

IRB

statistical review
and match
analysis

RBS 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2007





• France celebrate their 2007 RBS 6 Nations success.

contents

| | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|
| commentary | 3 | 4. rucks/mauls | 24 |
| summary | | 5. passes | 25 |
| section 1 | | PASSING MOVEMENTS | 28 |
| THE 2007 CHAMPIONSHIP | 8 | 6. kicks | 29 |
| section 2 | | 7. lineout | 30 |
| THE TEAMS' PERFORMANCES | 9 | 8. scrum | 31 |
| CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE | 11 | 9. penalties | |
| MATCHES PLAYED | 11 | NUMBER AND INCIDENCE | 32 |
| 1. scoring profiles | | TEAMS PENALISED | 32 |
| POINTS SCORED | 12 | CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES | |
| SCORING PROFILE OF | | PENALISED | 32 |
| THE MODERN GAME | 13 | NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN | |
| WINNING MARGINS | 13 | HEMISPHERE REFEREES | 33 |
| TRIES | 13 | 10. restarts | 33 |
| RATE OF TRY SCORING | 13 | 11. cards issued | |
| RATE OF TRY CONCEDED | 14 | RED CARDS | 34 |
| PLAYERS AND TRIES | 14 | YELLOW CARDS | 34 |
| PENALTY GOALS | 15 | OFFENCES FOR WHICH | |
| KICKING | 15 | YELLOW CARD ISSUED | 34 |
| DROP GOALS | 17 | COUNTRIES CONCEDED | |
| KICKING SUCCESS RATES | | YELLOW CARDS | 34 |
| FORM VARIOUS PARTS OF PITCH | 17 | CARDS | 34 |
| 2. tries | | IMPACT ON SCORING DURING | |
| TRIES SCORED BY WINNING TEAM | 18 | SIN BIN PERIOD | 34 |
| SOURCE OF TRIES | 18 | 12. tmo | 35 |
| ORIGIN OF TRIES | 19 | 13. substitutions | 35 |
| POSITION WHERE TRIES | | | |
| WERE SCORED | 19 | | |
| BUILD-UP TO TRIES | 20 | | |
| TIMING OF TRIES | 21 | | |
| TIMING OF SCORES | 21 | | |
| 3. mode of play | | | |
| MATCH TIME | 22 | | |
| BALL IN PLAY TIMES | 22 | | |
| ACTIVITY CYCLES | 23 | | |

Note: All photographs used in the IRB Statistical Review and Match Analysis have been supplied by Getty Images. Images and graphics in this Manual are not available for use, unless written approval is granted and correct Copyright sought.

commentary

INTRODUCTION

There were circumstances surrounding RBS 6 Nations 2007 that made it a particularly interesting championship.

Firstly, it was the last set of matches to be played by northern hemisphere teams at full strength in Rugby World Cup year. While all the participating teams are scheduled to play further matches during the year, history suggests that most, if not all, of such matches will be used more as experimental and perhaps developmental warm-up games. A highly competitive RBS 6 Nations championship would therefore be a far more meaningful indication of the relative strengths of the six teams in Rugby World Cup year.

The second reason for the championship's particular importance in 2007 was related to recent history and alternative playing strategies.

ALTERNATIVE PLAYING STRATEGIES

Two years ago, there were two Tier 1 teams that had developed an overall playing approach that was quite different from all the other Tier 1 teams.

New Zealand and Wales had adopted a strategy that saw all 15 players as distributors of the ball - an approach that was quite different from the other teams. These other teams saw a greater demarcation of roles - the job of the forwards was to carry and take contact and provide the ball - it was the job of the backs to distribute it. In other words, passes were made by backs.

Further, such differences in approach were not particularly subtle. In 6 Nations 2005, Wales' forwards made far more passes than any other country and made more passes than the English and Irish forwards combined. Sometimes the differences bordered the faintly dramatic. In one case for example, Wales' forwards made as many passes in one half of a game as Ireland's made in the entire championship. In another, Ireland's forwards made just 5 passes in an entire game.

In 2005, this approach clearly seemed to have paid a dividend to Wales as they won the championship.

Later in the year, such an outcome was replicated in the British and Irish Lions tour of New Zealand. The team that saw all 15 players as passers of the ball outplayed the team that did not.

New Zealand passed at a rate that was 50% greater than the Lions, their forwards made three times as many passes as the Lions forwards, in the second test, the Lions numbers 4,5 and 6 did not make a single pass in the entire game and by the end of the series, the New Zealand back row had made 4 times as many passes as the Lions back row.

This expansive approach, which had been extremely successful for both the winning teams, also produced other distinguishing features;

- both Wales and New Zealand managed to score many more tries from inside their own half than their opponents
- they also scored many more tries from opponents handling errors and kicks rather than from the set pieces of lineout and scrum



RBS SIX NATIONS 2007 LAUNCH

• LONDON - JANUARY 24:

Back Row (L-R) Stephen Jones captain of Wales, Marco Bortolami captain of Italy and Chris Patterson captain of Scotland.

Front Row (L-R) Brian O'Driscoll captain of Ireland, Fabien Pelous captain of France and Phil Vickery captain of England line-up with the trophy during the launch of the RBS Six Nations 2007.



ITALY V FRANCE

• *Lionel Nallet of France charges upfield.*

The championship and the test series, therefore, had been won by teams whose forwards passed the ball significantly more than their opponents and were far more likely to have scored tries from all parts of the pitch and from a greater variety of possession.

What was to be of interest in RBS 6 Nations 2007 therefore was to see if Wales had continued to play in the way they played in 2005 and whether any other team had moved towards such an approach.

The answer was a clear 'no'. The percentage of passes made by forwards compared to 2006, went down this year for all but one of the six teams, the one exception being Italy. What was even more interesting was that the top 3 teams in the table were the three teams whose forwards were the least likely to pass the ball. In the case of Ireland, it was 11% of all passes, France 12% and England 13%.

While any playing strategy will take into account a team's particular strengths and weaknesses - and also those of their opponents - the indications are that overall strategies have been established and that going into IRB Rugby World Cup 2007 there could well be just one team that plays a 15 man passing game. Tri Nations 2006 also looks to have confirmed this. In that tournament, New Zealand's forwards made 29% of all the team's passes. Their props made between 3 and 6 times more passes than Australia's and South Africa's and in one match, their forwards made twice as many passes as their outside backs. Further, in 5 of their 6 matches their outside backs (centres, wings and full back)

made fewer passes than their forwards. These figures are simply not replicated by any other country.

IRB Rugby World Cup 2007 will hold a great fascination therefore. One of the questions it poses is - will the strategic approach of currently the most successful team in the world prevail in a tournament where it looks as if all its opponents will adopt a different strategic approach. Will it be successful in a tournament which saw no team scored more than one try in the semi-final and final matches in 2003 and one where only 5 tries have been scored in the last 4 Rugby World Cup finals. By the end of October, all will have become clear.

But what of the RBS 6 Nations 2007 championship and the 6 participating teams?

While the quality of play seen in the 15 matches is for others to judge, this report comprises an analysis of all essential elements in the game that shows not only an overall picture but also a breakdown country by country. It shows the success of each team in all major elements of play, it shows their level of activity, how possession was used and so on. It is a comprehensive statistical review and analysis.

FRANCE won the championship.

In broad terms there were 2 different Frances on view in this year's RBS 6 Nations. There was the France of the first 4 matches and then came the France of the final game which was quite different from the rest. The circumstances surrounding this game were exceptional. Unlike almost all other matches, a win was not sufficient. The target was to score as many tries as possible and in order to achieve this, the strategy that day was to pass the ball. In that game France made 50 more passes than in their next highest passing game, the result being they became the highest passing team in the championship. Had France made the same number of passes as they made in their earlier 4 matches, they would have been the fourth highest passing team which reflects the position in recent years. They were therefore not a high passing team but were a relatively high rucking team but, after making a notional adjustment for the last game, were third. They were also the second highest kicking team again reflecting last year.

The number of passes made by their forwards remained measurably less than Wales and half that currently being achieved by New Zealand. While their forwards made slightly more passes than England and Ireland, in relation to possession, the French forwards were far less likely to pass the ball this year compared with last year. The French forwards were in fact the least likely to pass the ball of all six teams. They still managed to score tries however. They were the only team whose forwards scored more tries than their backs.

With regard to tries, 60% came from set piece possession and they did not score a single try from an opponents kick. Further, and somewhat unusually, all France's tries contained at least one ruck or maul.

All in all, France were not a team who stood out statistically in any particular aspect of play. They were not the biggest passers, kickers, ruckers, obtainers of possession, and were not distinctive or exceptional in which players distributed the ball.

They did however manage to convert possession into points effectively and make the opposition work hard in scoring tries.

IRELAND however, continued the dramatic change that was seen last year.

Two years ago - in 2005 - they obtained less possession than any other team, they made the fewest passes, fewer rucks and mauls than any other team and kicked more than any other country.

That all changed in RBS 6 Nations 2006. From being the lowest passing team, Ireland became now the highest, from obtaining the least amount of possession in 2005, only England obtained more in 2006. They also became the second highest rucking team as opposed to the least rucking team in 2005 while only one team kicked less.



IRELAND V ENGLAND

- *Ireland scores from a drop kick.*

RBS 6 Nations 2007 saw such levels more or less retained. They remained a high passing team maintaining a high number of passes in all 5 of their games. They also passed at a higher rate than any other team and obtained more possession than their opponents in 4 of their 5 games. They were also very successful in both attack and defense. Despite coming second, they were the most effective team in turning possession into tries and also the most efficient in preventing their opponents from scoring tries.

In one area however, there has been little change over the last 2 years. Their forwards still passed less than any other team.

Only 11% of Ireland's passes were made by their forwards, compared with 12% last year - and there can be periods in a game and even some matches when remarkably few are made. In Ireland's win against Wales, for example, 7 of the Irish forwards - the 3 front row, the locks and 2 flankers made just 3 passes in the entire game. Passes in Ireland's matches are therefore concentrated in the backs - and as a proportion of all passes, the Irish backs pass more than any other team. Ireland was also the only team to score more tries than penalty goals.

ENGLAND won 3 of their 5 matches this year, one more than in each of the last two years.

As always, overall they obtained more possession than any other team albeit by not as much as usual. Nevertheless, they obtained more possession than their opponents in 4 of their 5 matches obtaining 70% more in one game and 40% more in another. What remained difficult for England was to turn such possession into points. Their try count went down (as it has in each of the last 7 years) and for only the second time in 7 years (2006 being the first) England scored fewer tries than penalty goals.

England's forwards again made relatively few passes when compared to other teams. When it was in their possession, their locks were less likely to pass the ball than any other team's locks and apart from Scotland, their back row was also the least likely to pass the ball - albeit only marginally less than several other teams. England's rate of passing was less than any other team (i.e. passes per minutes possession) but, somewhat unusually, 4 of their 10 tries came from possession gained from inside their own half.

By contrast, the Scottish back row was the least likely to pass the ball with the Welsh back row, for example, being two and a half times more likely to pass the ball.



ENGLAND V SCOTLAND

• *Andy Farrell of England passes the ball.*

ITALY had their best championship to date winning two matches for the first time.

They still conceded more tries than any other team however, the total this year being 4 more than last year's 14. They did, on the other hand, score more tries this year with 3 of their 9 coming in the first 6 minutes of their game against Scotland. These came from Scottish errors and explain the fact that of the 8 tries in the championship that came from turnovers and errors, Italy accounted for 50% of them. Of Italy's 9 tries, and as already noted, 3 were scored in the opening 6 minutes of one game while 4 were scored in second half stoppage time. This means that in the 350 or so minutes between these two periods, just 2 tries were scored in five matches.

With regard to activity, Italy passed less than any other team, but kicked more than any other and at the highest rate. Consequently, they put the ball into touch 30% more than the next highest team. With regard to the set piece, they maintained a high success rate on their own throw-ins and were the most successful team on opposition lineout with a 20% success rate. They were also the most successful team at gaining penalties on their own put-in at the scrum. They did however have the least successful kick at goal rate.

WALES lost 4 of its 5 games in 2007 as it did in 2006.

Nevertheless, despite a losing record, it retained certain characteristics that were apparent in 2005 and 2006.

- Wales forwards made more passes than any other team despite having noticeably less possession than all of the other teams
- the Welsh half backs still made proportionately fewer passes than any other teams'
- only Ireland passed at a higher rate (i.e. more passes per minute)

For Wales, however, possession proved hard to come by in 2007. In three of their five matches their opponents had around 50% more possession. What proved difficult again this year was turning possession into points. Wales try count was less this year than last, having gone down in the last 3

years from 17 to 9 to 7. Further, they were also the least successful team at the set piece. At both lineout and scrum their retention rate was less than the other teams and they were also the least successful team on opponents scrums and lineouts. In addition they conceded proportionately more penalties than the other 5 teams. In one area however, there was a major improvement. Despite winning just one game, they were the second most difficult team to score against. While last year, their opponents scored a try for each 5 minutes 48 seconds possession, this year it took over twice as long or 11 minutes, the same length of time it took in 2005 when Wales won the Grand Slam.

SCOTLAND won just one game in 2007 compared with 3 in 2006.

They scored fewer tries than last year and were again the least effective team in turning possession into points. They did not score a try from within their own half - 5 of their 7 tries started within 22 metres of the opponents goalline. They were also the least effective team in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. While Scotland required over 13 mins possession to score a try, it took their opponents only 5 mins 53 secs to score one against them. On the plus side, and for the second year running, they had the highest percentage kick at goal success rate.



SCOTLAND V ITALY

- *Andrea Scanavacca of Italy breaks clear to score his sides second try.*

With regard to passes, they were again second only to Wales in the percentage of passes made by their forwards with their locks continuing to exceed appreciably all other teams in terms of offloading. As an illustration - while the English locks passed the ball once in every 5 times they had the ball possession, the Scottish locks passed on every other occasion.

Finally - and since this commentary has placed noticeable emphasis on passing - what follows is some disparate data on passes in certain matches. While some of the examples may be thought surprising, as a precursor to the IRB Rugby World Cup 2007, readers may find them of particular interest.

- In Scotland's game against England, no front row player made a single pass.
- In the first half of the above game only 2 passes were made by the Scottish back 5 (Full back, Wings, Centres)
- In Italy's match against England, neither Italian flanker made a pass in the entire game.
- When England played in Ireland only 1 pass was made by the entire English pack in the 1st half.
- Not one pass was made by the Irish front row against Scotland in the entire game.
- In England's match against Wales, 9 players did not pass the ball in the first half. The forwards made 2 passes in total, while the 2 wings, the full back and 1 centre made a total of 1.

summary

This Summary is divided into two sections.

Section 1 takes a brief look at constituent elements in the 2007 championship and compares them to 2006. It also looks at the overall game as reflected through this year's RBS 6 Nations Championship.

Section 2 looks at how the individual countries performed in certain critical areas in 2007.

Section 1

THE 2007 CHAMPIONSHIP

In many of its core elements, this year's championship showed little change from 2006 as shown in the following comparisons:

| AVERAGE | 2007 | 2006 |
|--------------------|------|------|
| POINTS PER GAME | 46 | 42 |
| TRIES | 4.3 | 4.1 |
| PENALTY GOALS | 5.7 | 4.9 |
| DROP GOALS | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| PASSES PER GAME | 261 | 276 |
| RUCKS/MAULS | 167 | 149 |
| KICKS PER GAME | 53 | 63 |
| LINEOUTS PER GAME | 31 | 37 |
| SCRUMS PER GAME | 17 | 19 |
| PENALTIES PER GAME | 21 | 21 |
| BALL IN PLAY | 46% | 46% |

As mentioned in the Commentary however, the above figures hide a number of noticeable contrasts and interesting trends that are covered more fully in the main report.

The following data also comes from the main report that follows which provides a picture of the modern northern hemisphere game as expressed through this year's RBS 6 Nations championship.

- **46%** of all points came from tries (2006-48%).
37% came from penalty goals (2006-35%).
16% came from conversions and drop goals (2006-17%).
- Tries averaged just over 4 per game (2006-4).
Penalty goals averaged almost 6 (2006-5)
Drop goals averaged around 1 every 3 games (2006-1 every 3).
- **72%** of tries were scored by backs (2006-72%).
28% were scored by forwards (2006-28%).
- **47** individual players scored tries in the 15 matches (2006-42).
- **53%** of matches had scoring margins of 9 points or less (2006-40%).
- penalty goals went from 73 last year up to **86** this year.



ENGLAND V SCOTLAND

- *Opposing players compete for a high ball.*

- Conversion success rate was **77%** (2006-74%).
Penalty goal success rate was **79%** (2006-72%).
Drop goal success rate was **31%** (2006-31%).
- Almost **70%** of matches were won by the team scoring most tries (2006-70%).
Only one game was won by the team scoring the fewer number of tries.
- **35%** of tries came from lineout possession (2006-38%).
- **20%** of tries came from inside the scoring team's own half (2006-21%).
- Match time averaged **91m 22s** (2006 - 91m 34s).
- Ball in play time averaged **46%** (2006 - 46%).
- **38%** of all passes were made by backs (2006-40%).
47% of all passes were made by the scrum half (2006-44%).
15% were made by the forwards (2006-16%).
- Almost **80%** of passing movements contained 2 or fewer passes (2006-80%).
- At short restarts, around 1 in 5 were retained (2006- 1 in 5).
- Lineout possession retained was **85%** (2006-84%).
- Scrum possession retained was **92%** (2006-95%).
- There were **2** free kicks for crooked scrum feeds (2006-none).
- **44%** of penalties were awarded for on ground offences at the ruck/tackle area (2006-46%).
- There were no red cards (2006-one),
7 yellow cards (2006-9),
16 references to the TMO (2006-11)
and, on average,
11 substitutes per game (2006-10).

Section 2

THE TEAMS' PERFORMANCES

This section summarises each team's activities and performances in certain critical areas of the game. Again, further and far more extensive analysis can be found in the main report.

The number of tries scored by each team, the number conceded by each team and the number of penalty goals kicked is shown in the following table:

| | TRIES SCORED (2006) | | TRIES CONCEDED (2006) | | PENALTY GOALS (2006) | |
|-----------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------|
| IRELAND | 17 | 12 | 5 | 10 | 14 | 17 |
| FRANCE | 15 | 18 | 9 | 7 | 18 | 12 |
| ENGLAND | 10 | 12 | 9 | 8 | 17 | 14 |
| ITALY | 9 | 5 | 18 | 14 | 9 | 10 |
| SCOTLAND | 7 | 5 | 15 | 7 | 16 | 13 |
| WALES | 7 | 9 | 9 | 15 | 12 | 7 |

The table below shows how effective each team was in converting possession into tries:

| | MINUTES OF POSSESSION REQUIRED TO SCORE A TRY | | 2006 |
|-----------------|--|----------------------|------|
| IRELAND | 5 min 18 sec | 8 min 07 sec | |
| FRANCE | 6 min 28 sec | 5 min 07 sec | |
| ITALY | 9 min 37 sec | 14 min 58 sec | |
| ENGLAND | 9 min 54 sec | 8 min 52 sec | |
| WALES | 11 min 31 sec | 9 min 58 sec | |
| SCOTLAND | 13 min 27 sec | 17 min 28 sec | |

As shown in the above table, Ireland were the most effective team in turning possession into points. Ireland were also the most effective in preventing opponents from converting possession into tries.

| MINUTES OF POSSESSION REQUIRED BY OPPONENTS TO SCORE A TRY 2006 | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| IRELAND | 17 min 39 sec | 8 min 50 sec |
| WALES | 11 min 14 sec | 5 min 48 sec |
| FRANCE | 10 min 37 sec | 14 min 04 sec |
| ENGLAND | 8 min 49 sec | 9 min 34 sec |
| SCOTLAND | 5 min 53 sec | 14 min 08 sec |
| ITALY | 5 min 11 sec | 7 min 00 sec |

Each team's kicking success rate was as follows: (penalty goals and conversions)

| KICKING SUCCESS RATE 2006 | | |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|
| SCOTLAND | 88% | 89% |
| FRANCE | 82% | 64% |
| WALES | 78% | 78% |
| ENGLAND | 77% | 72% |
| IRELAND | 74% | 75% |
| ITALY | 71% | 67% |

The average time in possession of the ball by each team is shown in the following table:

| AVERAGE TIME IN POSSESSION OF BALL 2006 | | |
|--|---------------|---------------|
| ENGLAND | 19 min 49 sec | 21 min 18 sec |
| FRANCE | 19 min 24 sec | 18 min 27 sec |
| SCOTLAND | 18 min 49 sec | 17 min 23 sec |
| IRELAND | 18 min 01 sec | 19 min 30 sec |
| ITALY | 17 min 19 sec | 14 min 58 sec |
| WALES | 16 min 07 sec | 17 min 57 sec |

Activities

- **Scotland** made more rucks/mauls than any other team.
- **Wales** made the least.

- **France** made more passes than any other team.
- **Italy** made the least.

- **Italy** kicked the most.
- **Scotland** kicked the least.

When it came to the rate of activity (ie rucks/passes/kicks per minute's possession) the order changed little however.

- **Scotland** rucked/mauled at the highest rate.
- **Ireland** passed at the highest rate.
- **Italy's** rate of kicking was the highest.
- In addition **Wales'** forwards made proportionately more passes than any other team's forwards.



ENGLAND V FRANCE

- *Shane Geraghty of England makes the break, that leads to Mike Tindall scoring England's second try.*

CHAMPIONSHIP TABLE - RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007

| TEAM | PLAYED | WON | LOST | DRAWN | FOR | AGAINST | POINTS |
|----------|--------|-----|------|-------|-----|---------|--------|
| FRANCE | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 155 | 86 | 8 |
| IRELAND | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 149 | 84 | 8 |
| ENGLAND | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 119 | 115 | 6 |
| ITALY | 5 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 94 | 147 | 4 |
| WALES | 5 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 86 | 113 | 2 |
| SCOTLAND | 2 | 1 | 4 | 0 | 95 | 153 | 2 |

MATCHES PLAYED - RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007

| DATE | FIXTURE | RESULTS |
|-------------|---------------------|---------|
| 17 Mar 2007 | Wales vs England | 27 - 18 |
| 17 Mar 2007 | France vs Scotland | 46 - 19 |
| 17 Mar 2007 | Italy vs Ireland | 24 - 51 |
| 11 Mar 2007 | England vs France | 26 - 18 |
| 10 Mar 2007 | Italy vs Wales | 23 - 20 |
| 10 Mar 2007 | Scotland vs Ireland | 18 - 19 |
| 24 Feb 2007 | France vs Wales | 32 - 21 |
| 24 Feb 2007 | Ireland vs England | 43 - 13 |
| 24 Feb 2007 | Scotland vs Italy | 17 - 37 |
| 11 Feb 2007 | Ireland vs France | 17 - 20 |
| 10 Feb 2007 | Scotland vs Wales | 21 - 9 |
| 10 Feb 2007 | England vs Italy | 20 - 7 |
| 4 Feb 2007 | Wales vs Ireland | 9 - 19 |
| 3 Feb 2007 | England vs Scotland | 42 - 20 |
| 3 Feb 2007 | Italy vs France | 3 - 39 |

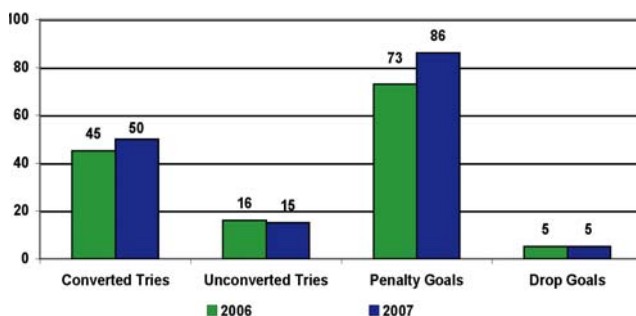
1. scoring profiles

POINTS SCORED

- a.** There were 698 points scored in the 15 matches played. They were made up as follows:

| POINTS SCORED | 2007 | 2006 |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| 50 converted tries | 350 | 315 |
| 15 unconverted tries | 75 | 80 |
| 86 penalties | 258 | 219 |
| 5 drop goals | 15 | 15 |
| TOTAL POINTS SCORED | 698 pts | 629 pts |

POINTS MAKEUP



- b.** The average number of points per game was **46** - up 4 points over 2006's average of 42. The last 6 year's figures have been: 46, 42, 45, 43, 47 and 51.

c. **TRIES SCORED PER MATCH**

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| 2002 | 5.0 |
| 2003 | 5.0 |
| 2004 | 4.5 |
| 2005 | 4.7 |
| 2006 | 4.1 |
| 2007 | 4.3 |

There was a slight increase in the average number of tries scored per game.

Tries accounted for 47% of total points scored, 1% lower than in 2006.

d.

DROP GOALS SCORED PER MATCH

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| 2002 | 0.2 |
| 2003 | 0.7 |
| 2004 | 0.2 |
| 2005 | 0.5 |
| 2006 | 0.3 |
| 2007 | 0.3 |

Drop goals remained the same at 5 in the 15 matches.

e.

PENALTY GOALS AVERAGED PER MATCH

| | |
|-------------|------------|
| 2002 | 5.9 |
| 2003 | 4.3 |
| 2004 | 4.6 |
| 2005 | 4.4 |
| 2006 | 4.9 |
| 2007 | 5.7 |

Penalty goals averaged 5.7 per match, which is the highest figure since 2002.

f.

SUMMARY: average per match

Of the total points scored:

47% came from tries

37% came from penalty goals

14% came from conversions

2% came from drop goals

For the second year, points from tries did not exceed the total number of points scored from all forms of kick - penalty goals, conversions and drop goals, albeit the difference was very little.

SCORING PROFILE OF THE MODERN GAME

The following table shows the comparative figures for the 5 Nations Championships played in 1957, 1967, 1977, 1987 and 1997 - and compares them with RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007.

| average per game | CONV. TRIES | UNCONV. TRIES | CONV. SUCCESS RATE |
|------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------------|
| 1957 | 1.0 | 1.1 | 48% |
| 1967 | 1.9 | 1.1 | 64% |
| 1977 | 1.2 | 1.3 | 48% |
| 1987 | 1.6 | 1.5 | 52% |
| 1997 | 3.9 | 1.4 | 74% |
| 2007 | 3.3 | 1.0 | 77% |

| average per game | TOTAL TRIES | PENS | DROPS |
|------------------|-------------|------|-------|
| 1957 | 21 | 1.4 | 0.2 |
| 1967 | 3.0 | 2.3 | 1.1 |
| 1977 | 2.5 | 3.4 | 0.4 |
| 1987 | 3.1 | 4.3 | 0.9 |
| 1997 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 0.4 |
| 2007 | 4.3 | 5.7 | 0.3 |

WINNING MARGINS

The winning margins in each of the 15 matches fell into the following ranges:

| POINTS MARGIN | MATCHES | CUMULATIVE | 2006 CUMULATIVE |
|---------------|---------|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 - 4 | 3 | 3 with 4 points or less | 3 |
| 5 - 9 | 2 | 5 with 9 points or less | 6 |
| 10 - 19 | 4 | 9 with 19 points or less | 10 |
| 20 - 29 | 4 | 13 with 29 points or less | 13 |
| 30 - 39 | 2 | 15 with 39 points or less | 14 |
| 40 - 49 | 0 | 15 with 49 points or less | 14 |
| 2006 - 1 draw | | | |

33% of matches had margins of 9 points or less. (2006 -40%)

TRIES

The total number of tries and penalty goals scored by each country in the 2007 and 2006 RBS 6 Nations Championships was as follows:

| | TRIES SCORED (2006) | | PENALTY GOALS (2006) | | RATIO (2006) | |
|----------|---------------------|----|----------------------|----|--------------|-------|
| FRANCE | 15 | 18 | 18 | 12 | 0.8:1 | 1.5:1 |
| IRELAND | 17 | 12 | 14 | 17 | 1.2:1 | 0.7:1 |
| ENGLAND | 10 | 12 | 17 | 14 | 0.6:1 | 0.9:1 |
| ITALY | 9 | 5 | 9 | 10 | 1.0:1 | 0.5:1 |
| WALES | 7 | 9 | 12 | 7 | 0.6:1 | 1.3:1 |
| SCOTLAND | 7 | 5 | 16 | 13 | 0.4:1 | 0.4:1 |

An interesting point to note is that **England's** total try count has declined in each of the last 7 years - from 29 in 2001, to 23 in 2002, 18 in 2003, 17 in 2004, 16 in 2005, 12 in 2006 to 10 in 2007.

RATE OF TRY SCORING

The table immediately above shows the number of tries scored by each country.

The table does not show however how effective each team was in scoring tries in relation to the possession that it obtained. A team may obtain little possession but still manage to score a significant number of tries. The following paragraphs consider this and attempt to show how successful each team was in converting possession into tries.

This was done by adding together the time each team was in possession of the ball in each of the 5 matches played and then dividing it by the number of tries scored. The result then gave a rate of try scoring - in other words a measure of how effective each country was in converting possession into tries.

| | TRIES SCORED PER GAME | MINUTES OF POSSESSION REQUIRED TO SCORE A TRY | 2006 |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|---|-------------|
| IRELAND | 1,1,3,4,8=17 | 5 min 18 s | 8 min 07 s |
| FRANCE | 0,2,2,5,6=15 | 6 min 28 s | 5 min 07 s |
| ITALY | 0,1,2,2,4=9 | 9 min 37 s | 14 min 58 s |
| ENGLAND | 1,1,2,2,4=10 | 9 min 54 s | 8 min 52 s |
| WALES | 0,0,2,2,3=7 | 11 min 31 s | 9 min 58 s |
| SCOTLAND | 0,0,2,2,3=7 | 13 min 27 s | 17 min 28 s |

The above figures show that **Ireland**, despite coming second overall were more effective than any other team at converting possession into tries. **Scotland** for the second year had the greatest difficulty in converting possession into tries.

RATE OF TRY CONCEDED

Following the above exercise, the converse was looked at (i.e. how effective was each team in restricting tries in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained).

This was done by adding together the total time the team's opponents were in possession of the ball - and then dividing it by the number of tries conceded. The result then gave a rate of try scoring by the opposition.

| | TRIES CONCEDED PER GAME | MINUTES OF POSSESSION REQUIRED BY OPPONENTS TO SCORE A TRY | 2006 |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------|
| IRELAND | 0,0,1,2,2=5 | 17 min 39 s | 8 min 50 s |
| WALES | 0,2,2,2,3=9 | 11 min 14 s | 5 min 48 s |
| FRANCE | 0,1,2,3,3=9 | 10 min 37 s | 14 min 04 s |
| ENGLAND | 0,1,2,2,4=9 | 8 min 49 s | 9 min 34 s |
| SCOTLAND | 0,1,4,4,6=15 | 5 min 53 s | 14 min 08 s |
| ITALY | 1,2,2,5,8=18 | 5 min 11 s | 7 min 00 s |

The above table indicates that **Ireland** were also the most efficient in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. **Scotland** who were the most efficient in 2006 were the second least efficient in 2007 - and **Wales** despite winning just one game were the second most difficult team to score against in relation to possession.

PLAYERS AND TRIES

It has been noted above that there were 65 tries scored in the 15 matches. Of these tries:

| 2007 | 2006 |
|---|------------|
| 72% of tries were scored by backs | 72% |
| 28% of tries were scored by forwards | 28% |

The breakdown between the various teams was as follows

| | TRIES | TRIES BY FORWARDS | TRIES BY BACKS |
|-----------------|-----------|----------------------|-------------------|
| England | 10 | 1 | 9 |
| France | 15 | 7 | 8 |
| Ireland | 17 | 3 | 14 |
| Italy | 9 | 2 | 7 |
| Scotland | 7 | 2 | 5 |
| Wales | 7 | 3 | 4 |
| | 65 | 18 | 47 |

Individual players that scored tries in 2007 and 2006 divided into backs and forwards were as follows:

| 2007 | 2006 |
|---------------------------------|-----------|
| 30 backs scored tries | 27 |
| 17 forwards scored tries | 15 |

A total of 47 individual players therefore scored tries in this year's RBS 6 Nations Championship. This compares with 42 last year.

As last year, only one country fell outside the pattern of more backs than forwards scoring tries - and that was **France** where 5 backs scored tries and 6 forwards scored tries. **Wales** were the only team where no player scored more than one try. All 6 teams had at least 1 try scored by a forward - In **England's** case 6 individual backs scored tries compared to just 1 forward.

PENALTY GOALS

There were 86 penalty goals kicked in 2007, this is the highest figure for 5 years, as shown in the attached table:

| | PENALTY GOALS KICKED |
|------|----------------------|
| 2002 | 89 |
| 2003 | 65 |
| 2004 | 69 |
| 2005 | 66 |
| 2006 | 73 |
| 2007 | 86 |

A further breakdown shows that in 2007 only one team scored more tries than penalty goals and that was **Ireland**.

For only the second time in 8 years, **England** kicked more penalty goals than tries - and the first time was last year.

Up to 2005, England consistently scored more tries than penalty goals. This is illustrated in the following table which shows the total number of penalty goals kicked by each country over the last 8 years together with the total number of tries over the same period:

| | PENALTIES KICKED | TRIES SCORED | RATIO PENS:TRIES |
|----------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| ENGLAND | 102 | 143 | 0.7 TO 1 |
| IRELAND | 122 | 112 | 1.1 TO 1 |
| WALES | 95 | 86 | 1.1 TO 1 |
| FRANCE | 130 | 113 | 1.2 TO 1 |
| ITALY | 82 | 54 | 1.5 TO 1 |
| SCOTLAND | 101 | 54 | 1.9 TO 1 |

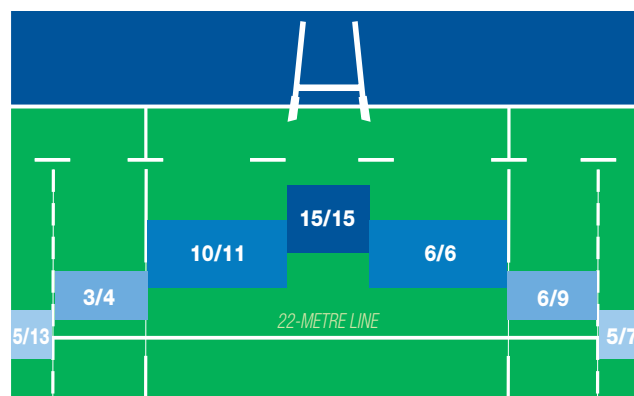
The above table shows that over the 8 year period since RWC 99:

- **France** have kicked the most penalty goals.
- **England** have scored the most tries and.
- **Scotland** have the highest penalty goal to try ratio.

KICKING

| KICKING SUCCESS RATES | 2007 | 2006 |
|-----------------------|------|------|
| CONVERSIONS | 77% | 74% |
| PENALTY GOALS | 79% | 72% |
| DROP GOAL ATTEMPTS | 31% | 31% |

From a conversion success rate of 82% in 2000, the success rate had declined to 66% by 2005. It has now recovered to 77%.

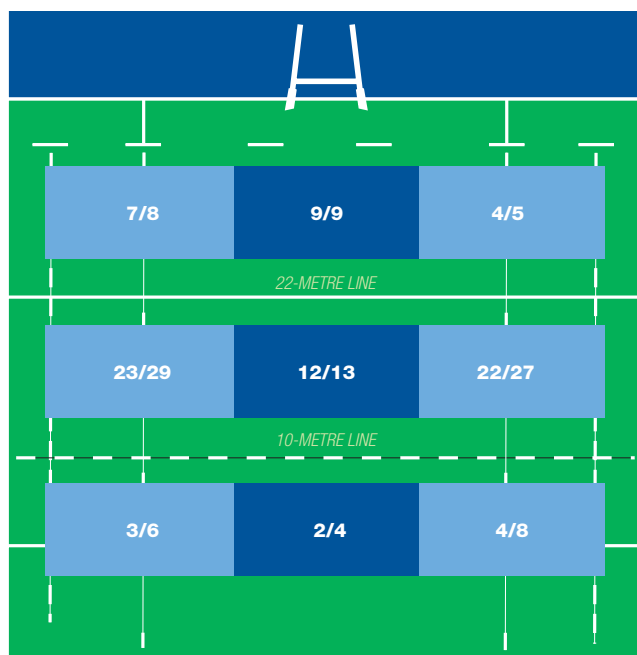


CONVERSION SUCCESS
2007 - 77% (2006 - 74%)



ITALY V FRANCE

- France kicks a conversion.

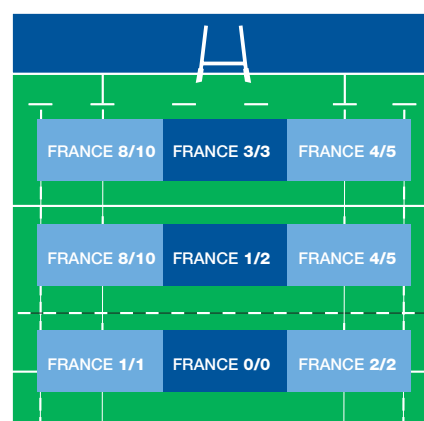


PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS
2007 - 79% (2006 - 72%)

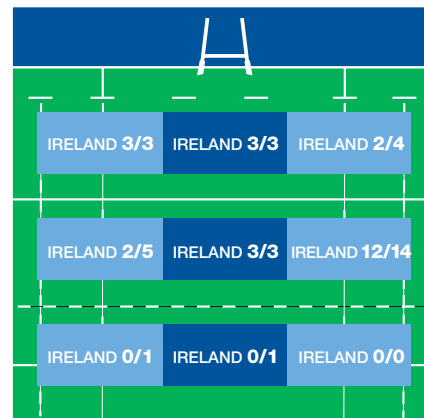
The kicking success rate (i.e. penalty goals and conversions) - of each of the participating countries was as follows;

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| SCOTLAND | 88% | 89% |
| FRANCE | 82% | 64% |
| WALES | 78% | 78% |
| ENGLAND | 77% | 72% |
| IRELAND | 74% | 75% |
| ITALY | 71% | 67% |

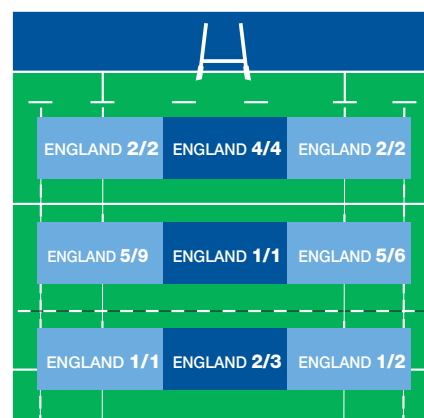
The following charts show successful and unsuccessful place kicks (i.e. excluding drop goals) for each country.



FRANCE - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 31/38



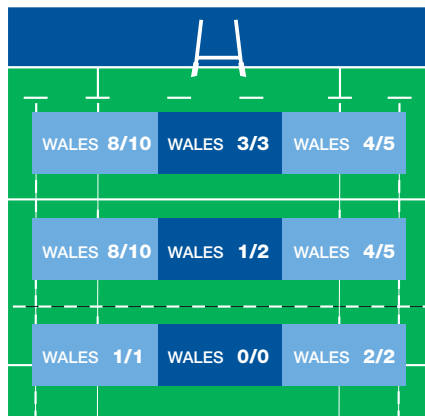
IRELAND - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 25/34



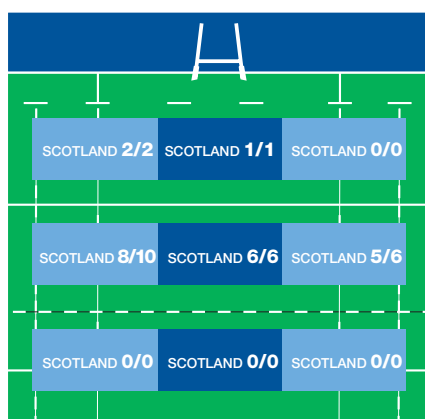
ENGLAND - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 23/30



ITALY - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 17/24



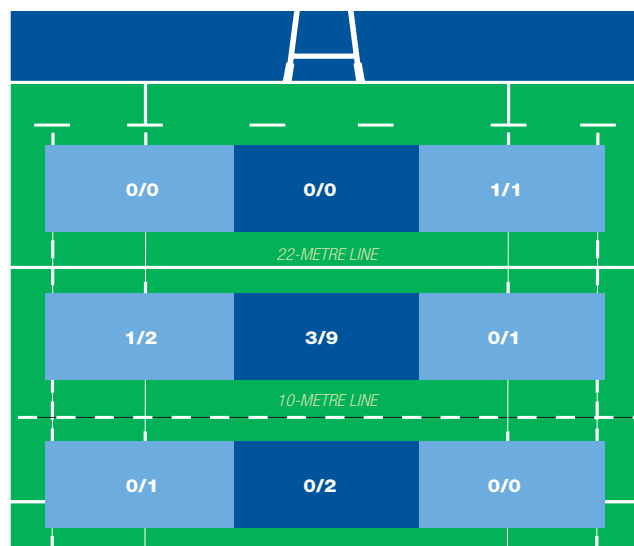
WALES - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 18/23



SCOTLAND - PLACE KICKS AT GOAL SUCCESS 22/25

DROP GOALS

All teams except **Ireland** made at least 1 drop goal attempt. There were over twice as many failures as successes, of which there were 5 - 3 teams were successful with **Wales** succeeded once in 5 attempts. **France** failed in all 3 attempts.



DROP GOAL SUCCESS
2007 - 31% (2006 - 31%)

KICKING SUCCESS RATES FROM VARIOUS PARTS OF PITCH

The success and failure rate of both conversions and penalties were combined in order to determine success rates from various parts of the pitch.

If the various areas are grouped into 3 (i.e. in front, right side and left side). The success rates are:

| PITCH AREA | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------|------|------|
| IN FRONT | 93% | 81% |
| RIGHT SIDE | 76% | 72% |
| LEFT SIDE | 72% | 67% |

2. tries

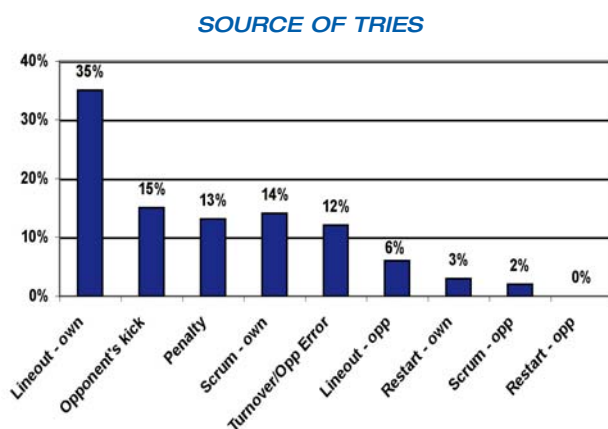
TRIES SCORED BY WINNING TEAM

Of the 15 matches played in RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007, 10 were won by the team scoring most tries. In 4 games, tries were equal and there was one game where there were fewer tries scored but the team won through penalty goals. This means that 67% of matches were won by the team scoring most tries.

SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 65 tries scored in RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007 - 4 more than in 2006.

The teams scoring the tries obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring of the try from a variety of sources. This is shown in the following chart and table:



| POSSESSION SOURCE | 2007 | 2006 |
|---------------------------|------|------|
| LINEOUT - OWN | 23 | 23 |
| OPPONENTS' KICK | 10 | 6 |
| PENALTY | 8 | 12 |
| SCRUM - OWN | 9 | 7 |
| TURNOVER / | | |
| OPPONENTS' HANDLING ERROR | 8 | 7 |
| LINEOUT - OPPOSITION | 4 | 5 |
| OWN RESTART | 2 | 1 |
| OPPONENTS' SCRUM | 1 | 1 |
| OPPONENTS' RESTART | 0 | 2 |
| | 65 | 61 |

Lineout possession continues to account for most tries. In 2007, tries from lineout possession remained at around 35% of all tries.

Last year, of the 6 tries scored from opponents' kicks, **France** scored 5. This year by contrast **France** didn't score a single try from this source.

There were only 8 tries from turnovers and opponents handling errors, 4 of which were scored by **Italy**.



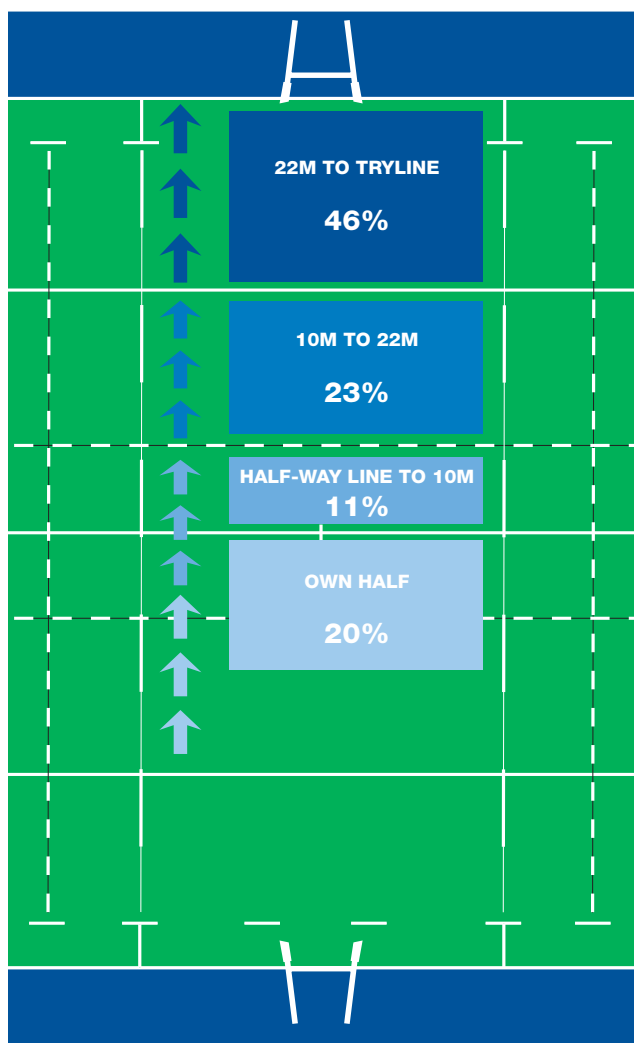
ENGLAND V ITALY

• *Phil Vickery of England leads an attack.*

ORIGIN OF TRIES

Tries originate from various parts of the pitch.

- 30 or **46%** originated within the 22 metre line (2006-39%).
- 15 or **23%** between the 22 and 10 metre line (2006-25%).
- 7 or **11%** between 10 metres and halfway (2006-15%).
- 13 or **20%** originated in the scoring team's half (2006-21%).



TRY ORIGINS

In 2001, 1 in 3 tries originated from within the scoring team's own half. This has become a less frequent occurrence over recent years. In 2002, it went down to 1 in 5, in 2003 and 2004 it was 1 in 6, in 2005 it was 1 in 3, in 2006 and 2007, 1 in 5.

With regard to the 6 competing teams, Scotland did not score a single try from inside their own half - 5 of their 7 tries originated from inside their opponents 22m.

At the other extreme, England scored 4 of 10 from inside their own half. Ireland, the highest scoring team with 17 tries, scored 2 from inside theirs.

POSITION WHERE TRIES WERE SCORED

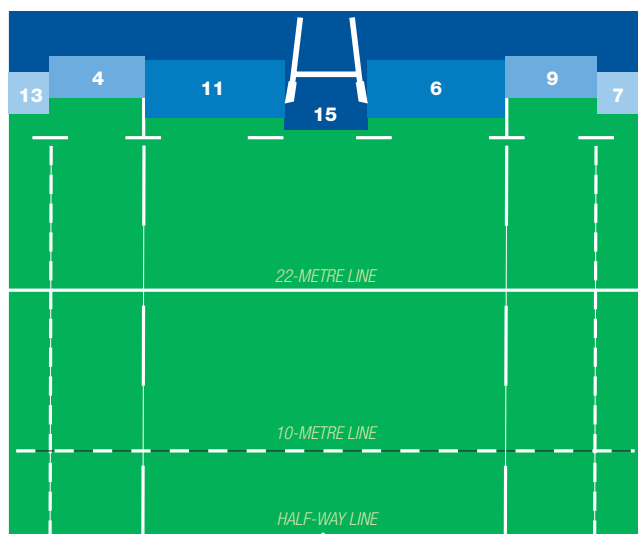
The chart below indicates where across the goal-line tries were scored.

| | 2007 | 2006 |
|-------------------------|------|------|
| UNDER THE POSTS | 23% | 26% |
| LEFT SIDE OF THE POSTS | 43% | 36% |
| RIGHT SIDE OF THE POSTS | 34% | 38% |



ENGLAND V FRANCE

- Mike Tindall of England dives over to score a try under the posts.



TRY LOCATIONS

The next table shows the total number of passes that preceded each of the 65 tries.

The table shows that 58% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes (2006 - 69%).

This was not a figure that was seen consistently throughout all 6 teams. Three of **Italy's** 9 tries included no passes, this compares to England's 1 out of 10.

| NUMBER OF PASSES | FREQUENCY | = 58% |
|------------------|-----------|-------|
| NONE | 15 | |
| 1 | 6 | |
| 2 | 8 | |
| 3 | 9 | |
| 4 | 4 | |
| 5 | 5 | |
| 6 | 6 | |
| 7 | 2 | |
| 8 | 3 | |
| 9 | 2 | |
| 10 | 2 | |
| 11 | 0 | |
| 12 | 0 | |
| 13 | 0 | |
| 14 | 0 | |
| 15 | 2 | |
| 16 | 1 | |
| 20+ | 0 | |
| No. | 65 | |

BUILD-UP TO TRIES

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources. More often than not, other actions - phases (i.e. rucks/mauls), kicks and passes - then take place before the try is scored.

The first table shows the number phases that preceded each of the 65 tries scored in the 2007 Championship

The table shows that 78% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer phases (2006 - 83%).

| NUMBER OF 2ND PHASES | FREQUENCY | = 78% |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|
| NONE | 13 | |
| 1 | 15 | |
| 2 | 15 | |
| 3 | 8 | |
| 4 | 3 | |
| 5 | 2 | |
| 6 | 1 | |
| 7 | 2 | |
| 8 | 2 | |
| 9 | 1 | |
| 10+ | 3 | |
| No. | 65 | |

TIMING OF TRIES

The following 2 charts show that:

- Only 2 teams scored most of their tries in the second half (**England & Italy**).
- With regard to tries conceded, **Ireland** conceded 4 of their 5 in the second half
- **Wales** conceded just 2 tries in the second half but 7 tries in the first half.
- Only **Ireland** and **Scotland** conceded most tries in the second half

a. the half in which each country scored their tries.

| | 1ST HALF | 2ND HALF |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| FRANCE | 8 | 7 |
| IRELAND | 9 | 8 |
| SCOTLAND | 4 | 3 |
| ENGLAND | 4 | 6 |
| WALES | 5 | 2 |
| ITALY | 4 | 5 |

b. the half in which each country conceded tries.

| | 1ST HALF | 2ND HALF |
|-----------------|----------|----------|
| FRANCE | 5 | 4 |
| IRELAND | 1 | 4 |
| SCOTLAND | 7 | 8 |
| ENGLAND | 5 | 4 |
| WALES | 7 | 2 |
| ITALY | 9 | 9 |

TIMING OF SCORES

This year, there was less difference between the time when tries were scored and the time when penalties were kicked. Historically, more tries are scored in the second half than in the first half but that did not happen this year.

In RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007:

- **34** tries were scored in the first half - **31** in the second.
- **51** penalties were kicked in the first half - **35** in the second.

The following chart breaks down the timings further and shows both penalties and tries in 5 minute sequences:

| 1ST HALF | | | 2ND HALF | | |
|----------|-------|-------|----------|-------|-------|
| MINUTES | TRIES | PENS. | MINUTES | TRIES | PENS. |
| 5 min | 4 | 4 | 5 min | 2 | 3 |
| 10 min | 2 | 6 | 10 min | 3 | 3 |
| 15 min | 3 | 8 | 15 min | 3 | 6 |
| 20 min | 3 | 8 | 20 min | 2 | 7 |
| 25 min | 2 | 5 | 25 min | 5 | 2 |
| 30 min | 4 | 5 | 30 min | 2 | 3 |
| 35 min | 6 | 2 | 35 min | 1 | 4 |
| 40 min | 3 | 7 | 40 min | 4 | 4 |
| 40min+ | 7 | 6 | 40min+ | 9 | 3 |

The above analysis was then broken down further to see if the scoring profiles of each of the 6 countries reflected the overall scoring profile.

In this, **Italy** stood out. Of **Italy's** 9 tries - 3 were scored in the opening 6 minutes in one game and 4 were scored in stoppage time in the second half. **England** did not score any tries in the first half hour of the game. In terms of penalty goals, 50% of **France's** were kicked in the first 25 minutes of play.

No team kicked more penalties in the second half than the first.

3. mode of play

MATCH TIME

The average length of a match in RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007 was **91 mins 22 seconds**.

The comparative figure for RBS 6 Nations Championship 2006 was **91 mins 34 seconds**.
(a decrease of just 12 seconds.)

The longest match time was 99 mins 10 secs.
The shortest match time was 87 mins 53 secs.

12 of the 15 matches had more stoppages in the second half than the first.

BALL IN PLAY TIMES

In percentage terms, the 2007 matches produced the following ball-in-play times;

| | BALL IN PLAY TIME % |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| ITALY VS FRANCE | 51% |
| IRELAND VS FRANCE | 50% |
| FRANCE VS SCOTLAND | 49% |
| ENGLAND VS FRANCE | 48% |
| WALES VS IRELAND | 48% |
| WALES VS SCOTLAND | 47% |
| SCOTLAND VS ITALY | 46% |
| WALES VS ENGLAND | 46% |
| ENGLAND VS SCOTLAND | 44% |
| ENGLAND VS ITALY | 44% |
| FRANCE VS WALES | 44% |
| SCOTLAND VS IRELAND | 43% |
| IRELAND VS ENGLAND | 42% |
| ITALY VS WALES | 42% |
| ITALY VS IRELAND | 41% |
| OVERALL AVERAGE | 46% |

Together with 2004 and 2006, the 46% ball in play achieved in 2007 was the highest ever recorded in a RBS 6 Nations Championship.

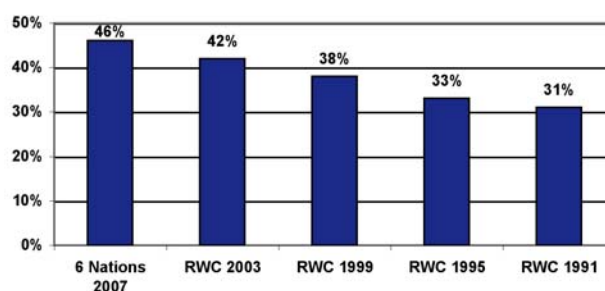
An indication of how far ball in play time has increased is when a comparison is made with 5 Nations 1999. In that year, only one game exceeded 40% ball in play time while in 2007, all of the 15 achieved 40% or more.

Not surprisingly, the ball in play figures show noticeable increases from RWC 1991, 1995, 1999 and 2003 as shown below:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| ball in play time RWC 1991 | 24 mins 48 secs (31%) |
| ball in play time RWC 1995 | 26 mins 43 secs (33%) |
| ball in play time RWC 1999 | 30 mins 35 secs (38%) |
| ball in play time RWC 2003 | 33 mins 17 secs (42%) |
| ball in play time RBS 6 Nat. 2007 | 36 mins 38 secs (46%) |

Since the game went professional at the end of 1995, ball in play time has increased by between 33% to 40%.

BALL IN PLAY %



In the 15 matches - and as always - **England** obtained more possession than their opponents, albeit by not as much as usual. In all but one of its 5 games, it obtained more possession than its opponents and in all but one game to a noticeable extent. In one of their matches, it obtained over 70% more possession than its opponents. In a third, it obtained 40% more. This year Italy averaged some 2 minutes more possession than last year, while Wales average 2 minutes less.

The average time in possession of the ball of each team is shown in the following table:

| MINUTES OF POSSESSION | | | 2006 |
|-----------------------|---------------|---------------|------|
| ENGLAND | 19 min 49 sec | 21 min 18 sec | |
| FRANCE | 19 min 24sec | 18 min 27 sec | |
| IRELAND | 18 min 01 sec | 19 min 30 sec | |
| SCOTLAND | 18 min 49 sec | 17 min 23 sec | |
| ITALY | 17 min 19 sec | 14 min 58 sec | |
| WALES | 16 min 07 sec | 17 min 57 sec | |

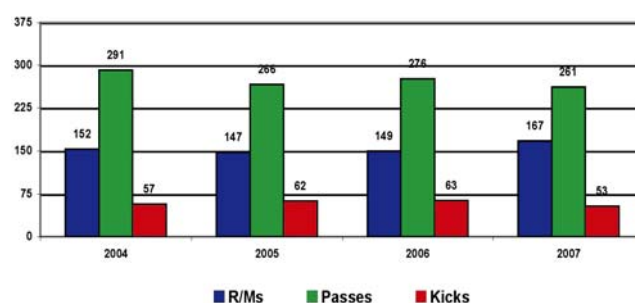
ACTIVITY CYCLES

Activity cycles reflect what happens when the ball is in play - and with increased ball in play times in recent years, there has been a consequent increase in activity levels (i.e. there have been more passes, kicks and ruck/mauls). As result, the average number of stoppages in the game has come down and in recent years has stabilised at around 95 per game.

The following data compares the average number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks, in matches played in the last 4 years:

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| RUCKS/MAULS (2nd phase) | 167 | 149 | 147 | 152 |
| PASSES | 261 | 276 | 266 | 291 |
| OPEN PLAY KICKS | 53 | 63 | 62 | 57 |
| KICK:PASS RATIO | 1:4.9 | 1:4.4 | 1:4.3 | 1:5.1 |

RUCKS/MAULS, PASSES AND KICKS



This overall level of activity is not expected to change significantly in the future since ball in play appears to have stabilised at around the 46% mark.



WALES V ENGLAND

- James Haskell of England peels off a maul as Dwayne Peel of Wales closes in.

4. rucks/mauls

(2nd + phases)

The average number of rucks/mauls per game was **167** (2006 - 149).

The most in any game was 213 - the fewest was 142. The most by any team in a game was 121 (**England** v France) - the fewest was **Wales** (51) v Italy.

There was less difference this year between the 6 teams. In 2006, while **England** created almost 100% more rucks/mauls than **Italy** and 45% more than **France**, this year the difference between the most and the least was around 35%.

The average per country is shown below:

| AVERAGE NO OF RUCKS/MAULS PER GAME | | 2006 |
|------------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| SCOTLAND | 94 | 64 |
| FRANCE | 91 | 69 |
| ENGLAND | 89 | 100 |
| ITALY | 81 | 52 |
| IRELAND | 78 | 85 |
| WALES | 69 | 77 |
| OVERALL AVERAGE | 84 | 75 |

The above table shows the total number of rucks/mauls created by each team in the competition expressed as an average per game. On a game by game basis therefore it shows **Scotland** and **France** created the most rucks and mauls while **Wales** rucked and mauled the least.

However, the number of rucks and mauls made by one team may be constrained because it obtained only limited possession of the ball. In order to address this, an alternative calculation has been made which relates the number of rucks/mauls to the share of ball in play time won by each team.

| RUCK/MAULS PER MINUTES POSSESSION | | 2006 |
|-----------------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCOTLAND | 5.0 | 3.7 |
| FRANCE | 4.7 | 3.7 |
| ITALY | 4.7 | 3.4 |
| ENGLAND | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| IRELAND | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| WALES | 4.3 | 4.3 |
| OVERALL AVERAGE | 4.6 | 4.1 |

The above shows that **Scotland** not only created the most rucks and mauls, its rate of rucking was the highest. Similarly, while **Wales** made the fewest number of rucks and mauls, its rate of rucking and mauling was also less than the other countries. However, the differences between the various teams was far closer when comparing the rate of rucking with the number of rucks created.

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on 95% of occasions. The percentage success rate for each team was very similar and is shown in the table

| RETENTION OF POSSESSION AT THE BREAKDOWN | | 2006 |
|--|------------|------------|
| IRELAND | 95% | 94% |
| FRANCE | 95% | 93% |
| ITALY | 95% | 92% |
| SCOTLAND | 95% | 90% |
| WALES | 94% | 93% |
| ENGLAND | 94% | 91% |

5. passes

Games, on average, contained 261 passes (2006 - 274). The most in any game was 327 (**France v Scotland**) - the fewest was 211 (**England v Italy**).

The most by any team in a game was 198 (**Scotland**) - the fewest, 73 (**Italy**).

| AVERAGE NO OF PASSES PER GAME | | 2006 |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|
| FRANCE | 141 | 140 |
| IRELAND | 139 | 161 |
| SCOTLAND | 135 | 117 |
| ENGLAND | 130 | 148 |
| WALES | 120 | 157 |
| ITALY | 117 | 103 |
| OVERALL AVERAGE | 131 | 138 |

When an adjustment is made to take account of the percentage possession obtained by each team, then the table changes however.



IRELAND V FRANCE

- France passes the ball out from a ruck.

This table now shows that **Ireland** were the highest passing team in relation to possession.

| PASSES PER MINUTES POSSESSION | | 2006 |
|----------------------------------|-----|------|
| IRELAND | 7.7 | 8.2 |
| WALES | 7.4 | 8.8 |
| FRANCE | 7.3 | 7.6 |
| SCOTLAND | 7.2 | 6.7 |
| ITALY | 6.7 | 6.9 |
| ENGLAND | 6.6 | 7.0 |

The number of passes made by a team can also vary significantly from match to match. The following table shows the average number of passes per country per game as shown above together with the most in a game and the least in a game.

| PASSES | AVERAGE | | MOST | | LEAST | |
|----------|-----------------|-----|------------------|-----|------------------|-----|
| | PER GAME (2006) | | IN A GAME (2006) | | IN A GAME (2006) | |
| ENGLAND | 130 | 148 | 175 | 173 | 98 | 125 |
| SCOTLAND | 135 | 117 | 198 | 158 | 91 | 55 |
| WALES | 120 | 157 | 157 | 178 | 101 | 130 |
| FRANCE | 141 | 140 | 193 | 202 | 115 | 97 |
| ITALY | 117 | 103 | 183 | 124 | 73 | 72 |
| IRELAND | 139 | 161 | 157 | 247 | 118 | 120 |

It can be seen from the above that there were noticeable contrasts between the highs and lows of certain teams. In the case of **Italy** for example they made 110 more passes in their game against **France** than they did in their game against **Scotland**.

The most consistent level of passing was done by **Ireland**, who outpassed their opponents in 4 out of 5 matches, the exception being their match against **Wales**. Their consistency can also be noted by the fact that the difference between their highest and lowest passing matches was only 39.

It is also worth noting that while **France** made 20% more passes than **Wales**, they passed at a lesser rate.

While the above data may be a surprise to some, there are other possible surprises when, just as last year, passes are broken down into 3 groups - viz

- passes made by backs (excluding the scrum half)
- passes made by the scrum half
- passes made by forwards.

When the 4000 or so passes made in RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007 were allocated into these 3 groups, the results were as follows:

| PERCENTAGE OF ALL PASSES | 2007 | 2006 |
|-----------------------------|------|------|
| MADE BY BACKS | 38% | 40% |
| MADE BY SCRUM HALF | 47% | 44% |
| MADE BY FORWARDS | 15% | 16% |

As far as the backs were concerned, there were differing profiles between some of the countries with **Italy** being clearly different from **Ireland**. The percentages for each country are shown below:

| PERCENTAGE OF ALL PASSES MADE BY BACKS | 2006 | |
|---|------|-----|
| IRELAND | 44% | 41% |
| WALES | 40% | 39% |
| ENGLAND | 39% | 39% |
| FRANCE | 38% | 42% |
| SCOTLAND | 36% | 37% |
| ITALY | 34% | 42% |

The differences between the scrum halves of different teams is a little closer than the above table as shown below.

| PERCENTAGE OF ALL PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF | 2006 | |
|--|------|-----|
| ITALY | 50% | 46% |
| FRANCE | 50% | 42% |
| ENGLAND | 48% | 48% |
| SCOTLAND | 47% | 42% |
| IRELAND | 45% | 47% |
| WALES | 42% | 38% |

Other pronounced differences arose in passes made by forwards.

| PERCENTAGE OF ALL PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS | 2006 | |
|--|------|-----|
| WALES | 18% | 23% |
| SCOTLAND | 17% | 21% |
| ITALY | 16% | 12% |
| ENGLAND | 13% | 14% |
| FRANCE | 12% | 16% |
| IRELAND | 11% | 12% |



SCOTLAND V IRELAND

• Scotland passes the ball.

What is interesting about this table of passes by forwards is that the order is the same as last year with **Wales** at the top and Ireland at the bottom. The strategic approaches of the 6 teams have not changed therefore in relation to the proportion of passes made by backs, forwards and scrum half. Also of interest this year is that teams have not continued with the general movement last year when forwards made proportionally more passes than in the previous year.

In fact, the percentage of passes made by forwards went down this year in relation to 5 of the 6 teams, with the exception being Italy who increased from 12% to 16%.

Nevertheless, there remain certain noticeable contrasts between certain teams as can be seen when the previous 3 tables are combined.

| | PERCENTAGE OF PASSES: BY BACKS | | BY SCRUM HALF | BY FORWARDS |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|------------------|-------------|
| | (2006) | | (2006) | (2006) |
| FRANCE | 38% | 42% | 50% | 12% |
| IRELAND | 44% | 41% | 45% | 11% |
| ENGLAND | 39% | 39% | 48% | 13% |
| ITALY | 34% | 42% | 50% | 16% |
| WALES | 40% | 39% | 42% | 18% |
| SCOTLAND | 36% | 37% | 47% | 17% |

There are therefore different strategic approaches. Where certain teams use forwards more as suppliers of the ball for onward transmission by the backs, other teams involve the forwards themselves in the distribution process. **Wales** continue to be the most noticeable proponents of the latter process with **Ireland** favouring the former. Examples are shown later in the report. Meanwhile, as a factual illustration of the different approach adopted by **Wales** and **Ireland**, the following tables show what each rank of forwards did with the ball when they were in possession of it.

The first table shows the number of times each country's forwards had the ball in their hands and then notes the number of times they passed it. This is then expressed as a ratio so that if a team's forwards passed the ball 20 times

having received it 100 times, the ratio would be expressed as 1 to 5 - ie 1 pass for every 5 possessions.

| PASSES:POSSESSIONS BY FORWARDS | | 2006 |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|----------------|
| WALES | 1:2.7 | 1 : 2.2 |
| SCOTLAND | 1:3.5 | 1 : 2.4 |
| ITALY | 1:3.8 | 1 : 3.1 |
| IRELAND | 1:4.0 | 1 : 3.6 |
| ENGLAND | 1:4.1 | 1 : 3.7 |
| FRANCE | 1:4.2 | 1 : 2.8 |

This table shows that all 6 teams forwards were less likely to pass the ball this year from last year. The table shows that the French forwards were the least likely to pass the ball - far less likely than in 2006.

This difference between the forwards of each country is even more graphically illustrated when the forwards are broken down into the 3 groups of (a) front row, (b) second row and (c) back row. This time the relationship between passes and possession is expressed in percentage terms, so that if a group of forwards received the ball 20 times and passed it 6 times, it means they passed it on 30% of occasions.



IRELAND V FRANCE

- *Girvan Dempsey of Ireland offloads to teammate Denis Hickie, as he is tackled.*

This table re-emphasises the fact that forwards were less likely to pass the ball in 2007 - this being especially noticeable with regard to front rows. Five of the six teams showed measurable differences - especially **Wales** and **Scotland**. **England** was the only team whose front row was more likely to pass than last year, a fact almost mostly accounted for by the passes made by the no.2 position.

| BALL PASSED BY FRONT ROW | | 2006 |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
| WALES | 27% | 47% |
| ENGLAND | 26% | 19% |
| SCOTLAND | 19% | 32% |
| FRANCE | 18% | 21% |
| IRELAND | 15% | 23% |
| ITALY | 14% | 23% |

With regards to the second rows, **Scotland** continued to head the field, their second rows passing on almost 50% of occasions. They were over twice as likely to pass the ball as France, Ireland and England's second row.

| BALL PASSED BY SECOND ROW | | 2006 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| SCOTLAND | 48% | 55% |
| ITALY | 34% | 30% |
| WALES | 27% | 24% |
| IRELAND | 24% | 23% |
| FRANCE | 21% | 48% |
| ENGLAND | 19% | 25% |

When the back row's passing percentage is examined, it illustrates again the 2007 characteristics that forwards were less likely to pass the ball than they were in 2006. This was reflected in every single team shown in the following table:

| BALL PASSED BY BACK ROW | | 2006 |
|----------------------------|------------|------------|
| WALES | 44% | 52% |
| FRANCE | 30% | 40% |
| ITALY | 30% | 38% |
| IRELAND | 29% | 32% |
| ENGLAND | 26% | 32% |
| SCOTLAND | 20% | 40% |

The above tables are the result of a summation of all the data collected in all 15 matches of the championship and reflect several strategic playing differences. Hidden away in some of the matches, however, are some fascinating pieces of data relating to passes. They include the following:

- In Ireland's win against Wales, the Irish front row, second row and 2 flankers - a total of 7 players - made **3** passes in the entire game.
- In Scotland's game against England, no front row player made a single pass.
- In the first half of this game only **2** passes were made by the Scottish back 5 (Full backs, Wings, Centres)
- In Italy's match against England, neither Italian flanker made a pass in the entire game.
- When England played in Ireland only **1** pass was made by the entire English pack in the 1st half.
- Not one pass was made by the Irish front row against Scotland in the entire game.
- In England's match against Wales, 9 players did not pass the ball in the first half. The forwards made 2 passes in total, while the 2 wings, the full back and 1 centre made a total of 1.

PASSING MOVEMENTS

Passes are grouped into passing movements - (i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on). The data shows that some 82% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. This now appears to be a constant and varies little from year to year. Most teams played to this formula - with all 6 teams hovering around the 80% mark in 2007.

6. kicks

The average number of kicks per game was **53** (2006 - 63). The most open play kicks in a game was **74** - the fewest **33**. The most by any team in a game was **40** (**France** v Ireland) - the fewest 14 (**Scotland** v Italy).

This year, the spread between the highest kicking team and lowest kicking team was again 12 - the same as last year.

| AVERAGE NUMBER OF KICKS PER GAME | | 2006 |
|----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| ITALY | 31 | 34 |
| FRANCE | 29 | 38 |
| IRELAND | 28 | 28 |
| WALES | 27 | 30 |
| ENGLAND | 25 | 26 |
| SCOTLAND | 19 | 33 |

When an adjustment is made to take account of the percentage possession obtained by each team, it shows that **Italy** were the highest kicking team in relation to the possession they obtained while **Scotland** were still the lowest in both numbers and rate. Just as last year, **Italy** made more kicks than their opponents in 4 of their 5 matches.

| KICKS PER MINUTES POSSESSION | | 2006 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|
| ITALY | 1.8 | 2.3 |
| WALES | 1.7 | 1.6 |
| IRELAND | 1.5 | 1.4 |
| FRANCE | 1.5 | 2.1 |
| ENGLAND | 1.3 | 1.2 |
| SCOTLAND | 1.0 | 1.9 |
| OVERALL AVERAGE | 1.5 | 1.7 |

SUMMARY

A summary of previous tables - the first showing the average number of rucks, passes, and kicks per game and the second the rate per minute possession - is given below:



ITALY V FRANCE

- French player kicks to convert a try.

| AVERAGE NUMBER OF RUCKS, PASSES, KICKS PER GAME | | | |
|---|-----------|------------|-----------|
| FRANCE | 91 | 141 | 29 |
| IRELAND | 78 | 139 | 28 |
| ENGLAND | 89 | 130 | 25 |
| ITALY | 81 | 117 | 31 |
| WALES | 69 | 120 | 27 |
| SCOTLAND | 94 | 135 | 19 |

| AVERAGE NUMBER OF RUCKS, PASSES, KICKS PER MINUTE POSSESSION | | | |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| FRANCE | 4.7 | 7.3 | 1.5 |
| IRELAND | 4.3 | 7.7 | 1.5 |
| ENGLAND | 4.5 | 6.6 | 1.3 |
| ITALY | 4.7 | 6.7 | 1.8 |
| WALES | 4.3 | 7.4 | 1.7 |
| SCOTLAND | 5.0 | 7.2 | 1.0 |

7. lineout

The following data compares lineouts in 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004:

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|------------|
| AV. NUMBER PER GAME | 31 | 37 | 34 | 36 |
| % COMPETED | 59% | 64% | 72% | 61% |
| LINEOUT PENALTIES F/K | 1.1 | 1.5 | 1.1 | 1.5 |
| POSSESSION RETAINED | 85% | 84% | 86 % | 80% |

The most lineouts in a game was 42; the fewest 21. Most teams had high success rates on their own throw. **England** was the most successful with 89% - **Wales** the least successful with 79%. **Wales** opponents stole lineout possession one lineout in 6.



ENGLAND V SCOTLAND
• England wins lineout ball.

On opponents' throw ins, **Italy** and **Scotland** were clearly the most successful in stealing opposition ball than the other teams. Lineout success is shown in the following table:

| LINEOUT SUCCESS | OWN THROW | OPP THROW |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| ENGLAND | 89% | 14% |
| SCOTLAND | 88% | 19% |
| ITALY | 87% | 20% |
| IRELAND | 87% | 13% |
| FRANCE | 82% | 13% |
| WALES | 79% | 11% |

Italy put the ball into touch at least 30% more than the next highest team and almost 50% more than Ireland.

Competition at the lineout decreased slightly again this year.

Possession retained by the throwing in team has however changed little over the last 3 years. It should be noted however, that quality of possession has not been measured. No distinction has been made therefore between good and bad possession. This same qualification applies to scrum data.



ENGLAND V FRANCE
• England jumps against France.

8. scrum

The following data compares scrummages in 2007, 2006, 2005 and 2004:

| | 2007 | 2006 | 2005 | 2004 |
|--|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| AV. NUMBER PER GAME | 17 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| SCRUM PENS PER GAME | 3.5 | 2.7 | 3.4 | 3.1 |
| SCRUM PENS AS A % OF ALL PENS | 17% | 12% | 16% | 14% |
| PEN : SCRUM RATIO | 1:5 | 1 : 7 | 1 : 6 | 1 : 6 |
| POSSESSION RETAINED | 92% | 95% | 94% | 87% |

In RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007, there were 260 scrummages and 108 resets making a total of 368 scrum engagements. One in 3 scrums contained a collapse.

| SCRUM SUCCESS | OWN FEED INC PEN AND F/K | OPP FEED INC PEN AND F/K |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| FRANCE | 98% | 14% |
| SCOTLAND | 94% | 8% |
| ITALY | 92% | 13% |
| ENGLAND | 92% | 2% |
| IRELAND | 90% | 10% |
| WALES | 84% | 4% |

76% of penalties awarded at the scrum went in favour of the team putting in the ball. France did not concede a single penalty or free kick in any of their own put-ins in all 5 matches.

Certain teams are awarded more penalties on their own put-in than others, as shown in the following table.

| PENS FOR | OWN FEED |
|-----------------|------------------------|
| ITALY | 1 IN 3.6 SCRUMS |
| ENGLAND | 1 IN 4.5 SCRUMS |
| WALES | 1 IN 7.4 SCRUMS |
| FRANCE | 1 IN 8.0 SCRUMS |
| IRELAND | 1 IN 8.5 SCRUMS |
| SCOTLAND | 1 IN 9.4 SCRUMS |

There were two free kicks for crooked feed in 2007 while there were no free kicks awarded in 2006.



ITALY V FRANCE

- Mauro Bergamasco of Italy looks on from the scrum during the RBS Six Nations match.

9. penalties

NUMBER AND INCIDENCE

In RBS 6 Nations Championship 2007, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was 21 - the same as 2006.

In 2007, the most awarded in a single game was 33 - the least, 12. The comparative figures for 2006 were 28 and 16.

TEAMS PENALISED

Italy conceded the most penalties (incl free kicks) while **France** conceded the fewest as shown in the following table:

| PENALTIES CONCEDED | 2007 | 2006 |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|
| ITALY | 64 | 53 |
| WALES | 60 | 59 |
| ENGLAND | 54 | 61 |
| SCOTLAND | 54 | 54 |
| IRELAND | 47 | 47 |
| FRANCE | 41 | 48 |

The above table shows that Italy conceded 56% more penalties/free kicks than France.

What needs to be noted is that the above are absolute figures - but because the number of penalties can vary from match to match (in 2007, between 12 and 33), a better and probably more accurate indicator, is the proportion of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents.

| PROPORTION OF TIMES PENALISED | 2007 | 2006 |
|-------------------------------|------------|------------|
| WALES | 56% | 55% |
| ITALY | 55% | 53% |
| ENGLAND | 52% | 50% |
| FRANCE | 47% | 51% |
| IRELAND | 46% | 41% |
| SCOTLAND | 44% | 51% |

What the above table shows is that while **Italy** conceded more penalties than any other team, proportionally they conceded less than **Wales**. The table also shows that although **Scotland** conceded 13 more penalties than **France**, proportionally they were penalised less.

CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table groups the penalties awarded into 10 categories - and shows the comparative figure for RBS 6 Nations Championship 2004, 2005, 2006 and 2007:

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| RUCK/TACKLE - | | | | |
| ON GROUND OFFENCES | 47 | 43 | 46 | 44 |
| OFFSIDE - BACKS/ | | | | |
| FORWARDS/OPEN PLAY | 19 | 15 | 17 | 17 |
| SCRUM | 14 | 16 | 12 | 17 |
| LINEOUT | 7 | 8 | 7 | 5 |
| PLUS 10 METRES | 1 | >1 | 1 | 1 |
| FOUL PLAY | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 |
| OBSTRUCTION | 5 | 2 | 6 | 6 |
| TACKLE - EARLY/LATE/ | | | | |
| DANGEROUS | 3 | 6 | 4 | 3 |
| MAUL - PULLING DOWN | 3 | 5 | 3 | 3 |
| MISCELLANEOUS | 3 | 3 | - | 2 |
| | 100% | 100% | 100% | 100% |

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REFEREES

Of the 15 matches, 9 were refereed by Northern Hemisphere referees, and 6 by Southern Hemisphere referees. The following table looks at the breakdown of penalties and other match details between the two groups:



WALES V IRELAND

• Referee Kelvin Deaker of New Zealand.

| NORTHERN HEMISPHERE REFEREES | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| AVERAGE POINTS PER MATCH | 43 | 38 |
| AVERAGE BALL IN PLAY TIMES | 45% | 44% |
| AVERAGE NUMBER OF PENALTIES | 21 | 21 |

| SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REFEREES | 2007 | 2006 |
|------------------------------|------|------|
| AVERAGE POINTS PER MATCH | 52 | 46 |
| AVERAGE BALL IN PLAY TIMES | 47% | 48% |
| AVERAGE NUMBER OF PENALTIES | 21 | 22 |

10. restarts

Of 50m restarts, **54%** were kicked long - **46%** were kicked short and were contestable (2006 - 55% and 45%). **Italy** and **Scotland** however kicked long more than any other team. **France** were clearly the most successful team at regaining short restarts, with 5 out of 12, compared with Wales' 1 out of 15.

When 50m restarts were kicked short, the kicking team regained possession on 1 in 5.5 occasions.

At 22m restarts, 55% were kicked long 45% short (2006 - 67% and 33%). The success rate on the short kicks was 1 in 3 (2006 1 in 2).

Success rate varied between the 6 teams. **France** were clearly the most effective in retaining possession at all short restarts as shown in this table.

| RETENTION OF ALL SHORT RESTARTS (50M & 22M) | |
|---|---------|
| FRANCE | 1 IN 3 |
| ENGLAND | 1 IN 4 |
| IRELAND | 1 IN 5 |
| WALES | 1 IN 6 |
| SCOTLAND | 1 IN 7 |
| ITALY | 1 IN 10 |

11. cards issued

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during the RBS 6 Nations Championship, 2007.

RED CARDS

There were no red cards issued in the 2007 Championship.
(2006 - 1 red card issued)

YELLOW CARDS

There were seven yellow cards issued in the 2007 Championship. (2006 - 9 red card issued)

| MATCH | REFEREE | YC |
|---|------------------|----------|
| SCOTLAND V ITALY | D COURTNEY (IRE) | 2 |
| FRANCE V SCOTLAND | C JOUBERT (RSA) | 1 |
| IRELAND V ENGLAND | J JUTGE (FRA) | 1 |
| SCOTLAND V WALES | A LEWIS (IRE) | 1 |
| ENGLAND V ITALY | N OWENS (WAL) | 1 |
| SCOTLAND V IRELAND | D PEARSON (ENG) | 1 |
| NUMBER ISSUED | | 7 |
| (2006 - 9 YELLOW CARDS ISSUED PLUS 1 RED) | | |

OFFENCES FOR WHICH YELLOW CARD ISSUED

| OFFENCE | YC | OFFENCE | YC |
|-------------------|----|------------------------------------|----|
| COLLAPSE MAUL | 1 | RUCK/TACKLE- PREVENTING RELEASE | 1 |
| RUCK/TACKLE-ENTER | | LATE TACKLE | 1 |
| WRONG SIDE | 1 | OFFSIDE-RUCK/MAUL | 1 |
| RUCK/TACKLE-HANDS | 1 | TOTAL YC ISSUED | 7 |
| NOT 10M | 1 | | |

CONCEDING YELLOW CARDS

| | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 |
|----------|------|------|------|------|
| FRANCE | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| ITALY | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| WALES | 0 | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| ENGLAND | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| SCOTLAND | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| IRELAND | 1 | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| | 4 | 5 | 9 | 7 |

CARDS

| | |
|---|---|
| Awarded by Northern Hemisphere referees | 6 |
| Awarded by Southern Hemisphere referees | 1 |
| Issued against home team player | 2 |
| Issued against away team player | 5 |
| Issued during first half | 3 |
| Issued during second half | 4 |
| Issued against player of team in lead | 1 |
| Issued against player of team behind | 6 |

IMPACT ON SCORING DURING SIN BIN PERIOD

- In one game the team with 14 players scored more points than the team with 15.
- In two game no points were scored during the sin bin period.
- In one game a team winning 9 - 0 scored a try
- In 1 game, the score went from 32 - 14 to 39-14.
- In another game, the card was awarded in the final minute against a team leading 37 - 17.
- In the Ireland v England game, the score went from 9 - 3 to 23 - 3.

With the possible exception of the Ireland v England game, points scored in the sin bin period are likely to have had a relatively small impact - if any - on the final result.

12. tmo

- During the championship, there were 16 references to the TMO (2006- 11).
- The TMO was used in **11** of the **15** matches. In one match (France v Scotland), he was referred to 3 times.
- As a result of the 16 references, **13 tries** were awarded.
- The shortest reference to the TMO took 44 seconds - the longest, 2 minutes 06 seconds.
- 10 of the references took one minute or more.
- The remaining 6 references took 44s, 44s, 45s, 51s, 52s and 56s.



IRELAND V ENGLAND

- A yellow card is shown by Referee Joel Jutge of France.

13. subs

SUBSTITUTIONS

In the 15 matches, there were:

- 10** blood bins
- 1** Front Row Sin Bin replacement and
- 161** tactical and injury substitutions.

There were, on average, 11 replacements per game - one more than last year. The range of replacements varied between 8 a game and 13 a game.

Countries also used substitutes to varying degrees. Ireland, for example, averaged just over 3 per game while Scotland used 7 in every game. The other 4 countries averages were between these 2 figures



ITALY V IRELAND

- The Ireland bench look worried as they conceded a late try during the RBS Six Nations match.

