (RSA)	80,283
S/F 2	14 Oct 2007	South Africa	37 - 13	Argentina	Stade de France	Steve Walsh (NZL)	77,055

Bronze Final

3/4	19 Oct 07	France	10 - 34	Argentina	Parc des Princes	Paul Honiss (NZL)	45,072
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Final

Final	20 Oct 07	England	6 - 15	South Africa	Stade de France	Alain Rolland (IRE)	81,008
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France 2007



Monitoring the Game

Game Analysis

The IRB's Game Analysis department, headed up former International referee Corris Thomas continues to track the major trends in the Game, while playing a leading role in the ongoing roll out of the IRB's Experimental Law Variations.



Rugby analysis takes a variety of forms. The first sort that probably comes to mind is that undertaken by individual teams and which is driven by coaches. Here there is a very specific goal – how can the opposition be beaten. That is its prime objective.

This involves identifying opponents' playing strategies and determining the strengths and weaknesses of each individual player including the players of the coaches team. Quantitative data is enhanced by qualitative analysis.

IRB Game Analysis

Game Analysis is different however. It does not analyse the performance of individual players. It has other objectives, the most critical of which is to track how Rugby is being played at the highest level at any moment in time and how it is evolving. In doing this, key trends and changes in the Game can be identified, common perceptions challenged and law changes monitored.

Comprehensive coverage

This is done through analysing a wide range of international Tournaments from Rugby World Cup to Women's Rugby World Cup and through to Age Grade Tournaments. A huge amount of information is collected on all the constituent playing elements of the Game through a sophisticated, digitally based, data collection system which is then analysed and used to produce a range of reports that are used by Member Unions, coaches and media throughout the world, many of which can be accessed on the IRB's own website – www.irb.com.

The extensive nature of Game Analysis also allows in depth investigations into technical areas of the Game as well as such areas as discipline, medical and refereeing. It is also frequently used at Tournaments where detailed match data – enhanced by visual evidence – can be accessed moments after a game has finished.

Law Changes

Game Analysis also has a considerable role regarding law changes. It can provide statistical and video evidence on areas where there is potential for change and can then monitor the effect of law changes once they have been made. Indeed Game Analysis has played a major role in the review of the IRB's Experimental Law Variations which were implemented in a number of prominent Tournaments during 2007. In the same way, Game Analysis enables the IRB to assess the extent to which the modern game successfully reflects the IRB's Charter on the Game.

Fair Play

IRB Game Analysis is also used at some IRB Tournaments to monitor fair play and assist referee assessors and citing commissioners conduct their invaluable work. During 2007 the IRB's Fair Play programme was run at the IRB Under 19 World Championship raising awareness and promoting fair play. Division B team Chile were presented with a special trophy as the team with the best disciplinary record.

Servicing the Game and the Media

The research of the IRB's Game Analysis centre can be viewed at www.irb.com where detailed reports on all the major Tournaments can also be found. In 2007 reports were prepared on Rugby World Cup 2007 and the 6 Nations Championship and can be downloaded in a PDF format through the site.

How South Africa Won Rugby World Cup 2007

Rugby World Cup 2007 was the most competitive Rugby World Cup Tournament to date, generating unprecedented levels of closely fought matches across the board. The IRB's Game Analysis centre, headed by former international referee Corris Thomas takes a look at the major trends from the Tournament.

Rugby World Cup proved once again that when a Tournament has a knock-out stage, then the dynamics suddenly change. This did not apply however to South Africa, the winning team. They produced their core game – a strong set piece, an aggressive defence and an ability to turn transgressions into points throughout the Tournament.

Other teams, however, proved far less predictable.

New Zealand came to RWC 2007 with a highly successful 15 man distribution approach. The critical question was whether an expansive approach, with its perceived element of risk, would stand up under the pressure of a winner-take-all knockout competition.

It did not. Instead of creating 43 rucks as they did in their 47-3 win against France in 2006, in RWC 2007 New Zealand created 165 (a record) and lost. This was around 100 more than normal and at a scale that they had never remotely experienced before. The successful formula of recent years was abandoned and New Zealand found themselves out of the competition.

The thought of sudden death also had an impact on the host

nation. France made just 19 kicks in beating England in the lead up to the competition but executed 46 in defeat in the semi-finals. Teams perceived safety and comfort in kicking, and from an international average of 58 per game the final produced 91 kicks and the semi-finals 86 and 85.

But does this have to be? Is the only route to success at RWC one where creativity has to be secondary to risk aversion?

One team did not think so – Fiji.

Based on set piece play, Fiji should have perished far earlier – they were the least successful of all 20 teams at both the lineout and scrum. They did however attempt to play in the way they were best at. They kicked little, out-passed their opponents and showed that a team's approach to matches outside RWC can be replicated at the Tournament if the fear of losing can be overcome.

Another general consensus before the competition started was that Tier 2 and Tier 3 countries could be embarrassingly outgunned to the point where the pool stage would serve no greater value than an interlude before the real Tournament started.

This did not happen. No other RWC produced so many closely fought matches between Tier 1 and Tier 2 countries. Georgia came close to beating Ireland, Tonga almost beat South Africa with the last move of the game, Romania were just edged out by Italy while Fiji beat Wales and found themselves in the quarter finals and within clutching distance of a semi final.

Unlike the past, such teams did not fade in the last 20 minutes. The IRB pre-RWC Strategic Initiative funding helped make such teams competitive right to the end.

As a result, the contributions made by Tier 2 and 3 countries, together with unexpected performances at the knock out stage by some of the Tier 1 teams, made RWC 2007 the most riveting and exciting world cup to date.

Visit www.irb.com to view the full RWC 2007 report.

RWC – Unprecedented Competitiveness

- Portugal qualified for RWC for the first time
- Fiji qualified for the quarter-finals for the first time
- There was a points difference of 20 or less in 50% of matches (an increase from 42% in 2003).
- There was a points difference of 5 or less points in 13 matches (up from 5 in 2003)
- Argentina reached the semi-finals for the first time and won the Bronze Final
- Tonga had the smallest losing margin to eventual champions South Africa

Record commercial programme



2007 proved to be a momentous year for the Commercial Department as Rugby World Cup 2007 set new standards with unprecedented demand for public and commercial tickets, a full sponsorship inventory and record audiences combining to underline the significant stature of the Tournament on the global sporting calendar.

The commercial enthusiasm for the Tournament in France led to record breaking contracts (in terms of revenue generated) being finalised in broadcasting, corporate hospitality and travel (commercial ticketing).

For the first time in Rugby World Cup history the France 2007 Tournament boasted a full sponsorship inventory. All six worldwide partners: VISA International; EDF; Peugeot; GMF; SNCF and Société Générale were confirmed a year in advance of the Tournament,

while Heineken, Emirates Airline, Vediorbis, Capgemini, Orange and Toshiba formed a truly international portfolio of Official Sponsors.

The programme also included six Official Suppliers; adidas, Coca-Cola, Goodyear, McDonalds, Gilbert and legal partners Clifford Chance.

This truly international sponsorship inventory included companies with a long standing commitment to Rugby World Cup, including VISA, Heineken and Peugeot. Importantly, the programme also started relationships with new companies such as GMF, Societe Generale, SNCF and Orange, rubber-stamping the growing global profile of Rugby World Cup.

The strength of the commercial ticketing programme was one of the major success stories of the Tournament. Mirroring the massive demand for public sales, the Tournament travel and hospitality packages, exceeded 100,000 sales, more than the 1999 and 2003 Tournaments combined,

WORLDWIDE PARTNERS



TOURNAMENT SPONSORS



RWC COMMERCIAL HEADLINES

Full sponsorship inventory for the first time in RWC history

Record broadcast coverage

Record attendance

Over 100,000 corporate hospitality packages sold

Record Tournament Licensing Programme

underlining the success of the RTH07 programme. Significantly, over 80 percent of sales were generated within the French market.

The Licensing Programme, a very important element of the Rugby World Cup 2007 Commercial Programme, delivered a record number of products. Aside from the official merchandising programme, which incorporated outlets at every venue and a flagship Paris store, official match programmes for all 48 games (over 40,000 programmes were sold for the Rugby World Cup Final), a range of official preview magazine in all the major territories, books, DVDs and CDs also added to a massive inventory.

The Tournament continues to grow in popularity and the number of broadcasters covering Rugby World Cup 2007 increased to 238, meaning that an unprecedented global audience of over 4 billion watched the drama unfold through their television sets.

Aside from Rugby World Cup, the IRB continued to strengthen its association with Emirates Airline, who supported the successful IRB Awards, the IRB World Rugby Yearbook and the IRB's Elite Referee Panel.

In addition to Emirates Airline, the IRB is also delighted to enjoy an excellent relationship with adidas, who supply kit to the IRB Match Official Panel for all Test matches and IRB Tournaments as well as Tournament staff apparel. adidas also supplied the IRB referees with kit at RWC 2007.

The popularity of the IRB Sevens World Series also means that there is significant interest in the right to be Series sponsor.

Tackle Hunger

Rugby World Cup 2007 and the UN World Food Programme



The United Nations World Food Programme has been the humanitarian partner of the International Rugby Board and Rugby World Cup since 2003 and the Tackle Hunger programme, driven by the IRB, has played a significant role in assisting the UN WFP to communicate its important work for the global community.

Why Tackle Hunger?

Hunger and malnutrition are still the number one risks to health worldwide. Over 850 million people worldwide currently go to bed each night hungry, while one in seven people do not currently get enough sustenance to be healthy and lead an active life.

The United Nations World Food Programme was established in 1963 in what was initially a three-year project to counter a growing hunger pandemic triggered by natural disasters and political change. The project was extended and over the next 30 years the number of hungry people worldwide fell from 959 million to 791 million.

However, since the 1990s the number of chronically hungry in developing countries has risen once again, making the need to Tackle Hunger more pressing than ever.

How the Rugby Community Can Help

Rugby is a team sport that is unique in the sense that it fundamentally remains a sport for men, women and children of all shapes and sizes. It is also a sport based on community values, a big family where everyone looks after everyone else. As the Game's world governing body, the IRB has an obligation and a huge desire to continue to promote those values. A healthy lifestyle leads to a healthy society and just as Rugby can tackle obesity through a holistic approach, the Game too can help to Tackle Hunger.

Spreading the word

Tackle Hunger was a resounding success at Rugby World Cup 2003, achieving its triple objective of raising awareness of the UN WFP, drawing attention to the

plight of the world's hungry and connecting the global Rugby community with the programme.

As a result the IRB agreed to extend its relationship with the UN WFP, which became the IRB's first humanitarian aid partner using the Tackle Hunger programme across the IRB's expanding family of international Tournaments at all levels of the Game.

High-profile Tournaments including the popular record-breaking IRB Sevens World Series, the Under 21 and Under 19 World Championships and Women's Rugby World Cup were used as platforms to continue to spread the Tackle Hunger message across the world. In addition the IRB's Total Rugby TV and Total Rugby Radio broadcast in over 120 countries worldwide have showcased the Tackle Hunger message.

Unprecedented Coverage – RWC 2007

Rugby World Cup 2007 saw the Tackle Hunger message

communicated to an unprecedented Rugby audience.

The Tournament and its 48 matches in France, Scotland and Wales, were attended by over 2.2 million people, while a further global audience of 4 billion watched the drama unfold in a Tournament which was the largest in 2007.

Rugby World Cup promoted the Tackle Hunger message through a number of mediums. Giant screens in each of the 12 host venues played special Tackle Hunger promotional DVDs featuring, while a visual campaign consisting of dual language programme adverts and stadium advertising garnered considerable exposure.

The French national team coach, Bernard Laporte, also played a key role promoting Tackle Hunger during the Tournament. Laporte was featured in a series of television and print advertisements conceived to raise awareness about global hunger. These appeared for the duration of the Tournament on French and international television channels, and were also placed in newspapers and magazines.



Webb Ellis Day

A host of former internationals provided the climax to a special Webb Ellis Day in Menton by participating in a special Rugby match organised by the IRB and the France 2007 Organising Committee.

The gala match, which was played on the weekend of the quarter-finals, brought together some of the biggest names in Rugby World Cup history, to benefit the United Nations World Food Programme Tackle Hunger initiative.

The star-studded list of players included Michael Jones, Glen and Mark Ella, Jean-Luc Sadourny, Nicolas Brusque, Laurent Cabannes, Joel Stransky, Andrew Mehrtens, Scott Hastings and Dan Luger.

The day began with a ceremony in honour of William Webb Ellis where a commemorative plaque signed by all of the RWC 2007 captains was placed on William Webb Ellis' grave by Bernard Lapasset and Bill Beaumont, as a symbol of the players commitment and respect for Rugby's values.



Rugby World Cup shorts...



Star Attraction

The enormous attraction of Rugby World Cup 2007 was comprehensively highlighted when the people of Montpellier turned out in their thousands to watch the Australia team be put

through their paces at an open training session in the town.

Some 10,000 Rugby supporters and interested locals caught up in RWC fever, crammed into the town's new

Rugby stadium to watch Stephen Larkham, George Gregan, Lote Tuqiri and company participate in an hour-long session under the guidance of head coach John

Connolly. The event was so successful that the Australians conducted a second public session with over 5000 supporters attending on a Tuesday afternoon.

Record broadcast coverage...

- Shown on 238 channels throughout the world.
- Global audience of over 4 billion expected to be confirmed.
- Top 6 programmes of any kind in France in 2007.
- England v France peaked at 18.3m in France (market share 67.4%).
- Bronze Final average 13.1m, peak 15.5m, in France (market share 50.8%).
- Final average 12.2m, peak 15.0m in France (market share 50.6%).
- England v France average of 9.5m, peak at 12.4m in the UK (market share 51%).
- Final average 12.8m, peak 16.0m in the UK, market share 62% (does not include those watching in bars and public areas).

... and record attendances

- First RWC to pass 2 million attendance.
- Total attendance 2.24m at an average attendance of 46,800.
- RWC 2003 had total of 1.89m at average of 39,400.
- Sold out matches included Japan v Fiji and Romania v Portugal.
- Over 80% of tickets sold by internet.
- Over 75% of public sales sold in France.
- Belgium, Spain and Germany all in top 10 national sales.

...and key statistics

Great Rugby Tournament

- Record commercial revenues.
- Commercial ticketing exceeded RWC 1999 and 2003 combined.
- 80% of hospitality sold into the French market.
- £4 billion economic impact in France
- 350,000 - 400,000 visitors to France

Record competitiveness

- Portugal qualified to RWC for the first time.
- Fiji qualified for quarter-finals for the first time.

- Argentina reached the semi-finals for the first time and won the Bronze Final.
- Tonga (who qualified through the repechage system) had the smallest losing margin to the winners South Africa.
- There was a points difference of 20 or less in 50% of matches (an increase from 42% at RWC 2003 and the highest since RWC 1995).
- There was a points difference of 5 or less points in 13 matches (up from 5 matches at RWC 2003).

	RWC 2003		RWC 2007	
	Total	Pool phase	Total	Pool phase
Average winning margin	32.85	36.20	27.15	30.35
Wins by 0-9 (incl. draws)	7	6	16	11
Wins by 10-19	12	8	7	6
Wins by 20-29	11	8	7	5
Wins by 30+ (incl. 50+)	18	18	18	18
(Wins by 50+)	(11)	(11)	(9)	(9)

Developing the Game worldwide

2007 was dominated by Rugby World Cup and a Tournament that surpassed all previous Rugby World Cups in terms of competitiveness, global interest and commercial success. However, away from the compelling action in France, IRB Tournaments continued to go from strength to strength during an action-packed Rugby year.

The second running of the IRB's exciting new regional and international Tournaments proved highly successful with the IRB Nations Cup and IRB Pacific Nations Cup both expanded to incorporate additional teams and the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup and IRB North America 4 Tournaments proving instrumental in preparing locally based players for the international arena.

A key element of the unprecedented three-year £30 million global strategic investment programme launched in August 2005, each were introduced to the global Rugby calendar to drive increased competitiveness of the Game at Test and ultimately Rugby World Cup level.

The importance of the IRB Tournaments in the High

Performance pathway of the Pacific Island and North America Unions is reflected in the immediate effect it is having on the number of locally-based players being selected for international honours. There was a massive increase in the number of players emerging through the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup and IRB North America 4 to progress to win selection for their National teams during 2007.

Indeed the performance of some of the so called smaller Unions at Rugby World Cup 2007 underlines the advances that each Union has made within the new Tournament structures.

However, it is not just the players and coaching staff who benefit from exposure to such competition pathways. The likes of the IRB Nations

Tourn



Cup and IRB Pacific Nations Cup Tournaments have also proven successful in providing the opportunity for the next generation of international match officials to gain exposure to a high level of international competition.

Significantly these Tournaments also play a key development role away from the field with the delivery of anti-doping educational programmes by IRB trained WADA anti-doping officials at the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup and IRB North America 4

Tournaments. Both Tournaments returned no positive test results.

In addition to the success of the Strategic Initiative Tournaments, established IRB competitions continued to grow in stature. The popular IRB Sevens World Series broke new ground in 2007, gaining

record broadcast coverage and producing the most competitive action in the history of the series.

The final running of the IRB Under 19 World Championship, hosted in Belfast, Northern Ireland, was the most successful to date and well run, generating impressive attendance and broadcast figures, while leaving a lasting legacy in the region. The Tournament was underpinned by significant IRB investment in regional qualification structures.

The IRB is committed to the continued development of Age Grade Rugby and as a result of the Age Grade strategic plan, two newly formulated Tournaments will be run in 2008 to replace the Under 19 and Under 21 World Championships. The inaugural IRB Junior World

Championship at Under 20 level will be played in Wales in June, while the 8-team IRB Junior World Trophy will be hosted by Chile in April. A promotion/relegation system will operate between the two. The latter Tournament will be underpinned by a raft of regional qualification structures.

Women's Rugby continues to experience global growth and the Conference on the Women's Game, hosted by the IRB in June, identified a number of new Tournament structures, while outlining a regional qualification system for RWC Sevens 2009 in Dubai, the first RWC Sevens to incorporate a women's competition.

In November the IRB announced that annual Tournament grants will increase from £5.5 million in

2007 to £5.7 million in 2008 to help subsidise the spectrum of key IRB and Regional Tournaments that will take place across all six regions include the inaugural IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy and IRB Junior World Championship, The IRB Nations Cup in Bucharest, Romania, the IRB Pacific Nations Cup featuring the New Zealand Maori for the first time, and of course the hugely popular IRB Sevens World Series.

This significant investment in competitions is in addition to the £3 million that the IRB annually invests in Strategic Initiatives across the High Performance, Performance and Targeted Unions as part of the three-year £30 million global strategic investment programme launched two years ago aimed at increasing global playing standards.

aments

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REVIEW

2007



Final Tournament

FINAL // Ravenhill, Belfast

New Zealand **31**

South Africa **7**



finishes on a high



Australia won the Division A third-place play off



Italy won Division B

Division A	Division B
Winner: New Zealand	Winner: Italy
Runner-Up: South Africa	Runner-Up: Canada
Third Place: Australia	Third Place: USA
Fourth Place: Wales	Fourth Place: Georgia



New Zealand were crowned Division A champions

New Zealand's next generation of international stars were crowned IRB Under 19 world champions after a resounding 31-7 victory over South Africa in a final that brought down the curtain on the Under 19 World Championship era.

It was fitting that the final Tournament, the sixth under the auspices of the IRB, was the most successful to date, shattering all previous broadcast, attendance and commercial records, while the Ulster Branch Organising Committee delivered an event that captured the imagination from start to finish, generating a festival atmosphere throughout.

The final, played in front of a capacity 11,000 Ravenhill crowd, was a match of exceptional quality. Two tries inside the opening seven minutes from IRB Under 19 Player of the Year Robert Freau and Trent Renata set the tone, and South Africa, despite some excellent play, were unable to get within touching distance.

South Africa rallied in the second half and the final ten minutes of a frenetic match was played deep in New Zealand

territory. Replacement back row Yaasir Hartzenberg reduced the arrears with a try, but New Zealand held out for their third title in five years.

In Division B of the Tournament, Italy triumphed after seeing off a spirited Canada side 22-3 in the final at Shaw's Bridge, a repeat of the 2006 third place play-off. The Italians reached the final unbeaten and emerged from a fiercely contested match victorious, scoring three unanswered tries.

The Tournament continued to highlight the importance of Age Grade Rugby to the participating Unions in terms of coach and player development, providing a competitive testing ground for high performance initiatives while creating a defined pathway through to the Test arena. The Tournament also provided an invaluable testing ground for up and coming match officials.

In 2008 a new era of Age Grade Rugby will get under way with the inaugural running of the IRB Junior World Trophy and IRB Junior World Championship Tournaments. The Junior World Trophy in Chile will comprise eight teams, while the Junior World Championship will take place in Wales with an exciting four-venue, 16 team format. Both exciting Tournaments promise

to elevate international Age Grade Rugby to new levels.

Record Breaker

Broadcast and media coverage of the IRB Under 19 World Championship reached an all-time high in 2007, underlining the immense popularity of Age Grade Rugby on a global scale.

IRB Under 19 host broadcaster, BBC Northern Ireland, provided extensive live coverage of ten key matches in the Tournament across all BBC regions in the UK, while a record 16 broadcasters in 139 countries worldwide covered the championship with a cumulative total live coverage of 2216 hours over the three week Tournament. A number of broadcasters also screened an extensive highlights programme ensuring that more people than ever before viewed an IRB Age Grade Tournament.

Leaving a Legacy for the Game

While attention is firmly focused on the product on the field, the IRB Under 19 World Championship has played an important role in Rugby development away from the action. Each host Union implements a detailed legacy programme that is designed to foster the Game in the local region and wider Rugby community. The 2007

Tournament in Belfast saw coaches and players from all of the participating teams deliver specialist coaching clinics for local clubs and schools, while refereeing and coaching clinics were also run by the IRB. Players also visited schools to participate in history and language lessons, while all official Tournament equipment was donated to the host clubs.

Player Development

Age Grade Tournaments play a pivotal role in player development, exposing talented young players to a Tournament of high intensity, pitting them against opposition that they might not usually face. Importantly, these Tournaments also provide exposure to international media and anti-doping practices. A whole host of players have advanced from the IRB Under 19 World Championship to reach the highest level of the Game including Pierre Spies, Gavin Henson, Richie McCaw, James Hook and Matthew Tait.

Previous winners

2007: New Zealand	2004: New Zealand
2006: Australia	2003: South Africa
2005: South Africa	2002: New Zealand

Age Grade Tournament strategy

In May 2007 the IRB announced a major restructure of its Age Grade Tournament strategy aimed at providing the best platform to prepare the future stars of the Game for the Test arena.

The restructure, which was a key element of the IRB's Strategic Plan for Age Grade Rugby, followed a period of extensive research, consultation and feedback from all key stakeholders in the Game, including Member Unions and Regional Associations and is aimed at increasing the level of competitiveness and competition at Age Grade level.

While the popular IRB Under 19 and Under 21

World Championships proved to be extremely successful in nurturing the talent of many current international players, the restructure took into account the fact that, as a result of the player academy structures now in place around the world, many players at age 20 or 21 are already playing professional senior Rugby for their club, province or state. Therefore a move to a single Age Grade Tournament at



A number of the Game's biggest stars have come through IRB Age Grade Tournaments

Destination Wales

The inaugural IRB Junior World Championship will take place in Wales from 6-22 June. The Tournament, which will feature the world's finest players at Under 20 level will be contested by 16 teams and will include a new competition format that incorporates an exciting regional structure.

Swansea's Liberty Stadium, Cardiff's Arms Park, Newport's Rodney Parade and Wrexham's Racecourse Ground will be the host venues for each of the four pools ensuring widespread coverage within the Principality.

The Tournament format comprises four pools with the winner of each progressing to have a chance of winning the overall championship title, while the other teams will play for a positional ranking.

New Zealand, champions of the final IRB Under 19 World Championship in Belfast in April in 2007, are top seeds in Pool A and will face Argentina, Ireland and Tonga in Cardiff. South Africa, runners-up in



Belfast, top Pool B in Wrexham and play USA, Samoa and Scotland. Australia top the seedings in Pool C and take on England, Canada and Fiji in Newport. Wales, who reached the semi-finals in Belfast, top Pool D and will be based in Swansea, playing their matches at the Liberty Stadium. They will play France, Italy and

Japan. The final will be played at the Liberty Stadium on 22 June.

Importantly the new Tournament has proven commercially attractive and has attracted the support of UK Sport, the Welsh Assembly, a title sponsor in Invesco and a plethora of official sponsors and suppliers.



Under 20 level was seen to fit better into the modern player development pathway.

The IRB is committed to Age Grade Rugby and the result is a structure which best fits the requirements of all the IRB's Member Unions. Two exciting new Tournaments will take place in 2008; the IRB Junior World Championship and IRB Junior World Trophy.

The annual IRB Junior World Championship will be contested

by 16 teams and will bring together the 16 best Under 20 teams in World Rugby.

The format provides the opportunity for teams such as Fiji, Samoa and USA to regularly play teams that they would not normally meet and allows most Unions the opportunity to gauge their progress on an annual basis.

The IRB is also committed to providing a competitive competition and development

pathway for more Development and Targeted Unions. This will be achieved through the introduction of the annual 8-team IRB Junior World Trophy, also at Under 20 level.

Promotion and relegation will exist between the World Championship and World Trophy Tournaments that will together provide annual competition for 24 Unions. Developing Unions will also

have the opportunity of hosting these Tournaments which will allow them to gain experience in hosting major Rugby events.

The restructuring of IRB Age Grade Tournaments does not mean the end of Under 19 and 21 level Rugby which is still important for some Unions who will continue regional competitions at these age grades in order to assist in their development pathways.

the future is bright

Major event experience

Underpinning the IRB Junior World Championship will be the inaugural IRB Junior World Trophy which will make its debut in Chile in April 2008.



The Tournament, which will feature eight teams, will be played in capital city Santiago. It will comprise two automatic qualifiers; Georgia and Uruguay (from the IRB Under 19 World Championship 2007 rankings), and six qualifiers from each of the regional Under 19 Tournaments; Chile (CONSUR), Jamaica (NAWIRA), Namibia (CAR), Romania (FIRA-AER), South Korea (ARFU), plus a yet to be determined qualifier from FORU.

These annual regional qualifying Tournaments provide Member Unions with regular access to international Age Grade competition. Additionally the qualifiers

provide an important competitive testing ground and development pathway for aspiring international players.

A promotion and relegation system will operate between the annual Junior World Trophy and Junior World Championship events,

with the top team in the Trophy swapping places with the bottom team in the Championship. This is an exciting development as it means that there is a clear pathway for Unions to climb the ladder to the top echelons of Age Grade Rugby starting with the Regional qualification system.

The IRB will be investing close to £3 million across all Regional and World age grade Tournaments in 2008 which reflects the strategic importance of these competitions for both retaining players in the Game and providing the breeding ground for the future international stars.



Dramatic New Zealand victory caps record-breaking season

The most successful IRB Sevens World Series on record ended in dramatic fashion, going down to the very last match of the final Tournament in Scotland before New Zealand were crowned champions for a sixth time.

The world's leading Rugby Sevens Tournament Series broke new ground during 2006/07 providing compelling viewing as the titanic battle between defending champions Fiji and New Zealand was played out in front of global audience of millions. The series also smashed previous attendance and broadcast records to confirm continued global appeal and growth.

The 2006/07 Series comprised Tournaments in Dubai, South Africa, New Zealand, USA, Hong Kong, Australia, England and Scotland and was the most competitive to date. It was televised by 30 international broadcasters in 11 different languages and reached 213 million homes (up 24 million on 2005/06) in 137 countries (up 1), and had a potential global cumulative reach of over 530 million (up 45 million). Live coverage increased dramatically during the season with 911 hours of action (up 72%).

Backing up these record figures were yet more increased attendances across the board as the series continued to capture the imagination. The eight Tournament locations, including the three new series venues in Adelaide, San Diego and Edinburgh, garnered a record cumulative attendance of over 250,000. The opening three Tournaments in Dubai (64,000), South Africa (25,000) and New Zealand (70,000) were sell outs as was Hong Kong (120,000), while England reported an increased attendance (33,000). San Diego, the first of the new venues attracted 29,000 fans with Adelaide (25,000) and Edinburgh (30,000) also recording strong attendances.

The continued growth in broadcast and attendance figures for the IRB Sevens World Series reflects the worldwide popularity of Rugby Sevens. It is a sporting spectacle, with highly competitive action, international locations and world class players proving extremely popular to both broadcasters and Rugby fans alike. With its eight tournament format, the IRB Sevens World Series is now firmly established as a key series of events on the global sporting calendar.

Player Development

Increased standards on the pitch across the eight Tournaments during the 2006/07 series continued to underline the value participating Unions place in the Series as a key player and coach development tool. Last season's series was contested by 32 Unions, including the likes of Kenya, Russia and Portugal. In total just under 26% of the players competing at Rugby World Cup 2007 had come through the IRB Sevens World Series – a remarkable number.

The IRB is committed to the increased investment in Sevens Rugby in line with the Sevens Strategic Plan launched in 2006.

Record Growth – IRB Sevens World Series 2000-2007

Series	Total attendance	Live coverage broadcast	Cumulative audience reach	No of Unions
2006/07	260,000	911 hours	530 million	36
2005/06	250,000	530 hours	475 million	37
2004/05	200,000	230 hours	400 million	32

Record attendances

Dubai	64,000 sold out
South Africa	25,000 sold out
New Zealand	76,000 sold out
USA	29,900
Hong Kong	120,000 sold out
Australia	25,000
England	33,000
Scotland	28,500



1 DUBAI
Winner // South Africa

2 SOUTH AFRICA
Winner // New Zealand

3 NEW ZEALAND
Winner // Samoa

4 UNITED STATES
Winner // Fiji



Dubai to host Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009

At its annual meeting of Council in April the IRB announced that Dubai had been awarded the right to host Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009. The Tournament, which will feature a 24 team men's competition and for the first time a 16 team women's competition, will be played at a purpose built stadium in the city from March 5-7.

An exciting qualifying process will provide the finalists for both the men's and the women's Tournament. Nine Unions will qualify directly for the men's Tournament (the eight quarter-finalists from 2005; Fiji, New Zealand, England, Australia, France, Scotland, Argentina and South Africa and the Host Union, the Arabian Gulf). A further 15 places will be filled via qualifiers in all six regions which will kick-off in January 2008.

Three qualifiers will come from Africa, two from North America, one from South America, two from Asia, five from Europe and two from Oceania. This will guarantee the presence of some teams not regularly seen on the IRB Sevens World Series circuit.

For the women's Game the inclusion of new regional qualifying tournaments is an exciting development and will

aid promotion of the Women's Game. Like the men's qualification process Tournaments involving the 83 international women's teams will be held in all six regions with 16 teams qualifying for Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 in Dubai.

Two qualifiers will come from Africa, two from North America, one from South America, three from Asia, six from Europe and two from Oceania. These Tournaments are a key element of the Strategic Plan for Women's Rugby launched in 2006.

The regional qualifying Tournaments, coupled with the record-breaking IRB Sevens World Series, will ensure that an unprecedented amount of elite Sevens Rugby will be played during 2008 and 2009.

Olympic Ambition – Rugby Sevens and the Olympic Games

The IRB remains totally committed to Rugby's reintroduction as part of the Olympics sporting calendar. In 2006 more positive steps were taken with the historic news that Rugby Sevens would be included in the Pan America Games from 2011 while a historic agreement with the African Olympic Committee ANOCA which will pave the way for Rugby Sevens inclusion in future All-African Games.

The inclusion of Rugby in all of the world's major multi-sports Games is a goal of the IRB and it is delighted that Rugby will be included in the Pan American Games sporting

programme and that its inclusion in the All-Africa Games is now on the agenda of ANOCA. Rugby is also on the sports programme of the Commonwealth Games, World Games, Asian Games and South Pacific Games.

Rugby Sevens is a strong independent sport in its own right. The record-breaking growth of the popular IRB Sevens World Series has been mirrored by the success of Rugby World Cup Sevens and the Rugby Sevens competition at the Commonwealth Games.

RWC Sevens 2005 in Hong Kong attracted a sell-out crowd of 120,000 over the three competition days, a record for Rugby Sevens, while Rugby Sevens finals day at the 2006 Commonwealth Games held in Melbourne, Australia was played in front of a world record, single day Rugby Sevens crowd of over 50,000 people as the Telstra Dome was completely sold out.

All shapes and sizes can play elite Rugby Sevens and the Game remains a key skills development tool for IRB Member Unions. It is played worldwide by more than 3 million, and is also experiencing rapid growth for women with over 50 countries having national championships. It is also a sport where upsets are a plenty as Kenya, Tunisia, Portugal and Russia can all compete against the more traditional Rugby powers. Indeed the 2006/07 IRB Sevens World Series saw Samoa win its first ever Cup competition.

5



HONG KONG
Winner // Samoa

6



AUSTRALIA
Winner // Fiji

7



ENGLAND
Winner // New Zealand

8



SCOTLAND
Winner // New Zealand



**TOURNAMENTS
REVIEW
2007**

IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP

June 2007

Completing the development pathway

The second edition of the IRB Pacific Nations Cup was every bit as competitive as the inaugural Tournament as Fiji, Japan, Samoa and Tonga all demonstrated the massive strides that they have made at Test level.

A key element of the IRB's three-year global strategic investment programme, the IRB Pacific Nations Cup has grown to become an integral development tool for each of the participating Unions. For Australia and New Zealand, the opportunity to participate in the form of A team sides played a key role in preparing potential talent for Rugby World Cup 2007.

For Fiji, Japan, Samoa and Tonga, the competition played a similar role, highlighted by improved levels of competitiveness at RWC. However, the IRB Pacific Nations Cup plays a much more profound role in the development of the three Pacific Island Unions.

The Tournament combines with the work of the High Performance Units established in each Union in 2006 to complete a new player development pathway structure which starts at club or provincial level and passes through the highly-competitive cross border IRB Pacific Rugby Cup and through to full Test level.

In the two years since the inception of the Pacific Rugby Cup and Pacific Nations Cup no fewer than 76 locally-based

players have advanced through the system to achieve National representation and many have earned professional contracts as a result.

Significantly, nine players from Fiji, six players from Samoa and eight players from Tonga emerged through the system to represent their countries at Rugby World Cup, including Tongan Fullback Vunga Lilo, Samoan flanker Uliua Uliua and Fiji's prominent flanker Akapusi Qera. Such impressive numbers truly underline the importance of the IRB's new competition structures and the hard work that is being done by each Union.

Signs of the increased levels of competitiveness that were evident at Rugby World Cup, were also prominent during a Pacific Nations Cup Tournament of high drama. While a star-studded Junior All Blacks side retained the title with a perfect record, the performances of the three other Unions were encouraging.

Japan, under the guidance of John Kirwan, recorded its first victory in the Tournament against Tonga in Coffs Harbour and created problems for the Junior All Blacks at home, while the Tongans delivered their first win on Fijian soil for 15 years with a 21-15 victory at Churchill Park. Fiji, in return, produced the performance of the Tournament to draw 14-14 with Australia A in the final round of matches.

Off the field the Tournament continued to prosper. Not only was unprecedented exposure experienced over the five



The Junior All Blacks retained the title



Australia were a welcome addition to the Tournament in 2007



Japan recorded their maiden victory in 2007 and ran the Junior All Blacks close



competition rounds, but the IRB Pacific Nations Cup was broadcast live in 50 countries, underlining its truly global appeal. The action was broadcast in all of the participating countries as well as Europe and Canada and the USA. Significantly, the Tonga v Junior All Blacks fixture was the first Rugby match in Tonga to be broadcast live.

Additionally, the Tournament also proved popular to the Rugby Community in each participating country. Thousands turned up to watch the drama unfold, while in bringing regular Test Rugby to the Pacific Islands and Japan and the fans closer to their heroes, a legacy was developed that will help to promote and foster the Game in each country.

International Pathway for a new generation of referees

The IRB Pacific Nations Cup provides a pathway for a new generation of referees to gain international exposure. Referees from South Africa, Wales, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, England and Fiji were used during the 2007 Tournament. They worked with touch judges and match officials from the Tier 2 Host Unions of Japan, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga who in turn gained valuable international experience. James Bolabiu, a Fiji Rugby Union High Performance Scholarship recipient, made his senior international debut as referee of the Australia A v Japan fixture.

Breeding ground for Success



2007 saw an increase in competitiveness



The non-game action was also spectacular

FINAL // Teufaiva Stadium, Tonga

Tau'uta Reds	15
Upolu Samoa	35



Several players progressed to the international arena

The second IRB Pacific Rugby Cup proved every bit as exciting as the first with Upolu Samoa crowned champions after defeating Tau'uta Reds of Tonga in an exciting Grand Final in Nuku'alofa.

The Tournament, which involves two regional sides from each of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, was launched in 2006 as a key initiative of the unprecedented three-year US\$50 million global strategic investment programme aimed at increasing global playing standards.

Yet again the Pacific Rugby Cup proved that it is a worthy addition to the international Rugby calendar. In its second year, the competition made a significant step up from the first, serving up some highly competitive matches and capturing the imagination of the wider Rugby Community on the islands, who turned up in their thousands to watch five rounds of compelling action.

The Tournament provided an opportunity for over 180 locally-based players in the islands to be tested in a high intensity international representative competition that bridges the gap between club or provincial Rugby and the IRB Pacific Nations Cup. It is the first time

that local players have had an opportunity to compete in as structured cross-border competition on home soil.

In the space of two short years the Pacific Rugby Cup has grown to become a key development tool for a whole host of players and coaches and also provides an ideal testing ground for the work of the High Performance Units that have been established in each of the Tier 2 Unions as a key element of the global strategic investment programme.

Indeed the fruits of the Tournament were evident at Rugby World Cup 2007 where a number of young players representing Fiji, Samoa and

PREPARING FOR THE TEST ARENA



The beauty of the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup is that it provides the ideal platform for us to test the best locally based players through the week-in, week-out intensity of an international Rugby competition. In showcasing the next generation of international stars the Tournament provides a perfect opportunity for players to push for a Rugby World Cup squad place."

ILLIE TABUA
Fiji National Coach



Tonga had graduated through the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup over the past two years to perform at the highest level. Fiji's Akapusi Quera, Viliame Gadolo, Wame Lewaravu, Tonga's Hudson Tonga'uiha and Samoa's Uliua Uliua were just a few of the RWC 2007 stars who have competed in the Tournament.

On the back of RWC 2007, interest in Pacific Islands Rugby has never been higher. With ever increasing standards, competitive action, burgeoning attendance figures and broadcast interest, the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup looks set to become a key Tournament on the annual Rugby calendar for years to come.



Creating a high performance pathway

FINAL // Abbotsford

Canada West 45
US Falcons 11


2007 saw improved standards



The action was intense



The 2007 IRB North America 4 proved just how far the elite level cross-border representative Tournament has progressed, producing six rounds of highly-competitive action, and culminating in a second successive title for Canada West.

The Tournament, a key element of the IRB's three-year global US\$50 million strategic investment programme, also achieved the combined aims of both the IRB and the Canada and USA Unions. The Tournament, which garnered television coverage for the first time in 2007, produced elevated preparation and performance and providing a key stepping-stone to the Test arena for a number of locally-based players.

Competitive throughout, the 2007 Tournament was a step up from the inaugural North America 4, generating a high standard of matches, exciting Rugby and strong crowds as it

captured the imagination of the Rugby community in each of the countries. It also served to highlight the advances competitiveness in that both Unions have made since the Tournament's inception, preparing an unprecedented number of players for the Test arena with some advancing to represent their respective country at Rugby World Cup 2007.

Aside from players and coaches, the IRB North America 4 also plays a key role in the development of match officials and administrators. Young USA referee Chris Draper, who officiated the final, was just one of a number of promising prospects to benefit from the high level officiating pathway, while the staff and volunteers who worked at the various venues proved that high performance is being achieved both on and off the field. Legacy initiatives were also organised in order to further foster the Game in North America.

As in 2006, the IRB North America 4 was a four-team

round-robin Tournament, but incorporated for the first time an expanded three-leg match schedule that bridged the Churchill Cup and that took the competition to a wider audience. The Tournament opened with matches in San Diego and Vancouver in April. This was followed by a four-game leg in California in May and culminated in a six game finale in British Columbia (27 June – 7 July). Each of these legs comprised an extensive preparation camp for all four teams.

The final, played in Abbotsford, British Columbia, pitted champions Canada West against US Falcons in a repeat of the 2006 final. The final, like the majority of Tournament matches, was of a high standard with Canada West winning 43-11 to retain the title.

The 2008 Tournament will dovetail with the Churchill Cup which will be played in Chicago, providing an important player and coach preparation platform for both Canada and the

USA ahead of the competition in June.

Anti-Doping Education

The IRB North America 4 Anti-Doping programme, run by IRB trained anti-doping representatives, proved highly successful both from an educational and testing perspective and drew praise from the Canadian Centre for Ethics in Sport (Canada's national governmental agency) ...everything went perfectly.

"The organizers had all the necessary chaperones, and most, if not all, had previous experience in that role. The facilities were great. We sent one of our staff members as a Doping Control Officer, and he came back saying that it was the best-run event he had ever worked on as a DCO. He had nothing but compliments for the IRB and the local organisers."



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BARCLAYS CHURCHILL CUP

18 June – 2 July // England

Expanded cup sets the standard

The Barclays Churchill Cup came to England for the first time in 2007 and the event organisers were rewarded with the most competitive and successful Tournament to date.

All six competition venues experienced excellent crowds throughout the week-long Tournament, while the Churchill Cup's competitive format continued to prove to be an invaluable testing ground for promising young players.

Born out of England's 2001 Tour to North America, the Churchill Cup is an alliance between the Unions of England, Canada and the USA and is designed to aid the development and growth of the Game in North America by providing a high level of competition for the two Tier 2 Unions.

In 2006 the Tournament was expanded to include A sides from both Ireland and Scotland for the first time, taking the total number of participating Unions to 6. Underwritten by the IRB's unprecedented three-year £30 million global strategic investment programme, the inclusion of two additional A sides alongside reigning champions New Zealand Maori, achieves a key IRB objective of providing a dedicated competition pathway for Tier 1 A sides and a higher level of competition for Tier 2 Test sides.

The six teams were split into two pools with Pool A comprising hosts England,



Ireland claimed the plate with victory over Scotland



England Saxons and New Zealand Maori entertained



Scotland A showed promise

FINAL // Twickenham, London

England Saxons 17

New Zealand Maori 13

Scotland A and USA and Pool B comprising Canada, Ireland A and New Zealand Maori. Matches were spread across a number of venues in England and the result was a highly-competitive Tournament.

Defending champions New Zealand Maori coasted through Pool B to the Grand Final after securing a comfortable victory over Canada and a hard-fought win over Ireland A, while in Pool A England Saxons buried the memories of a poor 2006 Tournament to reach the final after defeating plucky USA and Scotland A sides.

The best was saved for last. Some 25,000 people came to the newly completed Twickenham stadium for finals day and were treated to three high-quality matches played in perfect conditions. Once again Canada and the USA contested the Bowl final with the Canadians coming out on top, winning 52-10 to secure their highest-ever IRB World Ranking position (13th). The second match of the day was a thrilling encounter as Ireland A withstood a rousing second half comeback to defeat Scotland A 22-21.

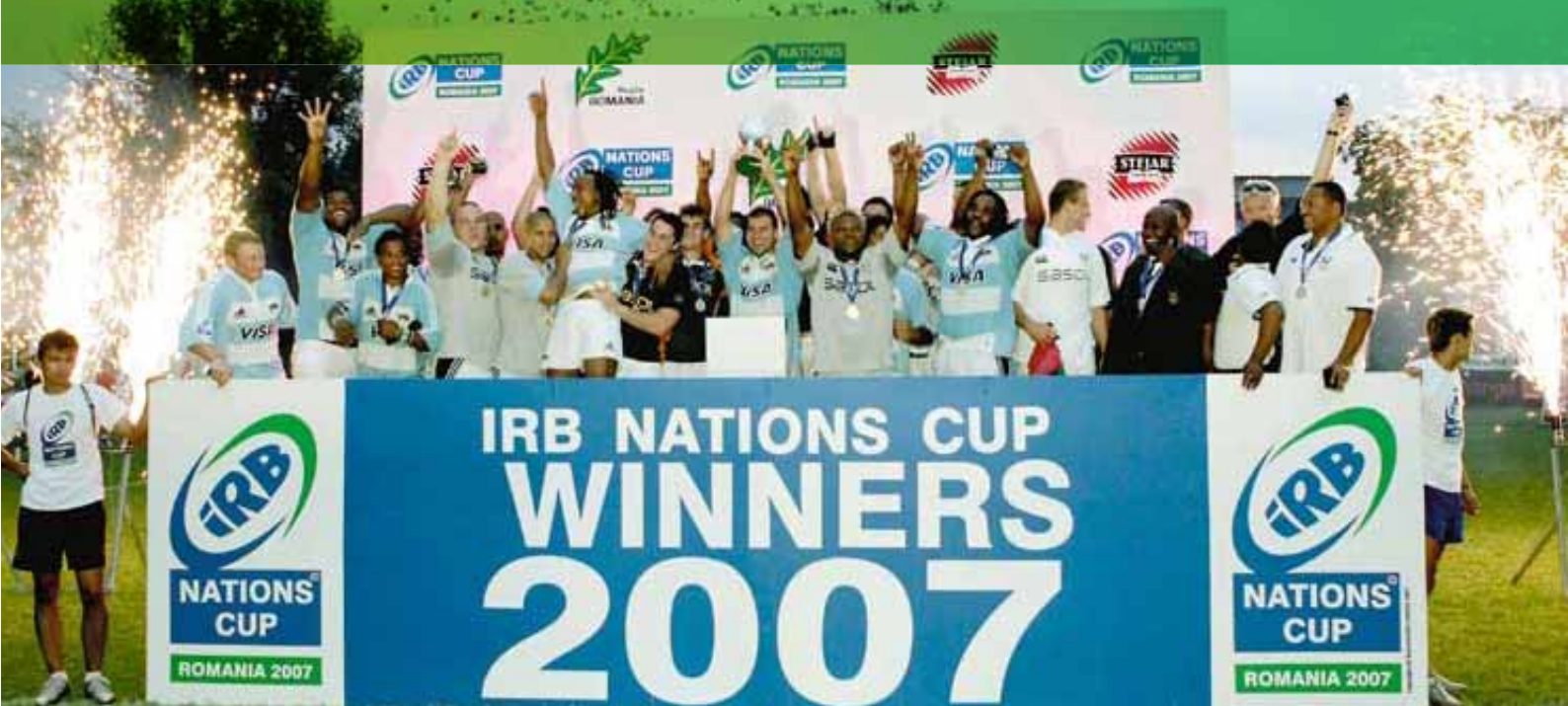
The final was a match of some quality. Three-time champions NZ Maori and 2005 champions England Saxons played out an entertaining encounter with replacement Saxons flanker Tom Croft outpacing the Maori cover to score the winning try in a 17-13 victory.

Once again the Tournament proved to play a key developmental role ahead of Rugby World Cup in France. Several players from the A sides progressed to play Test Rugby during 2006, while for Canada and the USA the Tournament coupled with the second annual IRB North America 4 proved to be an instrumental platform for Rugby World Cup squad selection and preparation.

The Tournament will return to North America in 2008 with matches being played in both Canada and the USA.



Emerging Boks win expanded cup



The IRB Nations Cup broke new ground in 2007 with a Tournament that provided unprecedented levels of competition and an important player development tool for all of the participating Unions ahead of Rugby World Cup 2007.

Following the success of the inaugural Tournament in Portugal, the 2007 event was hosted by RWC 2007 qualifiers Romania and featured a new six-team format. A sides from Tier 1 Unions Argentina and Italy were joined by the Emerging Springboks for the first time, while Test teams from hosts Romania, Georgia and Namibia, all three RWC qualifiers, ensured a highly competitive entry.

Having underwritten the Tournament as a key initiative of the unprecedented three-year £30 million global strategic investment programme,

the IRB hoped that the 2007 Tournament would garner elevated competition levels, serve as a key preparation tool ahead of RWC and foster the Game in Romania.

The Tournament was a resounding success on all fronts. Enthusiastic crowds filled the Arcul de Triumph in Bucharest to watch three rounds of compelling Rugby that raised the bar in terms of standards from the 2006 competition. The Tournament also provided the three Tier 1 Unions with much-needed exposure to a three match schedule spread over a two week period that would replicate the intensity of RWC.

As the IRB Nations Cup progressed it was clear to see that the Emerging Springboks, with a sprinkling of RWC hopefuls, would be the team to beat, while Argentina A and Italy A would fight for the runner-up spot. However, the strong progress made by Georgia, Namibia and Romania during the final two rounds

highlighted a narrowing of standards between the A sides and the Tier 1 Test teams and gave a strong indication of what was to come in France.

Away from the field the Tournament also achieved all of its objectives. The Romanian Rugby Union delivered a well organised Tournament that also proved hugely successful in fostering the growth of the Game in Romania, leaving a lasting legacy and attracting strong crowds across all three rounds. It also provided a developmental platform for a whole host of up and coming match officials.

After two rounds of action the Emerging Springboks headed into the final match of the Tournament in a winner-takes-all encounter against reigning champions Argentina A. Despite a strong defence of their title, it was the Emerging Springboks who prevailed, winning 24-10 to bring down the curtain on a wonderful Tournament.

Preparation for Rugby World Cup 2007

The IRB Nations Cup proved instrumental in Georgia, Namibia and Romania's Rugby World Cup 2007 preparations, providing access to an unprecedented level of international Rugby and exposure to an intense Tournament environment that mirrored RWC in format. The progress made by all three Unions during the Tournament was impressive with both Romania and Georgia posting impressive victories over Italy A.



Blueprint for the Women's Game



The Women's Game is currently in excellent health. Burgeoning playing numbers, increased standards, growing media interest and the success of Women's Rugby World Cup 2006 has lifted women's Rugby from the shadows of men's to garner a growing profile of its own.

In 2006 the International Rugby Board announced details of its Strategic Plan for Women's Rugby. The mission statement was simple: promote the growth of the sport, review development initiatives and introduce new Tournament structures with a view to increasing the overall competitiveness of the Women's Game at international level.

Conference on the Women's Game

In a groundbreaking move the IRB hosted the first ever Conference on the women's Game in London at the beginning of May.

A total of 32 representatives of the women's Game attended the two days of meetings, representing senior and emerging Unions. These attendees represented a mix of senior women's Unions, Unions with a strong emerging Sevens representation and some senior individuals in the international women's Game. It was the largest gathering of key stakeholders from women's Rugby.

Despite the event being very much a blue sky affair, discussing everything from the women's strategic plan to the development of the Game and Tournament structures,

the participants came away from the conference encouraged by the progress made and with a number of key points to consider:

- The ongoing implementation of the Strategic Plan for Women's Rugby
- The role of Women's Rugby World Cup
- How Sevens can be used to develop the women's Game
- How RWC Sevens 2009 fits into the competition strategy
- How participation levels could be boosted

Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009

Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 in Dubai will be the first to include a women's Tournament that will run alongside the men's competition and will consist of 24 men's and 16 women's teams.

The inclusion of a women's Tournament for the first time is an exciting development for the women's Game which is experiencing unprecedented interest following the success of Women's Rugby World Cup 2006.

Sevens Rugby is viewed as a key development platform for the women's Game and the Tournament, coupled with the qualifiers that will take place across all six regions in 2008, will ensure that an unprecedented level of women's Rugby Sevens is played over the next two years.

RWC Sevens 2009 – Qualifier Tournaments

FIRA-AER European qualifier (women's)

Limoges : June 14/15

NAWIRA North American and Caribbean qualifier (men's and women's)

Bahamas : October 25/26

ARFU Asian qualifier (men's and women's) : TBC

CAR African qualifier (men's and women's) : TBC

FORU Oceania qualifier (men's and women's) : TBC





Match Officials

Setting the standard

The officiating year was dominated by Rugby World Cup 2007 and a change to the match official selection process which meant that for the first time there were now separate panels for referees and touch judges.

The appointments were made by the IRB's Match Official Selection Committee who met in Dublin in April to review performances of the Elite Referee Panel and make the selections for Rugby World Cup. Following the review, the composition of the referee and touch judge panels were determined for the pool stages of the Tournament.

In total seven nations were represented within the panel with three referees; Wayne Barnes (England), Nigel Owens (Wales) and Marius Jonker (South Africa), making their Rugby World Cup debuts, while Stuart Dickenson, Paul Honiss, Jonathan Kaplan, Steve Walsh and Chris White all attended their third Rugby World Cup.

The standard of officiating was high throughout. After the completion of the pool stages the 13 touch judges returned home with all knock-out matches officiated by the panel

of 12 referees. A memorable Tournament culminated in Alain Rolland (Ireland) taking charge of his first Rugby World Cup Final.

Away from Rugby World Cup

2007 was another busy year on the refereeing front with the IRB Referee Selection Committee appointing Match Officials to Rugby World Cup, the 6 Nations, Tri Nations, June-August Tests, IRB Pacific Nations Cup, IRB Nations Cup, IRB Sevens World Series and the IRB Under 19 World Championship.

The IRB Under 19 World Championship once again proved to be a productive breeding ground for up and coming officiating talent. A panel of 14 referees and four touch judges were selected for the Tournament in Belfast with Sarah Corrigan becoming the first female to officiate at a senior IRB men's 15-a-side Tournament, while 14 Unions were represented within the selection.

The standard of officiating was high throughout with James Jones (Wales) taking charge of the final between New Zealand and South Africa. Once again the Tournament incorporated a thorough development



Dick Byres

programme and a number of the referees went on to gain international appointments during the year at the IRB Nations Cup and IRB Pacific Nations Cup Tournaments.

The IRB Sevens World Series continues to be a pivotal platform for referee development and the 2006/07 series unearthed new talent. Indeed all 12 referees at RWC 2007 had come through the series, highlighting its global stature as a developer of officiating talent as well as playing talent.

The year ended with Dick Byres, one of the IRB's inaugural match official selectors, being recognised for his immense contribution to the IRB and the Game by being awarded the prestigious IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service at the annual IRB Awards in Paris in November.

Record-breaker

Paul Honiss surpassed Derek Bevan's record of 44 internationals to become the world's most-capped referee when he took charge of the Rugby World Cup 2007 Bronze Final between France and Argentina.

Since making his Test debut in a Rugby World Cup qualifier between Tahiti and the Cook Islands in 1997, Honiss has progressed to become one of the world's leading Test referees and a key member of the IRB's Elite Referee Panel. In 2006 he became New Zealand's most capped Test referee, having overhauled Paddy O'Brien's total of 37 Tests.





IRB International Referees Panel

Wayne Barnes (RFU)
 Christophe Berdos (FFR)
 Lyndon Bray (NZRU)
 Kelvin Deaker (NZRU)
 Stuart Dickinson (ARU)
 Paul Honiss (NZRU)
 Marius Jonker (SARU)
 Craig Joubert (SARU)
 Joel Jutge (FFR)
 Jonathan Kaplan (SARU)
 Bryce Lawrence (NZRU)
 Alan Lewis (IRFU)
 Nigel Owens (WRU)
 Dave Pearson (RFU)
 Alain Rolland (IRFU)
 Steve Walsh (NZRU)
 Chris White (RFU)



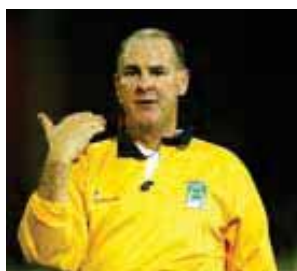
Tony Spreadbury

Retirements

The year also saw Tony Spreadbury (England), Nigel Whitehouse (Wales) and Donal Courtney (Ireland) retire from the international refereeing scene, while George Ayoub (Australia) stepped down from the IRB's Touch Judge Panel.

Spreadbury, who is one of the Game's larger than life characters, has enjoyed an illustrious international career spanning nearly 20 years. Since his international debut in 1990 the Englishman presided over 41 senior Tests matches and was selected for two Rugby World Cups, his final appearance with the whistle coming when he took charge of the RWC 2007 Pool A match between South Africa and USA in Montpellier. He will continue to referee at domestic level.

Whitehouse announced his retirement from the international refereeing scene



Nigel Whitehouse

in February. The Welshman, whose final international appointment came as touch judge for the Ireland versus England Six Nations match in March, made the decision in order to concentrate on his career as a Police Inspector. A loyal servant of the IRB, Whitehouse presided over 19 internationals.

Courtney, whose first international appointment came in 2002, stepped down from officiating at all levels in order to concentrate on work commitments. The Irishman, who refereed 21 Tests, took charge of his final Test when Portugal hosted Uruguay in the RWC 2007 Repechage match.

Referee assessment

All IRB referees are assessed when they take to the field. Last November this process was streamlined and now four selectors and a group of four evaluators who attend (on



Donal Courtney

rotation) all High Performance Union and Performance Union Tests and Age Grade Championships to assess referee performance.

The IRB Referee Selectors Panel consists of Chairman David Pickering, former referees Stephen Hilditch, Michel Lamoulie, Bob Francis, Tappe Henning and coaching representative Kevin Bowring.

At the annual IRB Referee Selection Committee meeting in April appointments are made for the June Test window and the Tri-Nations, while in September the panel meets to select the appointments for the November Tests with the match official appointments for the 6 Nations following at the conclusion of these matches. At these meetings the selectors have at their disposal via the referee database full reports on each referee plus access to the Fair Play analysis system.

IRB Touch Judge/TMO Panel

Peter Allan (SRU)
 George Ayoub (ARU)
 Brett Bowden (ARU)
 David Changleng (SRU)
 Malcolm Changleng (SRU)
 George Clancy (IRFU)
 Federico Cuesta (UAR)
 Carlo Damasco (FIR)
 Rob Debney (RFU)
 Matt Goddard (ARU)
 Tim Hayes (WRU)
 Taizo Hirabayashi (JRFU)
 Mark Lawrence (SARU)
 James Leckie (ARU)
 Paul Marks (ARU)
 Simon McDowell (IRFU)
 Romain Poite (FFR)
 Chris Pollock (NZRU)
 Hugh Watkins (WRU)

Training and Education continues to play an important role in the promotion and growth of the Game on a global scale. In 2007 the IRB consolidated its training portfolio while further enhancing the interactive and web based resources.



In 2007 the IRB launched the IRB Rugby Ready programme to educate, aid and support players, coaches, match officials and Unions on the importance of proper preparation for training and playing while reducing the risk of injury.

Rugby Ready is available in four formats and six languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Russian)

- Handbook
- DVD
- www.irbrugbyready.com website
- Face-to-face course

IRB Administrators Academy

The IRB has recognized the need to provide development opportunities for administrators within Rugby Union and has partnered with the World Academy of Sport to create the IRB Administrators Academy. These courses can be delivered around the world and currently comprises four courses:

- Intensive Event and Administration – five days
- Risk Management and Governance – two days
- Executive Administration – two days
- Athlete Performance Pathway – two days



Education and Training

Global reach

The courses comprise face-to-face courses with visiting fellows, completion of a learning log, delivery of a presentation and then a project back in your own Union. Ongoing competency based assessment occurs throughout. The picture below shows Daniel Mitrea the first graduate from the Athlete Performance Pathway course.

IRB Trainer & Educator courses

IRB development continues at pace. From July 2007 only licensed IRB Trainers and Educators could deliver IRB accreditation courses. This license is renewable on a 3 year basis.

IRB Coaching and Match Official courses

In 2007 the following courses were rewritten:

- Level 1 & 2 Coaching
- Level 1 & 2 Match Official
- Level 1 Coaching of Match Officials

The IRB is working with Unions to provide dual accreditation for candidates who successfully attend IRB courses. Below is an example from Norway.



Generic Resources

Law Book – The IRB Laws of the is now available in six languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese and Russian)

On-line Coaching Resource – This is available at www.irbcoaching.com and available in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

Laws DVD – This interactive tool is available on an annual basis from the IRB in three languages: English, French and Spanish.

Other developments

Talent Identification Programme

This was piloted in 2007 at Stellenbosch University for national level coaches and referees. The 2007 pilot was aimed at African nominations. In 2008 this programme will go worldwide.

Strength and Conditioning Courses

Initial work began in 2008 on developing accreditation for Strength and Conditioning coaches. These courses will begin in 2008.

Numbers of Licensed Trainers and Educators (April '06-Oct '08)

- 81 Trainers
- 132 Coach Educators
- 142 Referee Educators



Daniel Mitrea the first graduate from the Athlete Performance Pathway course



A training session with local children near Port Elizabeth, South Africa

Decision time for the Game's future

IRB Laws Project Group



The Game has never been healthier but it is evolving like many other sports, especially at the elite level. With that in mind the IRB has continued its review into the Laws of the Game with some interesting results.

Last year we reported on the start of the IRB Laws Project Group (LPG) which was looking at a number of experimental law variations (ELVs). Why? Because it is generally agreed that there are some areas of the Game that need reviewing. The Game is quicker, players are stronger and faster, contact is more aggressive and physical, and the advancement of skill levels is putting strain on the Laws themselves in terms of the contest for possession.

The LPG has a number of key objectives that have dictated its approach:

- Make the Game easier and simpler to play, referee and understand
- Make the Game more enjoyable for all
- Players should determine the outcome of matches not the match officials.

Furthermore, it has been clearly stated by the IRB that everything that is being trialled must, and will, relate to the Playing Charter that recognises Rugby as being a game for all shapes and sizes. The IRB has no desire whatsoever to change the traditional fabric of the Game that has made it such a popular international Sport.

Golf, soccer and tennis are just a number of sports that have also recently introduced variation to their rules or laws. Why? Certainly not for the sake of it but because like Rugby these sports are also evolving in terms of interpretation of the rules by coaches and participants, spectator interest, an increase in professional approach of participants at all levels and the need for relevance as the sporting environment changes with time.

With all this in mind the LPG has continued its journey that entails an extensive, practical programme of trials of the ELVs in a number of competitions around the world. It all started in Stellenbosch University in South Africa in its hostel competition back in 2005 but the ELVs have now been trialled in the Scottish Super Cup, English County Championship, Sydney and Brisbane senior club competitions, Australian Rugby Championship and Division B of the NZ national provincial Championship.

The trials have thrown up some interesting results:

- The Game is fundamentally the same Game we know and love
- Matches have similar numbers of set pieces as the present Game
- The scrum is an important element of the Game
- Contest for possession is increased
- The ball is in play longer
- More tries are being scored in some Tournaments
- Positive feedback from players and referees indicating how

much they enjoyed playing under the ELVs

During RWC 2007 in France the LPG met to review the ELVs and to finalise its recommendations to the IRB Rugby Committee (including a new written set of Laws that take into account the ELVs) under whose auspices it operates. The LPG made a presentation to the General Assembly in October in Paris. The Chairman of the Rugby Committee, Bill Beaumont, then tabled the recommendation to the IRB Council and it agreed that the recommendations be sent to all Member Unions for feedback.

Further trials will be conducted in South Africa in 2008 across all levels of competition. These trials will relate to the breakdown (tackle and post tackle area), the maul, the lineout, sanctions, kicking from inside the 22 metre line and the act of scoring in relation to the corner posts. The trials will also enable the IRB to conduct an in-depth injury surveillance audit of 20 clubs and schools, while extensive qualitative feedback will be obtained from players, coaches and referees.

Specific ELVs will also be trialled during the 2008 Super 14 competition. Variations adopted by SANZAR relate to the corner posts, lineout, offside at the breakdown, scrum, sanctions and kicking from inside the 22 metre line.

Currently all Member Unions have been sent information on the ELVs including analysis of the previous trials and the

merits of each law variation. The Unions' feedback along with a comprehensive report including recommendations from the LPG on the ELVs will then be presented to the IRB Council in November. Council will then decide at the meeting whether to accept all or some of the ELVs or to amend them. If it votes to accept all or some of them they will be implemented worldwide for a period of 12 months, before the ELVs can be accepted fully into Law at the end of this trial period in 2009.

IRB Law Project Group

Dr Syd Millar (Chairman IRB)
Bill Beaumont (Vice Chairman IRB, Chairman Rugby Committee)
Bill Nolan (IRB Council, Chair LPG)
Rod Macqueen (former Wallaby coach)
Pierre Villepreux (former international and French coach)
Richie Dixon (former Scotland coach)
Ian McIntosh (former Springbok coach)
Graham Mourie (former international and coach)
Paddy O'Brien (IRB Referee Manager)
Bruce Cook (IRB Development Manager)
Dr Mick Molloy (IRB Medical Officer)
Steve Griffiths (IRB Strategic Operations Manager)
Greg Thomas (IRB Head Communications)

General

- Penalty kicks will only be given for offside, foul play and deliberate or persistent infringements. All other kicks will be free kicks
- Corner posts are no longer considered to be touch in-goal – players may place the ball for a try if in the air
- When a defending player passes or takes ball back into 22 if the ball is then kicked directly into touch the lineout is in line with where the ball was kicked, but if a tackle/ruck/maul is subsequently formed and the ball is then kicked directly into touch, the lineout is where the ball crossed the touchline

Tackle/post tackle area

- The introduction of the offside line at the tackle to protect the ball when players play the ball outside of contact
- Players entering the tackle/post tackle area must do so through the gate
- If the ball is unplayable the side that did not take the ball into contact will receive a tap kick
- The ball may be played with feet or hands provided the player is on his feet
- Only two penalty offences: offside for not coming through gate; offside where defenders are in front of the last man on their side of the tackle/post tackle or deliberate or persistent infringements
- All free kicks have option of scrum or any type of kick

Maul

- Defending players can pull down the maul
- Players joining maul must do so through the gate which is in current law but needed to be emphasised

Scrum

- The offside line for defending a scrum will be set at five metres behind the hindmost foot

Lineout

- A quick throw can be thrown straight or backwards towards the defenders goal line, but not forward
- Receiver must stand two metres from the lineout
- Non-throwing hooker does not have to stand between the 5-metre line and touch line. He must conform to law wherever he stands
- No maximum number of players in lineout but must be minimum of two
- No team determines number in the lineout

Breaking new ground in player welfare

The IRB continues to take the area of player welfare extremely seriously and has a responsibility to develop best practice medical guidelines and programmes for all levels of the Game. This extensive research, which is underpinned by the IRB's US\$50 million global strategic investment programme, continued to gain momentum in 2007.

IRB Medical Advisory Committee

The Medical Advisory Committee is responsible for advising the IRB on all Rugby and medical related matters and, in particular to identify medical needs and concerns of Unions and to recommend appropriate remedial measures, maintain a watching brief and reports on developments within Sports Medicine and recommend on matters referred to it by the IRB's Medical Officer, Dr. Mick Molloy, Council or the Executive Committee.

Proactive Safety Analysis

- In 2006 the IRB Medical Committee established the Game's first ever consensus document for global injury definition and data collection. This will improve the collation

and analysis of injury research data. For the first time ever it is now possible to compare on a global scale one set of injury statistics with another. The document, the most comprehensive ever produced in its field, was published in the BJSM and the CJSM in June 2007.

- The Medical Advisory Committee worked closely with IRB Laws Project Group (LPG) on the effects of the IRB's Experimental Law Variations (ELVs) which were extensively trialled at differing levels of the Game during 2007.
- The Committee also worked closely with the LPG on investigating the tackle and post-tackle area in terms of safety. The IRB tackle injury survey was carried out jointly with the RFU and UNSW and will be completed in July 2008 and publication. It will be the largest ever study into injuries sustained in the tackle area.
- Full medical research was undertaken at all IRB Tournaments during the year including the IRB Under 19 World Championship, IRB Nations Cup and Rugby World Cup. As a result of the research the Medical Advisory Committee will conduct an in depth study into rest days between matches. This will be performed during the

inaugural IRB Junior World Championship in Wales in June 2008 and will form the basis of a Rest and Recovery guideline document.

- Artificial surface injury surveys were ongoing during the year. The surveys were conducted in England and Hong Kong, and will continue in 2008.



The IRB Rugby Ready programme was launched in October 2007 with the aim of educating, aiding and supporting players, coaches, match officials and Unions on the importance of adequate preparation for training and playing in order for players to enjoy Rugby to the fullest while reducing the risk of injury.

The programme follows in the footsteps of the Rugby Smart and Smart Rugby programmes, successfully delivered in New Zealand and Australia, and is intended to provide a global education resource for the Game's stakeholders in the important areas of discipline, match preparation, correct technique, injury prevention and injury management.

The provision of a multi-lingual programme delivered online at www.irbrugbyready.com, in print and in the form of a DVD will ensure that Rugby Ready is available to a global audience ensuring that with a better understanding of these key areas players, coaches, match officials and administrators can enjoy their Rugby even more.

IRB and IRPA

At Rugby World Cup in October the IRB and the International Rugby Players Association signed a historic Memorandum of Understanding to ensure greater dialogue on matters of importance to professional players and the Game including Player Welfare and Medical issues.

Rugby Tackling Obesity

The IRB had its Rugby Tackling Obesity – A Holistic Approach document published in the Commonwealth Ministers' and Commonwealth Heads of State handbooks. The document outlines how Rugby, being a Game for all shapes and sizes, brings together a variety of physical, mental and social skills to promote a healthy, active lifestyle and to tackle the issue of obesity.





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Expanding the portfolio

During 2007 the IRB launched a record number of publications designed to educate, assist and inform.



IRB World Rugby Yearbook 2008

The biggest-ever edition of the IRB's popular World Rugby Yearbook was launched at the Emirates Airline Dubai Sevens in November 2007. Expanded from 570 to 640 pages, the 2008 edition, edited by Paul Morgan, retains the successful blend of statistical information, analysis, comment and Tournament reviews that proved popular in the 2007 edition, but also features a comprehensive Rugby World Cup 2007 section, reviewing what proved to be a memorable Tournament, and profiling each of the 20 participating teams.

The incredibly useful statistics from John Griffiths and Hugh Copping are more detailed than ever before, while there are also profiles of the five nominees for the prestigious IRB Player of the Year Award.

The IRB World Rugby Yearbook 2008 is available from major bookstores in the UK, Ireland, Australia, South Africa, New Zealand and parts of continental Europe and can also be purchased directly through the publisher's website at www.visionsp.co.uk.

IRB Handbook

Published annually, the IRB Handbook incorporates the Regulations relating to the Game, the Bye-Laws and the General Regulations of the IRB. It is updated each year to include amendments to Representatives to Council and Members of its Committees.

The IRB Handbook provides a valuable service for IRB Member Unions by detailing the IRB Tours Agreement that may be used as a template for the preparation and organisation of international tours or matches by Host Unions or Rugby bodies.

The Regulations and Bye Laws including those relating to the Game are also included in the Handbook, including those relating to Anti-doping and foul play sanctions. The publication is available in English, French and Spanish and the Regulations and Bye Laws can also be viewed and downloaded at www.irb.com.

The Laws of the Game

Chinese, Japanese and Russian versions of the official Laws of the Game, including the Playing Charter, were added to the publishing inventory in 2007. The document is now published in seven languages worldwide.

The book, which is produced in an easy to carry format, also includes the complete set of Referee and Touch Judge signals and the standard set of variations appropriate to Age Grade and Sevens Rugby.

The IRB produces around 54,000 copies annually and provides its Member Unions with a number of copies produced in the relevant language.

The Laws of the Game and the Playing Charter can also be viewed and downloaded through www.irb.com.

A guide to the IRB

Launched in 2006, the second edition of A Guide to the IRB was published in June 2007. Designed to give a flavour of the structure, objectives and work of the IRB, the publication provides a useful starting point for Member Unions, and the media and outside parties alike.

Distributed free of charge at significant events, A Guide to the IRB contains useful information on the history of the IRB, its objectives and initiatives, membership structure competitions, Tournaments, organisation structure, and staff contacts.

A Guide to the IRB is printed in the IRB's three official languages: English, French and Spanish.

Total Rugby – The Road to Rugby World Cup 2007

The IRB produced a free Rugby World Cup 2007 preview magazine chronicling the road to France 2007, providing an overview of the qualification process that began in 2004 and detailing each of the 20 participating teams.

The publication was distributed throughout the 12 match venues at the Tournament as well as the through the IRB's Member Unions.

RWC 2007 Match Programmes

A dedicated unique match programme was produced for each of the 48 Rugby World Cup 2007 matches.

Produced by UK based design house Cre8, the publications featured dual language for the first time, with French language articles sitting alongside the English features. Despite the French market holding a reputation as being notoriously hard to crack, the match programmes garnered excellent sales across the Tournament, including the full allocation of programmes being bought for the England v South Africa final.

For the first time supporters were able to order their selection of programmes online via the www.irb.com website, with the option of individual matches, pools, teams and complete Tournament box sets available.

RWC Licensed publications

The IRB, through IMG, licensed a number of official Rugby World Cup 2007 related publications, including official preview magazines in the UK, France, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia.

Publications online

IRB Game Analysis

A Guide to the IRB

IRB Year in Review 2007

IRB Scrum and Tackle DVD

IRB Union and Administration Best Practice

IRB Coach's Diary

IRB Sevens Rugby Coaching Manual

IRB Refereeing in Practice

IRB World Rankings

Several years research went into developing the system, using an extensive database of international matches going back to 1871. During 2007 the weightings and values were derived from detailed analysis of the results.

The system's reliability is assured in a number of objective ways, including measuring its Predictive Accuracy. If over a period of time the Rankings system becomes pretty good at predicting which side will win each international match, then we can be confident that it is presenting an accurate and reliable picture of current strength, and responding appropriately to changes in form.

How the IRB World Rankings are calculated

Started in 2003, the IRB World Rankings are published every week on www.irb.com and are calculated using a 'points exchange' system, in which teams take points off each other based on the match result. Whatever one side gains, the other loses. The exchanges are based on the match result, the relative strength of the team, and the margin of victory. There is also an allowance for home advantage.

Points exchanges are doubled during the Rugby World Cup to recognise the unique stature of the Tournament, but all other full international matches are treated the same, to be as fair as possible to countries playing a differing mix of friendly and competitive matches across the world.

All IRB Member Unions have a rating, typically between 0 and 100. The top side in the world will usually have a rating

Position (change in ranking during 2007)		Rating Points
1 (▲4)	South Africa	90.81
2 (▼1)	New Zealand	89.59
3 (▲3)	Argentina	87.42
4 (▲3)	England	85.55
5 (▼2)	Australia	84.20
6 (▼4)	France	80.32
7 (▼2)	Ireland	78.50
8 (▲1)	Scotland	76.73
9 (▲2)	Fiji	75.88
10 (▼2)	Wales	74.17
11 (▲1)	Italy	73.48
12 (▼2)	Samoa	71.61
13 (▲3)	Tonga	71.51
14 (-)	Canada	67.25
15 (-)	Romania	66.73
16 (▲1)	Georgia	66.42
17 (▲3)	Russia	65.88
18 (-)	Japan	65.35
19 (▼6)	USA	64.68
20 (▼1)	Uruguay	63.18
21 (▲4)	Spain	62.30
22 (▼1)	Portugal	60.17
23 (▼1)	Korea	57.99
24 (-)	Chile	57.07
25 (▼2)	Namibia	56.82
26 (▲1)	Germany	56.57
27 (▲3)	Hong Kong	54.64
28 (▲5)	Belgium	54.58
29 (▲6)	Moldova	54.45
30 (▼4)	Morocco	54.14
31 (▼2)	Paraguay	53.82
32 (▲14)	Kazakhstan	52.88
33 (▲2)	Brazil	52.55
34 (▼6)	Czech Republic	51.92
35 (▼3)	Tunisia	51.58
36 (-)	Poland	51.43
37 (▼6)	Ukraine	50.23
38 (▲12)	Uganda	50.22
39 (▲3)	Sweden	49.95
40 (▲9)	China	49.92
41 (▲6)	Madagascar	49.80
42 (▼2)	Kenya	49.29
43 (▲2)	Ivory Coast	49.19
44 (▼6)	Croatia	48.64
45 (▼8)	Latvia	48.39
46 (▼8)	Netherlands	47.78
47 (▼4)	Arabian Gulf	47.32
48 (▼6)	Chinese Taipei	47.14
49 (▲3)	Cook Islands	45.87
50 (▲5)	Malta	45.72

The IRB World Rankings are an integral part of the international Rugby calendar. Published weekly on www.irb.com the Rankings have become the sole authority on the form of Test teams and are heavily used by the Rugby community, including the media.

above 90. Any match that is not a full international between the two countries (eg. British and Irish Lions Tour matches, Barbarians matches or Pacific Islands matches) does not count at all.

South Africa On Top of the World

South Africa claimed top spot in the IRB World Rankings for the first time courtesy of a winning run that culminated in Jake White's side lifting the Webb Ellis Trophy in France. In doing so, the Springboks ended New Zealand's 40 month reign at the top.

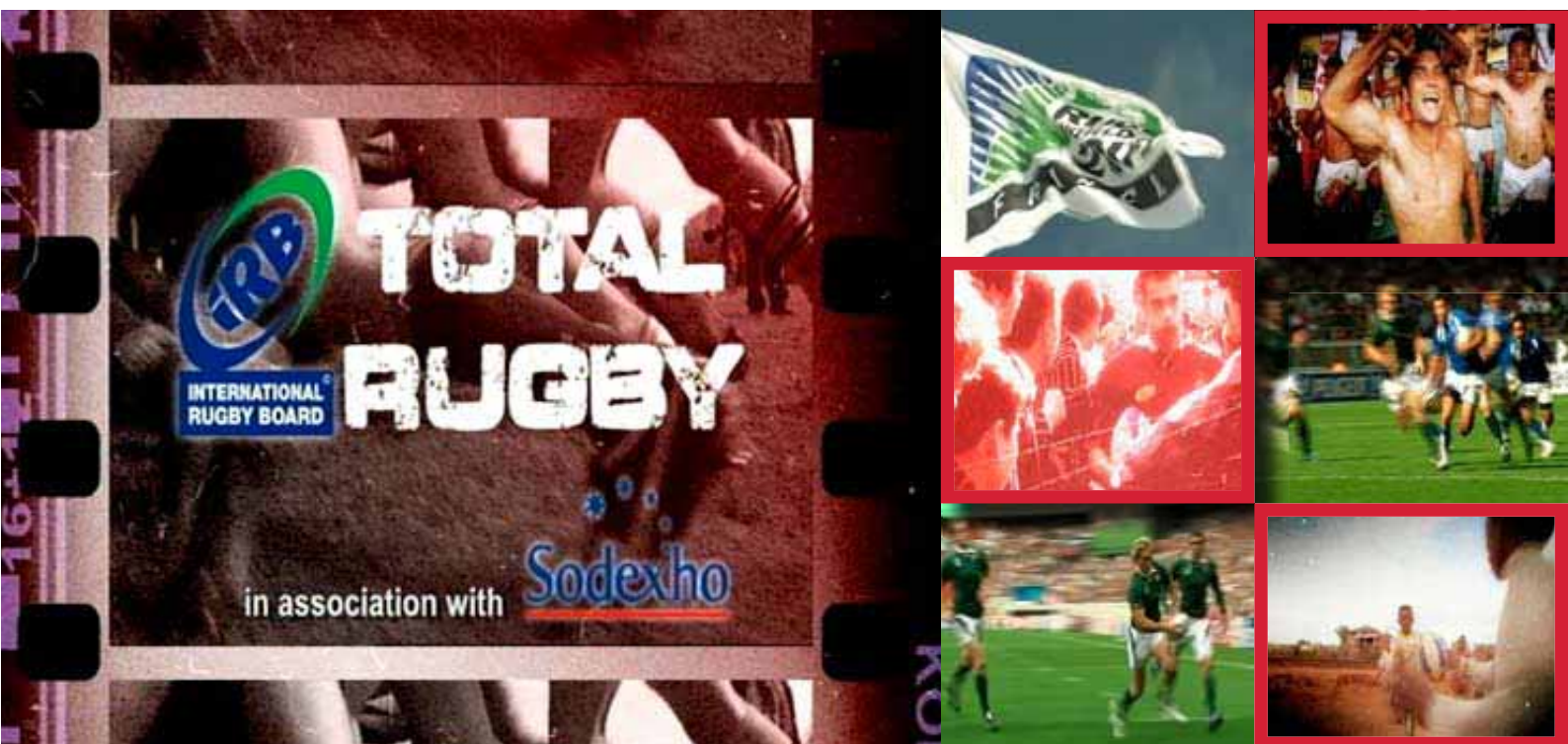


With Rankings points significantly increased during RWC, the Tournament proved instrumental in shaping the end of year Rankings. While Rugby World Cup 2007 proved to be gripping throughout, the closeness of the competition was reflected in the Rankings where there were some notable movers during the Tournament.

Argentina, announced their arrival as a major contender on the world stage by reaching the semi-finals for the first time and their winning run, which included notable victories over France (twice) and Ireland saw them end the year third, their highest-ever IRB World Rankings position. Another notable climber was England who climbed to fourth.

Fiji were valiant in reaching the quarter-finals and their success on the pitch was reflected in their Rankings elevation into the top 10 for the first time since 2005, while Tonga, who started RWC in sixteenth after an abject IRB Pacific Nations Cup campaign, climbed three places to thirteenth after a first victory over rivals Samoa in a decade.

Away from Rugby World Cup there was much jostling for position during an action-packed year that included the FIRA-AER Championship, IRB Nations Cup, IRB Pacific Nations Cup and CAR Africa Cup. Spain continued their progress on the European stage, moving up to twenty-first, while Russia's victory over Romania in Bucharest in November saw Claude Saurel's side elevated to an all time high of 17th. Finland moved off the bottom of the table for the first time, swapping with Bosnia and Herzegovina.



Total Rugby

Total Rugby completed its third year having substantially increased the distribution and penetration of both the TV and Radio programmes. The weekly television show, sponsored by Sodexho, is now being shown in over 120 countries with a home reach of 172 million.

Total Rugby Radio is broadcast in over 80 countries each week by over 200 stations, including the far reaching BBC World Service and Radio Australia. The programme also ranks amongst the top sport podcast downloads on iTunes, and can be heard on many of the member Union websites.

During the year, Total Rugby once again covered the Game at all levels and in its many forms. The half hour TV and radio

programmes featured action and stories from every region in which the Game is played.

Total Rugby TV

As a result of the staging of Rugby World Cup, there was a reduction in the number of programmes in 2007, from 44 the previous year to 41, the last show in the series going out two and half weeks after the RWC Final. Throughout the RWC qualifying period, Total Rugby featured 48 qualifying matches from all five regions.

The build up to the RWC finals in France began more than four months before the Tournament, with features each week on a wide and diverse range of Rugby World Cup related topics, involving players past and present, administrators, referees, fans and sponsors, and drawing heavily on the RWC archive.

Throughout the year, the Total Rugby production team

produced a range of additional RWC programming for general distribution, including two one-hour historical documentaries looking back over 20 years of the Tournament. The package also included three 30 minute programmes entitled The Road to France 2007 featuring the teams engaged in the qualifying process.

Floyd in France was the title of another Total Rugby production which went out on the UK's ITV1 Saturday Cooks programme on three consecutive weeks during the Tournament. The shows were sponsored by Sodexho and featured the TV chef and Rugby devotee, Keith Floyd, in three different locations – Toulouse, Cassis, and Paris – cooking his favourite French dishes, in the company of rugby personalities such as Matt Dawson, Joe Roff, Dan Luger and members of Stade Toulouse.

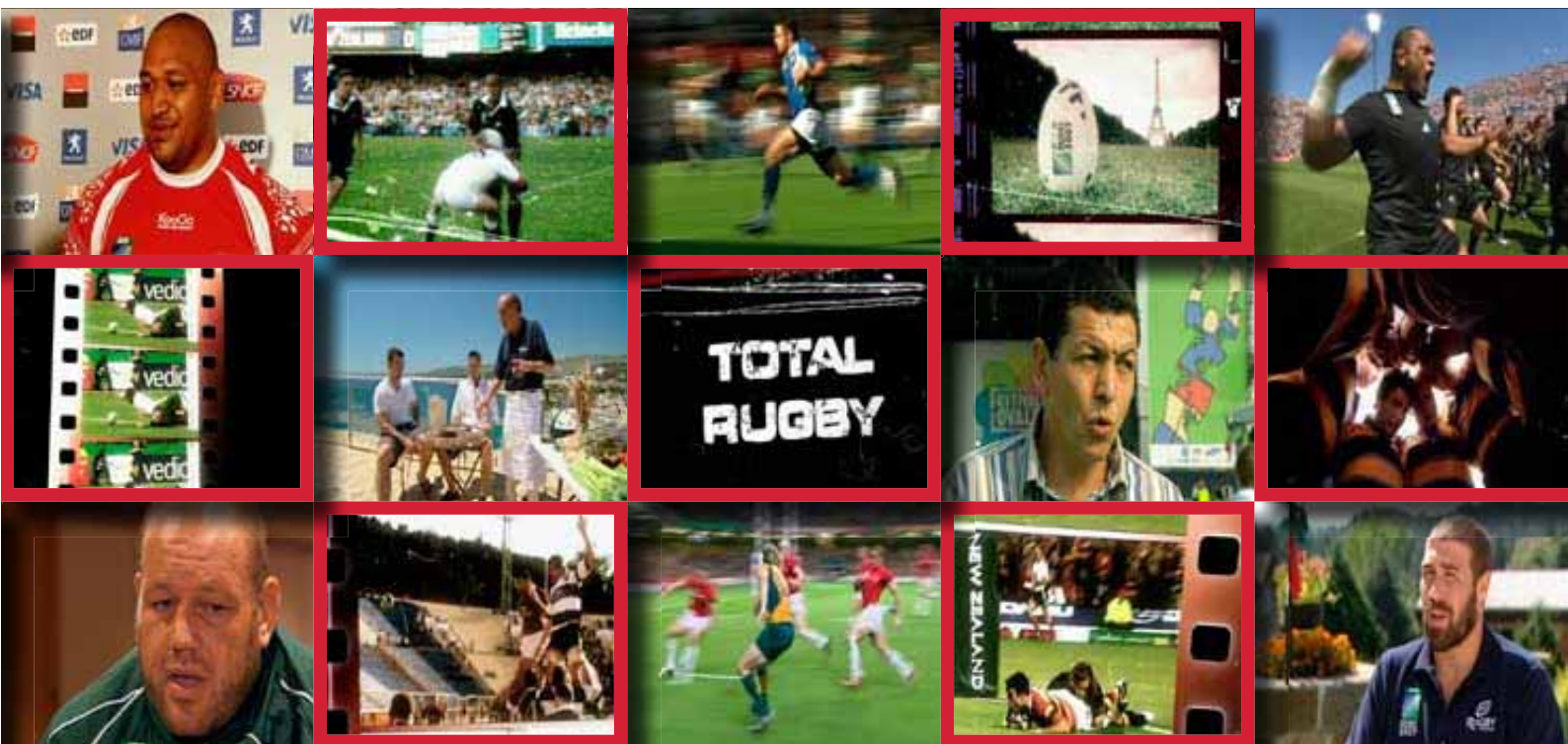
Total Rugby also produced the clips and inserts for the IRB Awards ceremony, together with a number of promotional dvds on IRB events and Tournaments leading into RWC.

Details of the TV distribution, together with the broadcast schedule can be found on www.irb.com

Total Rugby Radio

The programme goes out, free of charge to broadcasters, 52 weeks a year, and in addition to reworking the material featured on the TV show, it initiates a large amount of original material.

Throughout the Rugby World Cup, and in addition to the regular weekly slots, a half hour radio programme was produced on every match day, containing reports, interviews, features and previews. The show was taken by all the existing radio stations and podcast outlets world wide, and was broadcast on the RWC



Giving Rugby global coverage

website. Furthermore, any Member Unions wanting to access the programme could receive it for their websites.

Total Rugby also supplied a significant amount of interview and feature material for the RWC Radio World Feed which broadcast live commentary on all 48 matches. The commentaries were broadcast to radio stations world wide, on the RWC website and, via the Event Radio Receivers, to spectators at all the RWC venues.

During the Tournament, Total Rugby Radio could be heard in over 150 countries, and with the simulcasting of the programmes via the official websites and the internet, the estimated audience reach was in excess of 500 million listeners.

For more information on accessing Total Rugby Radio either via the web, by podcast or from broadcast, contact radio@irb.com.

Total Rugby TV			2007 Distribution		
Territory	Broadcaster	Home Reach	Territory	Broadcaster	Home Reach
Middle East	Showtime	250,000	Singapore	Starhub	270,600
India	Neo Sports	25,000,000	Malaysia	Astro	1,100,000
South Africa	Supersport	1,269,000	Wales	S4C	1,106,000
France	Eurosport	6,367,000	Russia	7TV	35,000,000
Romania	TV Sport	2,400,000	Brazil	ESPN	2,400,000
United Kingdom	BSkyB	11,145,000	Bulgaria	Ring+	1,500,000
Canada	Global TV	1,000,000	Portugal	Sport TV	450,000
Poland	Polsat	1,400,000	Japan	J Sports	4,200,000
Italy	Sport Italia	18,000,000	Georgia	Rustavi 2	1,224,355
South America (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, Bolivia, Chile)	ESPN Sur	4,704,000	Fiji	Fiji TV	1,230,000
Central America (Caribbean, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador, Mexico)	ESPN Dos	3,300,000	China	Eurosoccer Channel	20,000
Australia	Fox Sports	1,500,000	Kenya	KTN	n/a
United States	Setanta BT	600,000	Israel	EGO	600,000
New Zealand	Sky NZ	548,041	Czech Republic	Czech TV	3,800,000
			Albania	Supersport	2,000,000
			TOTAL		137,383,996

IRB online

Record traffic, new-look sites and new services

Site improvements

The IRB online properties moved to a new platform during 2007, offering better functionality and a more robust hosting infrastructure.

Along with developments behind-the-scenes, the look and feel of the front-end has also been improved. Member Union pages are a prime example, listing recent news stories, fixtures and results, the Union's position in the IRB World Rankings, as well as a link to the Union's own website and key contact information.

All IRB Tournament websites, bar rugbyworldcup.com, are now accessed directly through irb.com.

The Rugby Services department has created a number of new online training platforms, including a personal training and education resource called Rugby Ready.

Record traffic – irb.com and rugbyworldcup.com

[Irb.com](http://irb.com) received over seven million page impressions in 2007, compared to five million in 2006. The IRB Sevens World Series 2006/07 site saw a 14% increase in traffic compared to the previous season, culminating in 17,500 visits on the thrilling final day's action of the IRB Sevens World Series in Scotland.

Rugbyworldcup.com, the official website of Rugby World Cup 2007, proved a massive hit with over 150 million page impressions during the Tournament, an increase of 25% compared to RWC 2003. The site offered unrivalled team and match coverage, with over 250,000 people logging on to follow the live rugby tracker during the opening game between France and Argentina.



Media Zone

The Media Zone section of rugbyworldcup.com also proved a big success, offering accredited media a news and quotes service, SMS and email alerts, a calendar of all teams' activities and enhanced match, team and player statistics. Each member of the accredited media accessed the service on average four times per week during the Tournament.

The content for the website and the Media Zone was generated by a team of 60 journalists and 35 volunteers, many of whom were with the teams in France, Cardiff and Edinburgh.

Future developments

The IRB is now developing a dedicated audio visual platform following a thorough testing process of free highlights, paid for coverage and paid for highlights during a number of IRB Tournaments. This will increase coverage of IRB Tournaments, provide training and laws educational resources and make use of the IRB's extensive video archive.

We are also looking at ways of sending users more effectively to Member Union websites, including integration of Union RSS feeds on the irb.com Member Union homepage.

New-look irb.com homepage

IRB Sevens article integrated into irb.com

rugbyworldcup.com with the opening game rugby tracker





IRB Hall of Fame

2007 Inductees

The IRB Hall of Fame was established to chronicle the achievements and the special contribution of Rugby's players, coaches, administrators, match officials and individuals.

The process for the 2007 inductees was far more comprehensive than the inaugural year in 2006, including for the first time a worldwide process of online consultation with the Rugby public. Three lists of candidates from the 19th, 20th and 21st century, compiled by the IRB Hall of Fame Secretariat as well as a number of public submissions were posted on www.irb.com for consideration. Following a public vote, a shortlist of Hall of Fame finalists was drafted to be considered by the Induction Committee, at the end of August 2007.

The extraordinary range of personalities short listed for the 19th century illustrates the difficulty faced by the Committee in making a choice from this formative period. The Committee looked at Thomas Hughes, the author of the immortal novel *Tom Brown School Days* one of the biggest bestsellers of the 19th century, which played a huge part in shaping the public image of Rugby; Francis Maule Campbell, of Blackheath FC who led the 1863 walkout of the Rugby clubs from the historic meeting that led to the formation of the Football Association, preserving



as such the Rugby code as a separate football entity.

Also considered were former Old Marlburians Albert St. George Hamersley, one of the twenty 1871 England originals and captain of the 1874 England team who became one of the pioneers of the Game in New Zealand and Canada, and his 1874 England team mate William (Sir) Henry Milton, regarded as the man who decisively swung the tide in favour of Rugby Union rules in South Africa (Cape Town). Former Wales captain Arthur Gould, probably the first superstar of the Game, whose career spanned 16 seasons was a strong candidate as well as the butcher apprentice from the Borders of Scotland Ned Haig, the founder of the Sevens Game, were also considered.

However, after a considerable debate the Committee decided to elect Baron Pierre de Coubertin, whose Olympic vision was matched by his passion for Rugby. De Coubertin became an active player and promoter of the Game after his first visit to Rugby School at the age of 25. He succeeded in introducing the Game into several schools

in Paris, securing its long term future in France and commissioned the Bouclier de Brennus, the trophy that rewards the winner of the French club Championship, the first final of which he refereed in 1892.

The same difficulties faced the Committee when dealing with the candidates from the 20th century, a period of enormous significance for the growth of Rugby into a global Game. The candidates encompassing a huge range of personalities from different eras included Dr Daniel Hartman Craven of South Africa, former Wales captains Bleddyn Williams and Gareth Edwards, British Lions skipper Willie John McBride, New Zealand captain Sir Wilson Whineray and Canada's most famous player and captain, Gareth Rees.



Gareth Edwards



In the end, the Committee chose Dr. Danie Craven, whose playing, coaching, teaching and administrative career straddled seven decades of the century; Gareth Edwards of Wales, arguably the world's best known player and Sir Wilson Whineray, knighted for his services to Rugby, and his achievements as New Zealand captain.

From the four candidates from the 21st century, John Eales of Australia, Jason Leonard of England, Philippe Sella of France and Uruguay's Diego Ormaechea, the Committee voted unanimously for the former Wallaby captain. The Brothers and Queensland lock forward established himself as one of the leading players in his position in the world by winning two Rugby World Cup winners medals, one as captain in 1999.



John Eales

The inductees were unveiled at the IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline, held on October 21 at the Pavillon D'Armenonville in Paris.





IRB Awards 2007

South Africa

The 2007 IRB Awards, in association with Emirates Airline, provided a fitting finale to what was a memorable Rugby World Cup with the Game's great and good coming together for an occasion of celebration, reflection and acknowledgement.

The IRB Awards has grown to become the glittering climax to the Rugby year it recognises excellence in all facets of the Game from playing, coaching and officiating to administration and development. The Awards also recognise those who demonstrate the qualities which forge the fellowship and sportsmanship so important to the Game.

The seventh annual IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline was held at the picturesque Pavilion

D'Armenonville in the heart of Paris the evening after the Rugby World Cup final. The festival atmosphere that made the Tournament so memorable, was evident for the 700 guests in attendance.

Twelve categories of awards were presented, including the prestigious IRB Player of the Year, IRB Coach of the Year and IRB Team of the Year, IRB Sevens Player of the Year, IRB Sevens Team of the Year and IRB Women's Personality of the Year.

The awards also recognised the best up and coming talent with the IRB Under 19 Player of the Year award, while there was also the special Spirit of Rugby award honouring outstanding contribution to the Game.

The event also incorporated two new awards; the IRPA Try of the Year and IRPA Special Merit Award, products of the historic Memorandum of Understanding signed between IRPA and the IRB during Rugby



Bryan Habana, IRB
Player of the Year 2007



The triumphant Springboks



Nicolas Pueta



Jose Maria Epaiza



Robert Fruean



Afeleke Pelenise



Jacob Thompson



Sarah Corrigan



Gordon Tietjens



Dick Byres

steal the show

World Cup – a move which highlights the IRB's intention to forge strong relationships with the major stakeholders in the Game.

The nominees for the IRB Player of the Year, Coach of the Year and Team of the Year were considered by the Awards' independent panel of judges comprised of former internationals with over 500 caps between them – Michael Jones, Gavin Hastings, Jonathan Davies, Dan Lyle, Francois Pienaar, Keith Wood, Frederico Mendez and convenor John Eales.

The result reflected South Africa's Rugby World Cup triumph and a clean sweep for the Springboks with Jake White claiming Coach of the Year, South Africa Team of the Year and the prolific Bryan Habana Player of the Year.

Other winners on the night included New Zealand as IRB Sevens Team of the Year, New Zealand's Afeleke Pelenise

as IRB Sevens Player of the Year, Australian Referee Sarah Corrigan as Women's Personality of the Year and New Zealand's Robert Fruean as IRB Under 19 Player of the Year. The IRPA Try of the Year, a closely fought contest, was won by USA's Takudzwa Ngwenya.

Of course the IRB Awards also recognises those who have excelled off the field. The IRPA Special Merit Award was won by France's evergreen second row Fabian Pelous, while the Vernon Pugh Award for Distinguished Service went to Jose Maria Epalza. The IRB Development Award was given to Jacob Thompson, the IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service went to Dick Byres, and the Spirit of Rugby Award was presented to Argentinian Nicolas Pueta whose love of the Game sees him continue to play Rugby despite having only one normal leg.

IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline 2007 WINNERS



IRB Player of the Year : **Bryan Habana, South Africa**

IRB Team of the Year : **South Africa**

IRB Coach of the Year : **Jake White, South Africa**

IRB Under 19 Player of the Year : **Robert Fruean, New Zealand**

IRB Sevens Team of the Year : **New Zealand**

IRB Sevens Player of the Year : **Afeleke Pelenise, New Zealand**

IRB Women's Personality of the Year : **Sarah Corrigan**

IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service : **Dick Byres**

Vernon Pugh Award for Distinguished Service : **Jose Maria Epalza**

IRB Development Award : **Jacob Thompson**

Spirit of Rugby Award : **Nicolas Pueta**

IRPA Try of the Year : **Takudzwa Ngwenya, USA**

IRPA Special Merit Award : **Fabien Pelous, France**

IRB Hall of Fame inductees : **Baron Pierre de Coubertin, Wilson Whineary, Dr Danie Craven, Gareth Edwards, John Eales**

Member Unions and Regional Associations

Union (Entry Year)	Players
1 Andorra (1991)	239
2 Armenia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
3 Austria (1992)	1,135
4 Azerbaijan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
5 Belgium (1988)	7,561
6 Bosnia & Herzegovina (1996)	835
7 Bulgaria (1992)	2,732
8 Croatia (1992)	1,947
9 Czech Republic (1988)	4,081
10 Denmark (1988)	2,093
11 England (1890)	2,196,134
12 Finland (2001)	402
13 France (1978)	224,115
14 Georgia (1992)	2,945
15 Germany (1988)	8,728
16 Hungary (1991)	2,000
17 Ireland (1886)	114,627
18 Israel (1988)	620
19 Italy (1987)	45,376
20 Latvia (1991)	440
21 Lithuania (1992)	1,969
22 Luxembourg (1991)	2,753
23 Malta (2000)	2,503
24 Moldova (1994)	1,725
25 Monaco (1998)	130
26 Netherlands (1988)	7,814
27 Norway (1993)	461
28 Poland (1988)	4,475
29 Portugal (1988)	4,588
30 Romania (1987)	7,535
31 Russia (1990)	13,505
32 Scotland (1886)	24,905
33 Serbia (1988)	2,436
34 Slovenia (1996)	1,040
35 Spain (1988)	17,859
36 Sweden (1988)	3,091
37 Switzerland (1988)	1,468
38 Ukraine (1992)	3,185
39 Wales (1886)	42,000

Union (Entry Year)	Players
40 Botswana (1994)	2,763
41 Burundi (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
42 Cameroon (1999)	2,819
43 Ghana (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
44 Ivory Coast (1988)	10,903
45 Kenya (1990)	28,065
46 Madagascar (1998)	14,380
47 Mali (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
48 Mauritania (2003)	<i>Associate Member</i>
49 Mauritius (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
50 Morocco (1988)	4,672
51 Namibia (1990)	12,996
52 Nigeria (2001)	7,441
53 Rwanda (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
54 Senegal (1999)	1,599
55 South Africa (1949)	478,920
56 Swaziland (1998)	2,878
57 Tanzania (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
58 Togo (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
59 Tunisia (1988)	11,835
60 Uganda (1997)	8,487
61 Zambia (1995)	3,650
62 Zimbabwe (1987)	8,302

Union (Entry Year)	Players
71 Bahamas (1994)	732
72 Barbados (1995)	184
73 Bermuda (1992)	697
74 Brit. Virgin Islands (2001)	<i>Associate Member</i>
75 Canada (1987)	13,207
76 Cayman Islands (1997)	2,945
77 Guyana (1995)	848
78 Jamaica (1996)	20,945
79 Mexico (2006)	947
80 St Lucia (1996)	<i>Associate Member</i>
81 St Vincent and the Grenadines (2001)	795
82 Trinidad & Tobago (1992)	3,921
83 United States (1987)	67,398

FIRA-AER

37 Member Unions 2 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	2,759,455
World Playing Population Percentage	65%
World Population Percentage	11%

CAR

15 Member Unions 8 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	599,710
World Playing Population Percentage	14%
World Population Percentage	13.8%

NAWIRA

11 Member Unions 2 Associate Union

Region Playing Numbers	112,619
World Playing Population Percentage	2.7%
World Population Percentage	7.2%

95 Member Unions

20 Associate Member Unions

4,241,094

Playing the Game Worldwide

Union (Entry Year)

Union (Entry Year)	Players
63 Argentina (1987)	79,348
64 Brazil (1995)	2,917
65 Chile (1991)	16,658
66 Colombia (1999)	2,365
67 Paraguay (1989)	4,005
68 Peru (1999)	560
69 Uruguay (1989)	4,519
70 Venezuela (1998)	2,150

Union (Entry Year)

Union (Entry Year)	Players
84 Arabian Gulf (1990)	3,215
85 Cambodia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
86 China, People's Republic of (1997)	3,880
87 Chinese Taipei (1988)	4,610
88 Guam (1998)	570
89 Hong Kong (1988)	9,230
90 India (1999)	17,650
91 Japan (1987)	125,004
92 Kazakhstan (1997)	4,670
93 Korea (1988)	2,282
94 Kyrgyzstan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
95 Lao (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
96 Malaysia (1988)	29,613
97 Mongolia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
98 Pakistan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
99 Philippines (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
100 Singapore (1989)	8,650
101 Sri Lanka (1988)	121,938
102 Thailand (1989)	14,175
103 Uzbekistan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>

Union (Entry Year)

Union (Entry Year)	Players
104 American Samoa (2005)	<i>Associate Member</i>
105 Australia (1949)	102,735
106 Cook Islands (1995)	1,510
107 Fiji (1987)	26,374
108 New Zealand (1949)	134,647
109 Niue Island (1999)	420
110 Papua New Guinea (1993)	7,650
111 Samoa (1988)	22,609
112 Solomon Islands (1999)	3,157
113 Tahiti (1994)	1,872
114 Tonga (1987)	8,302
115 Vanuatu (1999)	2,025

CONSUR

8 Member Unions

Region Playing Numbers	112,522
World Playing Population Percentage	2.7%
World Population Percentage	8%

ARFU

13 Member Unions 7 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	345,487
World Playing Population Percentage	8.2%
World Population Percentage	59%

FORU

11 Member Unions 1 Associate Union

Region Playing Numbers	311,301
World Playing Population Percentage	7.4%
World Population Percentage	1%

A photograph of Bernard Lapasset, a man with glasses and a dark suit, standing on a grand staircase with ornate metal railings. He is looking towards the camera with a slight smile. The background shows the interior of a large building with high ceilings and warm lighting.

Bernard Lapasset

**A message from
the new Chairman**

Looking ahead

This message, my first since being elected IRB Chairman, marks for me the start of a new personal challenge. It was in 1991 that I was first elected to the IRB as a Council Member representing the FFR and to be asked to Chair the world governing body of the sport for the next four years is a great honour, not just personally but for French Rugby.

The responsibility of the position is one I fully recognise and I believe my experience as President of the FFR, as an IRB Council member and Chair of the IRB High Performance Committee in recent years will greatly assist in my transition to Chairman.

Following in the steps of Dr Syd Millar is a great privilege. His contribution and his involvement in the Rugby world shall remain an important period in the history of our Game. His legacy is chronicled through his leadership of important initiatives such as the adoption of a relevant and proactive strategic plan and a bold strategic investment programme, changes to the organisations' governance to strengthen its decision-making capabilities, a review of how the Game is played including its Laws and his marshalling of the Game's stakeholders that resulted in an historic forum on the future structure of the Game in November 2007.

It would be remiss of me not to also express my congratulations to the IRB Council Members, EXCO as well as all the IRB staff for their vital contribution in the ongoing success of such programmes. I look forward to working, in a strong team spirit, with all of the Game's stakeholders to ensure these programmes, and those we identify for the future, are professionally delivered.

I would like to highlight the importance of one specific programme. The strategic investment programme is vital for the continued growth of the Game in our Regional Associations and the development of nations within them. The creation of structured competitions for the benefit of Tier 2 and Tier 3 Nations was undoubtedly a key of our success in 2007. We must continue to pursue this course of action.

Another milestone of 2007 is the success of the Rugby World



Cup that was recently organised and played in France, with the support of Scotland and Wales. From its kick-off on September 7 up to the final on 30 October, the Tournament delivered a competitive festival of Rugby that culminated at Stade de France with a magnificent South African team lifting the Webb Ellis Cup.

Apart from delivering a wonderful sporting spectacle, France succeeded in creating an exceptional event that hosted all the members of the Rugby family, attracted new audiences and highlighted our values. The values of respect and sharing – two core values of the Game – were quite evident through the friendship of the visiting supporters and the festivities that occurred around the matches.

“RWC 2007 in France was probably the best and the most accomplished in terms of organisation and festive atmosphere” said Dr Syd Millar. I am convinced that such a successful Tournament has strengthened the Game's popularity worldwide.

But this Rugby World Cup would not have been so successful without the contribution of all the previous host unions since 1987 and all the teams. I promise that the IRB will continue to respect such heritage and values – further highlighted by a spirit of camaraderie, loyal competition and respect for each nation.

One of our great strengths as a sport is our diversity. It would

be wrong, even contrary to our interests, if we did not respect the different cultures which form the base of such diversity. We must maintain the innovative spirit that exists within individual Unions.

Such diversity was highlighted at the forum on the Game in Woking in November 2007 that was held under the umbrella of the IRB. The entire Rugby world was present and representatives from the Unions, clubs, provinces, players associations and IRB, joined coaches, players and media and financial experts in robust discussions that chartered a vision for the future.

The forum identified exciting opportunities for the development of the Game in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres. We must all ensure that we remain proactive and deliver the identified opportunities. That said, the diversity of the discussion and analysis made it clear that a balance must be maintained between the elite and the amateur Game.

The IRB understands this responsibility and I believe the organisation, in partnership with the Game's stakeholders, is now delivering its leadership role. It is managing and facilitating the organisation of the Game around the world and supporting all its Member Unions with co-ordinated development programmes. While being ambitious for our global project, we also embrace the diversity and richness of the Game.

Rugby World Cup 2007 was the pinnacle of the Rugby calendar in 2007, providing a memorable mix of world class Rugby and the unique colourful experiences that only France can offer. Off the back of what was the most successful Rugby World Cup to date global interest in the Game has never been higher and the Rugby Community can look forward to a feast of exciting IRB Tournaments in 2008.

Key fixtures

IRB Sevens World Series

The record-breaking IRB Sevens World Series will continue in 2008 with the NZ and USA Tournaments in February. The Series then moves on to Hong Kong at the end of March, before heading to Australia at the beginning of April. The Series climaxes with the European leg in June with Tournaments in Scotland and England. For more information visit www.irb.com.

A NEW ERA FOR AGE GRADE RUGBY

IRB Junior World Championship

The inaugural IRB Junior World Championship will be hosted by Wales in June 2008. The Tournament, which will feature 16 teams at Under 20 level, will be played across four regional match venues in the principality with Swansea's Liberty Stadium, Cardiff's Arms Park, Newport's Rodney Parade and Wrexham's Racecourse stadiums all hosting pools.

IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy

Chile will host the inaugural IRB Junior World Trophy in April 2008. The exciting Tournament for international teams at Under 20 level, will feature eight teams and will be played over four rounds

in Santiago. A promotion and relegation system will operate between the annual Junior World Trophy and Junior World Championship events, with the top team in the Trophy swapping places with the bottom team in the Championship.

KEY IRB TOURNAMENTS

IRB Pacific Nations Cup

The IRB Pacific Nations Cup was expanded in 2007 and the result was an incredibly competitive Tournament. For 2008 the famous New Zealand Maori team has replaced champions the Junior All Blacks in an exciting international line-up that also includes Fiji, Japan, Samoa, Tonga and Australia. The Tournament will run from 7 June to 6 July.

IRB Nations Cup

The second annual IRB Nations Cup broke new ground in 2007, providing highly competitive matches and a valuable development opportunity ahead of Rugby World Cup. The 2008 Tournament, to be played in June, will once again be hosted in Bucharest, Romania. The schedule and participants will be announced in early 2008.

IRB North America 4

Introduced in 2006 as a key Tournament element of the

IRB's US\$50 million global strategic investment programme, the IRB North America 4 has rapidly become a pivotal competition for Canada and USA. Bringing together two regional sides from each Union, the Tournament plays an important role in the development of players and coaches for the test arena and dovetails with the Barclays Churchill Cup. The 2008 Tournament, jointly hosted by Canada and the USA, will feature six rounds of double-headers and a positional final.

IRB Pacific Rugby Cup

Interest in the Pacific Island Unions has never been higher thanks to the performances of Fiji and Tonga at Rugby World Cup 2007. The IRB Pacific Rugby Cup played its part in that success, providing 180 locally based players with a clear development pathway from club or provincial Rugby through to full Test level. The opening round of the 2008 Tournament gets underway on April 18 and four further rounds will follow before the Grand Final is played on May 24.

Fixtures 2008

FEBRUARY 2008

01 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Ireland v Italy	Dublin
01/02 Feb	IRB Sevens World Series	New Zealand	Wellington
02 Feb	6 Nations	Ireland v Italy	Croke Park
02 Feb	6 Nations	England v Wales	Twickenham
02 Feb	6 Nations Women's	England v Wales	Middlesex
03 Feb	6 Nations	Scotland v France	Murrayfield
03 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Scotland v France	Edinburgh
09 Feb	6 Nations	Wales v Scotland	Millennium
09 Feb	6 Nations	France v Ireland	Stade de France
09 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Italy v England	Stadio Flaminio
09/10 Feb	IRB Sevens World Series	USA	San Diego
10 Feb	6 Nations	Italy v England	Stadio Flaminio
10 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Wales v Scotland	Cardiff
10 Feb	6 Nations Women's	France v Ireland	St. Gratiem
22 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Ireland v Scotland	Dublin

23 Feb	6 Nations	Wales v Italy	Millennium
23 Feb	6 Nations	Ireland v Scotland	Croke Park
23 Feb	6 Nations	France v England	Stade de France
23 Feb	6 Nations Women's	France v England	Bergerac
24 Feb	6 Nations Women's	Wales v Italy	Cardiff

MARCH 2008

07 Mar	6 Nations Women's	Ireland v Wales	Dublin
08 Mar	6 Nations	Ireland v Wales	Croke Park
08 Mar	6 Nations	Scotland v England	Murrayfield
08 Mar	6 Nations Women's	Scotland v England	Edinburgh
08 Mar	6 Nations Women's	France v Italy	Stade Pompidou
09 Mar	6 Nations	France v Italy	Stade de France
15 Mar	6 Nations	Italy v Scotland	Stadio Flaminio
15 Mar	6 Nations	England v Ireland	Twickenham
15 Mar	6 Nations	Wales v France	Millennium
15 Mar	6 Nations Women's	England v Ireland	Middlesex
15 Mar	6 Nations Women's	Wales v France	Cardiff
16 Mar	6 Nations Women's	Italy v Scotland	Mira
28-30 Mar	IRB Sevens World Series	Hong Kong	Hong Kong

APRIL 2008

05/06 Apr	IRB Sevens World Series	Australia	Adelaide
15 Apr	IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy	Round One	Chile
18 Apr	IRB Pacific Rugby Cup	Cup starts	Fiji, Tonga, Samoa
19 Apr	IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy	Round Two	Chile
23 Apr	IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy	Round Three	Chile
27 Apr	IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy	Finals	Chile

MAY 2008

24/25 May	IRB Sevens World Series	England	Twickenham
24 May	IRB Pacific Rugby Cup	Cup ends	Fiji, Tonga, Samoa
31 May /01 Jun	IRB Sevens World Series	Scotland	Edinburgh

JUNE 2008

06 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Round One	Wales
07 Jun	International	New Zealand v Ireland	Wellington
07 Jun	International	South Africa v Wales	South Africa
07 Jun	International	Argentina v Scotland	Argentina
07 Jun	Churchill Cup	Round 1	England
07 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Fiji v Samoa	Lautoka
07 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	N Zealand Maori v Tonga	Albany
8 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Japan v Australia A	TBC
10 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Round 1	Wales
11 Jun	Churchill Cup	Round 2	England
14 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Round 2	Wales
14 Jun	International	Australia v Ireland	Melbourne
14 Jun	International	New Zealand v England	Auckland
14 Jun	International	South Africa v Wales	South Africa
14 Jun	International	Argentina v Scotland	Argentina
14 Jun	Churchill Cup	Round 3	England
14 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Samoa v Australia A	Apia

14 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Fiji v N Zealand Maori	Suva
15 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Japan v Tonga	TBC
18 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Round 3	Wales
21 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Semi-Finals	Wales
21 Jun	International	New Zealand v England	Christchurch
21 Jun	International	South Africa v Italy	South Africa
21 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Australia A v Tonga	TBC
21 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	N Zealand Maori v Samoa	Hamilton
22 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Japan v Fiji	Tokyo
22 Jun	IRB Under 19 World Championship	Finals	Wales
28 Jun	International	Australia v France	Sydney
28 Jun	International	Argentina v Italy	Argentina
28 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Tonga v Samoa	Nuku'alofa
28 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Australia A v Fiji	TBC
28 Jun	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	N Zealand Maori v Japan	Napier

JULY 2008

05 Jul	Tri Nations	New Zealand v South Africa	Wellington
05 Jul	International	Australia v France	Brisbane
05 Jul	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Tonga Fiji	Nuku'alofa
05 Jul	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Australia A v N Zealand Maori	Sydney
05 Jul	IRB Pacific Nations Cup	Samoa v Japan	Apia
12 Jul	Tri Nations	New Zealand v South Africa	Dunedin
19 Jul	Tri Nations	Australia v South Africa	Perth
26 Jul	Tri Nations	Australia v New Zealand	Sydney

AUGUST 2008

02 Aug	Tri Nations	New Zealand v Australia	Auckland
16 Aug	Tri Nations	South Africa v New Zealand	South Africa
23 Aug	Tri Nations	South Africa v Australia	South Africa
30 Aug	Tri Nations	South Africa v Australia	South Africa

SEPTEMBER 2008

13 Sep	Tri Nations	Australia v New Zealand	Brisbane
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NOVEMBER 2008

08 Nov	International	England v Pacific Islands	England
08 Nov	International	France v Argentina	France
08 Nov	International	Ireland v Canada	Ireland
08 Nov	International	Scotland v New Zealand	Scotland
08 Nov	International	Wales v South Africa	Wales
08 Nov	International	Italy v Australia	Italy
15 Nov	International	England v Australia	England
15 Nov	International	France v Pacific Islands	France
15 Nov	International	Ireland v New Zealand	Ireland
15 Nov	International	Scotland v South Africa	Scotland
15 Nov	International	Wales v Canada	Wales
15 Nov	International	Italy v Argentina	Italy
22 Nov	International	England v South Africa	England
22 Nov	International	France v Australia	France
22 Nov	International	Ireland v Argentina	Ireland
22 Nov	International	Scotland v Canada	Scotland
22 Nov	International	Wales v New Zealand	Wales
22 Nov	International	Italy v Pacific Islands	Italy

World Results 2007



All International Matches

JANUARY 2007

20/01	Morocco	5 - 10	Portugal
27/01	Portugal	16 - 15	Morocco

FEBRUARY 2007

03/02	Italy	3 - 39	France
03/02	England	42 - 20	Scotland
03/02	Romania	17 - 20	Georgia
03/02	Portugal	21 - 18	Spain
04/02	Wales	9 - 19	Ireland
10/02	England	20 - 7	Italy
10/02	Scotland	21 - 9	Wales
10/02	Spain	14 - 39	Russia
10/02	Tonga	83 - 3	Korea
11/02	Ireland	17 - 20	France
24/02	Scotland	17 - 37	Italy
24/02	Ireland	43 - 13	England
24/02	France	32 - 21	Wales

MARCH 2007

10/03	Scotland	18 - 19	Ireland
10/03	Italy	23 - 20	Wales
10/03	Portugal	12 - 5	Uruguay
10/03	Romania	50 - 14	Spain
11/03	England	26 - 18	France
17/03	Italy	24 - 51	Ireland
17/03	France	46 - 19	Scotland
17/03	Wales	27 - 18	England
17/03	Czech Republic	13 - 46	Romania
17/03	Spain	31 - 17	Georgia
24/03	Uruguay	18 - 12	Portugal
24/03	Georgia	31 - 12	Russia
31/03	Croatia	7 - 27	Latvia
31/03	Switzerland	22 - 24	Denmark

APRIL 2007

07/04	Denmark	3 - 11	Armenia
07/04	Andorra	24 - 13	Croatia
07/04	Georgia	98 - 3	Czech Republic
14/04	Serbia	12 - 30	Sweden
21/04	Hungary	27 - 5	Austria
21/04	Ukraine	14 - 22	Germany

21/04	Belgium	27 - 29	Moldova
21/04	Bosnia & Herzegovina	12 - 17	Luxembourg
21/04	Russia	62 - 6	Czech Republic
22/04	Japan	82 - 0	Korea
27/04	Arabian Gulf	52 - 11	Sri Lanka
28/04	Israel	34 - 13	Bosnia & Herzegovina
28/04	Germany	21 - 12	Netherlands
29/04	Japan	73 - 3	Hong Kong

MAY 2007

05/05	Czech Republic	15 - 42	Spain
05/05	Ukraine	16 - 17	Moldova
05/05	Netherlands	20 - 27	Belgium
05/05	Austria	7 - 3	Bulgaria
05/05	Latvia	9 - 33	Poland
05/05	Sweden	6 - 0	Switzerland
05/05	Slovenia	25 - 16	Luxembourg
08/05	Kazakhstan	79 - 6	Sri Lanka
11/05	Arabian Gulf	9 - 49	Kazakhstan
12/05	Greece	20 - 17	Slovakia
12/05	Portugal	13 - 21	Russia
12/05	Pakistan	0 - 44	Thailand
12/05	Malta	31 - 24	Andorra
16/05	Chinese Taipei	72 - 3	Pakistan
18/05	England Saxons	51 - 3	USA
19/05	Ireland A	39 - 20	Canada
19/05	Samoa	8 - 3	Fiji
19/05	Czech Republic	3 - 23	Portugal
19/05	Poland	36 - 3	Malta
19/05	Austria	0 - 27	Lithuania
19/05	Bulgaria	25 - 10	Norway
19/05	Slovenia	77 - 5	Bosnia & Herzegovina
19/05	Luxembourg	22 - 16	Israel
20/05	Thailand	3 - 22	Chinese Taipei
23/05	Scotland A	13 - 9	USA
25/05	New Zealand Maoris	59 - 23	Canada
25/05	Tonga	15 - 60	Australia A
26/05	Samoa	10 - 31	Junior All Blacks

26/05	Fiji	30 - 15	Japan
26/05	Argentina	22 - 20	Ireland
26/05	Australia	29 - 23	Wales
26/05	South Africa	58 - 10	England
26/05	Uganda	29 - 10	Kenya
26/05	Malaysia	19 - 31	Singapore
26/05	Morocco	20 - 6	Cameroon
26/05	Senegal	10 - 12	Cote D'Ivoire
26/05	Namibia	80 - 10	Zambia
26/05	South Africa Amateurs	45 - 8	Zimbabwe
26/05	Finland	6 - 21	Slovenia
27/05	Hong Kong	27 - 20	Korea

JUNE 2007

02/06	USA	10 - 52	Canada
02/06	New Zealand	42 - 11	France
02/06	Uruguay	5 - 29	Italy
02/06	South Africa	55 - 22	England
02/06	Australia	31 - 0	Wales
02/06	Argentina	16 - 0	Ireland
02/06	Tonga	17 - 20	Japan
02/06	Australia A	27 - 15	Samoa
02/06	Fiji	8 - 57	Junior All Blacks
02/06	Finland	27 - 20	Israel
02/06	Lithuania	36 - 7	Hungary
05/06	Georgia	26 - 18	Namibia
05/06	Romania	7 - 61	Emerging Springboks
09/06	China	52 - 23	Malaysia
09/06	Tonga	13 - 39	Junior All Blacks
09/06	Australia A	71 - 10	Japan
09/06	Argentina	24 - 6	Italy
09/06	South Africa	35 - 8	Samoa
09/06	New Zealand	61 - 10	France
09/06	Norway	22 - 8	Austria
09/06	Australia	49 - 0	Fiji
10/06	Namibia	13 - 47	Argentina A
10/06	Emerging Springboks	24 - 7	Georgia
10/06	Romania	19 - 8	Italy A

16/06	Italy A	20 - 22	Georgia
16/06	Romania	28 - 16	Namibia
16/06	Singapore	20 - 36	China
16/06	New Zealand	64 - 13	Canada
16/06	Japan	3 - 13	Samoa
16/06	Fiji	15 - 21	Tonga
16/06	South Africa	22 - 19	Australia
23/06	South Africa	21 - 26	New Zealand
23/06	Samoa	50 - 3	Tonga
23/06	Fiji	14 - 14	Australia A
23/06	India	47 - 0	Guam
23/06	Madagascar	21 - 0	South Africa Amateurs
23/06	Uganda	20 - 19	Namibia
23/06	Tunisia	11 - 6	Senegal
23/06	Kenya	23 - 16	Morocco
24/06	Japan	3 - 51	Junior All Blacks
27/06	Guam	3 - 39	Philippines
30/06	Australia	20 - 15	New Zealand

JULY 2007

01/07	Philippines	3 - 11	India
07/07	Cameroon	19 - 22	Kenya
07/07	Cote D'Ivoire	16 - 14	Tunisia
07/07	Zambia	5 - 21	Uganda
07/07	Zimbabwe	29 - 30	Madagascar
07/07	Australia	25 - 17	South Africa
11/07	Brunei	8 - 30	Cambodia
11/07	Laos	3 - 17	Indonesia
14/07	Brunei	17 - 16	Laos
14/07	Cambodia	10 - 11	Indonesia
14/07	New Zealand	33 - 6	South Africa
18/07	Brunei	15 - 28	Indonesia
18/07	Cambodia	26 - 16	Laos
21/07	New Zealand	26 - 12	Australia

AUGUST 2007

04/08	England	62 - 5	Wales
11/08	Scotland	31 - 21	Ireland
11/08	Kenya	35 - 15	Uganda
11/08	England	15 - 21	France
15/08	South Africa	105 - 13	Namibia
15/08	Chile	25 - 30	Spain
18/08	Botswana	37 - 14	Tanzania
18/08	Canada	42 - 12	Portugal
18/08	France	22 - 9	England
18/08	Italy	36 - 12	Japan
18/08	Uruguay	10 - 18	Spain
18/08	Wales	27 - 20	Argentina
24/08	Ireland	23 - 20	Italy
25/08	Scotland	3 - 27	South Africa
25/08	Chile	34 - 35	Uruguay
26/08	Wales	7 - 34	France

SEPTEMBER 2007

01/09	Armenia	16 - 12	Sweden
07/09	France	12 - 17	Argentina
08/09	New Zealand	76 - 14	Italy
08/09	Australia	91 - 3	Japan
08/09	England	28 - 10	USA
09/09	Wales	42 - 17	Canada
09/09	South Africa	59 - 7	Samoa
09/09	Scotland	56 - 10	Portugal
09/09	Ireland	32 - 17	Namibia
11/09	Argentina	33 - 3	Georgia
12/09	USA	15 - 25	Tonga
12/09	Japan	31 - 35	Fiji
12/09	Italy	24 - 18	Romania
14/09	England	0 - 36	South Africa
15/09	New Zealand	108 - 13	Portugal
15/09	Wales	20 - 32	Australia
15/09	Ireland	14 - 10	Georgia
16/09	Fiji	29 - 16	Canada
16/09	Samoa	15 - 19	Tonga
16/09	France	87 - 10	Namibia
18/09	Scotland	42 - 0	Romania
19/09	Italy	31 - 5	Portugal
20/09	Wales	72 - 18	Japan
21/09	France	25 - 3	Ireland
22/09	South Africa	30 - 25	Tonga
22/09	England	44 - 22	Samoa
22/09	Argentina	63 - 3	Namibia
23/09	Australia	55 - 12	Fiji
23/09	Scotland	0 - 40	New Zealand
25/09	Canada	12 - 12	Japan
25/09	Romania	14 - 10	Portugal
26/09	Georgia	30 - 0	Namibia
26/09	Samoa	25 - 21	USA
26/09	Uganda	24 - 12	Kenya
26/09	Madagascar	32 - 25	Cote D'Ivoire
28/09	England	36 - 20	Tonga
29/09	New Zealand	85 - 8	Romania
29/09	Australia	37 - 6	Canada
29/09	Wales	34 - 38	Fiji
29/09	Scotland	18 - 16	Italy
29/09	Madagascar	11 - 42	Uganda
29/09	Kenya	20 - 17	Cote D'Ivoire
30/09	France	64 - 7	Georgia
30/09	Ireland	15 - 30	Argentina
30/09	South Africa	64 - 15	USA

OCTOBER 2007

06/10	Switzerland	15 - 28	Armenia
06/10	Andorra	5 - 33	Poland
06/10	Australia	10 - 12	England
06/10	New Zealand	18 - 20	France
07/10	South Africa	37 - 20	Fiji

07/10	Argentina	19 - 13	Scotland
13/10	England	14 - 9	France
14/10	South Africa	37 - 13	Argentina
19/10	France	10 - 34	Argentina
20/10	England	6 - 15	South Africa
27/10	Poland	14 - 15	Croatia
27/10	Denmark	17 - 17	Serbia
27/10	Luxembourg	30 - 3	Bosnia & Herzegovina
27/10	Slovenia	32 - 3	Finland
27/10	Lithuania	64 - 3	Bulgaria
27/10	Hungary	5 - 3	Norway
28/10	Cyprus	29 - 0	Azerbaijan
31/10	Slovakia	33 - 18	Azerbaijan
31/10	Cyprus	19 - 10	Monaco

NOVEMBER 2007

03/11	Cyprus	38 - 8	Slovakia
03/11	Netherlands	49 - 12	Switzerland
03/11	Kazakhstan	69 - 21	Thailand
03/11	Sri Lanka	26 - 10	China
03/11	Monaco	41 - 3	Azerbaijan
03/11	Sweden	8 - 6	Denmark
03/11	Spain	46 - 0	Czech Republic
04/11	Romania	12 - 22	Russia
04/11	Pakistan	0 - 19	South India
04/11	Colombia	33 - 13	Venezuela
04/11	Brazil	24 - 15	Peru
05/11	Chinese Taipei	27 - 16	Thailand
05/11	Malaysia	6 - 56	China
06/11	Iran	32 - 3	Pakistan
07/11	Kazakhstan	29 - 0	Chinese Taipei
07/11	Sri Lanka	77 - 3	Malaysia
07/11	Brazil	49 - 7	Venezuela
07/11	Peru	13 - 9	Colombia
08/11	Iran	39 - 7	South India
10/11	Thailand	44 - 7	Malaysia
10/11	China	28 - 22	Chinese Taipei
10/11	Kazakhstan	24 - 17	Sri Lanka
10/11	Brazil	43 - 3	Colombia
10/11	Peru	24 - 8	Venezuela
10/11	Ukraine	13 - 7	Netherlands
10/11	Belgium	32 - 18	Germany
10/11	Croatia	24 - 9	Malta
17/11	Bulgaria	6 - 32	Hungary
17/11	Netherlands	13 - 15	Moldova
17/11	Malta	16 - 13	Latvia
24/11	Wales	12 - 34	South Africa
24/11	Germany	34 - 5	Moldova
24/11	Ukraine	15 - 18	Belgium
24/11	Latvia	20 - 9	Andorra
24/11	Serbia	5 - 13	Switzerland

Tri-Nations 2007

Winner // **New Zealand**

Runner-up // **Australia**

16 June 07	South Africa	22 - 19	Australia
23 June 07	South Africa	21 - 26	New Zealand
30 June 07	Australia	20 - 15	New Zealand
07 July 07	Australia	25 - 17	South Africa
14 July 07	New Zealand	33 - 6	South Africa
21 July 07	New Zealand	26 - 12	Australia

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	T/A	B/P	Pts.
New Zealand	4	3	0	1	100	59	8	4	1	13
Australia	4	2	0	2	76	80	6	6	1	9
South Africa	4	1	0	3	66	103	5	9	1	5



RBS 6 Nations 2007

Winner // **France**

Runner-up // **Ireland**

03 Feb 07	Italy	3 - 39	France
03 Feb 07	England	42 - 20	Scotland
04 Feb 07	Wales	9 - 19	Ireland
10 Feb 07	England	20 - 7	Italy
10 Feb 07	Scotland	21 - 9	Wales
11 Feb 07	Ireland	17 - 20	France
24 Feb 07	Scotland	17 - 37	Italy
24 Feb 07	Ireland	43 - 13	England
24 Feb 07	France	32 - 21	Wales
10 Mar 07	Scotland	18 - 19	Ireland
10 Mar 07	Italy	23 - 20	Wales
11 Mar 07	England	26 - 18	France
17 Mar 07	Italy	24 - 51	Ireland
17 Mar 07	Wales	27 - 18	England
17 Mar 07	France	46 - 19	Scotland



Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
France	5	4	0	1	155	86	8
Ireland	5	4	0	1	149	84	8
England	5	3	0	2	119	115	6
Italy	5	2	0	3	94	147	4
Wales	5	1	0	4	86	113	2
Scotland	5	1	0	4	95	153	2

IRB Under 19 World Championship

Winner // **New Zealand**Runner-up // **South Africa**

DIVISION A

05 Apr 07	South Africa	36 - 5	Fiji
05 Apr 07	New Zealand	37 - 14	Wales
05 Apr 07	Argentina	41 - 8	Japan
05 Apr 07	Australia	15 - 10	Ireland
05 Apr 07	Scotland	6 - 11	France
05 Apr 07	Samoa	12 - 20	England
09 Apr 07	South Africa	8 - 17	France
09 Apr 07	New Zealand	107 - 6	Japan
09 Apr 07	Samoa	20 - 33	Wales
09 Apr 07	Australia	23 - 12	Fiji
09 Apr 07	Scotland	12 - 13	Ireland
09 Apr 07	Argentina	15 - 17	England
13 Apr 07	Scotland	23 - 25	Fiji
13 Apr 07	New Zealand	34 - 13	England
13 Apr 07	Samoa	28 - 12	Japan
13 Apr 07	Australia	30 - 11	France
13 Apr 07	South Africa	31 - 5	Ireland
13 Apr 07	Argentina	0 - 29	Wales

PLAY-OFFS

Div A - 10th v 11th 17 Apr 07	Fiji	7 - 11	Scotland
Div A - 9th v 12th 17 Apr 07	Ireland	31 - 10	Japan
Div A - 6th v 7th 17 Apr 07	England	31 - 13	Argentina
Div A - 5th v 8th 17 Apr 07	France	25 - 13	Samoa
Div A - 2nd v 3rd 17 Apr 07	Australia	18 - 32	South Africa
Div A - 1st v 4th 17 Apr 07	New Zealand	36 - 12	Wales
Div A - 11th Place Play-Off 21 Apr 07	Fiji	60 - 12	Japan
Div A - 9th Place Play-Off 21 Apr 07	Scotland	0 - 34	Ireland
Div A - 7th Place Play-Off 21 Apr 07	Argentina	12 - 13	Samoa
Div A - 5th Place Play-Off 21 Apr 07	England	17 - 43	France
Div A - 3rd Place Play-Off 21 Apr 07	Australia	25 - 21	Wales
Div A - Final 21 Apr 07	South Africa	7 - 31	New Zealand

DIVISION B

04 Apr 07	Tonga	36 - 5	Uruguay
04 Apr 07	Chile	29 - 14	Cook Islands
04 Apr 07	Chinese Taipei	6 - 62	Italy
04 Apr 07	Romania U19	0 - 28	Georgia
04 Apr 07	Russia	0 - 6	USA
04 Apr 07	Zimbabwe	0 - 8	Canada
08 Apr 07	Romania U19	10 - 16	USA
08 Apr 07	Russia	5 - 33	Canada
08 Apr 07	Tonga	72 - 6	Cook Islands
08 Apr 07	Zimbabwe	33 - 26	Georgia
08 Apr 07	Chile	13 - 32	Italy
08 Apr 07	Chinese Taipei	5 - 55	Uruguay
12 Apr 07	Zimbabwe	7 - 22	USA
12 Apr 07	Chile	20 - 30	Uruguay
12 Apr 07	Chinese Taipei	10 - 10	Cook Islands
12 Apr 07	Romania U19	7 - 15	Canada
12 Apr 07	Russia	6 - 24	Georgia
12 Apr 07	Tonga	6 - 8	Italy

PLAY-OFFS

Div B - 10th v 11th 16 Apr 07	Chinese Taipei	10 - 35	Romania
Div B - 9th v 12th 16 Apr 07	Cook Islands	14 - 22	Russia
Div B - 6th v 7th 16 Apr 07	Uruguay	21 - 3	Chile
Div B - 5th v 8th 16 Apr 07	Tonga	26 - 11	Zimbabwe
Div B - 2nd v 3rd 16 Apr 07	Canada	19 - 3	Georgia
Div B - 1st v 4th 16 Apr 07	Italy	31 - 6	USA
Div B - 11th Place Play-Off 20 Apr 07	Chinese Taipei	29 - 10	Cook Islands
Div B - 9th Place Play-Off 20 Apr 07	Romania	20 - 10	Russia
Div B - 7th Place Play-Off 20 Apr 07	Chile	10 - 12	Zimbabwe
Div B - 5th Place Play-Off 20 Apr 07	Uruguay	15 - 24	Tonga
Div B - 3rd Place Play-Off 20 Apr 07	Georgia	5 - 24	USA
Div B - Final 20 Apr 07	Canada	3 - 22	Italy

IRB Nations Cup 2007

Winner // **Emerging Springboks**

Runner-up // **Argentina A**



05 June 07	Argentina A	27 - 20	Italy A
05 June 07	Georgia	26 - 18	Namibia
05 June 07	Romania	7 - 61	Emerging Springboks
10 June 07	Namibia	13 - 47	Argentina A
10 June 07	Romania	19 - 8	Italy A
10 June 07	Emerging Springboks	24 - 7	Georgia
16 June 07	Romania	28 - 16	Namibia
16 June 07	Italy A	20 - 22	Georgia
16 June 07	Emerging Springboks	24 - 10	Argentina A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	T/A	B/P	Pts.
Emerging Springboks	3	3	0	0	109	24	13	4	1	13
Argentina A	3	2	0	1	84	57	11	4	1	9
Georgia	3	2	0	1	55	62	8	6	0	8
Romania	3	2	0	1	54	85	4	10	0	8
Italy A	3	0	0	3	48	68	3	8	2	2
Namibia	3	0	0	3	47	101	4	11	0	0

IRB Pacific Nations Cup

Winner // **France**

Runner-up // **Ireland**

19 May 07	Samoa	8 - 3	Fiji
25 May 07	Tonga	15 - 60	Australia A
26 May 07	Fiji	30 - 15	Japan
26 May 07	Samoa	10 - 31	Junior All Blacks
02 June 07	Fiji	8 - 57	Junior All Blacks
02 June 07	Tonga	17 - 20	Japan
02 June 07	Australia A	27 - 15	Samoa
09 June 07	Tonga	13 - 39	Junior All Blacks
09 June 07	Australia A	71 - 10	Japan
16 June 07	Fiji	15 - 21	Tonga
16 June 07	Junior All Blacks	50 - 0	Australia A

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	T/A	B/P	Pts.
Junior All Blacks	5	5	0	0	228	34	34	4	5	25
Australia A	5	3	1	1	172	104	22	14	2	16
Samoa	5	3	0	2	96	67	12	8	1	13
Fiji	5	1	1	3	70	115	9	15	3	9
Tonga	5	1	0	4	69	184	10	25	1	5
Japan	5	1	0	4	51	182	5	26	0	4

Barclays Churchill Cup

Winner // **England Saxons**

Runner-up // **NZ Maori**

18 May 07	England Saxons	51 - 3	USA
19 May 07	Ireland A	39 - 20	Canada
23 May 07	Scotland A	13 - 9	USA
25 May 07	New Zealand Maoris	59 - 23	Canada
28 May 07	England Saxons	18 - 3	Scotland A
29 May 07	New Zealand Maoris	50 - 22	Ireland A
02 June 07	Scotland A	21 - 22	Ireland A
02 June 07	England Saxons	17 - 13	New Zealand Maoris
02 June 07	USA	10 - 52	Canada

IRB Sevens World Series 2006/07

Winner // **New Zealand**Runner-up // **Fiji**

DUBAI: DECEMBER 1-2

Final Cup	New Zealand	12 - 31	South Africa
Final Plate	France	7 - 26	Samoa
Final Bowl	Argentina	26 - 7	Zimbabwe
Final Shield	Wales	33 - 0	Arabian Gulf

SOUTH AFRICA: DECEMBER 8-9

Final Cup	New Zealand	24 - 17	South Africa
Final Plate	Wales	26 - 5	Tunisia
Final Bowl	Australia	41 - 7	Kenya
Final Shield	Portugal	14 - 12	Zimbabwe

NEW ZEALAND: FEBRUARY 2-3

Final Cup	Fiji	14 - 17	Samoa
Final Plate	England	21 - 12	France
Final Bowl	Tonga	5 - 12	Argentina
Final Shield	Portugal	26 - 24	Scotland

USA: FEBRUARY 10-11

Final Cup	Fiji	38 - 24	Samoa
Final Plate	South Africa	28 - 19	Scotland
Final Bowl	Argentina	17 - 22	Tonga
Final Shield	Portugal	5 - 26	USA



HONG KONG: MARCH 30- APRIL 1

Final Cup	Fiji	22 - 27	Samoa
Final Plate	Wales	26 - 19	Argentina
Final Bowl	France	7 - 21	Russia

AUSTRALIA: APRIL 7-8

Final Cup	Samoa	7 - 21	Fiji
Final Plate	Australia	31 - 0	South Africa
Final Bowl	Tonga	14 - 26	Wales
Final Shield	Japan	17 - 43	Canada

ENGLAND: MAY 26-27

Final Cup	Fiji	7 - 29	New Zealand
Final Plate	Australia	5 - 14	South Africa
Final Bowl	England	10 - 0	Portugal
Final Shield	Kenya	15 - 0	Italy

SCOTLAND: JUNE 2-3

Final Cup	New Zealand	34 - 5	Samoa
Final Plate	Fiji	31 - 7	Kenya
Final Bowl	England	31 - 0	Portugal
Final Shield	France	21 - 12	Russia

Team	DUB	GEO	NZL	USA	HKG	AUS	LON	SCO	Total
New Zealand	16	20	12	12	18	12	20	20	130
Fiji	12	12	16	20	24	20	16	8	128
Samoa	8	4	20	16	30	16	12	16	122
South Africa	20	16	12	8	18	6	8	4	92
England	12	12	8	4	8	4	2	2	52
Wales	0	8	0	0	4	2	12	12	38
Australia	4	2	0	4	8	8	6	0	32
France	6	4	6	12	0	0	0	0	28
Scotland	0	0	0	6	8	4	4	4	26
Argentina	2	0	2	0	3	0	4	12	23
Kenya	0	0	4	0	0	12	0	6	22
Tonga	0	0	0	2	8	0	0	0	10
Canada	4	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	8
Tunisia	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	6
Portugal	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
USA	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2
Russia	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1



Financial results highlight continued major investment in the Game

The International Rugby Board announced strong financial results for the year ending 31 December 2006. The results from the third year in a four-year financial cycle leading up to Rugby World Cup 2007 in France, reflect the IRB's continued commitment to major investment in the Game on a global scale.

The results were approved by the IRB Council at its Annual Meeting held in Dublin on May 3 and indicate that total revenues for the period were £53 million. The figure is approximately 20% better than budget for this period. The vast majority of revenue generated continues to be in respect of Rugby World Cup 2007, which is already guaranteed to set a record for gross revenue for a Rugby World Cup. Total expenditures for the year of £32 million were in line with budget for the period and are analysed below.

RWC 2007

Rugby World Cup 2007 was a huge commercial success. Even before a ball had been kicked in France, record broadcasting deals in all the major Rugby territories represented a substantial increase on Rugby World Cup 2003, while there was also enhanced deals for emerging Rugby markets including Russia, Portugal, India, USA and Romania. A strong commercial programme, including a full inventory of Worldwide partners and official suppliers/sponsors, coupled with strong advance corporate hospitality sales in 2006 ensured that the Tournament was on track to be declared the most successful long before kick-off.

Worldwide Development of the Game

The IRB is committed to major development of the Game worldwide. This commitment resulted in an extra £30 million being invested in the Game at Tier 1 and Tier 2 Union levels as part of the unprecedented, three-year Global Strategic Investment Programme that was launched in August 2005. This also includes significant investment for targeted Tier 3 Unions of up to £1.3 million.

This massive injection of funds is primarily targeted at strategic high performance programmes, including Union management, playing infrastructure and new Tournament structures. This sum supplements the existing Union Development grants of £6.3 million and Tournament grants of £5.4 million that the IRB already invests annually in its 115 Member Unions and means that £65.1 million will have been distributed by the IRB for the global development of the Game in the three years to December 2008.

This investment has also resulted in the implementation of exciting new international competitions across the globe, including the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup, IRB Pacific Nations Cup, IRB North America 4 and IRB Nations Cup in Europe as well as enhanced funding for the Churchill Cup and various regional Tournaments in Europe, Asia, Africa and South America. In addition, the IRB has also provided significant funding and additional key human resources for all Tier 2 Nations.

International Financial Reporting Standards

The IRB operates International Financial Reporting Standards in line with global best practice. The major financial implication is that all revenue and directly attributable expenditure for Rugby World Cup 2007 is now deferred to the year of the Tournament. Under the IRB's previous accounting policy, revenue was booked in the year it was invoiced and revenues were accumulated incrementally for each Rugby World Cup over the four-year cycle.

The policy of recognising income only in the year of the Rugby World Cup is in line with best practice and better reflects the nature of our business. It has had the impact of changing the net book surplus for the 2006 year of £21 million to a loss of £28 million with a corresponding increase in deferred revenue. However, this does not impact on the IRB's cash flow or operations in any way and we are looking forward to a successful Rugby World Cup year in 2007.

Council Members as at 31 December 2006

S Millar Independent Chairman
 R Tuckey Independent Vice Chairman
 J Dance (England)
 W Beaumont (England)
 W Nolan (Scotland)
 G McKie (Scotland)
 P Boyle (Ireland)
 N Murphy (Ireland)
 D Pickering (Wales)
 G Davies (Wales)
 R Graham (Australia)
 G Flowers (Australia)
 J Hobbs (New Zealand)
 C Moller (New Zealand)
 O Hoskins (South Africa)
 J Prinsloo (South Africa)
 B Lapasset (France)
 J Laurans (France)
 C Tozzi (Argentina)
 C Le Fevre (Canada)
 G Dondi (Italy)
 I Kono (Japan)
 R Martins (FIRA-AER)
 J Scott (ARFU)
 A Bougja (CAR)
 H Schuster (FORU)
 H Porta (CONSUR)
 K Nascimento (NAWIRA)

Chief Executive Officer

M Miller

Principal Bankers

Royal Bank of Scotland
 Ulster Bank Limited
 130 Lower Baggot Street
 Dublin 2

Auditors

PricewaterhouseCoopers
 Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
 One Spencer Dock
 North Wall Quay
 Dublin 1

Statement of Council's responsibilities in respect of the financial statements

The International Rugby Board (IRB) is the world governing and law making body of Rugby Union. It is made up of 95 Member Unions and 20 Associate Member Unions. The decision making body of the IRB is the IRB Executive Council which has a current representation of 26 voting members and an Independent Chairman and Independent Vice Chairman.

The Council is required to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the IRB and of its profit or loss for that period. In preparing those financial statements, the Council is required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- comply with applicable accounting standards, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis, unless it is inappropriate to presume the association will continue its objectives.

The Council is responsible for maintaining records which disclose with reasonable accuracy the financial position of the association and its subsidiaries and to enable the Council to ensure that the financial statements have been properly prepared. The Council is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the association and its subsidiaries and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

We have audited the group financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2006 which comprise the Group Income Statement, the Group Balance Sheet, the Group Cash Flow Statement, the Group Statement of Change in Equity and the related notes. These financial statements have been prepared under the accounting policies set out therein.

Respective responsibilities of Council members and auditors

The responsibilities of the Council members for preparing the financial statements in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRSs) are set out in the Statement of Council's Responsibilities.

Our responsibility is to audit the financial statements in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland). This report including the opinion, has been prepared for and only for the Council members as a body and for no other purpose. We do not, in giving this opinion, accept or assume responsibility for any other purpose or to any other person to whom this report is shown or into whose hands it may come save where expressly agreed by our prior consent in writing.

We report to you our opinion as to whether the group financial statements give a true and fair view, in accordance with IFRSs as adopted by the European Union.

We read the statement of Council's responsibilities and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements within it.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board and generally accepted in Ireland. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Council members in the preparation of the group financial statements, and of whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the association's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the group financial statements are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the group financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the group financial statements give a true and fair view in accordance with IFRSs, of the state of affairs of the group as at 31 December 2006 and of the group loss and cash flows for the year then ended.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Dublin

3 May 2007

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS 

	Notes	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
ASSETS			
Non-current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	353,912	275,474
Intangible assets	6	230,553	189,277
Deferred expenses	7	4,875,749	2,265,292
Available for sale financial assets	8	20,358,804	19,238,373
		<u>25,819,018</u>	<u>21,968,416</u>
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	6,553,302	1,432,366
Cash and cash equivalents	10	74,220,920	59,027,100
		<u>80,774,222</u>	<u>60,459,466</u>
Total assets		<u>106,593,240</u>	<u>82,427,882</u>
EQUITY			
Capital and reserves			
Retained earnings		14,814,082	43,052,062
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred revenue	11	84,737,007	32,937,193
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	7,006,490	6,380,025
Current income tax liabilities		35,661	58,602
		<u>7,042,151</u>	<u>6,438,627</u>
Total liabilities		<u>91,779,158</u>	<u>39,375,820</u>
Total equity and liabilities		<u>106,593,240</u>	<u>82,427,882</u>

The notes on pages 74 to 84 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

S Millar, Chairman
M Miller, CEO

GROUP INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Notes	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Revenue		1,481,347	3,638,023
Administration expenses	13	(11,568,599)	(9,314,144)
Tournament expenses		(5,905,896)	(4,343,982)
Other gains/(losses) - net	14	584,463	429,987
Other income	15	2,678,627	3,925,450
Other expenses	16	(15,451,264)	(13,340,392)
Loss before income tax		(28,181,322)	(19,005,058)
	18	(35,677)	(48,961)
Loss for the year		(28,216,999)	(19,054,019)

GROUP STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Retained earnings Stg£
Balance at 1 January 2005	60,332,951
Fair value gains, net of tax: – available-for-sale financial assets	1,773,130
Net income recognised directly in equity	1,773,130
Loss for the year	(19,054,019)
Total recognised income for 2005	(17,280,889)
Balance at 31 December 2005	43,052,062
Balance at 1 January 2006	43,052,062
Fair value loss, net of tax: – available-for-sale financial assets	(20,981)
Net expenses recognised directly in equity	(20,981)
Loss for the year	(28,216,999)
Total recognised income for 2006	(28,237,980)
Balance at 31 December 2006	14,814,082

The notes on pages 74 to 84 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

GROUP CASHFLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2006

	Notes	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	29,535,653	14,965,298
Income tax paid		(50,540)	(23,859)
Net cash generated from operating activities		29,485,113	14,941,439
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment		(213,792)	(44,765)
Purchase of intangible assets		(129,565)	-
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		-	13,339
Net disposal of investments		(556,949)	(1,038,621)
Interest received		2,678,627	5,164,450
Net cash generated from investing activities		1,778,321	4,094,403
Cash flows from financing activities			
Grant Payments		(16,069,614)	(11,656,982)
Net cash used in financing activities		(16,069,614)	(11,656,982)
Net increase in cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts			
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at beginning of the year		59,027,100	51,648,240
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at end of the year		74,220,920	59,027,100

The notes on pages 74 to 84 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

1 General information

The International Rugby Board (IRB) is the world governing and law making body of Rugby Union. It is made up of 95 Member Unions and 20 Associate Member Unions.

The International Rugby Board is resident in Dublin at Huguenot House, St Stephen's Green.

These consolidated financial statements have been approved for issue by the Council of the International Rugby Board on 3 May 2007.

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The principal accounting policies applied in the preparation of these consolidated financial statements are set out below. These policies have been consistently applied to all the years presented, unless otherwise stated.

A Basis of preparation

The consolidated financial statements of International Rugby Board have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS). The group financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the revaluation of available-for-sale financial assets at fair value. A summary of the more important accounting policies is set out below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Although these estimates are based on management's best knowledge of the amount, events or actions, actual results ultimately may differ from these estimates.

The following amendments and interpretations to standards are mandatory for the International Rugby Board:

(a) Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2006 but not relevant

The following standards, amendments and interpretations are mandatory for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2006 but are not relevant to the Group's activities:

- IAS 19 (Amendment) Employee benefits
- IAS 21 (Amendment), Net Investment in a Foreign Operation;
- IAS 39 (Amendment), Cash Flow Hedge Accounting of Forecast Intragroup Transactions;
- IAS 39 (Amendment), The Fair Value Option;
- IAS 39 and IFRS 4 (Amendment), Financial Guarantee Contracts;
- IFRS 6, Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- IFRS 1 (Amendment), First-time Adoption of International Financial Reporting Standards and IFRS 6 (Amendment), Exploration for and Evaluation of Mineral Resources;
- IFRIC 6, Liabilities arising from Participating in a Specific Market – Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment;
- IFRIC 4, Determining whether an Arrangement contains a Lease; and
- IFRIC 5, Rights to Interests arising from Decommissioning, Restoration and Environmental Rehabilitation Funds.

(b) Standards that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Group

IFRS 7, Financial Instruments: Disclosures (effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2007) this replaces IAS 30 and the disclosure requirements in IAS 32 and locates in one place all disclosures relating to financial instruments. The new requirements incorporate many of IAS 32's disclosures as well as additional qualitative and quantitative disclosures on the risks arising from financial instruments. The Group will apply IFRS 7 from 1 January 2007 but it is not expected to have a significant impact on the Group's accounts. IFRS 8, 'Operating segments', (effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2009) replaces IAS 14 and aligns segment reporting with the requirements of the US standard SFAS 131, 'Disclosures about segments of an enterprise and related information'. The new standard uses a 'management approach', under which segment information is presented on the same basis as that used for internal reporting purposes. The Group will apply IFRS 8 from 1 January 2009 but it is not expected to have a significant impact on the Group's accounts.

(c) Interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the Group

- IFRIC 9, 'Reassessment of embedded derivatives', (effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 June 2006) clarifies that an entity should assess whether an embedded derivative is required to be separated from the host contract and accounted for as a derivative when the entity first becomes a party to the contract. Subsequent reassessment is prohibited, unless there is a change in the contract's terms, in which case it is required. The Group will apply IFRIC 9 from 1 January 2007 but it is not expected to have any impact on the Group's accounts;
- IFRIC 10, Interim Financial Reporting and Impairment (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 November 2006). IFRIC 10 prohibits the impairment losses recognised in an interim period on goodwill, investments in equity instruments and investments in financial assets carried at cost to be reversed at a subsequent balance sheet date. The Group will apply IFRIC 10 from 1 January 2007, but it is not expected to have any impact on the Group's accounts;

(d) Interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and not relevant for the Group's operations

The following interpretations to existing standards have been published that are mandatory for the Group's accounting periods beginning on or after 1 May 2006 or later periods but are not relevant for the Group's operations:

- IFRIC 7, Applying the Restatement Approach under IAS 29, Financial Reporting in Hyperinflationary Economies (effective from 1 March 2006). IFRIC 7 provides guidance on how to apply requirements of IAS 29 in a reporting period in which an entity identifies the existence of hyperinflation in the economy of its functional Currency, when the economy was not hyperinflationary in the prior period. As none of the group entities have a Currency of a hyperinflationary economy as its functional Currency, IFRIC 7 is not relevant to the Group's operations.
- IFRIC 8, Scope of IFRS 2 (effective for annual periods beginning on or after 1 May 2006). IFRIC 8 requires consideration of transactions involving the issuance of equity instruments – where the identifiable consideration received is less than the fair value of the equity instruments issued – to establish whether or not they fall within the scope of IFRS 2. As the IRB does not have equity instruments, IFRIC 8 is not relevant to the Group's operations.
- IFRIC 11, 'IFRS 2 – Group and treasury share transactions', (effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 March 2007) provides guidance on whether share-based transactions involving treasury shares or involving group entities (for instance, options over a parent's shares) should be accounted for as equity-settled or cash-settled share-based payment transactions. As the IRB does not have equity instruments, IFRIC 11 is not relevant to the Group's operations and
- IFRIC 12, 'Service concession arrangements' (effective for accounting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2008) applies to contractual arrangements whereby a private sector operator participates in the development, financing, operation and maintenance of infrastructure for public sector services, for example, under private finance initiative contracts (PFI) contracts. As the IRB does not participate in these sort of arrangements IFRIC 12 is not relevant to the Group's Operations.

B Consolidation

Subsidiaries are all entities over which the International Rugby Board has the power to govern the financial and operating policies generally accompanying a shareholding of more than one half of the voting rights. The existence and effect of potential voting rights that are currently exercisable or convertible are considered when assessing whether the International Rugby Board controls another entity. Inter-company transactions, balances and unrealised gains on transactions between group companies are eliminated. Unrealised losses are also eliminated but considered an impairment indicator of the asset transferred. Accounting policies of subsidiaries have been changed where necessary to ensure consistency with the policies adopted by the International Rugby Board.

C Foreign currency translation**(a) Functional and presentation currency**

Items included in the financial statements of each of the International Rugby Board's entities are measured using the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates ('the functional currency'). The consolidated financial statements are presented in STG£, which is the International Rugby Board's functional and presentation currency.

(b) Transactions and balances

Foreign currency transactions are translated into the functional currency using the exchange rates prevailing at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year-end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the income statement. Changes in the fair value of monetary securities denominated in foreign currency classified as available for sale are analysed between translation differences resulting from changes in the amortised cost of the security, and other changes in the carrying amount of the security. Translation differences are recognised in profit or loss, and other changes in carrying amount are recognised in equity. Translation differences on non-monetary financial assets such as equities classified as available for sale are included in the fair value reserve in equity.

D Property plant and equipment

The IRB does not hold any property. All plant and equipment is stated at historical cost less depreciation. Historical cost includes expenditure that is directly attributable to the acquisition of the items. Subsequent costs are included in the asset's carrying amount or recognised as a separate asset, as appropriate, only when it is probable that future economic benefits associated with the item will flow to the IRB and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. All repairs and maintenance are charged to the income statement during the financial period in which they are incurred.

Depreciation on plant and equipment is calculated using the straight-line method to allocate their cost or amounts to their residual values over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Fixtures and fittings	5 years
Computer equipment	3 years
Plant and equipment	25 years
Motor vehicles	5 years

The assets' residual values and useful lives are reviewed, and adjusted if appropriate, at each balance sheet date.

An asset's carrying amount is written down immediately to its recoverable amount if the asset's carrying amount is greater than its estimated recoverable amount.

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing proceeds with carrying amount. These are included in the income statement.

E Intangible assets**Rugby World Cup Logo**

The Rugby World Cup logo represents costs incurred in registering the logo. The logo is regarded as having an indefinite useful life because, based on an analysis of all relevant factors, there is no foreseeable limit to the period over which the asset is expected to generate net cash inflows to the entity. The logo is not subject to amortisation and is tested annually for impairment. An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying value exceeds its recoverable amount. The recoverable amount is the higher of an asset's fair value less costs to sell and value in use. To date an impairment loss has not arisen.

Website development costs

The costs incurred in developing the International Rugby Board's website are capitalised and amortised over 3 years.

F Financial assets**Available-for-sale financial assets**

The International Rugby classifies all of its investments into the available-for-sale category. They are included in non-current assets unless management intends to dispose of the investment within 12 months of the balance sheet date. Regular purchases and sales of investments are recognised on trade-date – the date on which the IRB commits to purchase or sell the asset. Investments are initially recognised at fair value plus transaction costs. Available for-sale financial assets are subsequently carried at fair value. Investments are derecognised when the rights to receive cash flows from the investments have expired or have been transferred and the IRB has transferred substantially all risks and rewards of ownership. Changes in the fair value of monetary securities classified as available-for-sale and non-monetary securities classified as available-for-sale are recognised in equity.

When securities classified as available-for-sale are sold or impaired, the accumulated fair value adjustments recognised in equity are included in the income statement as 'gains and losses from investment securities'. Interest on available-for-sale securities calculated using the effective interest method is recognised in the income statement. Dividends on available-for-sale equity instruments are recognised in the income statement when the Group's right to receive payments is established.

The fair values of quoted investments are based on current bid prices.

The IRB assesses at each balance sheet date whether there is objective evidence that a financial asset or a group of financial assets is impaired. In the case of equity securities classified as available for sale, a significant or prolonged decline in the fair value of the security below its cost is considered as an indicator that the securities are impaired. If any such evidence exists for available-for-sale financial assets, the cumulative loss – measured as the difference between the acquisition cost and the current fair value, less any impairment loss on that financial asset previously recognised in profit or loss – is removed from equity and recognised in the income statement. Impairment losses recognised in the income statement on equity instruments are not reversed through the income statement.

G Trade receivables

Trade receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of trade receivables is established when there is objective evidence that the International Rugby Board will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of receivables. Significant financial difficulties of the debtor, probability that the debtor will enter bankruptcy or financial reorganisation, and default or delinquency in payments are considered indicators that the trade receivable is impaired. The amount of the provision is the difference between the asset's carrying amount and the present value of estimated future cash flows, discounted at the effective interest rate.

H Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents includes cash in hand, deposits held at call with banks, other short-term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less, and bank overdrafts.

I Employee benefits**Pension obligations**

The IRB operates a defined contribution pension plan. A defined contribution plan is a pension plan under which the IRB pays fixed contributions into a separate entity. The International Rugby Board has no legal or constructive obligations to pay further contributions if the fund does not hold sufficient assets to pay all employees the benefits relating to employee service in the current and prior periods. The contributions are recognised as employee benefit expense when they are due. Prepaid contributions are recognised as an asset to the extent that a cash refund or a reduction in the future payments is available.

J Provisions

Provisions for restructuring costs and legal claims are recognised when the International Rugby Board has a present legal or constructive obligation as a result of past events; it is more likely than not that an outflow of resources will be required to settle the obligation; and the amount has been reliably estimated. Provisions are measured at the present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the time value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as interest expense.

K Revenue recognition

Royalties from the licensing of television rights to broadcast the Rugby World Cup are recognised on the successful completion of the respective Rugby World Cup Tournament. Instalments received prior to this date are deferred as they may be repayable, in whole or in part, at any time up to the completion of the Rugby World Cup upon the occurrence, for any reasons, of one of more of the following conditions specified in the contract agreements:

- Cancellation and/or rescheduling of the events and/or non availability of feed of events to the licensee.
- Either party has committed a material breach of any of its obligations which cannot be remedied.
- Either party has committed a material or repeated breach of any of its obligations and fails to remedy such breach.
- The other party goes into liquidation or an administrator or receiver is appointed over the whole or any part of that other party's assets.
- The other party ceases or threatens to cease to carry on business or is removed from the relevant register of companies.

Interest earned on instalments received is for the benefit of the International Rugby Board and is recorded as interest income.

Other Revenue

Other revenue is generated from the sale of sponsorship rights, hospitality rights and licensing rights. Those which are related to the Rugby World Cup Tournament are deferred to the year in which the event is held as they may be repayable in whole or in part upon the occurrence of similar conditions which apply to the broadcasting rights agreements. Revenues related to other Tournaments are recorded in the period in which the relevant Tournament takes place.

Financial Income

Interest income is recognised on an effective yield basis and dividend income is recognised when the right to receive payment is established.

L Leases

The IRB has no finance leases of property, plant and equipment where the Group has substantially all of the risks and rewards of ownership. All leases undertaken by the IRB are operating leases in which a significant portion of the risks and rewards are retained by the lessor. Payments made under such operating leases, excluding contingency payments, are charged to the income statement on a straight-line basis over the period of the lease.

M Grants

The IRB distributes discretionary investment grants through the IRB Trust. These are charged to the income and expenditure account in the year in which the liability to distribute the grant falls due. Unpaid investment grants are accrued for two years only. Grants which remain unpaid after that date, because of non-compliance with the terms and conditions applying to their payment, are credited back to the income statement.

3 Financial risk management

Financial risk factors

The International Rugby Board's activities have the potential to expose it to a variety of financial risks including currency risk, credit risk and interest rate risk. Its overall risk management programme seeks to minimise potential adverse effects on the International Rugby Board's activities. The IRB uses derivative financial instruments to hedge certain risk exposures. Risk management is carried out by the International Rugby Board Finance Department under policies approved by the Council of the International Rugby Board. The Board provides written principles for overall risk management, as well as written policies covering specific areas, such as foreign exchange risk, interest rate risk, credit risk, use of derivative financial instruments and non-derivative financial instruments, and investment of excess liquidity.

(a) Foreign exchange risk

The Group operates internationally and is exposed to foreign exchange risk arising from various currency exposures, primarily with respect to the pound sterling. Foreign exchange risk arises from future commercial transactions and recognised assets and liabilities. To manage their foreign exchange risk arising from future commercial transactions and recognised assets and liabilities and when considered appropriate and necessary, entities in the Group use forward contracts, transacted with the Finance Department. Foreign exchange risk arises when future commercial transactions, recognised assets or liabilities are denominated in a currency that is not the entity's functional currency. There were no forward contracts outstanding at the year end date.

(b) Credit risk

The IRB has no significant concentrations of credit risk. Substantially all of its revenues are generated from the licensing of television broadcasting rights and other commercial rights and the IRB believes that that all amounts due under such rights are fully collectible.

(c) Interest rate risk

The Group does not have any significant concentrations of interest rate risk.

4 Critical accounting estimates and judgements

Estimates and judgements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

The International Rugby Board makes estimates and assumptions concerning the future. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. However the International Rugby Board considers that there are no significant estimates, judgements or assumptions applied in the current financial year as a result of which there is a risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities.

5 Property, plant and equipment

	Vehicles Stg£	Furniture, fittings and equipment Stg£	Total Stg£ Stg£
At 1 January 2005			
Cost	84,557	1,017,791	1,102,348
Accumulated depreciation	(35,458)	(691,658)	(727,116)
Net book amount	49,099	326,133	375,232
Year ended 31 December 2005			
Opening net book amount	49,099	326,133	375,232
Additions	-	44,765	44,765
Disposals	-	(12,939)	(12,939)
Depreciation charge (note 13)	(18,172)	(113,412)	(131,584)
Closing net book amount	30,927	244,547	275,474
At 31 December 2005			
Cost	84,557	1,049,617	1,134,174
Accumulated depreciation	(53,630)	(805,070)	(858,700)
Net book amount	30,927	244,547	275,474
Year ended 31 December 2006			
Opening net book amount	30,927	244,547	275,474
Additions	15,468	198,324	213,792
Depreciation charge (note 13)	(18,503)	(116,851)	(135,354)
Closing net book amount	27,892	326,020	353,912
At 31 December 2006			
Cost	100,025	1,247,941	1,347,966
Accumulated depreciation	(72,133)	(921,921)	(994,054)
Net book amount	27,892	326,020	353,912

6 Intangible assets

	Rugby World Cup and Logos Stg£	Website development Stg£	Total Stg£
At 1 January 2005			
Cost	77,002	230,804	307,806
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	-	(73,343)	(73,343)
Net book amount	77,002	157,461	234,463
Year ended 31 December 2005			
Opening net book amount	77,002	157,461	234,463
Amortisation charge (note 13)	-	(45,186)	(45,186)
Closing net book amount	77,002	112,275	189,277
At 31 December 2005			
Cost	77,002	230,804	307,806
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	-	(118,529)	(118,529)
Net book amount	77,002	112,275	189,277
Year ended 31 December 2006			
Opening net book amount	77,002	112,275	189,277
Additions	-	129,565	129,565
Amortisation charge (note 13)	-	(88,289)	(88,289)
Closing net book amount	77,002	153,551	230,553
At 31 December 2006			
Cost	77,002	360,369	437,371
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	-	(206,818)	(206,818)
Net book amount	77,002	153,551	230,553

The Rugby World Cup and Logos are considered to have an indefinite life because it is considered that there is no foreseeable limit to the period over which this asset is expected to generate cash flows. As the cash inflows to the IRB as a result of the successful completion of the World Cup Tournaments are expected to be significantly in excess of the net book amount of these intangible assets no impairment is considered to have taken place.

7 Deferred expenditure

It is the IRB's policy to defer all revenue and corresponding expenditure that relates to the 2007 Rugby World Cup. All commission expenditure which has been incurred in relation to generating income from the 2007 Rugby World Cup has been deferred and will be recognised in the 2007 financial period when the revenue is recognised. Expenditure deferred at year end date arises as follows:

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Broadcasting	3,885,779	1,985,158
Sponsorship	950,897	273,752
Merchandising	39,073	6,382
	4,875,749	2,265,292

8 Available-for-sale financial assets

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Beginning of the year	19,238,373	15,996,635
Additions	13,617,334	11,134,058
Disposals	(12,475,922)	(9,665,450)
Revaluation (deficit)/surplus transfer to equity	(20,981)	1,773,130
End of the year	20,358,804	19,238,373

There were no impairment provisions on available-for-sale financial assets in 2006 or 2005.

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Available-for-sale financial assets includes the following:		
Listed securities:		
Equity securities – eurozone countries	1,647,036	1,987,994
Equity securities – US	2,405,629	1,948,401
Equity securities – UK	7,535,364	6,306,143
Equity securities – other	1,268,585	1,994,148
	12,856,614	12,236,686
Interest securities – UK	6,317,678	6,238,847
Interest securities – other	1,184,512	762,840
	7,502,190	7,001,687
	20,358,804	19,238,373

At 31 December 2006 retained earnings included an amount of Stg£1,212,661 (2005: Stg£1,233,642) in respect of unrealised fair value gains on available for sale financial assets.

9 Trade and other receivables 2006

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Trade receivables	3,819,169	1,503,945
Less: provision for impairment of receivables	(206,192)	(206,192)
Trade receivables – net	3,612,977	1,297,753
Prepayments	2,940,325	134,613
	6,553,302	1,432,366

There is no difference in the fair value of trade and other receivables and the amounts stated above.

10 Cash and cash equivalents 2006

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Cash at bank and in hand	2,997,490	2,498,317
Short-term bank deposits	71,223,430	56,528,783
	74,220,920	59,027,100

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 3.0% (2005: 3.5%); these deposits have an average maturity of 41 days (2005: 38 days).

11 Deferred revenue

It is IRB's policy to defer all revenue that relates to hosting the 2007 Rugby World Cup. All Rugby World Cup revenue which has been generated with regard to the 2007 Rugby World Cup has been deferred and will be recognised in the 2007 financial period when the event is staged. Revenue deferred at the year end date arises as follows:

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Broadcasting	56,908,207	28,875,018
Sponsorship	27,358,123	3,998,425
Merchandising	470,677	63,750
	<u>84,737,007</u>	<u>32,937,193</u>

12 Trade and other payables

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Trade payables	1,515,471	3,505,709
Accrued expenses	5,491,019	2,874,316
	<u>7,006,490</u>	<u>6,380,025</u>

There is no difference in the fair value of trade and other payables and the amounts stated above.

13 Administration expenses by nature

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Depreciation and amortisation (notes 5 and 6)	223,643	176,770
Employee benefit expense (note 17)	3,668,403	3,439,306
Development expenses	1,230,149	844,464
Finance and administration expenses	2,376,754	1,080,702
Member services expenses	1,254,169	1,318,268
Other expenses	2,815,481	2,454,634
Total administrative expenses	<u>11,568,599</u>	<u>9,314,144</u>
Number of employees	<u>53</u>	<u>45</u>
Finance and administration expenses include :		
Audit fee	20,000	20,000
Council member attendance fees	395,500	261,000

14 Other gains

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Other financial assets at fair value through profit or loss :		
Gains arising on the disposal of available for sale financial assets	<u>584,463</u>	<u>429,987</u>

15 Other income

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Interest income on available-for-sale securities	<u>2,678,627</u>	<u>3,925,450</u>

16 Other expenses

During 2006 the International Rugby Board incurred £15,451,264 of grant expenditure, which was distributed to Tournaments and member unions. (2005: £13,340,392).

17 Employee benefit expense

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Wages and salaries	3,180,562	3,004,325
Social security costs	269,658	245,016
Pension costs – defined contribution plans	218,183	189,965
Total employment benefits expense	3,668,403	3,439,306

18 Income tax expense

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Income tax expense	35,677	48,961

Under Irish tax law the International Rugby Board is largely exempt from paying tax. A minimal taxation expense was incurred in the current financial period. This expense arose within the following entities:

- IRFB Services Limited
- RWC 2003 Limited
- IB Tournaments Limited

19 Cash generated from operations

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Loss for the period	(28,216,999)	(19,054,019)
Adjustments for:		
- Taxation	27,599	48,961
- Depreciation (Note 5)	135,354	131,584
- Amortisation (Note 6)	88,289	45,186
- Profit on disposal of property, plant and equipment	-	(400)
- Gains on disposal of available for sale financial assets	(584,463)	(429,987)
- Interest income	(2,678,627)	(3,925,450)
- Grants	15,451,264	13,340,392
Changes in working capital		
- Trade and other receivables	(5,120,934)	9,260,803
- Trade and other payables	1,244,813	975,351
- Deferred revenue	51,799,814	15,649,650
- Deferred expenditure	(2,610,457)	(1,076,773)
Cash generated from operations	29,535,653	14,965,298
In the cash flow statement, proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment comprise:		
Net book amount (Note 5)	-	12,939
Profit on sale of property, plant and equipment	-	400
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment		13,339

20 Commitments

The IRB Group has made commitments to provide a total of approximately £30m in Strategic Investment funding between 1st September 2005 and 30th June 2008.

The group has made commitments to its Member Unions to pay grants at a level of approximately Stg£6m over the next year.

IB Tournaments Limited, an entity wholly owned by the IRB, has entered into firm commitments to pay participation fees for the IRB Sevens of up to US\$747,500 (Stg£380,349) per annum in total up to 2009.

The IRB, through its wholly owned entity, Rugby World Cup Limited, has entered into a formal agreement with the FFR awarding them the right to host the Rugby World Cup in France in 2007.

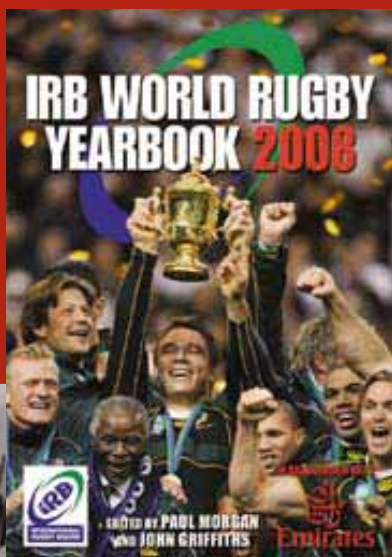
The IRB, through its wholly owned entity, Rugby World Cup Limited, has entered into a formal agreement with the NZRU awarding them the right to host the Rugby World Cup in New Zealand in 2011.

Operating Lease Commitments

At the balance sheet date, the Group has outstanding commitments under non-cancellable operating leases, which fall due as follows:

	2006 Stg£	2005 Stg£
Not later than one year	84,343	84,343
Later than one and no later than five years	337,372	337,372
Later than five years	379,543	463,887
	<u>801,258</u>	<u>885,602</u>

The majority of the lease commitments of the IRB relate to the lease of its headquarters at 35-38 Huguenot House, St. Stephen's Green, Dublin 2, Ireland. The lease ends in July 2021, with a break clause occurring in 2011.



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