

INTERNATIONAL

RUGBY

BOARD

YEAR IN REVIEW 2008



a year of fantastic tournaments

IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES • IRB JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP • IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP • IRB NORTH AMERICA 4 • CHURCHILL CUP
IRB JUNIOR WORLD RUGBY TROPHY • SIX NATIONS • IRB NATIONS CUP • IRB PACIFIC RUGBY CUP • TRI NATIONS • WOMEN'S SIX NATIONS



RUGBY'S CORNERSTONES ARE, AS THEY ALWAYS HAVE BEEN, THE PLEASURE OF PARTICIPATING, THE COURAGE AND SKILL THAT THE GAME DEMANDS, THE LOVE OF A TEAM SPORT THAT ENRICHES THE LIVES OF THOSE INVOLVED, AND THE LIFELONG FRIENDSHIP FORGED THROUGH THE GAME.

2 :: Foreword by IRB Chairman Bernard Lapasset

**4 PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE
TO MEMBER UNIONS**

6 :: IRB Council and Committees

8 :: Key Council/EXCO decisions

10 :: Member Unions and Regional Associations

12 DEVELOPING THE WORLD GAME

14 :: Strategic investment the key to competitiveness

16 :: Training and education

18 :: Game analysis

20 :: Landmark year for the women's game

**44 PROMOTING AND PROTECTING
THE GAME AND ITS UNIQUE SPIRIT**

46 :: Supporting a healthy lifestyle

47 :: Leading the way in player welfare

48 :: Referees report

50 :: Anti-Doping – Ensuring a level playing field

**22 DELIVERING RUGBY'S MAJOR
TOURNAMENTS**

24 :: Destination New Zealand

26 :: The road to New Zealand 2011

28 :: Rugby World Cup 2011 Pool Allocation Draw

30 :: 10 years of Sevens heaven

32 :: IRB Junior World Championship

34 :: IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy

36 :: IRB Pacific Nations Cup

37 :: IRB Nations Cup

38 :: Other regional tournaments 2008

40 :: Rugby reaching out to rejoin the Olympic Games

52 MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS

54 :: Total Rugby

56 :: IRB website review

57 :: 2008 Inductees to the IRB Hall of Fame

58 :: Rugby World Cup significance for rankings

60 :: IRB Awards 2008 – Shane steals the show

62 :: World results 2008

68 :: Key fixtures 2009

**70 GROWING THE GLOBAL GAME
– FINANCIAL REPORT**

72 :: Financing the global game

74 :: Financial report and accounts

89 :: Meet the team

CONTENTS

Rugby's re-admission into the Olympic Games is one of the key goals in the IRB's strategic plan for Rugby. Why? Development. The Olympic Games, the world's largest sporting stage, can provide the stimulus for the continued global growth of the Game and its development in new and major economic markets.

Rugby is presently on a short-list for possible re-admission to the 2016 Olympic Games along with baseball and softball (which have lost their place on the London 2012 Games sports programme), golf, karate, squash and roller sports. Rugby, along with these last four sports, was a candidate for possible inclusion in the 2012 Games but in 2005 the IOC voted to have just 26 sports at the London Games. However, the IOC is now committed to once again having 28 sports for 2016.

The IOC will make a decision on which two sports will be included in the 2016 Games at a meeting in Copenhagen in October 2009 when the host city – either Chicago, Madrid, Rio de Janeiro or Tokyo – will also be selected.

Due to the fact that the Olympic Games only run for 16 days the IRB is promoting Rugby Sevens, for men and women, as the Rugby discipline for inclusion.

Rugby Sevens has a proven successful formula in multi-sport events such as the

Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Games and has a hugely successful Rugby World Cup Sevens tournament and an annual IRB World Series. The development contribution of Rugby Sevens cannot be underestimated. Over a quarter of the 600 players at Rugby World Cup 2007 had played for their national Rugby Sevens team.

The IRB firmly believes that Rugby's re-admission would be good for the sport and for the Olympic Games:

- It would reinforce the ideals of Olympism, thanks to Rugby's long-standing ethos of fair play and friendship
- It would assist the IOC in reaching a new and young audience that is attracted by Rugby Sevens
- A Rugby Sevens tournament would fill an existing stadium in the first week of competition adding an additional vibrant and youthful tone for the Games
- It would extend the number of potential medal-winning nations in what would be a true world championship
- It would increase funds to grow the Olympic Movement by attracting new commercial partners and spectators.

Furthermore, participation would be good for Rugby as it would unlock new funding worldwide and access to facilities and infrastructure (many Governments only fund Olympic sports), further establish Rugby Sevens as a global pathway to all forms of Rugby and draw new fans, sponsors and broadcasters to

the sport.

The campaign has been already been successful in that Rugby Sevens will be part of the Pan American Games in 2011 and the All African Games in 2012. I am also happy to report that the IRB met with over 80 IOC members in Beijing, including President Jacques Rogge. This led to the identification of key IOC Members who are supportive of the IRB's campaign.

In November 2008 we presented our case to the Olympic Programme Commission and in June 2009 we will present to the IOC Executive Board. Of course the Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai in March 2009 will be a major showcase for Rugby Sevens' Olympic drive. There is no doubt that competition for a place in 2016 is going to be tough and the IRB needs the global Rugby family to continue its support of the campaign.

The IRB's focus on its core business also continued strongly in 2008, including the continued roll out of global development initiatives across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Americas and Oceania. I reported last year that the Game has already started to see the results of the unprecedented £30 million Strategic Investment Programme (2006-2008) through the excellent form of the developing countries at Rugby World Cup 2007. The continued commercial success of the tournament in France has added further impetus to this essential high

performance programme with the Executive Committee announcing in 2008 a further £48 million boost for the programme.

This second cycle of strategic investment for 2009-2012 represents a 20% increase in funding on the previous cycle. Importantly £18.7 million of this investment is set aside for high performance initiatives in Tier 2 and 3 Unions. Add this commitment to specific tournament expenditure for these Unions of £12.9 million then the combined expenditure of £31.6 million represents 66% of the overall expenditure.

Furthermore, annual grants to our Member Unions have continued to increase and when you add the £48 million strategic investment to the annual commitment to Member Unions in the form of development grants and regional tournament delivery the IRB will, over the next four years (2009-2012), invest over £150 million on the Game worldwide.

The IRB announced in March the start of a global trial of its Experimental Law Variations. The IRB has been trialling the ELVs over the last three years around the world and the project culminates in this last trial. In March 2009 the review process will begin and include Member Union feedback. The Rugby Committee will then make a recommendation to Council in May 2009 when the decision to accept any or all of the ELVs will be made.

Progress has also been made this year on the review of many of the Game's Regulations.

Olympic Games key to future growth

Bernard Lapasset, IRB Chairman

This is to ensure the Regulations remain relevant to the Game as it evolves. Regulation 9 which governs player release for international matches is one such Regulation that has undergone review and amendment.

Planning for RWC 2011 in New Zealand is at an advanced stage. Qualification kicked off in 2008 with matches in the West Indies, South America, Africa and Europe, and tournament organisers RNZ 2011 announced the venues for the knockout stages. At the end of 2008 the pool allocation draw took place. In 2009 qualification heats up, RNZ 2011 will announce the match schedule and pool match venues, and the first tickets will go on sale.

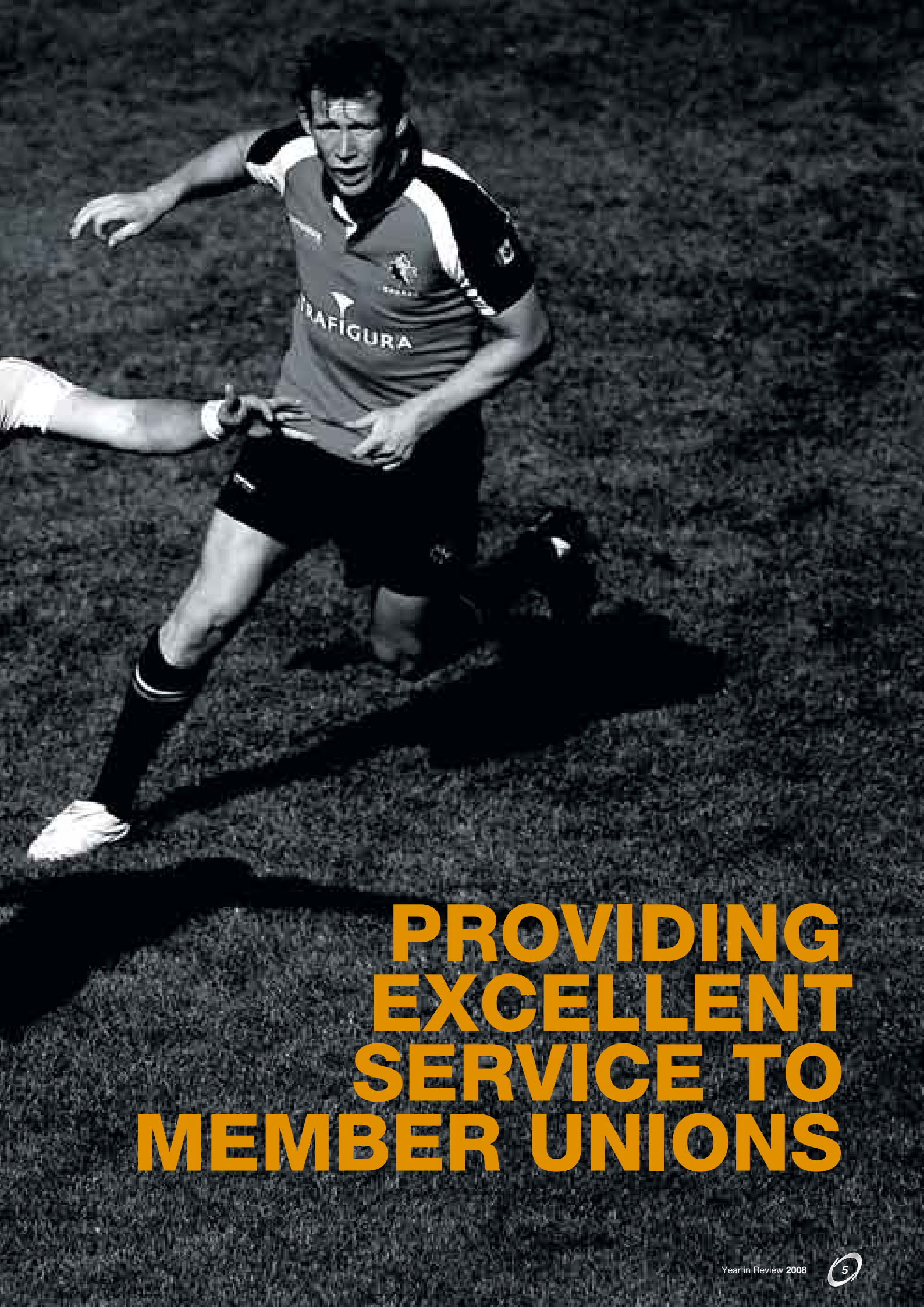
On Rugby World Cup matters, in an historic move the IRB Council announced in July that it will allocate the next two tournaments – Rugby World Cup 2015 and 2019 – at the same time. The IRB commenced the tender process the same month with a letter sent to Member Unions inviting expressions of interest in hosting the tournaments. The announcement of the successful Host Unions is scheduled for July 2009.

Finally, I am happy to report that Rugby World Cup 2007 has been awarded the prestigious title of Best World Event in environmental impact by the French Environment and Energy Management Agency, ADEME.





RUGBY OWES MUCH OF ITS APPEAL TO THE FACT THAT IT IS PLAYED BOTH TO THE LETTER AND WITHIN THE SPIRIT OF THE LAWS. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THIS LIES NOT WITH ONE INDIVIDUAL – IT INVOLVES COACHES, CAPTAINS, PLAYERS AND REFEREES



PROVIDING EXCELLENT SERVICE TO MEMBER UNIONS



IRB Council AND Co

IRB COUNCIL 2008

Chairman

Bernard Lapasset

Vice Chairman

Bill Beaumont

Africa (CAR)

Abdelaziz Bougja

Argentina

Hugo Porta

Asia (ARFU)

Noboru Mashimo

Australia

Paul McLean

John O'Neill

Peter McGrath (I)

Canada

Chris Le Fevre

England

Martyn Thomas

Jonathan Dance

Europe (FIRA-AER)

Raul Martins

Jose Maria-Epalza (J)

France

Pierre Camou

Jacques Laurans

Wanda Noury (J)

Ireland

Peter Boyle

Noel Murphy

Pat Whelan (J)

Italy

Giancarlo Dondi

Allessio Distinto (J)

Japan

Ichiro Kono

New Zealand

Graham Mourie

Steve Tew

NAWIRA

Pearse Higgins

Oceania (FORU)

Harry Schuster

Andy Conway (J)

Scotland

Bill Nolan

Gordon McKie

South Africa

Oregan Hoskins

Johan Prinsloo

Jonathan Stones (A)

South America (CONSUR)

Ricardo Paganini

Wales

David Pickering

Gerald Davies

(A) Annual Meeting

(I) Interim Meeting

(J) July Meeting

**IRB Council** Dublin, 2008

Back: J. O'Neill (Australia), H. Porta (Argentina), G. Davies (Wales), G. Mourie (New Zealand), O. Hoskins (South Africa), P. Boyle (Ireland), P. Camou (France), P. McLean (Australia), M. Miller (Chief Executive Officer)

Centre: C. Le Fevre (Canada), G. Dondi (Italy), P. Higgins (NAWIRA), I. Kono (Japan), A. Bougja (CAR), N. Mashimo (ARFU), H. Schuster (FORU), J. Dance (England), R. Paganini (CONSUR), R. Martins (FIRA-AER)

Front: G. McKie (Scotland), J. Stones (South Africa), S. Tew (New Zealand), B. Beaumont, Vice-Chairman, B. Lapasset, Chairman, N. Murphy (Ireland), J. Laurans (France), D. Pickering (Wales)

Absent: B. Nolan (Scotland), M. Thomas (England)

LAWS PROJECT GROUP**Chairman**

Bill Nolan

Members

Bill Beaumont
Bruce Cook
Ian McIntosh
Mick Molloy
Graham Mourie
Paddy O'Brien
Pierre Villepreux
Richie Dixon
Rod Macqueen
Steve Griffiths

JUDICIAL PANEL**Chairman**

Tim Gresson

ANTI-DOPING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**Chairman**

Bernard Lapasset

Members

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

mmitttees

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Bernard Lapasset (Chairman)
Bill Beaumont
Peter Boyle
Giancarlo Dondi
Oregon Hoskins
Paul McLean
Mike Miller
Graham Mourie
Bill Nolan
David Pickering

AUDIT & RISK COMMITTEE**Chairman**

Jacques Laurans

Members

Abdelaziz Bougja

Jonathan Dance
Noburo Mashimo
Paul McLean
Steve Tew

RUGBY COMMITTEE**Chairman**

Graham Mourie

Members

Chris Le Fevre
Jean-Pierre Lux
Rod Macqueen
Bill Nolan
John O'Neill
Noel Murphy
David Pickering

REGULATIONS COMMITTEE**Chairman**

Peter Boyle

Members

Gerald Davies
Giancarlo Dondi
Tim Gresson
Oregon Hoskins
Martyn Thomas

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>
Bernard Lapasset	<i>Medical</i>

DESIGNATED MEMBERS FOR RULINGS IN LAW**Chairman**

Bill Nolan

Members

Paul McLean
David Pickering

Membership

Council agreed to the **realignment of IRB membership in the West Asia Area**. Following an audit and review of the Arabian Gulf Rugby Football Union it was agreed that the organisation be dissolved by the end of 2010 to enable individual Unions in the Region to be recognised in their own right. This process will be assisted and facilitated by the IRB and ARFU and involves the appointment of Matt Oakley as the IRB Asia West Project Manager. In 2009 a general review will take place to ensure that an appropriate structure is implemented going forward to enable the Game to grow in the key Region.

Council agreed to approve the recommendation that **St. Lucia Rugby Football Union's membership** be reduced to permanent Associate Member status following a review by the IRB and NAWIRA.

Council agreed that Associate Members **Pakistan and the Philippines be admitted to Full membership** subject to the completion of a 24-month report on suitability.

Working Accord

At its Annual meeting in May the IRB Council formerly ratified the Working Accord that was agreed by Rugby's stakeholders at its **Integrated Season Forum in Woking, England** in November 2007.

The measures agreed are designed to continue the phenomenal growth of Rugby around the world.

- Adoption of player welfare standards with a player recovery period of a minimum 10 weeks per year
- Capping the number of annual Test matches that would attract automatic player release under Regulation 9 at 11 and that the English and French professional club seasons will finish May 31 each year
- A transition programme for Argentina's full integration into the senior international playing calendar
- Investigating the possibility of establishing an Inter-Hemisphere Tournament
- Creating new initiatives in the form of competition structures for developing nations
- Adoption of a permanent September-October Rugby World Cup window.

Regulations

At its November meeting Council agreed the new Regulation 9 covering **player availability for international matches**. The new Regulation took effect on January 1 and follows an extensive consultation process with all stakeholders.

Tournaments

Council selected England as **hosts of Women's Rugby World Cup 2010**. It was agreed that the premier Women's tournament would be played in early September with matches taking place in West London. Council also agreed a new global qualification structure for the Tournament.

Council accepted the EXCO recommendation that the **IRB Junior World Championship 2009 be hosted by the Japan Rugby Football Union** in June and the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy 2009 be hosted by the Kenya Rugby Football Union in April.

Key Council/EXCO

ELVs

The IRB Council approved a global trial of **Experimental Law Variations (ELVs)** for a 12-month period starting on 1 August 2008. The trial at all levels of the Game involves 13 of the 23 ELVs that has been undergoing experimentation in approved tournaments around the world over the last two years.

New RWCL Board

Council also approved the RWCL Board. IRB Chairman Bernard Lapasset assumed the reigns as Chairman, replacing Dr Syd Millar who remains as a Director. IRB Vice Chairman Bill Beaumont, who was a RWC Director for Rugby World Cup 2007 in France, also stays on the Board. Oregan Hoskins, President of the South Africa Rugby Union and IRB Council Member, joins the Board for the first time as a Director. Mike Miller, IRB Chief Executive and Managing Director of Rugby World Cup Ltd, completes the five-man Rugby World Cup Board.

IRB Medical

EXCO agreed that the **IRB medical structure be updated** to ensure best practice methods are adopted for player welfare and medical research.

The current practice of using **world renowned medical experts**, along with Union medical officers, in expert groups on specific medical topics will be expanded. These groups will report to the IRB Medical Officer and the IRB Medical Manager (a newly created position).

An annual medical conference will be established by the IRB which will be attended by key Union medical officers and invited experts. The conference will be able to review this work and discuss medical issues within the Game. As a result the IRB will benefit from the latest research in related fields including research from other sports. The proposal sees the Medical Advisory Committee being replaced by this more flexible annual conference. EXCO will continue to authorise all medical policies for implementation.

Decisions 2008

Member Unions and Regional Associations



Union (Entry Year)	Players
1 Andorra (1991)	222
2 Armenia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
3 Austria (1992)	1,065
4 Azerbaijan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
5 Belgium (1988)	8,570
6 Bosnia & Herzegovina (1996)	826
7 Bulgaria (1992)	2,849
8 Croatia (1992)	2,000
9 Czech Republic (1988)	4,679
10 Denmark (1988)	2,200
11 England (1890)	698,163
12 Finland (2001)	448
13 France (1978)	282,121
14 Georgia (1992)	3,198
15 Germany (1988)	9,311
16 Hungary (1991)	2,100
17 Ireland (1886)	114,627
18 Israel (1988)	610
19 Italy (1987)	61,354
20 Latvia (1991)	622
21 Lithuania (1992)	1,852
22 Luxembourg (1991)	2,370
23 Malta (2000)	492
24 Moldova (1994)	2,275
25 Monaco (1998)	325
26 Netherlands (1988)	8,059
27 Norway (1993)	534
28 Poland (1988)	4,912
29 Portugal (1988)	5,877
30 Romania (1987)	7,960
31 Russia (1990)	19,700
32 Scotland (1886)	32,817
33 Serbia (1988)	2,419
34 Slovenia (1996)	1,040
35 Spain (1988)	17,248
36 Sweden (1988)	3,302
37 Switzerland (1988)	2,096
38 Ukraine (1992)	3,890
39 Wales (1886)	47,000

Union (Entry Year)	Players
40 Botswana (1994)	4,288
41 Burundi (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
42 Cameroon (1999)	3,213
43 Ghana (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
44 Ivory Coast (1988)	11,560
45 Kenya (1990)	33,669
46 Madagascar (1998)	17,182
47 Mali (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
48 Mauritania (2003)	<i>Associate Member</i>
49 Mauritius (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
50 Morocco (1988)	5,255
51 Namibia (1990)	7,580
52 Nigeria (2001)	7,804
53 Rwanda (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
54 Senegal (1999)	2,805
55 South Africa (1949)	511,561
56 Swaziland (1998)	4,870
57 Tanzania (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
58 Togo (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
59 Tunisia (1988)	13,943
60 Uganda (1997)	8,240
61 Zambia (1995)	3,650
62 Zimbabwe (1987)	26,492

Union (Entry Year)	Players
63 Argentina (1987)	91,459
64 Brazil (1995)	3,532
65 Chile (1991)	16,658
66 Colombia (1999)	2,942
67 Paraguay (1989)	4,355
68 Peru (1999)	660
69 Uruguay (1989)	5,533
70 Venezuela (1998)	2,150

FIRA-AER

37 Member Unions 2 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	1,358,863
World Playing Population Percentage	46.9%
World Population Percentage	11%

CAR

15 Member Unions 8 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	662,112
World Playing Population Percentage	22.9%
World Population Percentage	13.8%

CONSUR

8 Member Unions

Region Playing Numbers	127,289
World Playing Population Percentage	4.4%
World Population Percentage	8%

97 Member Unions
19 Associate Member Unions
3 million
 Playing the Game Worldwide



Union (Entry Year)	Players
71 Bahamas (1994)	734
72 Barbados (1995)	230
73 Bermuda (1992)	752
74 Brit. Virgin Islands (2001)	<i>Associate Member</i>
75 Canada (1987)	21,587
76 Cayman Islands (1997)	2,256
77 Guyana (1995)	1,032
78 Jamaica (1996)	8,862
79 Mexico (2006)	1,191
80 St Lucia (1996)	<i>Associate Member</i>
81 St Vincent and the Grenadines (2001)	866
82 Trinidad & Tobago (1992)	4,141
83 United States (1987)	67,263

Union (Entry Year)	Players
84 Arabian Gulf (1990)	3,710
85 Cambodia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
86 China, People's Republic of (1997)	4,210
87 Chinese Taipei (1988)	2,980
88 Guam (1998)	527
89 Hong Kong (1988)	10,864
90 India (1999)	14,562
91 Indonesia (2008)	<i>Associate Member</i>
92 Japan (1987)	122,672
93 Kazakhstan (1997)	2,335
94 Korea (1988)	1,260
95 Kyrgyzstan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
96 Lao (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
97 Malaysia (1988)	34,750
98 Mongolia (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>
99 Pakistan (2004)	<i>Full Member, Nov. 2008</i>
100 Philippines (2004)	<i>Full Member, Nov. 2008</i>
101 Singapore (1989)	9,066
102 Sri Lanka (1988)	121,002
103 Thailand (1989)	16,735
104 Uzbekistan (2004)	<i>Associate Member</i>

Union (Entry Year)	Players
105 American Samoa (2005)	<i>Associate Member</i>
106 Australia (1949)	82,818
107 Cook Islands (1995)	1,730
108 Fiji (1987)	22,605
109 New Zealand (1949)	139,968
110 Niue Island (1999)	290
111 Papua New Guinea (1993)	6,707
112 Samoa (1988)	23,179
113 Solomon Islands (1999)	3,068
114 Tahiti (1994)	1,892
115 Tonga (1987)	7,720
116 Vanuatu (1999)	2,143

NAWIRA

11 Member Unions 2 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	108,914
World Playing Population Percentage	3.7%
World Population Percentage	7.2%

ARFU

15 Member Unions 6 Associate Unions

Region Playing Numbers	344,673
World Playing Population Percentage	11.9%
World Population Percentage	59%

FORU

11 Member Unions 1 Associate Union

Region Playing Numbers	292,120
World Playing Population Percentage	10.1%
World Population Percentage	1%



• RUGBY PROVIDES PLAYERS OF DIFFERENT PHYSIQUES, SKILLS, GENDERS AND AGES WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE AT THEIR LEVELS OF ABILITY IN A CONTROLLED, COMPETITIVE AND ENJOYABLE ENVIRONMENT



DEVELOPING THE WORLD GAME

Strategic



In 2005/06 the International Rugby Board embarked on an unprecedented three-year £30 million strategic investment programme with the aim of increasing the competitiveness of the Game among the High Performance and Performance Unions. This new High Performance Programme was underwritten by the financial surplus of Rugby World Cup.

Then, following the continued success of RWC 2007 in France the IRB announced the next round of strategic investment funding for the period 2009-2010. This second tranche of the programme will see a further planned £48 million invested in the Game.

From early 2006 into 2007 much of the delivery of identified high performance programmes began among the 17 identified countries that received assistance. Namely the 10 Tier 1 Unions to ensure

standards at the elite level were maintained (England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, France, Italy, Argentina, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia), the seven developing Tier 2 Unions (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Japan, Canada, USA and Romania) and a selected number of Tier 3 Unions with emphasis on their Rugby World Cup preparation and performance (Georgia, Portugal and Namibia).

This included the earmarking of significant investment funds in Argentina as it was

investment

the key to competitiveness

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 Argentina, 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 115 Member Unions and six 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 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 programmes, expenditure on Unions and playing facility infrastructures and of course the establishment of new tournaments to assist player pathways. These new tournaments are:

- IRB North America 4
- IRB Pacific Rugby Cup
- IRB Pacific Nations Cup
- IRB Nations Cup
- Churchill Cup programme funding for participation of Argentina A, Ireland A and Scotland A teams.

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 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 is appointing Regional High Performance Managers.

Since the implementation of the strategic investment programme the IRB has also redefined the way it classes 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.



training and



Training and Education continues to play an important role in the promotion and growth of the Game on a global scale. In 2008 the International Rugby Board further consolidated its training portfolio and extended the language provision of core resources.



Rugby Ready

In 2008 the IRB upgraded the Rugby Ready provision to include four formats and eight languages (English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, Russian, German and Romanian).

Handbook: in eight languages

DVD: with voice-over and additional footage in six languages

Website: www.irbrugbyready.com
– Over 100,000 registered users

Face-to-face course: increasingly compulsory prior to completion of Union courses



IRB Administrators Academy

The IRB has recognised the need to provide educational 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 comprise five courses:

Intensive Event and Administration:
5 days

Risk Management and Governance:
2 days

Executive Administration: 2 days

Athlete Performance Pathway: 2 days



education

MBA in Rugby Administration: 2 years part-time

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 their own Union. Ongoing competency based assessment occurs throughout. The first two Rugby participants on the MBA programme started in 2008. In 2009 the IRB Administrators Academy should extend to four locations around the world.

IRB Trainer and Educator courses

IRB Workforce development continues apace. From July 2007 only licensed IRB Trainers and Educators can deliver IRB accreditation courses.

This license is renewable on a three-year basis.

Numbers of Licensed Trainers and Educators (April 06-Oct 09)

101 Trainers

278 Coach Educators

240 Referee Educators

14 Strength and Conditioning Educators

Talent Identification Programme

This was piloted in 2007 at Stellenbosch University in South Africa for national level coaches and referees. The 2007 pilot was aimed at African nominations. In 2008 this programme was delivered at Stellenbosch to potential national coaches and International Referees.



All resources have been collated onto a single disc and this has been sent to every Trainer, Educator and Union.

Strength and Conditioning courses

Initial work began in 2008 on developing accreditation for Strength and Conditioning coaches. These courses will begin in 2009.

Beginner's Guide

A Beginner's Guide has been written to introduce the game to new participants, parents, spectators etc. This guide will be available in English, French, Spanish, Chinese, Japanese,




Russian, Portuguese, Italian and Hindi. This is the first IRB resource in Hindi.

ELV Educational material

Comprehensive training resources have been developed for ELV education on DVD, PDF and dedicated web clips platforms.





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.

Game Analysis

This involves identifying opponents' playing strategies and determining the strengths and weaknesses of each individual player, including the players of the coach's 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. It also includes both the European Rugby Cup and Super 14 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.

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 2008 reports were prepared on the 6 Nations, Tri Nations, IRB Junior World Championship, Women's 6 Nations, IRB Pacific Nations Cup and IRB Nations Cup and can be downloaded in a PDF format through the site.

One of the earlier paragraphs explains that the major objective of Game Analysis is to track how Rugby is being played at the highest level at any moment in time and how it is evolving. This is not achieved however by restricting analysis, for example, to 6 Nations, Tri Nations and Rugby World Cup. Because the Game of Rugby is constantly expanding and changing, other matches played within the international

framework are also closely monitored – and this year, for the first time, the Nations Cup and the Pacific Nations Cup were looked at in detail.

The results were highly informative – with the analysis defining issues of huge relevance to the development of the international game.

It soon became clear that there were major differences between these two sets of matches when compared with Tier 1 competitions.

Ball in play figures, for example, were dramatically less, only achieving levels last seen in the 6 Nations and Tri Nations 10 or more years ago.

While ball in play percentages do not have an intrinsic virtue, the level of ball in play is nevertheless of major significance. When the ball is in play, things happen. Passes, kicks and rucks are made – and the more ball in play, the more action there is.

As an illustration, the 6 Nations and Tri Nations in 2008 had ball in play figures that were some 40 to 50% higher than that seen in the Pacific Nations Cup and Nations Cup competitions. This makes huge demands on teams and players who, when playing teams from this higher level, have no recurring experience of playing at an intense pace for such an extended period. In practical terms, it means that after 60 minutes play they have competed their usual match quota of rucks, mauls and kicks.

Such teams now have to carry on tackling, compete in a further 50 rucks and mauls, and share an additional hundred passes. When this is compounded by the ability of opponents to introduce up to seven replacements in the last quarter of the game, it provides a hurdle which is somewhat challenging. This, therefore, is an area of major consideration when the objective is to introduce more countries to the highest competitive level of international matches.

Other issues then arose as the analysis developed – but this

time they revolved around teams or groups of teams.

National Characteristics

There appeared to be clear and distinct national characteristics beginning to emerge with, for example, the three Eastern European countries that participated in the Nations Cup – Georgia, Russia and Romania – comprising a clearly identifiable group.

- Their forwards and not backs tended to score tries. Of the 11 tries scored, 10 were scored by forwards. Not so with Emerging South Africa for example, where the corresponding figure was five tries by backs to one by a forward
- All three countries scored their 11 tries from within 22 metres of the opponents goalline
- 10 of their 11 tries did not contain a single pass. The comparable figure for Emerging SA and Italy A was two in 12 tries.
- The teams whose forwards were least likely to pass the ball were Georgia, Russia and Romania

There were also clearly identifiable national groupings in the Pacific Nations Cup where the three Pacific Island teams, for example, made noticeably fewer passes and passed at a far lesser rate than the other three teams.

Such differences pose interesting developmental issues. Are there, for example, national or regional characteristics that underpin a particular approach to the game that need to be cultivated and advanced or should their development comprise a more holistic approach where alternative approaches and skills are emphasised?

These are some of the exciting questions currently facing the Game – and one of the roles of Game Analysis is to contribute to the identification of such issues, and then monitor the progression of future developments.



Landmark

for the
Women's
Game



If 2007 defined the future of the Women's Game with the ground-breaking Conference on the Women's Game and implementation of the Strategic Plan for Women's Rugby, then 2008 was no less busy.

year

On the field Women's Rugby broke new ground, as the unprecedented global qualifying process for the inaugural Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens got underway, while off it international Rugby got its first Women's Development Manager as the IRB looks to continue to raise global playing standards and take the Women's Game to new territories.

Competition Review

2008 was another landmark year for the Women's Game. As the number of women and girls taking up the Sport continues to grow worldwide, it was fitting that some countries, like Botswana, competed internationally for the very first time last year.

In 2007 the IRB announced that, for the first time, a 16-team Women's Rugby

World Cup Sevens will take place alongside the men's in Dubai in 2009, a landmark first for the women's Game and a huge fillip to the development of the Women's Game worldwide.

As the build up to this historic event reached a climax, 2008 saw the biggest ever qualification process for a Women's Rugby tournament take place. In total 83 countries participated across all six IRB Regions competing for one of the coveted 16 places.

The qualification process was far from predictable with favourites like Kazakhstan losing out to China in Asia, and newcomers to the Women's Game, Brazil securing their place in South America.

History was also made in Africa as Uganda brought tears to the eyes of their fellow

countrymen and women when they became the first ever team from Uganda to reach a World Cup of any description.

If 2008 was a landmark year then 2009 promises to be no less significant, as in March the development of the Women's Game will take its most important step to date when Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens gets underway in front of a global television audience of over half a billion.

The global qualifying process for Women's Rugby World Cup 2010, which will take place in London, England is already underway. Following the unprecedented success of Canada in 2006, London 2010 is a much anticipated affair and is sure to match the competition and excitement of Edmonton.

The greatest highlight of 2009 may well happen off the pitch when the decision about the future participation of Rugby in the Olympic Games will be made.

Players, coaches and administrators all over the world are showing their support for the campaign, knowing that inclusion would provide a massive boost to the development of the Women's Game worldwide.

First Women's Development Manager

In December the IRB announced the appointment

of Susan Carty as Women's Development Manager.

A key recommendation from the historic 2007 Conference on the Women's Game, the appointment of a dedicated Development Manager for Women's Rugby will provide the impetus for the continued growth of the Women's Game at all levels.

Susan will work closely with the IRB's 116 Member Unions and six Regional Associations to ensure that the key goals of the IRB Women's Strategic Plan are implemented and in particular to provide assistance to developing Unions in enabling them to grow the Women's Game in their country.

Women's Rugby Facts

Women's Rugby is a major growth sport. It is played by over 200,000 registered players worldwide across six global regions.

Women's Rugby World Cup 2006 smashed all previous broadcast and attendance records.

Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 is the first in the Women's Game.

83 Unions participated in the global qualifying process.



IT IS THROUGH DISCIPLINE, CONTROL AND MUTUAL RESPECT THAT THE SPIRIT OF THE GAME FLOURISHES, AND THESE ARE THE QUALITIES WHICH FORGE THE FELLOWSHIP AND SENSE OF FAIR PLAY SO ESSENTIAL TO THE GAME'S ONGOING SUCCESS



DELIVERING RUGBY'S MAJOR TOURNAMENTS



Destination



New Zealand 2011

The Rugby World Cup has grown to become one of sport's most successful brands, watched by an audience of billions and enjoyed the world over. No sooner had a memorable Rugby World Cup 2007 tournament in France drawn to a close, than planning and preparation for the 2011 tournament started in earnest.

New Zealand

With the scale and complexity of the Rugby World Cup there is no time to rest following each tournament. By the time the post-tournament reporting on RWC 2007 was presented to the IRB Council in May 2008 there were already two senior RWCL management based in New Zealand working with the local organising committee on the initial RWC 2011 planning.

The transition from France to New Zealand was supported by a debrief of one RWC organising committee to the next for the first time, with the senior France 2007 management team spending a week in Wellington with senior RWCL and RNZ 2011 staff.

Tournament venues

Planning and preparation for New Zealand accelerated throughout the year with the development confirmation of the knockout venues. Two quarter-finals will be held in both Christchurch and Wellington while a redeveloped Eden Park in Auckland will host the semi-finals, Bronze Final and Final.

For the first time in RWC history the IRB World Rankings were used to seed the teams for a RWC draw. The Pool Allocation Draw was held on December 1 in Tourism New Zealand's giant rugby ball in London and threw up some fascinating pool match-ups. For the first time New Zealand will meet France in the pool phase, providing a fascinating historical link to the 1987 Final, the last RWC match played on New Zealand soil. The Draw also saw the unveiling of the New Zealand 2011 script, which draws strong connections with New Zealand's Maori heritage and will be supported with a full tournament look and feel next year.

1000 days to go

December 13 marked the milestone of 1000 days to go until the tournament kicks off. Since the tournament was awarded on November 17 2005 there has been a lot of initial planning work. The 1000 days milestone marks the period when key steps are close to finalisation. These include the

finalisation of the match schedule, selection of venues, ticketing strategy, festival planning and legacy planning, all of which will be finalised in 2009.

The important first steps towards RWC 2015/19 were also taken this year. The IRB Council decided in July that both tournaments would be awarded at the same time and the tender process for both was launched. A record nine IRB Unions expressed interest in hosting the tournaments. Tenders are due on May 8 and Council will select the Host Unions on July 28 2009.

An independent review of the potential impact of hosting the RWC was also commissioned by Deloitte. The Deloitte report confirmed that hosting the tournament would result in positive economic benefits of up to £2.1bn for the hosts and the tournament remained a low cost, low risk, high return major event to host.

To view the full Deloitte Report on Economic Benefits of Rugby World Cup, download it from www.rugbyworldcup.com



Six months to the day after South Africa stormed to victory at the record breaking Rugby World Cup 2007 in France, qualifying for New Zealand 2011 burst into life in the Caribbean with the Cayman Islands and Trinidad & Tobago kicking off the three-year process.

The 2008 NAWIRA Caribbean Championship in Grand Cayman on April 20 started a 112-match qualifying process serving as a reminder that Rugby World Cup is now anything but a seven-week tournament.

Eighty-six nations took part in qualifying for RWC 2007 and 82 nations will dare to dream over the coming three and a half years that one of the eight qualifying places in New Zealand could be theirs.

Trinidad & Tobago won the

opening match 39-12 and went on to win the eight-team tournament, progressing to play South American B champions Brazil in the next stage of qualifying in the Americas region.

Regional Round-up

AFRICA

The second regional qualifying process to get under way with two matches in May to determine who would join



the other 10 teams in the Africa Cup pool stages, which would take place between June and August with the winners then progressing to the semi finals in 2009.

Cameroon and Botswana overcame Nigeria and Swaziland respectively to secure their passage into the Africa Cup, but their challenge ended there with Ivory Coast, Namibia, Tunisia and Uganda finishing top of their respective pools with unbeaten records in their two matches.

The road to New Zealand 2011

ASIA

The Divisions 1 and 2 of the HSBC Asian Five Nations both formed part of the region's qualifying process for RWC 2011 in 2008 with the winners of each being promoted to the Top Five and Division 1 respectively for 2009.

Thailand emerged victorious from Division 2 in June, beating Malaysia 30-7 in the final in Bangkok, while Singapore triumphed in Division 1, albeit only after scoring last minute tries to draw 20-20 with Sri Lanka and beat hosts Chinese Taipei 23-22 to earn their prize of facing Japan, Korea, Hong Kong and Kazakhstan in the Top Five.

EUROPE

The top tier of the European Nations Cup 2010 involving Georgia, Germany, Portugal, Romania, Russia and Spain may provide the two automatic qualifiers from the region for RWC 2011, but the teams in other divisions are also involved in the process that will determine the European representative for the Final Place Playoff.

Only two matches in Division 1 took place in 2008 with Spain losing to Russia and then beating Germany, but there have been plenty in the other divisions with the Netherlands, Armenia, Lithuania, Slovenia and Israel all enjoying unbeaten starts to their campaigns in 2008.

NORTH AMERICA

All eyes were on Grand Cayman in April as the qualifying process kicked off, an occasion which Trinidad & Tobago rose to with victories over their hosts and Barbados before beating Guyana 40-24 in the final to be crowned Caribbean champions and set up a two-legged meeting with the winners of the South American B Championship in October.

OCEANIA

The only region yet to kick off their RWC 2011 qualifying process.

SOUTH AMERICA

Five teams converged on Asunción in June for the South American B Championship with Brazil once again proving too strong for their opponents, beating Colombia 34-6, Venezuela 56-8, Peru 59-0 and hosts Paraguay 15-6 to claim a third successive title.

This set up a cross-continental playoff with Trinidad & Tobago for the right to face Chile and Uruguay in the South American Championship in 2009. Brazil again highlighted their development by winning 31-8 in Port of Spain and 24-12 on home soil to secure a 55-20 aggregate victory.

QUALIFYING FIXTURES

Africa (CAR)

– South Africa pre-qualified

2008

Cameroon v Nigeria (winners Cameroon)

Swaziland v Botswana (winners Botswana)

Cameroon and Botswana enter the Africa Cup, a 12-team competition also involving Kenya, Ivory Coast, Madagascar, Morocco, Namibia, Senegal, Uganda, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe split into four pools:

Pool 1: Namibia, Zimbabwe, Senegal

Pool 2: Morocco, Ivory Coast, Zambia

Pool 3: Tunisia, Kenya, Cameroon

Pool 4: Uganda, Madagascar, Botswana

2009

Winners of the four pools (Namibia, Ivory Coast, Tunisia and Uganda) progress to the Africa Cup semi-finals, which will be played on a home and away basis in June

The Africa Cup final will take place on a home and away basis in November with the winner qualifying directly for RWC 2011 as Africa 1 and the loser going forward to the Final Place Playoff

Asia (ARFU)

2008

Asian Five Nations Division 2 involving India, Malaysia, Pakistan and Thailand. The winner (Thailand) promoted to Division 1 for 2009

Asian Five Nations Division 1 involving Chinese Taipei, Singapore and Sri Lanka. The winner (Singapore) promoted to the Top Five for 2009

2009

Asian Five Nations Division 1 – Winner promoted to the Top Five for 2010

Asian Five Nations Top Five – Bottom side relegated to Division 1 in 2010

2010

Asian Five Nations Top Five winner qualifies directly for RWC 2011 as Asia 1, while the runner-up goes forward to the Final Place Playoff

Europe (FIRA-AER)

– England, France, Ireland, Italy, Scotland and Wales pre-qualified

2009

Round 1 – Winner Division 3B ENC v Winner Division 3C ENC

Round 2 – Winner Round 1 v Winner Division 3A ENC

Round 3 – Winner Round 2 v Winner Division 2B ENC

2010

Round 4 – Winner Round 3 v Winner Division 2A ENC

Round 5 – European Nations Cup Division 1 – Champion and runner-up qualify as Europe 1 and Europe 2

Round 6 – Winner Round 4 v 3rd in ENC Division 1 – Winner goes forward to the Final Place Playoff

Americas (NAWIRA & CONSUR)

– Argentina pre-qualified

2008

NAWIRA (North America) Caribbean Championship involving Barbados, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cayman Islands, Guyana, Jamaica, Mexico and Trinidad & Tobago. Winner: Trinidad & Tobago

CONSUR (South America) Division B Championship involving Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. Winner: Brazil

October – Trinidad & Tobago v Brazil in cross-continental playoff, home and away. Winner: Brazil

2009

Brazil will join Chile and Uruguay in Division A of the South American Championship in May 2009

The following month, USA and Canada meet home and away with the aggregate winner qualifying directly for Rugby World Cup 2011 as Americas 1

The loser of this playoff will play the South American Championship winner (Brazil, Chile or Uruguay) in a home and away tie. The winner qualifies for RWC 2011 as Americas 2, while the loser goes forward to the Final Place Playoff

Oceania (FORU)

– Australia, Fiji, New Zealand and Tonga pre-qualified

2009

Oceania Cup – East and West. Two tournaments of three teams producing a final between the East and West winners

Oceania Cup winners play Samoa home and away, the aggregate winners qualifying directly for RWC 2011 as Oceania 1

Final Place Playoff

2010

Winner Europe (FIRA-AER) Round 6 v Loser Africa Cup final (CAR) – hosted by the country with the highest IRB World Ranking at the time both teams are known

Loser Americas Playoff v Runner-up Asian Five Nations 2010 – hosted by the country with the highest IRB World Ranking at the time both teams are known

FINAL

Winner Europe/Africa v Winner Americas/Asia – played on a home and away basis with the winner becoming the 20th and final qualifier for Rugby World Cup 2011



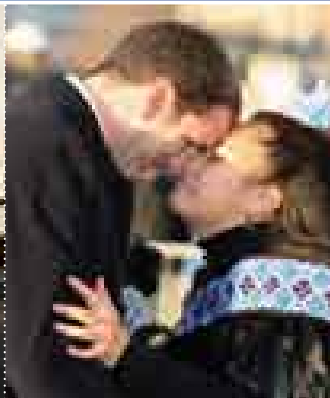
POOL A	POOL B	POOL C	POOL D
France	England	Ireland	Wales
Tonga	Scotland	Italy	Fiji
Americas 1	Europe 1	Europe 2	Oceania 1
Asia 1	Play-off Winner	Americas 2	Africa 1
New Zealand			
South Africa			
	BAND 1		
			Australia
			Argentina

New Zealand 2011



Rugby World Cup 2011

Pool Allocation Draw



Never before has there been such interest in a Rugby World Cup draw. The phenomenal success of the 2007 tournament in France and the use of the IRB World Rankings for the first time meant that the Rugby Community watched in their millions as New Zealand Rugby Chairman Jock Hobbs drew the balls.

Held inside Tourism New Zealand's impressive giant rugby ball next to Tower Bridge in London, the draw gave fans their first view of the match-ups which will be on offer during the pool phase of Rugby World Cup 2011.

Representatives from the 12 automatically-qualified teams, including New Zealand's Richie McCaw and Graham Henry, Wales' Ryan Jones and Warren Gatland, South Africa's John Smit and Peter de Villiers, Australia's Stirling Mortlock, Ireland's Brian O'Driscoll and Declan Kidney and England's Martin Johnson.

Defending champions South Africa find themselves in arguably the toughest pool,

where they will face Fiji, the side who nearly derailed their charge to the title in 2007, and Wales, the 2008 Six Nations champions.

Tournament hosts New Zealand will be looking to avenge their RWC 2007 quarter final exit at the hands of France when the sides meet in Pool A, while England will meet long time rivals Scotland for the first time in the pool stages.

Australia, the Rugby World Cup champions in 1991 and 1999, will face three European teams in Pool C, headed by Ireland and Italy.

"It was a big draw and a very good one because the four pools are all very balanced. It will be an interesting

tournament from the first day to the last day and it will be a big, big event and I am sure that people will be interested in every game at the tournament," said Rugby World Cup Limited Chairman Bernard Lapasset.

Global Interest

The Rugby World Cup 2011 Pool Allocation Draw received record broadcast coverage. Over 20 broadcasters took the free to air live feed of the event, while over 120 media were accredited for the draw and post draw reaction. Over 17,000 people watched the draw live via www.rugbyworldcup.com, compared to 2000 for the 2007 draw.

POOL A
New Zealand
France
Tonga
Americas 1
Asia 1

POOL B
Argentina
England
Scotland
Europe 1
Play-off Winner

POOL C
Australia
Ireland
Italy
Europe 2
Americas 2

POOL D
South Africa
Wales
Fiji
Oceania 1
Africa 1



Series goes from strength to strength

It is tempting to say that the 2007/08 IRB Sevens World Series was all about New Zealand. They won six of the eight events on the global Grand Prix-style circuit and went unbeaten until the Cup final of the sixth tournament, in Adelaide. In Gordon Tietjens, the Kiwis must also surely possess one of the greatest coaches in any sport.

However, the growth of the Series and of the sport in general eclipses even New Zealand's incredible achievements in winning an eighth World Series crown. As well as providing a proven test bed for future Rugby World Cup stars – no fewer than 25 percent of the players at the 2007 World Cup had competed

on the World Series – Sevens also continues to provide a global stage on which the so-called rugby minnows can excel and generate immediate success, and in turn enthusiasm and playing numbers.

Smaller Nations Impress

On no fifteen-a-side rugby pitch are the Game's superpowers ever likely to lose to their 'developing' cousins, and yet the competitiveness of Sevens ensures that these upsets happen frequently, and to the delight of the crowd. The Cook Islands and Kenya beat England in the course of the 2007/08 season, for example. In fact the Africans got the better of the Englishmen three times and also recorded notable wins against Australia, Wales and France. Beloved during France 2007 as the romantic frisson of the World Cup, Portugal are a proposition worth avoiding in

Sevens, while the USA also came good, beating Samoa and England.

Broadcast Friendly

There is no doubt that the appeal of international Sevens continues to grow, a fact reflected by another round of record broadcast figures. While New Zealand dominated for much of the season, all the rugby was competitive and no fewer than 33 international broadcasters televised coverage in 13 languages across 135 countries to 223 million homes and a cumulative global audience of 556 million, up 24 million on the previous 12 months.

Record Crowds

The events themselves also enjoyed record crowd figures. Dubai, South Africa, New Zealand and Hong Kong again sold out, while the USA Sevens in San Diego welcomed 40

percent more fans through the turnstiles and Australia, England and Scotland all consolidated on previous growth.

Global Appeal

Wherever the IRB Sevens World Series travels, crowds respond to the unique spectacle of the sport: the non-stop, flair-fuelled action, the skill of diminutive Sevens specialists and the promise of spotting the game's next generation of stars close up.

As the format of the Game chosen by the IRB in its continued efforts for re-inclusion into the Olympic movement, Sevens is a guaranteed popular fixture on the Rugby calendar and with a World Cup for both men and women in 2009 and the Commonwealth Games in 2010, its success can only continue to grow.

years of Sevens heaven



IRB Sevens World Series venues



All Time Player Points
(as at end Mar. 2009)

Player	Team	Points
Ben Gollings	ENG	1905
Waisale Serevi	FIJ	1310
Amasio Raoma	NZL	1124
Santiago Gomez Cora	ARG	1085
Uale Mai	SAM	1021



All Time Player Tries
(as at end Mar. 2009)

Player	Team	Tries
Santiago Gomez Cora	ARG	213
Fabian Juries	RSA	173
Ben Gollings	ENG	165
Karl Tenana	NZL	113
Amasio Raoma	NZL	112

Roll of Honour

1999/2000

New Zealand take maiden Series crown

	New Zealand	186
	Fiji	180
	Australia	118

2000/01

New Zealand see off rivals Australia, and add World Cup win

	New Zealand	162
	Australia	150
	Fiji	124

2001/02

Consistency the key for Kiwis

	New Zealand	198
	South Africa	136
	England	126

2002/03

New Zealand survive late scare

	New Zealand	112
	England	108
	Fiji	94

2003/04

New Zealand outlast England again

	New Zealand	128
	England	122
	Australia	98

2004/05

New Zealand's series, Fiji's World Cup

	New Zealand	116
	Fiji	88
	England	86

2005/06

Fiji take first ever Series title

	Fiji	144
	England	122
	South Africa	110

2006/07

New Zealand snatch back series in thriller

	New Zealand	130
	Fiji	128
	Australia	122

2007/08

35 consecutive wins as NZ retain title

	New Zealand	154
	South Africa	106
	Samoa	100

Tournaments
Review
2008

IRB JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

6-22 June :: Wales



Developing the future stars of world rugby

ARGENTINA

AUSTRALIA

CANADA

ENGLAND

FIJI

FRANCE

ITALY

IRELAND

JAPAN

NEW ZEALAND

SAMOA

SCOTLAND

SOUTH AFRICA

TONGA

USA

WALES



The inaugural IRB Junior World Championship in Wales proved to be one of the most exciting Rugby tournaments of the year, sparking huge interest in the new Under 20 Age Grade format across the globe.

New Zealand and England played out a high quality final at the impressive Liberty Stadium in Swansea, which resulted in yet another Age Grade title for the 'Baby Blacks' at the end of a three-week feast of international Rugby that had captured the hearts and minds of the Welsh public and left a lasting legacy of development across the Principality.

The tournament created Age Grade Rugby history on a number of fronts. Played out in Cardiff, Newport, Swansea and Wrexham, attendances were extremely good and with affordable ticketing, a strong team-school 'twinning' policy and a successful commercial and marketing campaign delivered by the Welsh Rugby Union, more people than ever before saw an IRB Age Grade tournament live.

Such impressive attendance figures were also backed up by strong broadcast figures with

70 international broadcasters screening the action from 14 matches.

The new and exciting Pool format also ensured some competitive matches across the board with the seedings ensuring that the top two teams in each pool stayed apart until the final round of matches, allowing the excitement to build round on round with only the top side to progress to the semi finals.

On the eve of the tournament it was impossible to pick a winner. The new Under 20 Age Grade format had not seen such a major championship, and while New Zealand were the reigning Under 19 world champions and favourites in the eyes of some, Six Nations champions England, Australia, South Africa and hosts Wales were all making the right noises heading into the opening round of matches.

But it was the dramatic conclusion to the pool stages

Final :: Liberty Stadium, Swansea

New Zealand	38
England	3

that had fans on the edge of their seats, particularly in north Wales where Samoa and South Africa were locked at 11-11 until the final minutes at the Racecourse Ground when Stefan Watermeyer ensured the Baby Boks remained on course to lift the inaugural title... the perfect advertisement for Rugby in a previously untapped area of Wales.

The fans in North Wales, though, were not the only ones to endure a nail-biting finish with England and the hosts both needing last gasp tries to beat Australia and France and so top their respective pools. New Zealand, by comparison, were laying down ominous

signs of their title intentions by emphatically defeating Argentina.

New Zealand ultimately ended Welsh hopes of success on home soil, while England meanwhile had to overcome the Baby Boks resolve to come from behind once again to set up a northern-southern hemisphere finale. The last Under 19 champions were in no mood to surrender their Age Grade title, running out 38-3 winners to show once again that the future looks bright for the All Blacks.

The final may have determined the champions, but the positional play-offs were equally important, particularly the 15th place one with the USA losing to Japan and therefore being relegated to the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy for 2009 with their place taken by the 2008 winners Uruguay as the competition heads for another first with Japan hosting their first major IRB international tournament.



New era for Age Grade Rugby

Tournaments
Review
2008

IRB JUNIOR WORLD RUGBY TROPHY

15-27 April :: Santiago, Chile

CHILE
COOK ISLANDS
GEORGIA
JAMAICA
KOREA
NAMIBIA
ROMANIA
URUGUAY

Uruguay's young stars were crowned the inaugural IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy champions after coming from behind to defeat hosts Chile 20-8 before a record crowd of nearly 7,000 at the Stade Français Club in Santiago in April.

The final was always going to be an intriguing affair, the sides having met twice at the IRB Under 19 World Championship 2007 in Belfast with Uruguay winning both Division B encounters.

Uruguay held the psychological edge heading into the final, but hopes were high within the Chilean camp that home advantage, playing before one of the biggest ever crowds for a rugby match in the country, would inspire them to victory.

The early exchanges augured well for Chile as they raced into an 8-0 lead within half an hour, much to the delight of the partisan home crowd.

However, that was as close as Chile got to the silverware as despite the best efforts of their fluid backs, a tough tackling

Final :: Stade Français Club, Santiago

Uruguay	20
Chile	8

and powerful Uruguayan side got to grips with the humid conditions and ran in tries either side of the interval to lift the title and secure promotion to the IRB Junior World Championship 2009 in Japan.

To reach the final of the eight-team event had been no easy task for either Chile or Uruguay with no margin for error as only the top side in each pool would progress to the title decider and the likes of Romania, Georgia and Namibia also harbouring their

own final aspirations.

Chile sailed through their opening Pool A matches against Cook Islands 33-10 and Namibia 20-6 to set up a showdown with Romania, traditionally strong at age grade level.

When the Romanians kicked a third minute penalty, the scene was set for a strong performance. However, roared on by the 5,000 strong crowd, Chile held firm while a man down and ultimately triumphed 14-3.

It was an historic marker for Chilean rugby and importantly set up the all-South American final against Uruguay, who had kicked off their charge to the top of Pool B with a 67-8 defeat of Korea and 82-0 victory over newcomers Jamaica – the first Caribbean side ever to qualify



for an IRB international 15-a-side competition.

These wins set up the decider with Georgia, one from which Uruguay emerged 20-16 victors owing largely to their sheer guts and determination to win.

The final may not have yielded the outcome the hosts desired, but the tournament was something of a watershed for the Federacion de Rugby de Chile and had put rugby in the country firmly back on the map, through a combination of a detailed legacy programme and outstanding rugby before large crowds.

In the other playoff matches on the final day, Cook Islands claimed their first victory at an IRB age grade tournament by defeating Jamaica 54-15 to finish seventh, while Namibia battled past an improving

Korean side 36-29 to claim fifth overall.

Third place was claimed by Georgia after a one-sided 34-10 victory over Romania, but both sets of players would have been bitterly disappointed not to have reached the final.

There is far more to the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy than the action on the field. These annual tournaments provide the selected host Union with major event experience and best practice, while the competing teams get to experience an intense international competition. Chile also saw a number of player, coach and referee development courses taking place ensuring that the effect of the tournament could be felt long after the final whistle had blown.





**Tournaments
Review
2008**

IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP

7 June - 6 July

Cup reaches new heights

AUSTRALIA A

FIJI

JAPAN

NEW ZEALAND MAORI

SAMOA

TONGA

- The third edition of the IRB Pacific Nations Cup was just as competitive as its predecessors with Australia A and the New Zealand Maori – who had replaced two-time champions the Junior All Blacks as their country's representatives – no longer having it all their own way with Fiji, Japan, Samoa and Tonga showing the strides they have made at Test level.

A key element of the International Rugby Board's three-year global strategic investment programme, the IRB Pacific Nations Cup has become an integral development tool for the participating Unions, not just for those in the Pacific Islands and Japan, but also

Australia and New Zealand in terms of identifying players capable of gracing the highest level in the near or distant future.

This element was highlighted by the fact that of the Australian and New Zealand squads which headed to Europe for the autumn internationals, just over half of the players in each had actually come through the IRB Pacific Nations Cup at some stage in its history, including the likes of Piri Weepu who had used the 2008 competition as a springboard back into the All Black reckoning.

The trophy may have remained in New Zealand hands, albeit only just after the Maoris survived a late penalty attempt which dropped just short and would have earned Australia A the draw and with it the title on point differential, but the other nations picked up from where they left off at Rugby World Cup 2007 to come within whiskers of

Winner

New Zealand Maori

Runner-up

Australia A

causing upsets and throwing the title race wide open.

Tonga provided the Maoris with a typically physical opener, keeping the score to a respectable 20-9, while Japan fought back bravely in the second half to keep Australia A honest. A week later, some 15,000 people packed into Apia Park to see Samoa take on the Australians, another match which endured a tense finale before the visitors won by five points. Fiji came close to claiming a first win over the Maoris for 57 years, losing 11-7 in torrential rain on home soil in Lautoka.

Japan would beat Tonga for the second year running, albeit this time more convincingly,

and in the penultimate round went in leading New Zealand Maoris at half time only for the home side to run in six second half tries. However, the victory over Tonga and the two losing bonus points from an enthralling 37-31 last day defeat by Samoa ensured that John Kirwan's side finished fifth in the standings – their best placing in the competition's history. Tonga finished below them, despite being inspired to a first victory of 2008 – 27-16 over Fiji – by the presence of King Taufa'ahu Tupou V of Tonga at Teufaiva Stadium in Nuku'alofa.

The IRB Pacific Nations Cup continued to prosper off the field as well with the tournament being broadcast in 30 countries around the world and this looks set to continue in 2009 with an exciting new format to be announced in the New Year and a title sponsor coming on board.



EMERGING SOUTH AFRICA

GEORGIA

ITALY A

ROMANIA

RUSSIA

URUGUAY

Tournaments
Review
2008

IRB NATIONS CUP

11-20 April :: Bucharest, Romania

Springboks emerge again

A second successive triumph for Emerging South Africa, a genuine competitiveness throughout with drama and excitement in equal measures – the 2008 IRB Nations Cup was a tournament that refused to become predictable.

After South Africa's Test hopefuls romped through the 2007 tournament, few would have bet against another title for the side coached by Chester Williams.

Yet, despite emerging from the 2008 tournament undefeated, Emerging South Africa did not have it all their own way as the performances of a resurgent Romania and combative Georgia highlighted the effect of the IRB's strategic initiatives and suggested that the gap is slowly being closed

between Tier 1 'superpowers' and emerging Rugby nations.

Bucharest opened with welcome arms a second staging of the six-nation international tournament, which in 2008 saw Russia and Uruguay take the places of Argentina A and Namibia to join Emerging South Africa, Italy A, Georgia and Romania in the title race.

From the outset it was apparent that the competition would be more competitive than the 2007 edition. The hosts, determined to impress on home soil, invested in home-grown youth and the policy paid off as they defeated the Uruguayans 10-6 in the opening match.

After two rounds three teams had a mathematical chance of lifting the title with Italy A in the frame alongside the Emerging South Africa and Romania. Italy A were knocked out of the running by a superb Georgia performance that

Winner

Emerging South Africa

Runner-up

Romania

underlined their progression on the global stage since RWC 2007, leaving the Emerging South Africa and hosts Romania to contest the winner-takes-all finale.

Emerging South Africa edged into a 10-6 lead at the interval, before stretching their advantage to 20-6 through the boot of their captain Morgan Newman and a try by Howard Noble. Second row Florin Corodeanu gave the home side hope with a try, but it was a case of too little too late for the hosts as Emerging South Africa made certain of victory when Jody Jenneker crossed for their third try to secure a second successive IRB Nations Cup title.

Away from the field the tournament achieved all of its objectives. The Romania Rugby Union elevated the Nations Cup to new heights, delivering a superbly organised event and attracting sell-out crowds to provide the platform for fostering the growth of the Game across the country.

The tournament also provided a lasting legacy with the activation of trainer and coach educator courses, school programmes and match official development.

**Tournaments
Review
2008**

IRB NORTH AMERICA 4

17 May - 2 August :: USA & Canada

Three NA4 titles in a row



Canada West remain the only side to lift the IRB North America 4 trophy in the cross border competition's three-year history after once again beating the USA Falcons in the final, this time by the smallest margin yet of 16-11 at the Glendale Infinity Park in Glendale, Colorado.

There was to be no Canadian double on American soil though as Canada East saw yet another victory slip through their fingers in the dying stages, this time a 79th minute try from number 8 Pat Quinn snatching a 17-17 draw for USA Hawks in the third place playoff.

The NA4 continues to play a significant role in player development programmes for both Rugby Canada and USA Rugby, a fact highlighted by the number of players who went on to represent both Unions at Rugby World Cup 2007 in France and also the handful of players who graduated from the IRB Junior World Championship 2008 to get a taste of this competition.

West fly half Matt Evans was



Winner

Canada West

Runner-up

USA Falcons

one prime example of this progression, just as their No 10 last year had been in Nathan Hirayama who went from the IRB Under 19 World Championship to RWC 2007 via the NA4 in the space of six months. Struan Robertson sat on the bench, while the Falcons had Shawn Pittman in the front row and USA Under 20 captain Scott Lavalla among their replacements.

They weren't alone with Canada East fielding another pair of Under 20 players in Tony Wodzicki and Keegan Selby on the bench in the third place playoff, while the Hawks gave 17-year-old Hanno Dirksen his first North America 4 start after he impressed as a replacement in their 30-12 semi-final defeat by the Falcons a few days earlier.

• OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 •

Tautahi Gold became the first Tongan side to lift the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup title with an 11-3 defeat of defending champions Upolu Samoa in the grand final, ending Samoan dominance of the competition over the previous two years.

The final, played in front of a near capacity crowd at Apia Park in the Samoan capital, was played in true Pacific style. Ruthless in the forwards, physical at the breakdown and tight throughout, something that followers of the Pacific Rugby Cup have become accustomed to.

It was also a match that completed an impressive turnaround for Tautahi Gold having finished bottom of the standings in the 2007 competition, not to mention avenging a 26-10 loss by the same opponents in the same



Winner

Tautahi Gold

Runner-up

Upolu Samoa

venue a week earlier.

The improved performance of Fiji and Tonga, and to a lesser extent Samoa, at Rugby World Cup 2007 had proven the competition's value as a key player development tool for rugby within the Pacific Islands, while also injecting fresh enthusiasm for provincial representative rugby in the Oceania region.

The result was a memorable 2008 competition, fiercely competitive throughout and well attended across each of the five rounds.



**Tournaments
Review
2008**

IRB PACIFIC RUGBY CUP

18 April - 23 May

Tautahi break with PRC tradition



Tournaments
Review
2008

HSBC ASIAN FIVE NATIONS

26 April - 24 May

Japan remain Asia's number one

There were no surprises when it came to the inaugural HSBC Asian Five Nations champions with Japan lifting the distinctive trophy after claiming four bonus point victories over Korea, Arabian Gulf, Kazakhstan and Hong Kong, scoring 49 tries in the process.

However Kirwan was not interested in simply confirming Japan's status as Asia's number one side. His philosophy that the tournament was the perfect tool to develop the next generation of players was precisely the reason the Asian Five Nations, with its four tiers of competition involving all 25 Member Unions in the region, was introduced and received funding in the form of a US\$500,000 grant from the International Rugby Board.

This development opportunity was crucial for Kazakhstan in particular, their coach Valeriy Popov admitting that "playing against strong Asian teams such as Hong Kong, Japan and Korea will help to raise the status of Kazakhstan



Winner

Japan

Runner-up

Korea

and motivate us to play better."

Kazakhstan will play these sides again in 2009, having beaten Arabian Gulf to condemn them to relegation to Division I with their place taken by another developing nation in Singapore, who won that tournament this year.

The fact that the Division I and II competitions kicked off the region's qualifying process for Rugby World Cup 2011 was another incentive, one Thailand seized by winning Division II with a 30-7 defeat of Malaysia in Bangkok in June, earning promotion to Division I for 2009. There were also three regional tournaments below this level with the Philippines, Indonesia and Iran coming out on top.

• OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 • OTHER REGIONAL TOURNAMENTS 2008 •

England Saxons may have run out seemingly convincing 36-19 winners over Scotland A in the Barclays Churchill Cup final at Toyota Park in Chicago in June, the reality was they had needed three unanswered tries to do so after the old rivals had been locked together approaching the hour mark.

The pool stages of the six-team tournament had been played on Canadian soil in Ottawa, Kingston and Toronto, during which the Saxons had overcome USA and Ireland A to top Pool B, while Scotland A beat Canada before edging a tight affair with Argentina A 27-24 to finish atop Pool A and

set up the final showdown with the Auld Enemy.

Argentina A – back in the competition for the first time since 2005 – therefore met Ireland A in the Plate final, although it was the Irish who finished with a flourish to triumph 33-8. The Bowl final pitted neighbours USA and Canada against each other in what proved to be a tale of two halves, the Eagles leading 10-0 at the interval only to see the Canadians roar back to ultimately win 26-10.

For both Rugby Canada and USA Rugby the Barclays Churchill Cup provides much-needed competitive action on the international stage above the domestic competitions and IRB North America 4. It is though, equally beneficial for the other participating Unions in terms of the opportunity to develop players to grace the Test arena in the future.

Tournaments
Review
2008

BARCLAYS CHURCHILL CUP

7 - 21 June :: Canada & USA

Tight finish to Churchill Cup



Winner

England Saxons

Runner-up

Scotland A

Rugby and the Olympic Movement



Rugby reaching out to rejoin the Olympic Games

Rugby Sevens is one of seven Sports currently under consideration by the International Olympic Committee for possible inclusion in the 2016 Olympic Games. International Rugby Board Chairman Bernard Lapasset explains why Rugby Sevens is a perfect fit.

Rugby is Reaching Out to rejoin the Olympic Games. It was many years ago that our Sport last had the honour of being in the Olympic Games. More than 80 years later Rugby still promotes its core values of fair play and friendship, respect and sportsmanship – important values that helped inspire the modern Olympic Movement.

Rugby transcends geographical boundaries to bring people together, has the potential for further global growth and is uniquely placed to help meet the ambitions of the International Olympic Committee to reach a new young audience worldwide.

The IRB is determined to keep driving Rugby forwards, to embrace new territories and reach out to new players and audiences and that is a key focus for me as Chairman of the Game's governing body.

The Olympic Games are the pinnacle of global sport and I dream that Rugby will soon once again be an Olympic Sport. This is one of the IRB's five strategic goals.

Rugby was originally introduced into the Olympic

Games by Pierre de Coubertin in 1900 and I believe its reintroduction would be beneficial for both the Olympic Movement and for Rugby. Rugby Sevens is already a proven success in multi-sport events such as the Commonwealth Games, Asian Games and World Games and will be included in the Pan-American Games and All Africa Games in the coming years.

Rugby is an exciting sport to watch, it has a passionate and youthful following – particularly evident in Rugby Sevens - and a massive travelling fan base which would deliver full stadia and a vibrant atmosphere during the Games.

Rugby Sevens is explosive and fast, played by our quickest and fittest athletes, all of whom support re-inclusion in the Games and would feel privileged to be a part of the world's sporting family, competing alongside so many top athletes.

Rugby has an exemplary anti-doping record and is a WADA signatory. Rugby Sevens offers medal potential for smaller nations, bringing a new Olympic dream alive for many of them.

Sevens is broadcast-friendly and it already enjoys widespread existing commercial interest, Sevens could potentially attract new commercial partners and spectators to the Games.

Rugby is currently played by over three million registered players in 116 countries. We want to see that grow – and that is why we are investing more than US\$300 million in development programmes over the next four years. Being part of the Games would help to support that growth.

The IRB understands the bigger issues that confront all of us in sport today such as engaging young players and spectators, developing and supporting athletes and ultimately, fulfilling the full potential of Sport.

We hope that with your help Rugby, its players, spectators and commercial partners, might play an integral part in the continued success and global growth of the Olympic movement.



Rugby and the Olympic Movement

Rugby Sevens – the facts

Rugby Sevens

- Seven players per team with matches played over two seven minute halves
- Played by quickest and most agile players
- Speed and handling skills key - ensuring an exciting, fast and free flowing game
- 87 men's international teams and 83 women's international teams playing Sevens

Already successfully integrated into major Multi-Sport Championships

- Sevens played in Commonwealth, Asian, Pan American, All Africa and World Games
- Tournaments played over two or three days
- Small squad numbers and support staff of 12 and six respectively
- Utilises existing stadia with small overlay costs

Young And travelling fan base

- Average Sevens attendance profile is aged 18-30 across both men and women
- Attendance at the Commonwealth Games 2006 Sevens tournament was 150,000 over three days – 2nd most attended sport behind track and field
- Hong Kong Sevens regularly sells out its 120,000 capacity over the three-day tournament



Smaller nation medal opportunities

- Nations such as Fiji, Samoa and New Zealand are Sevens World Series winners and would be genuine Olympic gold medal contenders
- Emerging Rugby nations such as Argentina, Portugal, Kenya and Tonga would have realistic Olympic medal ambitions

Broadcast friendly

- Short, sharp action with seven minute intervals makes it attractive to broadcasters
- Rugby World Cup Sevens 2005 in Hong Kong shattered all previous broadcast records – 20 broadcasters carried live coverage to 88 countries, with another 37 broadcasters taking delayed coverage

Commitment from best players

- Rugby's Olympic campaign has the full support of all IRB Member Unions and the International Rugby Players' Association

Shared Olympic ideals and values

- Rugby has at its core an ethos of fair play, friendship, respect and excellence
- IRB and Rugby World Cup has a humanitarian partnership with the United Nations Food Programme
- IRB's Keep Rugby Clean campaign, combining drug testing and educational outreach, is now used by other International Federations as a showcase for best practice

Thriving Women's Game

- Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 will have a qualification structure across six regions, involving 83 nations
- Germany, China, Thailand, Canada, USA, Spain and Kazakhstan all major growth nations

Excellent partners throughout the four year Olympiad

- The IRB would use its existing tournaments and properties - such as the annual Sevens World Series - to promote Olympic Sevens throughout the four year Olympiad
- IRB would encourage its commercial partners to invest in the wider Olympic Movement



IN AN AGE WHEN MANY TRADITIONAL SPORTING QUALITIES ARE BEING DILUTED OR EVEN CHALLENGED, RUGBY IS
RIGHTLY PROUD OF ITS ABILITY TO RETAIN HIGH STANDARDS OF SPORTSMANSHIP, ETHICAL BEHAVIOUR AND FAIR PLAY



PROMOTING AND PROTECTING THE GAME AND ITS UNIQUE SPIRIT

The International Rugby Board believes that it has a responsibility as a good sports citizen to promote healthy living. In November 2008 the IRB presented at the 12th World Sport for All Congress on how, by adopting a holistic approach, International Federations can assist in providing sport for all and promoting healthy living.

Falling physical education standards, the down-scaling of education programmes in schools, a reduction in family time, free access to computer and video games, the internet and television, the fast-food industry targeting children. The list of reasons is endless as to why we are facing a health problem amongst our young.

A sport for all shapes and sizes

Sport is essential to reversing this alarming trend and International Federations have an important role to play in ensuring that all Sport is accessible and attractive to children of all abilities and backgrounds.

International Federations can provide the impetus for

millions of children around the world to enjoy the sporting experience. Rugby remains a Game that is uniquely suited for all shapes and sizes, men and women, all ages and abilities. It can be enjoyed in many forms from fifteens to sevens, to non contact Tag and can even be played on the beach or on snow. There is a level of participation for every child to enjoy.

How can Rugby create a healthy lifestyle for our young?

The following model outlines, how by applying a holistic approach, Rugby and other sports can play a prominent role in promoting a healthy lifestyle and enjoying a lifetime of Sporting participation.

1:

Try Rugby

Encouraging participation and promoting enjoyment, whatever the child's ability, is a positive way to make the first significant steps towards developing a healthy lifestyle.

2:

Regular participation

Recent studies show that regular activity (60 minutes per day for children and 30 minutes per day for adults) is necessary for maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

3:

Social skills development

Participation in Rugby stimulates inclusion and interaction. It builds self confidence and self esteem and forges the fellowships and friendships that are unique to Sport.

4:

Mental skills awareness

While Rugby's physical attributes of strength, power and competition are well

documented. Rugby also develops (through participation and structured training) key mental skills: self control, concentration, discipline, decision-making and leadership. Such important skills transcend all aspects of daily life.

5:

Diet and nutritional fitness

A balanced diet is key to sustaining energy levels necessary to compete and train at every level of the Game. Nutritional education through Rugby participation plays an important role in boosting energy levels for everyday life, improving concentration and performance and promoting a healthy lifestyle.

6:

Cardiovascular fitness

Athletes participating in prolonged activity must possess high levels of cardiovascular fitness. When playing at a competitive level it is no longer adequate to play with the motive to get fit, players must be fit to play.

7:

Performance participation

For the lucky few a combination of talent, good education, a high level of training and hard work, will propel them to the highest levels of the Game. Yet for the majority, long-term participation at community level will play a significant part in maintaining a healthy lifestyle.

Supporting a healthy lifestyle



Leading the way in player welfare

The IRB takes the area of player welfare very seriously and continues to drive extensive global research in order to develop best practice guidelines and bespoke programmes in order to minimise the risk of serious injury.

Underpinned by the IRB's £48 million global Strategic Investment Programme and rolled out by the IRB's Technical Services Department, research in this key area continued to gather momentum during 2008 and into the New Year.

Comprehensive Scrum Study

The IRB will launch the most comprehensive study of the scrum in the Game's history in 2009 when it embarks on a three-year analysis of the forces at work in the set scrum. The study is aimed at identifying better techniques for playing, coaching and refereeing the crucial area of the Game.

The first phase of that study will involve professional packs as well as schools groups and other levels in between working in a controlled environment under a variety of high-tech

conditions on a scrummaging machine. From this there should be a better understanding of potential causes for injury.

The next phase of the research will involve live packs, the same groups who had used the machine, and finally those carrying out the analysis will collect their findings and make recommendations for improving the Game.

Global Injury Consensus

In 2006 the IRB Medical Advisory Committee established the Game's first ever consensus for global injury definition and data collection.

The document was intended for use in all injury surveys in Rugby Union. For the first time it is now possible to compare on a global scale one set of injury statistics with another. The document, the most comprehensive in its field, was published jointly in the British Journal of Sports Medicine (BJSM) and Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine in May 2007.

The consensus document has been used in all injury surveys carried out during IRB competitions over the past two years. Injury surveys carried out include:

- **Women's Rugby World Cup 2006** – published jointly in the British Journal of Sports Medicine and the Clinical

Journal of Sport Medicine June 2008.

- **Rugby World Cup 2007 injury survey** – published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine and the Clinical Journal of Sport Medicine June 2008.
- **Age Grade World Championship survey** – Undertaken for the IRB Junior World Championship in Wales and IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy in Chile. These studies will be published on completion.
- **Injury risks associated with tackling in Rugby Union** – published BJSM December 2008. This project was funded by the IRB.
- **Impact of the IRB Experimental Law Variations** on the incidence and nature of match injuries in Southern Hemisphere professional Rugby Union. Accepted for publication in the South African Medical Journal (SAMJ).
- **Comparison of the incidence and nature of Rugby Injuries sustained on artificial turf and grass.** This study was conducted by the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union and the RFU over a two-year period to be completed by May 2009.
- **2nd World Congress on Sport Injury Prevention in Tromsø, Norway June 26-28 2008.** The IRB were co-sponsors with other major federations.
- **3rd International Conference on Concussion in Sport, October 2008.** The IRB were one of four major federations sponsoring this conference. The conference took place at FIFA headquarters in Zurich.
- **Catastrophic injury in Rugby Union, is the level of risk acceptable?** Published in the BJSM December 2008. The IRB and RFU contributed to the cost of this publication.
- **A meeting of experts in catastrophic spinal cord injury** took place in London in November 2008. The group finalised a consensus document on catastrophic spinal cord injuries for use in a worldwide survey. A joint conference including the IRB, RFU and MACSIP in association with experts in the care of patients with spinal injuries. Presentations were made by IRB representatives outlining the IRB role and measures which have proved successful in reducing the incidence of these injuries.
- The IRB introduced **scrum law changes** in January 2007 based on medical evidence. The interim evaluation of the effect of a new scrum law on neck and back injuries in Rugby Union was published in the BJSM in May 2008. The first year results validate there being a new law initiative to help prevent injuries and further research is necessary to provide more evidence.



THE men ^{THE} mi

It was a busy year for Referees and match officials in international Rugby and a number of structural changes were implemented in 2008 to provide additional support to the Game's top officials, while promoting greater consistency.

At the forefront of the changes was the announcement in May that the High Performance panel would be split into dedicated referee, assistant referee and television match official panels. The permanent introduction of the panels follows the successful implementation of a similar structure during Rugby World Cup 2007.

The composition of the panels was made by the IRB Match Officials Selection Committee at their May meeting following a review of performances since the end of Rugby World Cup 2007.

It is the first time that the IRB has had three specialist panels and in addition to the 19 referees, a panel of 23 assistant referees and seven television match officials were also selected. With the television match official role requiring unique attributes and skills, the aim behind the creation of the panel was to bring greater consistency at Test match level.

Alongside the introduction of the panels, the IRB unveiled details of a new fitness monitoring regime that will ensure that the world's top referees maintain exception standards of fitness throughout

the year. New testing means that the emphasis will be on measuring rather than testing.

The introduction of the global trial of the Experimental Law Variations meant that the world's top referees had to adjust to two sets of laws in 2008 – those that were being trialled globally and the addition of sanctions and free kicks in the SANZAR countries.

There were also new directives issued to the refereeing community with all the IRB's match officials asked to pay particular attention to scrum feeds, sealing off the ball, illegal entry to the breakdown, hands



ddle

in the ruck and illegal charging at the ruck.

The IRB's Junior World Championship, Junior World Trophy and Sevens World Series continued to play a prominent role in the development of up and coming match officials. Peter Fitzgibbon, the young Irish Referee who took charge of the IRB Junior World Championship Final in Wales, progressed to take charge of his first tests in November.

The year closed with the appointments for the 2009 RBS Six Nations with five match officials tasked with presiding over the 15 championship matches as a part of the IRB's policy to select the best referees across stand alone championships.



Peter Fitzgibbon

Test Debut

Peter Fitzgibbon (Ireland) was rewarded for his excellent performance at the IRB Junior World Championship in Wales with his first test appointments. Irishman Fitzgibbon, who took charge of the final in June, refereed both tests between Japan and USA.

Women's Referees Make History

For the first time the IRB announced the selection of four of the world's top female referees amongst the 18-strong panel set for Rugby World Cup Sevens in Dubai from March 5-7.

Clare Daniels (England), Joyce Henry (Canada), Lee Wing Yi Gabriel (Hong Kong) and Dana Teagarden (USA) are included within a selection that features a blend of experienced regulars from the IRB Sevens World Series circuit and some of the best up and coming match officials in world Rugby.



Lyndon Bray

Kaplan - World Record

Jonathan Kaplan (South Africa) became the most capped international referee of all time when he took charge of the France versus Argentina match in November to break Paul Honiss's record of 46 tests. Kaplan made his test debut in 1996.

Retirements

Lyndon Bray (New Zealand) announced his retirement from refereeing in 2008. Keith Lawrence (New Zealand) and Colin High (England) also retired from their positions as National Referee Managers and were replaced by Bray and Ed Morrison.

IRB INTERNATIONAL REFEREE PANEL 2008/09

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

IRB ASSISTANT REFEREE AND TMO PANEL

Peter Allan (SRU)
Paul Marks (ARU)
George Ayoub (ARU) TMO
Simon McDowell (IRFU)
James Bolabiu (FRU)
Johan Meuwesen (SARU) TMO
David Changleng (SRU)
Romain Poite (FFR)
Federico Cuesta (UAR)
Chris Pollock (NZRU)
Carlo Damasco (FIR)
Stuart Terhegge (RFU)
Rob Debney (RFU)
Shaun Veldsman (SARU) TMO
Giulio De Santis (FIR) TMO
Geoff Warren (RFU) TMO
Tim Hayes (WRU)
Hugh Watkins (WRU)
Taizo Hirabayashi (JRFU)
Cobus Wessels (SARU)
Graham Hughes (RFU) TMO
Nigel Whitehouse (WRU) TMO
James Leckie (ARU)

Jonathan Kaplan

ensuring a level playing field

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

Rugby has been at the forefront of the movement against drugs in sport and has in place substantial testing programmes all over the world. This includes a comprehensive Out of Competition testing programme that continues on from Rugby World Cup 2007 and major In Competition testing programmes at all IRB tournaments from the IRB Sevens World Series to the IRB Junior World Championship.



Leading Education Programme – Keep Rugby Clean

The IRB has always been proactive in its Anti-Doping programme and has in place an anti-doping department consisting of three fulltime staff which has overseen over 2000 tests in the last two years.

The IRB has raised-awareness of anti-doping through its successful Outreach and Keep Rugby Clean campaigns which have been developed and run in partnership with WADA.

These programmes target young players at IRB tournaments around the world and were successfully delivered at the IRB Junior World Championship and IRB Junior world Rugby Trophy tournaments in 2008, with over 500 of the Game's future Rugby World Cup stars involved. Former Argentina International Frederico Mendez (78 caps) was a guest speaker at the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy Anti-Doping seminar which was held in Santiago, Chile in April 2008 and spoke to the participating Players about the dangers of doping.

The IRB paid a visit to each of the team hotels during the IRB Junior World Championship and IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy to run the Players and Team Management through the WADA Anti-Doping Computer Quiz. In taking the quiz each Player received a Keep Rugby Clean t-shirt which was then

worn by all Players, Team Management, Referees and Tournament Officials on a nominated day. All teams willingly participated in showing their support that there is no place for drugs in Rugby.

The IRB welcomed three new Anti-Doping Ambassadors to the Keep Rugby Clean campaign late in 2008. Felipe Contepomi of Argentina, Vincent Clerc of France and record Samoa Sevens star, Uale Mai of Samoa have all agreed to be the face of the IRB's Keep Rugby Clean campaign by endorsing the use of their image for anti-doping educational purposes.

Resources

The IRB developed a number of new anti-doping educational resources during 2008 which are now available on the IRB website.

These include the following:

1. Player Whereabouts Guide (only effective for those Players involved in the IRB's Out of Competition Testing Programme.
2. Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) Guide
3. Doping Control Procedure Guide

Compliance with World Anti-Doping Code

The IRB was extensively involved in providing comment to WADA on the development of the 2009 World Anti-Doping Code and other WADA

International Standards all of which became effective 1 January 2009. This involved extensive consultation with IRB Member Unions, meetings of the IRB Anti-Doping Advisory Committee and WADA which began in 2007 to ensure Rugby's global view on these important documents were presented to WADA.

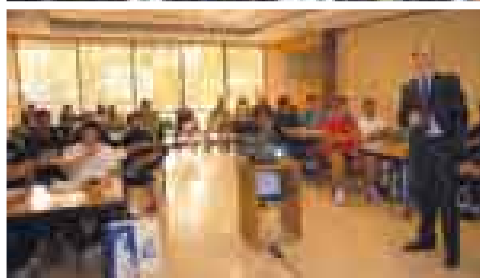
In November 2008 following a review by WADA of the IRB's amended Anti-Doping Regulations WADA signed off on IRB Regulation 21 as being in compliance with the World Anti-Doping Code.

IRB Regulation 21 is required to be adopted by all Member Unions of the IRB as the governing Anti-doping regulations for Rugby ensuring that all Rugby Players are subject to the same anti-doping regime globally.

2008 Beijing Olympics

The IRB was invited by WADA to attend the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games as part of the WADA Independent Observer programme (Tim Ricketts, IRB Anti-Doping Manager and Susan Ahern, IRB Legal Counsel) and also the Paralympic Games (Ilaria Baudo, IRB Anti-Doping Coordinator) as part of the WADA Outreach Team.

Rugby's involvement in this capacity at the Beijing Olympics highlights WADA's recognition of the IRB's experience in the field of anti-doping.



IRB Anti-Doping Testing Programme

In 2005 the IRB conducted a total of 1129 anti-doping tests at international level in a testing programme that included senior, age grade and Rugby Sevens representative teams. Over 57 percent of these tests were conducted out of competition.

In 2006 the IRB conducted a total of 941 doping controls that included 484 in competition tests at a wide cross section of IRB Tournaments (including Rugby World Cup Qualifiers, Under 19 and Under 21 World Championships, IRB Sevens

World Series and Women's Rugby World Cup).

In 2007 the IRB conducted 1278 doping controls across a wide range of matches and tournaments including Rugby World Cup 2007, regional championships and other IRB tournaments recently established under the IRB's strategic investment programme. Over 62 percent of these were conducted out of competition.

The IRB conducted 951 tests in 2008 with 12 anti-doping rule violations committed.

2008 IRB Anti-Doping Rule Violations

Country	Substance	Outcome
Venezuela	Nandrolone	2 year sanction
Georgia	19-Norandrosterone	2 year sanction
Georgia	Cannabis	5 month sanction
Cook Islands	Cannabis	3 month sanction
Chile	Glenbuterol	2 year sanction
Canada	Cannabis	3 month sanction
France	Tuaminoheptane	Warning and reprimand
Samoa	Salbutamol	2 year sanction
Canada	Finasteride	Warning and reprimand
Samoa	Salbutamol	2 year sanction
Russia	Indapamide	Warning and reprimand
Chile	Cannabis	4 month sanction

Total test figures, including the Member Union and National Anti-Doping Organisation (NADO) tests and case results, are currently being consolidated and will be released shortly.

2008 Testing Programme

In 2008 the IRB also focused its testing on Age Grade and Sevens, which included extensive testing on all Men's and Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009 qualification tournaments along with Out of Competition testing on the top 24 ranked Sevens Unions throughout the year.

During the period from 2004 to 2008 the IRB has handed down suspensions to 31 players who committed anti-doping rule violations for a variety of prohibited substances. 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).

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 IRB will continue its fight to Keep Rugby Clean.

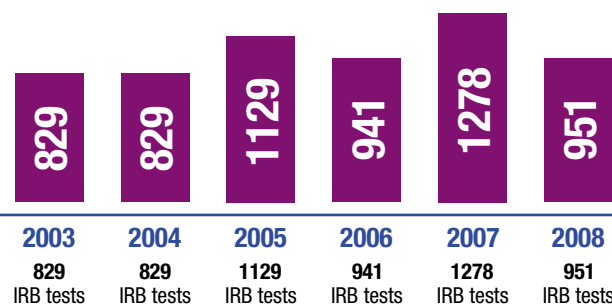
Discipline	In Competition	Out of Competition	Total
Sevens*	292	181	473
Age Grade**	84	112	196
Strategic Tournaments***	65	12	77
Regional Championships****	36	0	36
Top 20 Member Unions			
National 15s	0	169	169
Total	477	474	951

* Includes IRB Sevens World Series and RWC2009 Sevens Qualifiers and OOC Testing on top 24 Sevens Unions

** Includes IRB Junior World Championship and IRB Junior World Trophy

*** Includes IRB Nations Cup, North America 4, Churchill Cup, Pacific 6 Nations and Pacific Rugby Cup

**** Includes FIRA European Nations Cup, Asian 5 Nations Championship, CAR African Cup, CONSUR South American Championship



RUGBY EMBRACES A NUMBER OF SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL CONCEPTS SUCH AS CO



COURAGE, LOYALTY, SPORTSMANSHIP, DISCIPLINE AND TEAMWORK. IT BUILDS UNDERSTANDING, CO-OPERATION AND RESPECT FOR FELLOW ATHLETES THROUGHOUT THE GAME

MEDIA AND COMMUNICATIONS



Total Rugby

In tune with the

“ As I've always said, it's delightful and a splendid promotional vehicle for the sport. You want a warm, vivid half-hour of rugby goodness, no side or snide or self-importance; you want evidence of the incredible spread of the game and the corners that it reaches?

Total Rugby is your destination.

Rugby in amazing places you've never heard of, rugby as a grand force for good in hopelessly deprived areas, rugby at the top, rugby at all levels. It's smashing. ”

Stephen Jones, The Sunday Times

television

Now in its fourth year, Total Rugby TV broke new ground in a number of areas during 2008, most notably in the programme's global distribution. Total Rugby is now being shown in 157 countries with an overall audience reach of 169 million, which represents a 30 percent increase on the previous year.

Once again the programme covered the Game at all levels at which it is played, and in its many forms, from the international scene to the joyfully recreational, from beach to tag. In addition we saw many of the star names in different guises - Richie McCaw on water skis, Dan Carter on the catwalk, Shane Williams on the race track and Lawrence Dallaglio on a bike in the Pyrenees, as well as indulging in his other passion of horse racing, with Frankie Dettori at Newmarket.

Towards the end of the run a technical series was launched with Neil Back and Richie McCaw revealing some of the

secrets of back row play, Andrew Sheridan helping to illuminate the twilight world of the front row and Eddie Jones opening up the channels on attacking back play.

During its world travels, Total Rugby has visited every rugby playing region in the world, covering all the top action at international and provincial level, as well as Rugby World Cup qualifying games from the Caribbean to South America to Asia and Africa. There have been a number of moving and inspirational stories, including the Phuket Tens which helps raise money for children orphaned by the Tsunami,

the work of the Tag Rugby Development Trust in Africa, and the incredible energy and drive of Linda and Mike Collinson with their SKRUM project aimed at helping Aids victims in Swaziland through rugby.

During the year, the Total Rugby production team also produced a number of promotional DVDs on Sevens as part of the Olympic lobby, and on behalf of the IRB's global development programme, as well as acting as host broadcasters for the annual IRB Awards ceremony and the RWC 2011 Draw.

global picture

radio

Total Rugby Radio is a public service sports broadcast product unique on a global scale. Provided free of charge to broadcasters around the world 52 weeks a year, the show is aired in over 80 countries on traditional radio, including on Radio Australia, Radio New Zealand and South Africa FM.

Total Rugby Radio is consistently one of the top-rated sporting 'podcasts' on i-Tunes and is also made available online via a number of websites, including the IRB's own portal and any Member Union wishing to offer it to its listeners.

As well as using material featured on the popular TV show, the dedicated radio team generates a large amount of original and topical content, ensuring that every Thursday the programme offers the best possible insight into the international Game; from the world number one All Blacks and their captain Richie McCaw to Finland and its rugby in the

snow at the other end of the spectrum.

In addition to the regular weekly half-hour, the IRB/IMG Media production team also broadcast live commentary from the first IRB Junior World Championship in Wales, in June 2008.

Including expert analysis from Eddie Jones and Gerald Davies, Total Rugby provided live match day colour and commentary from eight matches in the tournament, including both semi finals, the third place play-off and the final.

Another innovation were the 'IRB debates' on the ELVs and Rugby in Argentina, featuring

the Game's decision-makers, key players including Gus Pichot, coaches including Rod Macqueen and the UK Sunday Times chief rugby correspondent, Stephen Jones.

For more information on accessing Total Rugby Radio free of charge, either by web, as a podcast or traditional radio broadcast, please contact radio@irb.com.

online

HOME



irb.com once again proved to be a popular destination for Rugby fans around the globe in 2008, offering a blend of news, features and reference material to support the IRB's core business and its communication with the Game's stakeholders.

IRB WEBSITE REVIEW 2008

The website contained dedicated sub sites for the IRB's global tournaments in 2008 – the IRB Junior World Championship, the IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy, the IRB Pacific Nations Cup, the IRB Nations Cup, Rugby World Cup Sevens qualifying and the IRB Sevens World Series. Over 660,000 page impressions were recorded during the course of the IRB Sevens World Series season, peaking at nearly 200,000 during the Hong Kong Sevens in March.

irb.com also covered regional tournaments and the IRB Awards, providing information to fans as well as written, photographic, audio and video material for Unions and media to use on their own platforms.

The Laws of the Game were downloaded more than 14,000 times during 2008, whilst nearly 11,000 downloaded information

on the Experimental Law Variations.

The results service, which uses data from the IRB's international results and tournament management system, garnered half a million page impressions in 2008. More popular still was the IRB World Rankings section, which generated more than 1.3 million page views in the same period.

Rugby World Cup 2011 focus

One of the main reasons for the level of interest in the rankings was that they were used to seed teams in the Rugby World Cup 2011 Draw, which took place in London on 1 December. The draw was streamed live on rugbyworldcup.com, the official website of RWC 2011, and was watched by more than 17,000 people.

It marks the end of a year in which Rugby World Cup Limited and Rugby New Zealand 2011, the Organising Committee for RWC 2011, worked together on a single tournament website, enabling members of staff from Dublin to Wellington to publish articles on the site.

Into 2009

The RWC 2011 website will attract even greater interest in 2009 with the announcement of the match schedule and the ticketing launch. Users will still be able to keep up-to-date with the ongoing qualifying competition.

Meanwhile, aside from tournament coverage, news and reference material, irb.com will form part of the strategy to enable Rugby Sevens to reach out for Olympic Games reinclusion.



2008 Inductees to the Hall of Fame



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

The 2008 inductees, announced at the glittering IRB Awards in London in November, were the 1888 Natives Team of New Zealand and their captain Joe Warbrick, Melrose Club and Ned Haig, British Lions legend Dr Jack Kyle, Argentina great Hugo Porta and France's record breaker Philippe Sella.

All were inducted after a process that started with an extensive list of around 30 candidates from the 19th, 20th and 21st Centuries posted on the IRB website for public debate and voting. The Hall of Fame judging panel, convened by IRB Chairman Bernard Lapasset, then selected the five inductees for 2008.

France legend Philippe Sella is widely recognised as one of the finest players of his generation and the world's best centre of the 1980s and 1990s, having been part of the French team for 13 consecutive seasons.

Sella also held the record number of international caps – 111 – for eight years following his retirement in 1995.

Sella was extremely proud to be recognised for his contribution to the Game. "For me the emotion is very strong at the moment. I would never have thought that something like this could happen when I started to play Rugby. For me it was just to play with a Rugby ball and to share that Rugby ball with team mates, no more."

Regarded as one of the finest players that Argentina has ever produced, Hugo Porta represented the Pumas for over 20 years, amassing 408 points. An astute leader, Porta captained Argentina on 34 of the 57 matches he played and at the age of 36 led the Pumas in the inaugural Rugby World Cup in 1987. It is testament to a player blessed with great skill, that when he finally retired in 1990 aged 39 he was still performing to his best at international level.

In 2008 Scotland's Melrose Club celebrated 125 years of its famous Sevens tournament. As the birthplace of Sevens, Melrose has welcomed with open arms the world's best players over many years to a

competition that is renowned the world over. Ned Haig, the Melrose butcher, was a Sevens pioneer and in 1883 suggested that Melrose should host a sports tournament to help bolster club funds. He suggested an abbreviated form of the Game and on 28 April, 1883 Sevens Rugby was born. It is now enjoyed the world over.

Dr Jack Kyle has previously received the honour of being voted Ireland's best-ever player. There are a number of Australians and New Zealanders who might also regard him amongst one of the finest ever to pull on the famous red jersey of the British and Irish Lions, such was his complete footballing ability. A mainstay of Ireland's 1948 Grand Slam success, Kyle starred on the 1950 British and Irish Lions tour to New Zealand and Australia, playing in six tests.

The final induction is the 1888 Natives team of New Zealand, the pioneers of the famous all black jersey, the silver fern emblem and the Haka. The forefathers of New Zealand's rich international history, the 1888 Natives were the first team from New Zealand to tour the Northern Hemisphere.

The inspiration behind the Natives, as team selector, coach

IRB HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

— 2006 —

William Webb Ellis
Rugby School

— 2007 —

Baron Pierre
de Coubertin
Dr Danie Craven
Sir Wilson Whineray
Gareth Edwards
John Eales

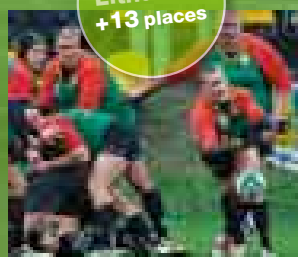
— 2008 —

1888 Natives Team
of New Zealand
& Joe Warbrick
Melrose Club
& Ned Haig
Dr Jack Kyle
Hugo Porta
Philippe Sella

and captain was Joe Warbrick, one of the finest players of his generation, who had toured Australia in 1884 with the first New Zealand team. Born in 1862 he played seven times for New Zealand, although he did not win any caps. He was one of five brothers on the 1888-89 tour, which is occasionally called the Warbricks tour.

The 2008 induction ceremony was the third IRB Hall of Fame induction. The inaugural induction in 2006 saw William Webb Ellis and Rugby School inducted, while in 2007 there were five inductees with Pierre de Coubertin, Dr Danie Craven, Sir Wilson Whineray, Gareth Edwards, and John Eales all admitted into the IRB Hall of Fame.

Rugby World Cup significance for Rankings



The IRB World Rankings took on new importance in 2008 with the announcement that they would form the basis to seed teams at Rugby World Cup 2011 in New Zealand.

The rankings system, which has been in place since 2003, was used for the Pool Allocation Draw, which was conducted in December, to seed the 12 automatic qualifiers from the 2007 showpiece event in France.

The new system replaced the previous seeding process, which was determined by teams' performances at past World Cups. The process was designed to eliminate one-sided matches from the Pool stages.

New Zealand Reclaim Top Spot

New Zealand may have reclaimed top position in the IRB World Rankings from South Africa during 2008 with the Tri Nations title and a European Grand Slam tour, but Lithuania ended the year as the most successful team in terms of positions gained since 1 January.

The climbers

Beginning the year in 55th position, Lithuania recorded six wins out of six in the European Nations Cup to move up 13 places to 42nd. It continues a remarkable run of consecutive victories, which now numbers 12 and stretches back to 6 May 2006 when they were defeated 22-0 by Slovenia.

Venezuela gained 12 places

overall in 2008 despite a seemingly average record of two wins and two losses. But one of their wins, against Colombia during the South American B Championship in June, saw them shoot up nine places in one week.

Trinidad & Tobago's Rugby World Cup 2011 qualifying campaign ended against Brazil in October, but not before they had moved up 10 places in the rankings since 1 January thanks to three unbeaten matches in the Caribbean qualifying tournament earlier in the year.

Points gained

Of the teams in the IRB World Rankings top 20, Wales were the highest climbers, moving up from 10th to fifth following a Six Nations Grand Slam. Wales

also gained the most rankings points of all 95 full IRB Member Unions – 6.86 – over the course of the year.

Bosnia & Herzegovina, with five wins and one draw, meanwhile gained 6.16 ratings points and seven positions.

The fallers

Whatever one team gains in the IRB World Rankings, another loses. In 2008 the teams that dropped furthest in the rankings were Denmark and Luxembourg, who both ended the year 14 places lower than they had started it. Denmark lost all four of their European Nations Cup matches whilst Luxembourg were defeated in four of their five.

In terms of ratings points lost, Argentina head this category having shed 5.86 during the



course of 2008. Despite this, the Pumas retained their top four ranking and a top band seeding in the RWC 2011 Draw. This was partly thanks to England losing 4.69 points and two rankings places since 1 January.

How the IRB Rankings work

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

Points exchanges are doubled during the World Cup Finals to

recognise the unique importance of this event, but all other full international matches are treated the same, to be as fair as possible to countries playing a different mix of friendly and competitive matches across the world.

All member countries have a rating, typically between 0 and 100. The top side in the world will normally have a rating above 90. Any match that is not a full international between two countries does not count at all.

Position (change in ranking during 2008)		Rating Points
1 (▲1)	New Zealand	92.68
2 (▼1)	South Africa	89.45
3 (▲2)	Australia	85.86
4 (▼1)	Argentina	81.56
5 (▲5)	Wales	81.03
6 (▼2)	England	80.86
7 (▼1)	France	79.49
8 (▼1)	Ireland	78.45
9 (▼1)	Scotland	76.76
10 (▼1)	Fiji	75.24
11 (-)	Italy	74.64
12 (-)	Samoa	72.57
13 (-)	Tonga	70.05
14 (▲2)	Georgia	69.43
15 (▼1)	Canada	69.12
16 (▲2)	Japan	68.05
17 (▼2)	Romania	67.20
18 (▼1)	Russia	64.63
19 (-)	USA	63.55
20 (-)	Uruguay	62.78
21 (-)	Spain	61.18
22 (▲1)	Korea	59.02
23 (▼1)	Portugal	58.57
24 (-)	Chile	56.84
25 (-)	Namibia	56.82
26 (-)	Germany	56.73
27 (▲1)	Belgium	55.12
28 (▲5)	Brazil	55.00
29 (▲6)	Tunisia	53.37
30 (▼3)	Hong Kong	53.16
31 (▲6)	Ukraine	52.71
32 (▲4)	Poland	52.49
33 (▼2)	Paraguay	52.40
34 (▼2)	Kazakhstan	52.31
35 (▼5)	Morocco	52.25
36 (▼7)	Moldova	51.81
37 (▼3)	Czech Republic	51.46
38 (-)	Uganda	51.42
39 (▲3)	Kenya	40.62
40 (▲3)	Ivory Coast	50.09
41 (▲5)	Netherlands	49.95
42 (▲12)	Lithuania	49.66
43 (▼4)	Sweden	49.44
44 (▼4)	China	48.83
45 (▼1)	Croatia	47.89
46 (▼5)	Madagascar	47.71
47 (▲10)	Trinidad & Tobago	46.77
48 (▲6)	Singapore	46.59
49 (▼2)	Arabian Gulf	46.40
50 (▼2)	Chinese Taipei	46.33



Trinidad
& Tobago
+10 places

Position (change in ranking during 2008)		Rating Points
51 (▼2)	Sri Lanka	45.79
52 (▲1)	Papua New Guinea	45.52
53 (▼2)	Malta	45.14
54 (▼2)	Switzerland	45.14
55 (▼12)	Latvia	45.11
56 (-)	Zimbabwe	44.45
57 (▼7)	Cook Islands	44.03
58 (▲12)	Venezuela	43.92
59 (▲6)	Slovenia	43.72
60 (▲9)	Niue Islands	42.36
61 (▲6)	Thailand	42.34
62 (▲4)	Bermuda	42.26
63 (▼5)	Cayman	42.12
64 (▼2)	Hungary	42.11
65 (▼2)	Colombia	42.03
66 (▲6)	Guyana	41.52
67 (▲6)	Serbia	41.46
68 (-)	Senegal	41.44
69 (▼8)	Barbados	40.96
70 (▼6)	Andorra	40.77
71 (▼11)	Peru	40.64
72 (▼1)	Zambia	40.64
73 (▼14)	Denmark	40.10
74 (▲4)	Botswana	39.53
75 (▼1)	St. Vincent & The Grenadines	39.30
76 (▼1)	Solomon Islands	39.06
77 (▲4)	Cameroon	38.97
78 (▲1)	Malaysia	38.03
79 (▲4)	St. Lucia	37.57
80 (▲4)	India	37.23
81 (▲6)	Norway	36.81
82 (▲4)	Guam	36.80
83 (▼1)	Swaziland	36.68
84 (▼8)	Jamaica	36.61
85 (▲5)	Bahamas	36.33
86 (▲2)	Tahiti	36.25
87 (▼10)	Monaco	35.92
88 (▲7)	Bosnia & Herzegovina	35.43
89 (-)	Nigeria	35.29
90 (▼5)	Austria	35.17
91 (▲2)	Israel	35.07
92 (-)	Bulgaria	35.05
93 (▼2)	Vanuatu	34.77
94 (▼14)	Luxembourg	34.49
95 (▼1)	Finland	30.98



IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline



IRB Awards 2008

Shane steals the show

Wales wing Shane Williams was named IRB Player of the Year 2008 at the prestigious IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline in London.

The 31-year-old, who scored six tries during the 2008 Six Nations to break the Wales all-time try scoring record, is the first Welshman to pick up the most prestigious individual award on the Rugby calendar.

Williams fought off stiff competition from New Zealand fly half and 2005 IRB Player of the Year Dan Carter, his Wales teammate Ryan Jones, Scotland scrum half Mike Blair and Italy captain Sergio Parisse to win the nomination from the IRB Awards judging panel convened by double Rugby World Cup winner John Eales.

On an evening of celebration and reflection at the ceremony hosted at Old Billingsgate, Williams' success prevented a clean-sweep for New Zealand of the top awards as the All Blacks reclaimed the IRB Team

of the Year award and Graham Henry was named IRB Coach of the Year.

For the All Blacks and Henry, the awards cap a tremendous year that saw the team bounce back from a disappointing Rugby World Cup to win the Tri Nations in 2008.

Continuing a successful evening for New Zealand, DJ Forbes was named IRB Sevens Player of the Year. A key player in New Zealand's dominance of the eight-round grand prix style Series, captain Forbes led by example, scoring 130 points as his side claimed the title for the eighth time in nine seasons.

New Zealand's evening of awards was rounded off with promising talent Luke Braid winning the IRB Junior Player of the Year. The new category,

introduced to reflect performances at the IRB Junior World Championship which made its debut in 2008, was hugely competitive with Braid facing stiff competition from teammate Chris Smith and England's Joe Simpson for the prestigious Age Grade accolade.

The International Rugby Players' Association (IRPA) Special Merit award went to former Argentina captain Agustin Pichot. This was in recognition for his tremendous service to the Game on and off the field and in particular his role over the last decade in helping drive Argentina into the top five of the world. The IRPA Try of the Year was awarded to the Irish team and Brian O'Driscoll who scored a wonderful try against Australia in June.



The IRB International Women's Personality of the Year accolade went to Carol Isherwood, one of the driving forces behind England's success on and off the field over the past decade and a champion of the global development of the Women's Game. The IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service was awarded to 1999 and 2003 Rugby World Cup final referee and SA Rugby Referee Manager Andre Watson.

The Vernon Pugh Award for Distinguished Service went to former Australia international Sir Nicolas Shehadie OBE, while the Spirit of Rugby Award was presented to Roelien Muller and Patrick Cotter, organisers of the Phuket 10s who raise funds for orphans of the 2004 Tsunami. The IRB

Development Award was given to the TAG Rugby Development Trust who introduce thousands of children to Rugby in Africa and India each year through the non-contact form of the Game.

The ceremony also saw the announcement of five inductees into the IRB Hall of Fame. Established in 2006 to chronicle the achievements and the special contribution of Rugby's players, coaches, administrators, match officials, institutions and individuals, the 2008 inductees are the 1888 Natives Team of New Zealand and their captain Joe Warbrick, Melrose Club and Ned Haig, British Lions legend Dr Jack Kyle, Argentina great Hugo Porta and France's record breaker Philippe Sella.

IRB Awards in association with Emirates Airline

2008 WINNERS

IRB Player of the Year : **Shane Williams (Wales)**

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

IRB Coach of the Year : **Graham Henry (New Zealand)**

IRB Junior Player of the Year : **Luke Braid (New Zealand)**

IRB Sevens Player of the Year : **DJ Forbes (New Zealand)**

Spirit of Rugby Award : **Roelien Muller and Patrick Cotter**

Vernon Pugh Award for Distinguished Service :
Sir Nicholas Shehadie

IRB Referee Award for Distinguished Service : **Andre Watson**

IRB International Women's Personality of the Year :
Carol Isherwood

IRB Development Award : **Tag Rugby Development Trust and Martin Hansford**

IRPA Special Merit Award : **Agustin Pichot**

IRPA Try of the Year : **Brian O'Driscoll, Australia v Ireland**

IRB Hall of Fame inductees : **1888 Natives Team of New Zealand & Joe Warbrick, Melrose & Ned Haig, Dr Jack Kyle, Hugo Porta and Philippe Sella**



IRB JUNIOR WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP	R	
IRB JUNIOR WORLD RUGBY TROPHY	F	
TRI NATIONS	S	
RBS 6 NATIONS	U	
CHURCHILL CUP	L	
IRB NATIONS CUP	T	
IRB PACIFIC NATIONS CUP	S	
RBS U20 6 NATIONS	&	
EUROPEAN NATIONS CUP	F	
RBS WOMEN'S 6 NATIONS	I	
IRB SEVENS WORLD SERIES	X	
IRB PACIFIC RUGBY CUP	T	
BRITISH & IRISH LIONS TOUR	U	
RUGBY WORLD CUP SEVENS 2009	R	
IRB NORTH AMERICA 4	E	
ASIAN 5 NATIONS	S	

World Results 2008

All International Matches

JANUARY 2008

06 Jan	Hong Kong	64 - 17	Chinese Taipei
09 Jan	Hong Kong	52 - 27	Chinese Taipei

FEBRUARY 2008

02 Feb	Georgia	31 - 3	Portugal
02 Feb	Ireland	16 - 11	Italy
02 Feb	England	19 - 26	Wales
03 Feb	Scotland	6 - 27	France
09 Feb	Wales	30 - 15	Scotland
09 Feb	Georgia	22 - 7	Romania
09 Feb	France	26 - 21	Ireland
10 Feb	Italy	19 - 23	England
16 Feb	Portugal	42 - 6	Czech Rep
23 Feb	Portugal	6 - 11	Georgia
23 Feb	Spain	11 - 17	Romania
23 Feb	Wales	47 - 8	Italy
23 Feb	Ireland	34 - 13	Scotland
23 Feb	France	13 - 24	England

MARCH 2008

01 Mar	Russia	41 - 26	Portugal
08 Mar	Romania	21 - 15	Portugal
08 Mar	Ireland	12 - 16	Wales
08 Mar	Russia	42 - 16	Spain
08 Mar	Scotland	15 - 9	England
09 Mar	France	25 - 13	Italy
15 Mar	Russia	12 - 8	Romania
15 Mar	Italy	23 - 20	Scotland
15 Mar	England	33 - 10	Ireland
15 Mar	Wales	29 - 12	France
22 Mar	Romania	76 - 7	Czech Rep
29 Mar	Czech Rep	3 - 22	Georgia
29 Mar	St Vincent & Grenadines	7 - 47	Mexico

APRIL 2008

05 Apr	Denmark	13 - 28	Switzerland
05 Apr	Hong Kong	25 - 12	Tunisia
12 Apr	Russia	12 - 18	Georgia
12 Apr	Armenia	24 - 13	Denmark
12 Apr	Tunisia	29 - 9	Hong Kong
12 Apr	Moldova	19 - 22	Belgium
13 Apr	Lithuania	43 - 17	Latvia
19 Apr	Czech Rep	3 - 49	Russia
19 Apr	Luxembourg	3 - 10	Slovenia
19 Apr	Germany	13 - 5	Ukraine
19 Apr	Switzerland	16 - 28	Sweden
19 Apr	Croatia	15 - 10	Andorra
20 Apr	Bosnia & Herzegovina	27 - 19	Israel
20 Apr	Cayman Islands	12 - 39	Trinidad & Tobago
20 Apr	Guyana	10 - 3	Jamaica
20 Apr	Bahamas	13 - 29	Bermuda
20 Apr	Barbados	21 - 20	Mexico
23 Apr	Bahamas	19 - 12	Jamaica
23 Apr	Bermuda	13 - 25	Guyana
23 Apr	Trinidad & Tobago	56 - 0	Barbados
26 Apr	Slovenia	17 - 5	Israel
26 Apr	Netherlands	17 - 27	Germany
26 Apr	Georgia	22 - 20	Spain
26 Apr	Sweden	22 - 3	Serbia
26 Apr	Austria	3 - 3	Norway
26 Apr	Poland	55 - 0	Latvia
26 Apr	Cayman Islands	11 - 10	Jamaica
26 Apr	Korea	17 - 39	Japan
26 Apr	Bermuda	17 - 6	Barbados
26 Apr	Guyana	24 - 40	Trinidad & Tobago
26 Apr	Arabian Gulf	12 - 20	Hong Kong
27 Apr	Papua New Guinea	46 - 17	Niue Island

MAY 2008

03 May	Israel	20 - 12	Luxembourg
03 May	Moldova	9 - 14	Ukraine
03 May	Hong Kong	23 - 17	Kazakhstan
03 May	Lithuania	48 - 0	Austria
03 May	Belgium	51 - 3	Netherlands
03 May	Japan	114 - 6	Arabian Gulf
09 May	Arabian Gulf	20 - 43	Korea
10 May	Bosnia & Herzegovina	22 - 17	Slovenia

10 May	Malta	16 - 29	Poland
10 May	Armenia	25 - 0	Serbia
10 May	Norway	44 - 21	Bulgaria
10 May	Latvia	20 - 8	Croatia
10 May	Kazakhstan	6 - 82	Japan
10 May	Spain	21 - 17	Portugal
11 May	Cameroon	26 - 6	Nigeria
17 May	Andorra	17 - 16	Malta
17 May	Botswana	25 - 7	Swaziland
17 May	Hungary	12 - 13	Lithuania
17 May	Finland	3 - 3	Bosnia & Herzegovina
17 May	Korea	40 - 21	Kazakhstan
18 May	Japan	75 - 29	Hong Kong
24 May	Kazakhstan	56 - 27	Arabian Gulf
24 May	Bulgaria	16 - 0	Austria
24 May	Finland	11 - 10	Luxembourg
24 May	Hong Kong	24 - 50	Korea
24 May	Uganda	20 - 3	Kenya
24 May	Serbia	19 - 8	Armenia
31 May	Israel	22 - 12	Finland

JUNE 2008

07 June	Tanzania	16 - 15	Kenya
07 June	Norway	9 - 40	Lithuania
07 June	Fiji	34 - 17	Samoa
07 June	South Africa	43 - 17	Wales
07 June	Argentina	21 - 15	Scotland
07 June	New Zealand	21 - 11	Ireland
08 June	Austria	9 - 6	Hungary
11 June	Thailand	30 - 22	India
11 June	Malaysia	30 - 5	Pakistan
11 June	Uruguay	6 - 10	Romania
14 June	Senegal	10 - 13	Namibia
14 June	Zambia	18 - 29	Morocco
14 June	Cameroon	10 - 16	Tunisia
14 June	Botswana	10 - 27	Uganda
14/0	South Africa	37 - 21	Wales
14 June	India	92 - 0	Pakistan
14 June	Argentina	14 - 26	Scotland
14 June	Thailand	30 - 7	Malaysia
14 June	New Zealand	37 - 20	England
14 June	Australia	18 - 12	Ireland
15 June	Japan	35 - 13	Tonga
15 June	Georgia	20 - 18	Uruguay
15 June	Russia	12 - 13	Romania
19 June	Brazil	34 - 6	Colombia



19 June	Paraguay	44 - 3	Venezuela
20 June	Russia	19 - 23	Uruguay
20 June	Italy A	3 - 25	Georgia
21 June	Venezuela	32 - 15	Colombia
21 June	South Africa	26 - 0	Italy
21 June	USA	10 - 26	Canada
21 June	Paraguay	71 - 0	Peru
21 June	New Zealand	44 - 12	England
22 June	Japan	12 - 24	Fiji
23 June	Togo	3 - 0	Mali
23 June	Ghana	17 - 8	Chad
23 June	Colombia	25 - 20	Peru
23 June	Brazil	56 - 8	Venezuela
25 June	Niger	3 - 3	Mali
25 June	Chad	6 - 33	Burkina Faso
26 June	Brazil	59 - 0	Peru
26 June	Paraguay	60 - 7	Colombia
27 June	Ghana	8 - 9	Burkina Faso
27 June	Togo	3 - 19	Niger
28 June	Tonga	15 - 20	Samoa
28 June	Argentina	12 - 13	Italy
28 June	Guam	74 - 0	Brunei
28 June	Australia	34 - 13	France
29 June	Burkina Faso	3 - 16	Niger
29 June	Chad	10 - 0	Mali
29 June	Ghana	27 - 6	Togo
29 June	Venezuela	41 - 3	Peru
29 June	Paraguay	6 - 15	Brazil

JULY 2008

01 July	Réunion	25 - 16	Tanzania
01 July	Mauritius	33 - 6	Mayotte
02 July	Brunei	0 - 101	Philippines
03 July	Tanzania	32 - 14	Mayotte
03 July	Réunion	10 - 3	Mauritius
05 July	Tonga	27 - 16	Fiji
05 July	Mayotte	0 - 90	Réunion
05 July	Samoa	37 - 31	Japan
05 July	Tanzania	17 - 22	Mauritius
05 July	Guam	8 - 20	Philippines
05 July	New Zealand	19 - 8	South Africa
05 July	Australia	40 - 10	France
12 July	Madagascar	45 - 15	Botswana



12 July	Cambodia	0 - 33	Laos
12 July	Cote D'Ivoire	32 - 9	Zambia
12 July	New Zealand	28 - 30	South Africa
13 July	Kenya	76 - 8	Cameroon
15 July	Indonesia	23 - 11	Laos
19 July	Indonesia	55 - 3	Cambodia
19 July	Australia	16 - 9	South Africa
26 July	Australia	34 - 19	New Zealand

AUGUST 2008

02 Aug	Morocco	9 - 21	Cote D'Ivoire
02 Aug	Namibia	35 - 21	Zimbabwe
02 Aug	Uganda	32 - 22	Madagascar
02 Aug	Tunisia	44 - 15	Kenya
02 Aug	New Zealand	39 - 10	Australia
09 Aug	South Africa	63 - 9	Argentina
16 Aug	South Africa	0 - 19	New Zealand
16 Aug	Cook Islands	7 - 18	Niue Island
16 Aug	Kenya	39 - 20	Uganda
23 Aug	South Africa	15 - 27	Australia
30 Aug	South Africa	53 - 8	Australia

SEPTEMBER 2008

03 Sept	New Zealand	101 - 14	Samoa
06 Sept	Israel	23 - 14	Cyprus
13 Sept	Slovenia	32 - 26	Hungary
13 Sept	Serbia	0 - 41	Armenia
13 Sept	Australia	24 - 28	New Zealand
27 Sept	Norway	15 - 26	Hungary

OCTOBER 2008

04 Oct	Poland	12 - 13	Ukraine
04 Oct	Finland	19 - 27	Luxembourg
05 Oct	Kyrgyzstan	16 - 30	Iran
08 Oct	Iran	8 - 6	Uzbekistan
11 Oct	Kyrgyzstan	15 - 15	Uzbekistan
11 Oct	Finland	10 - 12	Greece
11 Oct	Norway	11 - 3	Austria
11 Oct	Monaco	5 - 50	Bosnia & Herzegovina
11 Oct	Trinidad & Tobago	8 - 31	Brazil
18 Oct	Hungary	39 - 12	Denmark
18 Oct	Armenia	35 - 15	Switzerland
18 Oct	Brazil	24 - 12	Trinidad & Tobago
25 Oct	Malta	16 - 18	Croatia
25 Oct	Sweden	21 - 5	Latvia

NOVEMBER 2008

01 Nov	Netherlands	18 - 12	Croatia
01 Nov	Denmark	19 - 25	Slovenia
01 Nov	Sweden	6 - 9	Malta
01 Nov	Belgium	9 - 8	Ukraine
01 Nov	Australia	14 - 19	New Zealand
01 Nov	Portugal	13 - 21	Canada
08 Nov	Russia	42 - 15	Spain

08 Nov	Latvia	10 - 29	Netherlands
08 Nov	Austria	9 - 18	Slovenia
08 Nov	Wales	15 - 20	South Africa
08 Nov	Italy	20 - 30	Australia
08 Nov	USA	43 - 9	Uruguay
08 Nov	Andorra	10 - 26	Lithuania
08 Nov	Scotland	6 - 32	New Zealand
08 Nov	Ireland	55 - 0	Canada
08 Nov	France	12 - 6	Argentina
11 Nov	Singapore	20 - 20	Sri Lanka
13 Nov	Chinese Taipei	22 - 23	Singapore
14 Nov	Wales	34 - 13	Canada
15 Nov	Slovakia	32 - 46	Bosnia & Herzegovina
15 Nov	Czech Rep	7 - 13	Poland
15 Nov	Lithuania	33 - 0	Switzerland
15 Nov	Bulgaria	8 - 11	Israel
15 Nov	England	14 - 28	Australia
15 Nov	Scotland	10 - 14	South Africa
15 Nov	Italy	14 - 22	Argentina
15 Nov	Chinese Taipei	35 - 23	Sri Lanka
15 Nov	Spain	22 - 11	Germany
15 Nov	Ireland	3 - 22	New Zealand
16 Nov	Japan	29 - 19	USA
16 Nov	Moldova	20 - 8	Belgium
22 Nov	Greece	10 - 25	Israel
22 Nov	Czech Rep	11 - 9	Moldova
22 Nov	Bosnia & Herzegovina	18 - 7	Azerbaijan
22 Nov	England	6 - 42	South Africa
22 Nov	Ireland	17 - 3	Argentina
22 Nov	Scotland	41 - 0	Canada
22 Nov	Wales	9 - 29	New Zealand
22 Nov	Uruguay	46 - 12	Chile
22 Nov	Japan	32 - 17	USA
22 Nov	France	13 - 18	Australia
29 Nov	Luxembourg	10 - 18	Bulgaria
29 Nov	Azerbaijan	3 - 37	Cyprus
29 Nov	England	6 - 32	New Zealand
29 Nov	Wales	21 - 18	Australia

DECEMBER 2008

06 Dec	Cyprus	24 - 3	Monaco
06 Dec	Serbia	32 - 7	Andorra



Includes non-member Unions who are participating in tournaments.

IRB Junior World Championship 2008

Winner :: **New Zealand**Runner-up :: **England**

Pool stage

06 June	New Zealand	48 - 9	Tonga
06 June	South Africa	108 - 18	USA
06 June	Australia	81 - 12	Canada
06 June	France	53 - 17	Japan
06 June	Argentina	17 - 9	Ireland
06 June	Samoa	29 - 17	Scotland
06 June	England	41 - 17	Fiji
06 June	Wales	29 - 10	Italy
10 June	Samoa	20 - 6	USA
10 June	England	60 - 18	Canada
10 June	France	32 - 14	Italy
10 June	Argentina	30 - 10	Tonga
10 June	South Africa	72 - 3	Scotland
10 June	Australia	53 - 17	Fiji
10 June	Wales	33 - 10	Japan
10 June	New Zealand	65 - 10	Ireland
14 June	Australia	13 - 18	England
14 June	Ireland	45 - 27	Tonga
14 June	Scotland	41 - 14	USA
14 June	Japan	20 - 24	Italy
14 June	Fiji	10 - 17	Canada
14 June	New Zealand	60 - 0	Argentina
14 June	South Africa	16 - 11	Samoa
14 June	Wales	23 - 19	France

Pool A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
New Zealand	3	3	0	0	173	19	25	3	15
Argentina	3	2	0	1	47	79	6	1	9
Ireland	3	1	0	2	64	109	6	1	5
Tonga	3	0	0	3	46	123	3	0	0

Pool B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
South Africa	3	3	0	0	196	32	28	2	14
Samoa	3	2	0	1	60	39	7	1	9
Scotland	3	1	0	2	61	115	8	1	5
USA	3	0	0	3	38	169	3	0	0

Pool C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
England	3	3	0	0	119	48	17	2	14
Australia	3	2	0	1	147	47	23	3	11
Canada	3	1	0	2	47	151	5	0	4
Fiji	3	0	0	3	44	111	7	1	1

Pool D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
Wales	3	3	0	0	85	39	11	2	14
France	3	2	0	1	104	54	13	3	11
Italy	3	1	0	2	48	81	4	0	4
Japan	3	0	0	3	47	110	7	1	1

Play-offs

18 June	Tonga	17 - 5	Japan
18 June	Scotland	15 - 10	Canada
18 June	Argentina	6 - 30	France
18 June	USA	22 - 27	Fiji
18 June	Ireland	9 - 6	Italy
18 June	Samoa	0 - 32	Australia

Semi-finals

18 June	New Zealand	31 - 6	Wales
18 June	England	26 - 18	South Africa

15th Place play-off

21 June	Japan	44 - 8	USA
---------	-------	---------------	-----

13th Place play-off

21 June	Tonga	28 - 20	Fiji
---------	-------	----------------	------

11th Place play-off

22 June	Italy	33 - 10	Canada
---------	-------	----------------	--------

9th Place play-off

22 June	Ireland	39 - 12	Scotland
---------	---------	----------------	----------

7th Place play-off

22 June	Argentina	10 - 30	Samoa
---------	-----------	----------------	-------

5th Place play-off

22 June	France	21 - 42	Australia
---------	--------	----------------	-----------

3rd Place play-off

22 June	Wales	18 - 43	South Africa
---------	-------	----------------	--------------

Final

22 June	New Zealand	38 - 3	England
---------	-------------	---------------	---------



IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy 2008

Winner :: **Uruguay**

Runner-up :: **Chile**

15 April	Georgia	90 - 3	Jamaica
15 April	Romania	28 - 26	Namibia
15 April	Uruguay	67 - 8	Korea
15 April	Chile	33 - 10	Cook Islands
19 April	Romania	46 - 7	Cook Islands
19 April	Georgia	50 - 31	Korea
19 April	Chile	20 - 6	Namibia
19 April	Uruguay	82 - 0	Jamaica
23 April	Korea	55 - 17	Jamaica
23 April	Uruguay	20 - 16	Georgia
23 April	Namibia	25 - 14	Cook Islands
23 April	Chile	14 - 3	Romania

Pool A	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
Chile	3	3	0	0	67	19	9	1	13
Romania	3	2	0	1	77	47	12	2	10
Namibia	3	1	0	2	57	62	7	2	6
Cook Islands	3	0	0	3	31	104	3	0	0

Pool B	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
Uruguay	3	3	0	0	169	24	24	2	14
Georgia	3	2	0	1	156	54	23	3	11
Korea	3	1	0	2	94	134	15	2	8
Jamaica	3	0	0	3	20	227	2	0	0

7th Place play-off

27 April	Cook Islands	54 - 15	Jamaica
----------	--------------	---------	---------

5th Place play-off

27 April	Namibia	36 - 29	Korea
----------	---------	---------	-------

3rd Place play-off

27 April	Romania	10 - 34	Georgia
----------	---------	---------	---------

Final

27 April	Chile	8 - 20	Uruguay
----------	-------	--------	---------



Tri Nations 2008

Winner :: **New Zealand**

Runner-up :: **Australia**

05 July	New Zealand	19 - 8	South Africa
12 July	New Zealand	28 - 30	South Africa
19 July	Australia	16 - 9	South Africa
26 July	Australia	34 - 19	New Zealand
02 Aug	New Zealand	39 - 10	Australia
16 Aug	South Africa	0 - 19	New Zealand
23 Aug	South Africa	15 - 27	Australia
30 Aug	South Africa	53 - 8	Australia
13 Sept	Australia	24 - 28	New Zealand

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
New Zealand	6	4	0	2	152	106	16	3	19
Australia	6	3	0	3	119	163	14	2	14
South Africa	6	2	0	4	115	117	13	2	10

RBS 6 Nations 2008

Winner :: **Wales**

Runner-up :: **England**

02 Feb	Ireland	16 - 11	Italy
02 Feb	England	19 - 26	Wales
03 Feb	Scotland	6 - 27	France
09 Feb	Wales	30 - 15	Scotland
09 Feb	France	26 - 21	Ireland
10 Feb	Italy	19 - 23	England
23 Feb	Wales	47 - 8	Italy
23 Feb	Ireland	34 - 13	Scotland
23 Feb	France	13 - 24	England
08 Mar	Ireland	12 - 16	Wales
08 Mar	Scotland	15 - 9	England
09 Mar	France	25 - 13	Italy
15 Mar	Italy	23 - 20	Scotland
15 Mar	England	33 - 10	Ireland
15 Mar	Wales	29 - 12	France

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	Pts.
Wales	5	5	0	0	148	66	13	10
England	5	3	0	2	108	83	8	6
France	5	3	0	2	103	93	11	6
Ireland	5	2	0	3	93	99	9	4
Scotland	5	1	0	4	69	123	3	2
Italy	5	1	0	4	74	131	6	2

Churchill Cup 2008

Winner :: **England Saxons**Runner-up :: **Scotland A**

Pool stage

07 June	USA	10 - 64	England Saxons
07 June	Canada	10 - 26	Scotland A
11 June	Argentina A	24 - 27	Scotland A
11 June	USA	9 - 46	Ireland A
14 June	Ireland A	12 - 34	England Saxons
14 June	Argentina A	17 - 16	Canada

Pool A	P	W	D	L	F	A	B/P	Pts.
Scotland A	2	2	0	0	53	34	2	10
Argentina A	2	1	1	0	41	43	2	6
Canada	2	0	2	0	26	43	1	1

Pool B	P	W	D	L	F	A	B/P	Pts.
England Saxons	2	2	0	0	98	22	2	10
Ireland A	2	1	1	0	58	43	1	5
USA	2	0	2	0	19	110	0	0

5th Place Play-off

21 June	USA	10 - 26	Canada
---------	-----	---------	--------

3rd Place Play-off

21 June	Ireland A	33 - 8	Argentina A
---------	-----------	--------	-------------

Final

21 June	England Saxons	36 - 19	Scotland A
---------	----------------	---------	------------

IRB Nations Cup 2008

Winner :: **Emerging South Africa**Runner-up :: **Georgia**

11 June	Italy A	38 - 15	Russia
11 June	Emerging S Africa	11 - 3	Georgia
11 June	Uruguay	6 - 10	Romania
15 June	Georgia	20 - 18	Uruguay
15 June	Italy A	19 - 20	Emerging S Africa
15 June	Russia	12 - 13	Romania
20 June	Russia	19 - 23	Uruguay
20 June	Italy A	3 - 25	Georgia
20 June	Emerging S Africa	25 - 13	Romania

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
Emerging S Africa	3	3	0	0	56	35	6	0	12
Georgia	3	2	0	1	48	32	5	0	8
Romania	3	2	0	1	36	43	3	0	8
Italy A	3	1	0	2	60	60	6	2	6
Uruguay	3	1	0	2	47	49	2	2	6
Russia	3	0	0	3	46	74	3	2	2



IRB Pacific Nations Cup 2008

Winner :: **New Zealand Maori**Runner-up :: **Australia A**

07 June	Fiji	34 - 17	Samoa
07 June	New Zealand Maori	20 - 9	Tonga
08 June	Japan	21 - 42	Australia A
14 June	Fiji	7 - 11	New Zealand Maori
14 June	Samoa	15 - 20	Australia A
15 June	Japan	35 - 13	Tonga
21 June	New Zealand Maori	17 - 6	Samoa
22 June	Australia A	90 - 7	Tonga
22 June	Japan	12 - 24	Fiji
28 June	Tonga	15 - 20	Samoa
28 June	New Zealand Maori	65 - 22	Japan
29 June	Australia A	50 - 13	Fiji
05 July	Tonga	27 - 16	Fiji
05 July	Samoa	37 - 31	Japan
06 July	Australia A	18 - 21	New Zealand Maori

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	T/F	B/P	Pts.
New Zealand Maori	5	5	0	0	134	62	18	1	21
Australia A	5	4	0	1	220	77	31	4	20
Samoa	5	2	0	3	95	117	12	2	10
Fiji	5	2	0	3	94	117	12	2	10
Japan	5	1	0	4	121	181	13	3	7
Tonga	5	1	0	4	71	181	16	2	6



key fixtures

2009

THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009

The world's finest men's and women's Sevens players and a supporting cast of 150,000 supporters from all over the world will converge on Dubai for the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009. The tournament will feature for the first time a 16-team women's tournament running alongside the 24-team men's competition.

THE BEST YOUNG PLAYERS IN THE WORLD

IRB Sevens World Series

The 10th anniversary running of the IRB Sevens World Series continues with the New Zealand and USA tournaments in February. The Series then breaks for Rugby World Cup Sevens 2009, before heading to

Hong Kong and Australia. What promises to be the most competitive Series to date climaxes with the European leg in June with the England and Scotland tournaments when the 2008/09 Series champions will be crowned.

IRB Junior World Championship

Following the resounding success of the inaugural tournament the 2009 event in Japan is expected to leave a lasting Rugby legacy in Japan and across Asia.

IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy

The IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy plays a significant role in preparing the next generation of international players for the Test arena. The 2009 tournament will be the first time that Kenya has

hosted a major IRB fifteen-a-side tournament. The major aim of the Trophy is to promote the growth of Rugby across Africa.

IRB STRATEGIC TOURNAMENTS

IRB Pacific Nations Cup

Hosted in a single country for the first time in the tournament's history, Fiji will welcome Japan, Samoa, Tonga and the returning Junior All Blacks in June for what has become a major tournament on the global Rugby calendar.

IRB Nations Cup

Following two successful years hosted by the Romania Rugby Federation, the popular IRB Nations Cup will again be played in the capital city Bucharest. The tournament is likely to be as competitive as ever, providing an expanded

competition calendar for each of the participating Unions.

IRB Pacific Rugby Cup

The 2009 IRB Pacific Rugby Cup promises to be as competitive as ever. Pitting two representative teams from each of Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, the tournament has captured the hearts and minds of the Rugby Community on the islands, generating strong crowds and providing the development platform for locally-based players.

IRB North America 4

A key development tool for Canada and the USA, the IRB North America 4 has grown to become a major crowd draw in both countries. The competition provides a player development platform ahead of the Barclays Churchill Cup and other Test matches.

FEBRUARY 2009

6/7 Feb	IRB Sevens	Wellington	Westpac Stadium
6 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Ireland v France	Dublin
7 Feb	RBS Six Nations	England v Italy	Twickenham
7 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Ireland v France	Croke Park
7 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	England v Italy	Richmond
7 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Portugal v Russia	Lisbon
7 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Spain v Romania	Madrid
7 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Germany v Georgia	Heidelberg
8 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Scotland v Wales	Murrayfield
8 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Scotland v Wales	Edinburgh
14/15 Feb	IRB Sevens	San Diego	PETCO Park
14 Feb	RBS Six Nations	France v Scotland	Stade de France
14 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Wales v England	Millennium Stadium
14 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Wales v England	Cardiff
14 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Italy v Ireland	Coltiferro
14 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Georgia v Portugal	Tbilisi
14 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Germany v Romania	Heidelberg
15 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Italy v Ireland	Stadio Flaminio
15 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	France v Scotland	Arras
21 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Portugal v Germany	Lisbon
27 Feb	RBS Six Nations	France v Wales	Stade de France
27 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Ireland v England	Dublin
28 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Scotland v Italy	Murrayfield
28 Feb	RBS Six Nations	Ireland v England	Croke Park
28 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	France v Wales	Montauban

28 Feb	Women's 6 Nations	Scotland v Italy	Edinburgh
28 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Spain v Georgia	Madrid
28 Feb	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Romania v Russia	Bucharest

MARCH 2009

5-7 Mar	RWC Sevens	Dubai	The Sevens
13 Mar	Women's 6 Nations	Scotland v Ireland	Edinburgh
14 Mar	RBS Six Nations	Italy v Wales	Stadio Flaminio
14 Mar	RBS Six Nations	Scotland v Ireland	Murrayfield
14 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Georgia v Romania	Tbilisi
14 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 2A	Belgium v Czech Republic	Brussels
14 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 3A	Switzerland v Andorra	Avusy
15 Mar	RBS Six Nations	England v France	Twickenham
15 Mar	Women's 6 Nations	England v France	Richmond
15 Mar	Women's 6 Nations	Italy v Wales	Mira
15 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Portugal v Spain	Lisbon
21 Mar	RBS Six Nations	Italy v France	Stadio Flaminio
21 Mar	RBS Six Nations	England v Scotland	Twickenham
21 Mar	RBS Six Nations	Wales v Ireland	Millennium Stadium
21 Mar	Women's 6 Nations	Wales v Ireland	Cardiff
21 Mar	Women's 6 Nations	England v Scotland	Richmond
21 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Romania v Portugal	Bucharest
21 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 3A	Andorra v Armenia	Andorra La Vella
21 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 3C	Israel v Luxembourg	Netanya
21 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 2A	Ukraine v Czech Republic	Odessa
22 Mar	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Russia v Georgia	Mariupol
27-29 Mar	IRB Sevens	Hong Kong	Hong Kong

APRIL 2009

3-5 Apr	IRB Sevens	Adelaide	Adelaide Oval
4 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3A	Switzerland v Serbia	Nyon
8 Apr	A5N - Div 1	Chinese Taipei v Sri Lanka	Dubai
8 Apr	A5N - Div 1	Arabian Gulf v Thailand	Dubai
11 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3B	Denmark v Norway	Odense
11 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3C	Greece v Bulgaria	Alexandroupoli
18 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 2B	Latvia v Malta	Riga
18 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 2B	Netherlands v Sweden	Amsterdam
18 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3B	Hungary v Austria	Esztergom
21 Apr	JWRT 2009	Match day 1	Kenya
24 Apr	Pacific Rugby Cup	Fiji Barbarians v Fiji Warriors	Sigatoka
24 Apr	Pacific Rugby Cup	Savai'i Samoa v Tau'uta Reds	Apia
25 Apr	RWC 2011 Q - Ame 2	Chile v Brazil	Chile
25 Apr	A5N	Korea v Singapore	Seoul
25 Apr	A5N	Japan v Kazakhstan	Osaka
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 2B	Malta v Netherlands	Valetta
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 2B	Croatia v Latvia	Makarska
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3B	Austria v Denmark	Linz
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3B	Slovenia v Norway	Ljubljana
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3C	Bulgaria v Finland	Pernik
25 Apr	ENC 2010 - Div 3C	Luxembourg v Greece	Luxembourg
25 Apr	JWRT 2009	Match day 2	Kenya
25 Apr	Pacific Rugby Cup	Tautahi Gold v Upolu Samoa	Nuku'alofa
29 Apr	RWC 2011 Q - Ame 2	Uruguay v Brazil	Uruguay

MAY 2009

1 May	RWC 2011 Q - Ame 2	Uruguay v Chile	Uruguay
1 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Upolu Samoa v Tau'uta Reds	Apia
1 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Fiji Barbarians v Savai'i Samoa	Lautoka
2 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Tautahi Gold v Fiji Warriors	Nuku'alofa
2 May	A5N	Hong Kong v Japan	Hong Kong
2 May	A5N	Kazakhstan v Korea	Almaty
2 May	ENC 2010 - Div 1	Germany v Russia	Hanover
2 May	ENC 2010 - Div 2B	Croatia v Sweden	Split
2 May	ENC 2010 - Div 3A	Lithuania v Serbia	Vilnius
2 May	ENC 2010 - Div 3C	Israel v Finland	Netanya
3 May	JWRT 2009	Final / Playoffs	Kenya
8 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Upolu Samoa v Fiji Barbarians	Apia
9 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Fiji Warriors v Savai'i Samoa	Sigatoka
9 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Tautahi Gold v Tau'uta Reds	Nuku'alofa
9 May	A5N	Korea v Hong Kong	Seoul
9 May	A5N	Singapore v Kazakhstan	Singapore
9 May	ENC 2010 - Div 2A	Ukraine v Moldova	Kiev
9 May	ENC 2010 - Div 3A	Armenia v Lithuania	Abovyan
9 May	RWC 2011 Q - Eur 1	1st Div 3C v 1st Div 3B	
15 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Fiji Warriors v Upolu Samoa	Lautoka
16 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Tau'uta Reds v Fiji Barbarians	Nuku'alofa
16 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Savai'i Samoa v Tautahi Gold	Iva
16 May	A5N	Hong Kong v Singapore	Hong Kong
16 May	A5N	Japan v Korea	Osaka
16 May	ENC 2010 - Div 2A	Moldova v Poland	Chisinau
22 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Fiji Barbarians v Tautahi Gold	Sigatoka
22 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Savai'i Samoa v Upolu Samoa	Apia
23 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	Tau'uta Reds v Fiji Warriors	Nuku'alofa
23 May	RWC 2011 Q - Eur 2	R1 Winner v 1st Div 3A	
23 May	International Match	Canada v Ireland	Vancouver
23 May	A5N	Singapore v Japan	Singapore
23/24 May	IRB Sevens	London	Twickenham
24 May	A5N	Kazakhstan v Hong Kong	Almaty
30 May	Pacific Rugby Cup	FINAL	
30 May	International Match	Canada v Wales	Toronto
30 May	ENC 2010 - Div 2A	Poland v Belgium	Gdansk
30/31 May	IRB Sevens	Edinburgh	Murrayfield
31 May	International Match	USA v Ireland	California

JUNE 2009

5 Jun	JWC 2009	Match day one	Japan
6 Jun	RWC 2011 Q - Eur 3	R2 Winner v 1st Div 2B	
6 Jun	International Match	England v Argentina	Manchester
6 Jun	International Match	USA v Wales	Illinois
9 Jun	JWC 2009	Match day two	Japan
12 Jun	Nations Cup	Match day 1	Bucharest
13 Jun	International Match	Australia v Italy	Canberra
13 Jun	International Match	New Zealand v France	Dunedin
13 Jun	International Match	Argentina v England	Argentina
13 Jun	RWC 2011 Q - Afr 3	Uganda v Tunisia	Kampala
13 Jun	RWC 2011 Q - Afr 3	Ivory Coast v Namibia	Abidjan
13 Jun	JWC 2009	Match day 3	Japan
16 Jun	Nations Cup	Match day 2	Bucharest
17 Jun	JWC 2009	Semi finals / Playoffs	Japan
20 Jun	International Match	Australia v Italy	Melbourne
20 Jun	International Match	New Zealand v France	Wellington
20 Jun	International Match	Argentina v England	Argentina
20 Jun	Lions Tour	South Africa v Lions	Durban
21 Jun	JWC 2009	Final / Playoffs	Japan
21 Jun	Nations Cup	Match day 3	Bucharest
27 Jun	International Match	Australia v France	Sydney
27 Jun	International Match	New Zealand v Italy	Christchurch
27 Jun	Women's International	USA v Canada	Glendale
27 Jun	RWC 2011 Q - Afr 3	Tunisia v Uganda	Tunis
27 Jun	RWC 2011 Q - Afr 3	Namibia v Ivory Coast	Windhoek
27 Jun	Lions Tour	South Africa v Lions	Pretoria

JULY 2009

3 Jul	RWC 2011 Q - Ame 3	USA v Canada	Charleston
4 Jul	Lions Tour	South Africa v Lions	Johannesburg
11 Jul	RWC 2011 Q - Ame 3	Canada v USA	Edmonton
18 Jul	Tri Nations	New Zealand v Australia	Auckland
24/25 Jul	World Games	Rugby Sevens	Kaohsiung, TPE
25 Jul	Tri Nations	South Africa v New Zealand	Bloemfontein

AUGUST 2009

1 Aug	Tri Nations	South Africa v New Zealand	Durban
8 Aug	Tri Nations	South Africa v Australia	Cape Town
22 Aug	Tri Nations	Australia v New Zealand	Sydney
29 Aug	Tri Nations	Australia v South Africa	Perth

SEPTEMBER 2009

5 Sep	Tri Nations	Australia v South Africa	Brisbane
12 Sep	Tri Nations	New Zealand v South Africa	Hamilton
19 Sep	Tri Nations	New Zealand v Australia	Wellington

NOVEMBER 2009

14 Nov	International Match	England v Argentina	England
14 Nov	International Match	France v South Africa	France
14 Nov	International Match	Ireland v Australia	Ireland
14 Nov	International Match	Scotland v Fiji	Scotland
14 Nov	International Match	Wales v Samoa	Wales
14 Nov	International Match	Italy v New Zealand	Italy
14 Nov	Women's International	England v New Zealand	London
21 Nov	International Match	England v New Zealand	England
21 Nov	International Match	France v Samoa	France
21 Nov	International Match	Ireland v Fiji	Ireland
21 Nov	International Match	Scotland v Australia	Scotland
21 Nov	International Match	Wales v Argentina	Wales
21 Nov	International Match	Italy v South Africa	Italy
21 Nov	Women's International	England v New Zealand	London
28 Nov	International Match	England v Fiji	England
28 Nov	International Match	France v New Zealand	France
28 Nov	International Match	Ireland v South Africa	Ireland
28 Nov	International Match	Scotland v Argentina	Scotland
28 Nov	International Match	Wales v Australia	Wales
28 Nov	International Match	Italy v Samoa	Italy





IT IS BECAUSE OF, NOT DESPITE, RUGBY'S INTENSELY PHYSICAL AND ATHLETIC
CHARACTERISTICS THAT SUCH GREAT CAMARADERIE EXISTS BEFORE AND AFTER MATCHES

GROWING THE GLOBAL GAME – FINANCIAL REPORT

Financing the global

The International Rugby Board is the beneficiary of the surpluses generated by the Rugby World Cup. The financial success of the tournament has enabled the IRB to be at the forefront of Rugby development, enabling it to implement and fund the development of the Game worldwide.

The IRB is responsible for developing the Game across the world, for the benefit of all while promoting essential core values such as participation, camaraderie and team work. With a current membership of 96 Member Unions and 20 Associate Member Unions across six Regional Associations, the IRB's primary objective is to grow Rugby worldwide across all territories promoting participation at all levels of the Game. In simple terms its objective is to have more people playing, supporting and enjoying Rugby across the world. To emphasise the impact of a RWC tournament, the playing population across the world has increased from two million to three million in the past 10 years.

This approach is founded upon the respect for the principles of fair play and sportsmanship and the values of a drug-free Game. It is built upon the fact that Rugby is a sport for all shapes and sizes, men and women and above all is a sport that can be enjoyed both as an individual and as a team.

Overview of the Game

Rugby is experiencing unprecedented global growth in participation, interest and support and the Rugby World Cup has been at the heart of this growth.

RWC 2003 generated a surplus of £64.3 million while RWC 2007 recorded a surplus of £122.4 million reflecting the continued growth and popularity of the tournament. On the eve of the tournament, the IRB was delighted to report that it was already a resounding commercial success. Indeed RWC 2007 was the most successful tournament in Rugby World Cup history. The tournament enjoyed two million public ticket sales (for the first time in RWC history), a full corporate sponsorship inventory (for the first time) and unprecedented corporate hospitality sales with around 100,000 packages sold (greater than the last two tournaments combined).

Development of the Global Game

While Rugby World Cup continues to reach new heights with each tournament in terms of ticket sales, commercial revenue and broadcast reach, the tournament also plays a much more significant role in the development of global Rugby. The generation of a significant surplus from the tournament is now allowing unprecedented investment in the Game.

The Rugby World Cup 2007 net surplus was £122.4 million and this will be invested by the IRB across all its major funding initiatives including the annual Union grants and the recently established Strategic Investment Programme that, in the years between RWC tournaments, targets specific development programmes to increase the competitiveness of the Game. For example, in August 2005 the IRB announced a three-year £30 million global strategic investment programme aimed specifically at increasing global playing standards through a number of high performance, Union management and tournament structure initiatives. Then, in 2008 following RWC 2007, the IRB announced that a further £48 million would be invested through the next round of strategic investment between 2009 and 2012.

Rugby World Cup surplus revenue is utilised in several ways:

- Payment of annual development and tournament grants to Member Unions and Regional Associations with around £12 million paid out each year.
- Underwriting major tournaments including the IRB Junior World Championship, IRB Junior World Rugby Trophy, IRB Sevens World Series, Men's and Women's Rugby World Cup Sevens and Women's Rugby World Cup.
- Implementation of the IRB's global Strategic Investment Programme (high performance, Union management and new tournament structures including the IRB Pacific Rugby Cup, IRB Pacific Nations Cup, IRB Nations Cup and IRB North America 4).
- Costs associated with the day-to-day running of the IRB including its eight Regional Development Managers.
- Delivery of educational programmes, training and development initiatives to all our Member Unions. This includes major training and educational programmes such as Rugby Ready.

	1987 New Zealand	1991 England	1995 South Africa	1999 Wales	2003 Australia	2007 France
Number of Participating Unions	16	31	52	69	82	94
Total ticket sales	600,000	1,000,000	1,100,000	1,700,000	1,900,000	2,200,000
Pool match ticket sales	270,000	649,000	617,000	1,000,000	1,450,000	1,650,000
Television reach (countries)	17	103	124	209	193	200
Television reach (audience)	230 million	1.4 billion	2.3 billion	3.1 billion	3.4 billion	4.2 billion

game



- Hosting of IRB meetings; Rugby World Cup Board, IRB Executive Committee, IRB General Assembly, IRB Council and working committees and the Women's Conference on the Game.
- Promotion of the Game globally via broadcasting, internet and electronic publications.

Each year the IRB awards a large number of grants to its Member Unions around the world with the overall scale of the grants reflecting the level of surpluses generated by the preceding Rugby World Cup tournament.

In November 2006 the IRB announced an increase in its annual Member Union grant programme. Funding (in addition to the strategic investment programme) across all 97 Member and 19 Associate Member Unions increased to £11.8 million for 2007, continuing the IRB's commitment to developing the Game worldwide.

The annual grants for Unions development and infrastructure initiatives increased to £6.3 million and included a number of new initiatives aimed at aiding the growth of the Game both on and off the pitch. The funding for regional tournaments increased to £5.5 million across all six regions to help subsidise a raft of key tournaments which provide Unions with access to regular high level competition which is necessary for player development.

This funding commitment to the Member Union has continued. The annual grants for development programmes and Union infrastructure initiatives increased from £6.3 million in 2007 to £7.2 million for 2008.

Tournament grant funding also increased from £5.5 million to £5.7 million in 2008 to help subsidise IRB and regional

development tournaments including the inaugural IRB Junior World Championship and IRB Junior Rugby World Trophy Tournaments, new cross-border structures and continued support of the record-breaking IRB Sevens World Series.

All grants are based upon detailed reviews and recommendations by IRB Management, the Regional Development Managers in the respective regions and the relevant Regional Associations. Investments will be prioritised to cover Senior Men's, Age Grade, Men's and Women's Rugby Sevens and Women's fifteens competition programmes. The increase in funding for Women's competition, and the introduction of the inaugural Women's RWC Sevens in 2009, are in line with the Women's Strategic Plan that was launched in April 2006.

Co-operation between Unions

There is of course a gulf between the resources of the Tier 1 Unions and the emerging Tier 3 Unions. The IRB, in addition to providing additional funding for special strategic projects for Tier 3 Unions, actively encourages the larger Unions to assist emerging nations and over the past few years they have offered the services of their coaches, physiotherapists, doctors and key Union staff in order to assist with development programmes. These activities are funded through the IRB's rapidly expanding global Coaching Assistance Programme.

In the build up to Rugby World Cup 2007 the IRB also provided financial and expertise assistance to three teams – Georgia, Namibia and Portugal – in order to help assist in their preparation for the tournament in France.

	1995 South Africa	1999 Wales	2003 Australia	2007 France
Host Union revenues				
Gate receipts	£15.1m	£55m	£80.5m	£147m
Tournament costs	£10.6m	£25m	£62.3m	£133m
Host Union(s) surpluses	£4.5m	£30m	£18.2m	£14m
Commercial revenues				
Broadcasting receipts	£18.8m	£44m	£58m	£82m
Sponsorship	£7.7m	£18m	£16m	£28m
Other commercial revenues	£3.8m	£8m	£5.8m	£36m
Total revenue	£30.3m	£70m	£81.8m	£146m
RWC costs	£12.7m	£23m	£17.5m	£23.6m
RWC surplus *	£17.6m	£47m	£64.3m	£122.4m

* 1987 surplus was £1 million, 1991 surplus was £4.1 million

Council Members as at 31 December 2007B Lapasset *Independent Chairman*W Beaumont *Independent Vice Chairman*

J Dance (England)

M Thomas (England)

W Nolan (Scotland)

G McKie (Scotland)

P Boyle (Ireland)

N Murphy (Ireland)

D Pickering (Wales)

G Davies (Wales)

P McLean (Australia)

J O'Neill (Australia)

G Mourie (New Zealand)

S Tew (New Zealand)

O Hoskins (South Africa)

J Stones (South Africa)

P Camou (France)

J Laurans (France)

H Porta (Argentina)

C Le Fevre (Canada)

G Dondi (Italy)

I Kono (Japan)

R Martins (FIRA-AER)

N Mashimo (ARFU)

A Bougja (CAR)

H Schuster (FORU)

R Paganini (CONSUR)

P Higgins (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 96 Member Unions and 19 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 and cash flow 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.

B Lapasset, Chairman**M Miller, CEO**

1 May 2008

We have audited the group financial statements for the year ended 31 December 2007 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 2007 and of the group profit and cash flows for the year then ended.

PricewaterhouseCoopers
Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors
Dublin

7 May 2008

	Notes	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
ASSETS			
Non – current assets			
Property, plant and equipment	5	412,559	353,912
Intangible assets	6	185,116	230,553
Deferred expenses	7	-	4,875,749
Available for sale financial assets	8	19,507,681	20,358,804
Deposits with maturity in excess of one year	10	4,000,000	-
		<hr/> 24,105,356	<hr/> 25,819,018
Current assets			
Trade and other receivables	9	63,782,736	6,553,302
Deposits with maturity 3-12 months	10	34,176,531	25,311,831
Cash and cash equivalents	10	67,500,756	48,909,089
		<hr/> 165,460,023	<hr/> 80,774,222
Total assets		<hr/> 189,565,379	<hr/> 106,593,240
EQUITY			
Capital and reserves			
Retained earnings		<hr/> 145,891,226	<hr/> 14,814,082
LIABILITIES			
Non-current liabilities			
Deferred revenue	11	-	84,737,007
Current liabilities			
Trade and other payables	12	43,667,244	7,006,490
Current income tax liabilities		6,909	35,661
		<hr/> 43,674,153	<hr/> 7,042,151
Total liabilities		<hr/> 43,674,153	<hr/> 91,779,158
Total equity and liabilities		<hr/> 189,565,379	<hr/> 106,593,240

The notes on pages 79 to 88 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

B Lapasset, Chairman
M Miller, CEO

CONSOLIDATED INCOME STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Revenue		216,606,200	1,481,347
Administration expenses	13	(23,750,687)	(11,568,599)
RWC participation fees		(32,000,000)	-
Tournament expenses		(17,542,096)	(5,905,896)
Other gains/(losses) - net	14	320,314	584,463
Other income	15	4,320,325	2,678,627
Other expenses	16	(17,677,219)	(15,451,264)
Profit/(loss) before income tax		130,276,837	(28,181,322)
Income tax expense	18	(13,629)	(35,677)
Profit/(loss) for the year		130,263,208	(28,216,999)

The notes on pages 79 to 88 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

B Lapasset, Chairman
M Miller, CEO

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Retained earnings Stg£
Balance at 1 January 2006	43,052,062
Fair value gains/(loss), net of tax: - available-for-sale financial assets	(20,981)
Net loss 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
Balance at 1 January 2007	14,814,082
Fair value gain, net of tax: - available-for-sale financial assets	813,936
Net income recognised directly in equity	813,936
Profit for the year	130,263,208
Total recognised income for 2007	131,077,144
Balance at 31 December 2007	145,891,226

The notes on pages 79 to 88 are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

B Lapasset, Chairman
M Miller, CEO

GROUP CASHFLOW STATEMENT for the year ended 31 December 2007

	Notes	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash generated from operations	19	41,590,657	29,535,653
Income tax paid		(42,381)	(50,540)
Net cash generated from operating activities		41,548,276	29,485,113
Cash flows from investing activities			
Purchases of property, plant and equipment		(213,568)	(213,792)
Purchase of intangible assets		-	(129,565)
Purchase of available for sale financial assets		(10,175,991)	(13,617,334)
Proceeds on disposal of available for sale financial assets		12,161,364	13,060,385
Interest received		4,320,325	2,678,627
Net cash generated from investing activities		6,092,130	1,778,321
Cash flows from financing activities			
Increase in deposits		(12,864,700)	(14,575,563)
Grant Payments		(16,184,039)	(16,069,614)
Net cash used in financing activities		(29,048,739)	(30,645,177)
Net increase in cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts		18,591,667	618,257
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at beginning of the year		48,909,089	48,290,832
Cash, cash equivalents and bank overdrafts at end of the year		67,500,756	48,909,089

The notes on pages 79 to 88 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 96 Member Unions and 19 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 1 May 2008.

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

These consolidated financial statements have been prepared in accordance with International Financial Reporting Standards and IFRIC interpretations adopted by the European Union (EU). The consolidated financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention, as modified by the measurement of the fair value of available for sale financial assets. A summary of the more important group accounting policies is set out below.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with IFRS requires the use of certain critical accounting 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, event or actions, actual results ultimately may differ from those estimates.

Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2007

IFRS 7, 'Financial instruments: Disclosures', and the complementary amendment to IAS 1 'Presentation of financial statements – Capital disclosures', were adopted in 2007. IFRS 7 introduces new disclosures relating to financial instruments. This standard does not have any impact on the classification and valuation of the IRB's financial instruments.

Standards, amendments and interpretations effective in 2007 but not relevant to the IRB's operations

The following standards, amendments and interpretations are mandatory for the IRB for accounting periods beginning on or after 31 December 2006 but are not relevant to the IRB's operations:

- IFRS 4 Insurance Contracts
- IFRIC 7, Applying the restatement approach under IAS 29, Financial reporting in hyperinflationary economies.
- IFRIC 8, Scope of IFRS 2.
- IFRIC 9, Reassessment of embedded derivatives.
- IFRIC 10, Interim financial reporting and impairment.

Standards and Interpretations to existing standards that are not yet effective and have not been early adopted by the IRB

The following standards, amendments to and interpretations to existing standards have been published and are mandatory for future accounting periods and have not been early adopted:

International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)

IFRS 2	"Vesting conditions and cancellations - Amendment to IFRS 2 Share-Based Payment"	1 January 2009
IFRS 3 (Revised)	"Business Combinations"	1 July 2009
IFRS 8	"Operating Segments"	1 January 2009
IAS 1 (Amendment)	"Presentation of Financial Statements"	1 January 2009
IAS 23 (Amendment)	"Borrowing Costs"	1 January 2009
IAS 27 (Revised)	"Consolidated and Separate Financial Statements"	1 July 2009
IAS 32 and IAS 1 (Amendment)	"Puttable financial instruments and obligations arising on liquidation"	1 January 2009

International Financial Reporting Interpretation Committee (IFRIC)

IFRIC 11	"IFRS 2 - Group Treasury Share Transactions"	1 March 2007
IFRIC 12	"Service Concession Arrangements"	1 January 2008
IFRIC 13	"Customer Loyalty Programmes"	1 July 2008
IFRIC 14	"IAS 19 - The Limit on a Defined Benefit Asset, minimum funding requirements and their interaction"	1 January 2008

It is not anticipated that the adoption of these standards and interpretations will have a material impact on the consolidated financial statements in the period of initial adoption.

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. The carrying amount of the asset is reduced through the use of an allowance account, and the amount of the loss is recognised in the income statement within administration expenses. When a trade receivable is uncollectible it is written off against the allowance account for trade receivables. Subsequent recoveries of previously written off amounts are credited against administration expenses in the income statement.

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 IRB 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 IRB does not have any significant concentrations of interest rate risk.

(d) Liquidity risk

The IRB holds significant cash deposits and as a result does not have any significant liquidity 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£
At 1 January 2006			
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
Year ended 31 December 2007			
Opening net book amount	27,892	326,020	353,912
Additions	-	213,568	213,568
Depreciation charge (note 13)	(15,375)	(139,546)	(154,921)
Closing net book amount	12,517	400,042	412,559
At 31 December 2007			
Cost	100,025	1,461,509	1,561,534
Accumulated depreciation	(87,508)	(1,061,467)	(1,148,975)
Net book amount	12,517	400,042	412,559

The depreciation expense has been charged entirely within "administration expenses".

6 Intangible assets

	Rugby World Cup and logos Stg£	Website development Stg£	Total Stg£
At 1 January 2006			
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
Year ended 31 December 2007			
Opening net book amount	77,002	153,551	230,553
Amortisation charge (note 13)	-	(45,437)	(45,437)
Closing net book amount	77,002	108,114	185,116
At 31 December 2007			
Cost	77,002	360,369	437,371
Accumulated amortisation and impairment	-	(252,255)	(252,255)
Net book amount	77,002	108,114	185,116

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

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Broadcasting	-	3,885,779
Sponsorship	-	950,897
Merchandising	-	39,073
	-	4,875,749
		2006 Stg£
At 1 January 2006		2,265,292
Deferred during the period		2,610,187
At 31 December 2006		4,875,749
At 1 January 2007		4,875,749
Released to income		(4,875,749)
At 31 December 2007		-

8 Available-for-sale financial assets

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Beginning of the year	20,358,804	19,238,373
Additions	10,175,991	13,617,334
Disposals	(11,841,050)	(12,475,922)
Revaluation surplus/(deficit) transfer to equity	813,936	(20,981)
End of the year	19,507,681	20,358,804

There were no impairment provisions on available-for-sale financial assets in 2007 or 2006.

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Available-for-sale financial assets includes the following:		
Listed securities:		
– Equity securities – eurozone countries	2,223,426	1,647,036
– Equity securities – US	2,247,751	2,405,629
– Equity securities – UK	8,048,752	7,535,364
– Equity securities – other	1,316,654	1,268,585
	13,836,583	12,856,614
– Interest securities – UK	4,932,387	6,317,678
– Interest securities – other	738,711	1,184,512
	5,671,098	7,502,190
	19,507,681	20,358,804

At 31 December 2007 retained earnings included an amount of Stg£2,025,597 (2006: Stg£1,212,661) in respect of unrealised fair value gains on available for sale financial assets.

The maximum exposure to credit risk at the reporting date is the fair value of the debt securities classified as available for sale.

9 Trade and other receivables 2007

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Trade receivables	64,365,891	3,819,169
Less: provision for impairment of receivables	(1,048,716)	(206,192)
Trade receivables – net	63,317,175	3,612,977
Prepayments	465,561	2,940,325
	63,782,736	6,553,302

There is no difference in the fair value of trade and other receivables and the amounts stated above. The movement and the provision for impairment of receivables reflects an additional charge to the income statement during the year which was included in “administration expenses”. Given the nature of the IRB’s operations standard credit terms do not apply. At the year end date none of the unimpaired trade receivables above were considered to be overdue. Prepayments do not contain any impairment assets. The maximum exposure to credit risk is fair value of each receivable noted above. The IRB does not hold any collateral as security.

10 Cash and cash equivalents 2007

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Cash at bank and in hand	2,489,488	2,997,490
Short-term bank deposits	65,011,268	45,911,599
	67,500,756	48,909,089

The effective interest rate on short-term bank deposits was 5.0% (2006: 4.1%); these deposits have an average maturity of 14 days (2006: 20 days).

The effective interest rate on deposits with maturity between 3 to 12 months was 6%; these deposits have an average maturity of 183 days (2006: 92 days).

The effective interest rate on deposits with maturity in excess of 1 year was 4%; these deposits have an average maturity of 4.5 years.

Cash at bank and in hand and all deposits are held with financial institutions with either an AA or A rating.

11 Deferred revenue

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Broadcasting	-	56,908,207
Sponsorship	-	27,358,123
Merchandising	-	470,677
	-	84,737,007
		Stg£
At 1 January 2006		32,937,193
Deferred during the period		51,799,814
At 31 December 2006		84,737,007
At 1 January 2007		84,737,007
Released to income		(84,737,007)
At 31 December 2007		-

12 Trade and other payables

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Trade payables	440,032	1,515,471
RWC participation fees	28,000,000	-
RWC 2007 Tournament expenses	7,890,270	-
Accrued expenses	7,336,942	5,491,019
	43,667,244	7,006,490

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

13 Administration expenses by nature

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Depreciation and amortisation (notes 5 and 6)	200,358	223,643
Employee benefit expense (note 17)	4,325,014	3,668,403
Development expenses	1,050,661	1,230,149
Finance and administration expenses	3,310,650	2,376,754
Member services expenses	1,673,388	1,254,169
Other expenses	2,371,675	2,815,481
Commercial expenses	10,818,941	-
Total administrative expenses	23,750,687	11,568,599

	2007 number	2006 number
Number of employees	56	53

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Finance and administration expenses include :		
Audit fee	20,800	20,000
Council member attendance fees	397,000	395,500

14 Other gains

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Gains arising on the disposal of available for sale financial assets	320,314	584,463

15 Other income

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Interest income on available-for-sale securities	4,320,325	2,678,627

16 Other expenses

During 2007 the International Rugby Board incurred £17,677,219 of grant expenditure, which was distributed to tournaments and member unions. (2006: £15,451,264).

17 Employee benefit expense

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Wages and salaries	3,792,931	3,180,562
Social security costs	290,333	269,658
Pension costs – defined contribution plans	241,750	218,183
Total employment benefits expense	4,325,014	3,668,403

18 Income tax expense

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Income tax expense	13,629	35,677

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:

- IREB Services Limited
- RWC 2003 Limited
- IB Tournaments Limited

19 Cash generated from operations

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Profit/(loss) for the period	130,263,208	(28,216,999)
Adjustments for:		
- Taxation	13,629	27,599
- Depreciation (Note 5)	154,921	135,354
- Amortisation (Note 6)	45,437	88,289
- Gains on disposal of available for sale financial assets	(320,314)	(584,463)
- Interest income	(4,320,324)	(2,678,627)
- Grants	17,677,219	15,451,264
Changes in working capital		
- Trade and other receivables	(57,229,435)	(5,120,934)
- Trade and other payables	35,167,574	1,244,813
- Deferred revenue	(84,737,007)	51,799,814
- Deferred expenditure	4,875,749	(2,610,457)
Cash generated from operations	41,590,657	29,535,653

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£6.9m 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\$797,500 (Stg£380,349) in 2008.

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:

	2007 Stg£	2006 Stg£
Not later than one year	350,638	350,638
Later than one and no later than five years	1,402,554	1,402,554
Later than five years	2,980,423	3,331,061
	4,733,615	5,084,253

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

Meet the team

CHAIRMAN'S OFFICE

Bernard Lapasset
Chairman

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Mike Miller
*Chief Executive Officer/Secretary
General*

Myra McGlynn
*CEO/Chairman's Office Manager & HR
Manager*

Chris Rea
Broadcast Controller

COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT

Huw Morgan
Commercial Director

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

Dominic Rumbles
Head of Communications

Karen Bond
Website Editor

Lynda Glennon
Graphic Designer

Alison Hughes
Operations Manager, Communications

Dominic Kelly
Website Operations Manager

Seb Lauzier
Web & Broadcast Editor

Chris Thau
Publications Manager

DEVELOPMENT & PERFORMANCE

Mark Egan
Head of Development and Performance

Michel Arpaillange
*Regional Development Manager
– Europe*

Jean-Luc Barthes
Regional Development Manager – Africa

Cliffie Booysen
Regional General Manager – Africa

Philippe Bourdarias
Tournaments Manager

Charlie Carter
Referee Administrator

Susan Carty
Women's Development Manager

Beth Coalter
Tournament Operations Manager

Bruce Cook
Development Manager

Jarrad Gallagher
Regional Development Manager – Asia

Will Glenwright
Regional General Manager – Oceania

Tom Jones
*Regional General Manager – North
America and the West Indies*

Douglas Langley
*Regional Development Manager
– Europe*

Matt Oakley
Project Manager – Asia West

Paddy O'Brien
Referee Manager

Anne O'Callaghan
*Development and Performance
Administrator*

Tracy O'Callaghan
Tournaments Administrator

Hernan Rouco Oliva
*Regional General Manager – South
America*

Lee Smith
*Regional Development Manager
– Oceania*

EXTERNAL & MEMBER RELATIONS

David Carrigy
Head of External & Member Relations

Ross Blake
*External & Member Relations
Administrator*

Gilles Fabre
Translation Co-ordinator

Colum Lavery
Member Services Manager

Jaime McKeown
External Relations Project Officer

Amy Monaghan
Office Administrator

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Robert Brophy
Head of Finance

John Corbett
Information Technology Manager

Ronan Donagher
Information Technology Officer

Margaret Downey
Accounts Administrator

Lynn Hope
Finance Assistant

Chris McCarthy
Management Accountant

Paul Pringle
Financial Accountant

Susan Spellman
Finance Manager

LEGAL DEPARTMENT

Susan Ahern
Head of Legal Affairs

Barbara Clancy
Assistant Legal Counsel

Joyce Hayes
PA to the Head of Legal

Caroline Nolan
PA to the Legal Department

RUGBY WORLD CUP

Kit McConnell
Head of Rugby World Cup

Nicola Alesbrook
RWC Project Manager

Enda Connolly
RWC Co-ordinator

Linda Hoey
RWC Project Officer

Ross Young
General Manager Rugby World Cup

TECHNICAL SERVICES

Steve Griffiths
Head of Technical Services

Ilaria Baudo
Anti-Doping Co-ordinator

Mark Harrington
Training Manager

David Ho
Anti-Doping Officer

Rhys Jones
Game Analyst

Dr Mick Molloy
Medical Officer

Tim Ricketts
Anti-Doping Manager

Corris Thomas
Game Analyst

Jennifer Wilson
Technical Services Administrator

TRAVEL

Alan Athey
Travel Co-ordinator



International Rugby Board
Huguenot House
35-38 St. Stephen's Green
Dublin 2
Ireland

Tel. +353-1-240-9200
Fax. +353-1-240-9201
Web. www.irb.com
Email. irb@irb.com

