

RWC 2003 UPDATE

The Board of Rugby World Cup Ltd., is awaiting an alternative proposal from the Australian Rugby Union for the staging of RWC 2003 following the failure of the New Zealand Rugby Football Union to sign the Sub-Host Union Agreement. (The Host Union Agreement between the RWC Ltd and the Australian Rugby Union has already been signed).

In the days since the invitation was issued to the ARU there have been a series of inaccurate and distorted reports relating to the authority of RWCL and to the position of the Chairman, Vernon Pugh Q.C. The Australian Union have been given 21 days in which to present their proposals, and until such time as the proposals are delivered, RWCL does not intend to make any further official statements.

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A busy Spring in RWC 2003 Qualifiers



Russia v Georgia clash in European Nations Cup - an early pointer for RWC 2003.

Germany has commenced the build-up for the crucial RWC2003 qualifying match against Poland in April. The Germans will embark on a short tour of Wales, with a final match against the Welsh Districts in Cardiff at the beginning of April. According to DRV National Director of Coaching Peter Ianusevici, they

have to win the match by more than 15 points in order to reach round three. Meanwhile, the six European nations involved in the IRB-sponsored Continental competition the European Nations Cup (ENC) are engaged in an intriguing contest for the top positions, which secure direct access into the final round of the

European qualifying process.

Georgia, who unexpectedly, yet deservedly beat Romania in Bucharest last autumn, is leading the table of the two-year, home and away Championship, followed by Romania, Russia, Portugal, Spain and Netherlands. The top East European teams Georgia, Romania and Russia are dominating the competition, though both Portugal and Spain have shown glimpses of class and could consider themselves unlucky not to have disrupted the plans of Georgia and Russia respectively.

Romania, still a shadow of its former self, is playing the crucial matches against Russia and Georgia away from home. A win against either Russia, reinforced by three South-African players brought in by coach James Stoffberg, or Georgia would secure Romania a lucrative slot in the fourth Round of the European qualifying zone in the autumn. The new FRR President Octavian Moraru believes that Romania has both the firepower and the talent to weather the storm and win the ENC, in its second season.

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"SOS ROMANIA" – KIT AID Launch campaign

SOS Romania - a non-profit charity, supported by the IRB – is collecting unwanted, clean, second-hand kit from schools and clubs in the UK in order to send it to Romania. The mastermind of the operation is John Broadfoot who coordinates the project at its UK end, while his

counterpart in Romania is the Romanian Rugby Federation (FRR) vice-president George Straton.

"Every year in over 2000 schools and clubs in the UK about £1,000,000 worth of kit (replacement cost) is grown out of and thrown away. This kit could be put to good use and this what "SOS Romania" has been trying to do. Over £30,000 (45,000 US\$ dollars) of such kit, collected this year from just 10 schools and Saracens Rugby Football Club, has already been sent to Romania. But this is just the tip of the iceberg. In order to assist the FRR to quadruple the number of boys and girls playing rugby a massive amount of extra kit is needed and SOS Romania – Kit Aid, with the support of the IRB has embarked on a campaign to recruit new donor clubs and schools." Broadfoot said.

In order to increase the profile of the charity and communicate its

aims to a wider audience, a massive publicity campaign has been launched, involving print media, television and the Internet. A number of features about the objectives of the charity have been extensively published in the media and a new Internet site www.sosromaniarugby.org sponsored by Bombardier Beers – has been set-up. The details of the project are available on www.schoolsrugby.co.uk as well and will be soon featured on the IRB Internet site.

Twenty additional schools have already signed since the launch of the new campaign and Broadfoot is confident that the charity will reach its target of 200 additional donor schools and clubs by the end of April 2002.

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The Saracens kit worn with pride in Romania

"SOS ROMANIA" – KIT AID Launch campaign

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Broadfoot intends to approach all Zurich Premiership Clubs in England to copy the Saracens RFC collection activity, while ensure the SOS Romania have presence at all major Schools/Rugby regional competitions. The campaign, under the generic title

YOU REALLY CAN HELP MAKE A DIFFERENCE

is in full swing. According to Broadfoot, "the kit we will be sending this year will help change the lives of an more than 6000 young people in Romania by making it possible for them to play and enjoy the great game of rugby. Next year we will roll the programme further out across the UK to over 500 schools with the declared aim of reaching all schools and clubs in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland and to include coaching help too."



Grass Roots development in Romania has received a boost thanks to "SOS Romani" rugby deliveries



John Broadfoot (Organiser of "SOS Romania" – Kit Aid) on E/Mail – John@broadfoot55.freemove.co.uk or Fax 0208-776-2085

A busy Spring in RWC 2003

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The Romanians – with the majority of their professionals playing in the France league, followed the model of the Pumas and gathered for a camp in France, followed by a match against the French amateur National Team, a premiere in every respect.

The first ENC competition, won by Romania in 2000 was a simple Tournament run on the Six Nations model. FIRA-AER decided to make the second one a two-year, home and away affair, to maintain the momentum of the RWC 2003 qualifying process. The winner and runner-up qualify directly for Round Four of the European zone, while the other four, enter the boiling cauldron of Round Three against the Czech Republic and either Poland or Germany.

In Asia, the first Round will be shortly under way, following the postponement of the first match between Sri Lanka and People's Republic of China. The three winners play each other in Round Two in May, with the winner joining Japan and Korea in a home and away Tournament in the summer. Equally fascinating, the African zone recommences at the end of the spring, with Madagascar the newly emerged African power. Finally, Oceania zone will be soon in action, with the FORU member Unions having requested the IRB to re-shape the qualifying process to enable the main qualifying tournament involving Samoa, Fiji and Tonga to take place before the triangular involving Papua New Guinea and Cook Islands.

Canada RWC campaign

Rugby Canada has announced the schedule for the National Team for 2002, with nine test matches (some fixtures have to be confirmed), and tours out to Australia and Europe. The highlight of Canada's busy season is the series of matches, home and away, in the Americas Zone of the RWC 2003 Qualifiers against the United States of America, Uruguay, and the winner of Round 3 involving Brazil, Chile and Paraguay.

- 25th May 2002 Queensland A vs Canada
- 28th May 2002 NSW Country vs Canada
- 1st June 2002 Australia A vs Canada
- 2nd June 2002 Scotland arrives in Canada
- 5th June 2002 Eastern Canada XV vs Scotland in Fredericton NB
- 8th June 2002 Ontario vs Scotland in Kingston
- 12th June 2002 BC vs Scotland in Vancouver
- 15th June 2002 Canada vs Scotland in Vancouver
- 29th June 2002 Canada vs United States in Ontario
- 6th – 13th July Uruguay and 4th rwc vs Canada (Away)
- 10th August 2002 Canada vs Uruguay in Ontario
- 15th August 2002 Canada vs 4th rwc in Ontario
- 28th August 2002 United States vs Canada in Western US
- 16th November 2002 Wales vs Canada
- 23rd November 2002 France vs Canada

Deaf Rugby World Championship

The first ever Deaf Rugby World Championships is scheduled for August 2002 in New Zealand, one of the founders of the International Deaf Rugby Organisation (IDRO). The list of participants includes in addition to the three IDRO founding members New Zealand, South Africa and Wales, teams from Scotland, Fiji, England and Australia. The tournament, which has been approved by the International Rugby Board, kicks off on August 8, with the final scheduled for August 24, at Eden Park, in Auckland. The format of the tournament, either 15-a-side, or 7s will be determined by the ability of the participating Unions to raise the much needed funds for travel, accommodation, referees, functions, trophies etc.

The short history of International Deaf Rugby commenced in 1995, when a deaf team from South Africa toured Australia and New Zealand. South Africa won the first Test Series 2-1 in New Zealand that year. Other important milestones were the formation of the New Zealand Deaf RFU in 1991 and the start of the Wales Deaf RFC in 1996. In 1998 a New Zealand Deaf Rugby Team visited the UK for the first time and the first-ever Deaf Rugby Test Series between New Zealand and Wales was played at club grounds in the Principality. New Zealand won the series 3-0. The organisation has expanded since and in 2000 the first Deaf Rugby Home International between Wales and Scotland took place.

Deaf Rugby in New Zealand and South Africa respectively is well organised, with three regional/provincial Unions and two Deaf Rugby clubs operating in each. In Scotland there are three Deaf Rugby clubs, and there are two Deaf Rugby clubs in both Wales and Japan, in addition to individual deaf players playing for other Rugby clubs. The Deaf Rugby organisations/clubs are all affiliated to their respective Unions, the NZRU, SARFU, SRU, WRU and JRFU respectively, with the IDRO acting as the international umbrella organisation. There are individual Deaf Rugby players playing for rugby clubs in England, Fiji, France, Argentina, USA, Zimbabwe, Ireland, Greece, Spain, Canada etc. and IDRO is encouraging all these nations to develop their own Union and National team and seek affiliation to the National parent body and IDRO.

The address of the IRDO site is www.idro.20m.com

RWC Match Postponed

The RWC 2003 qualifying match between Sri Lanka and People's Republic of China has been postponed. The Chinese players had difficulties in getting their passports ready on time, though the Sri Lankan Union offered to get the players visas on arrival in Colombo Airport. The match, due to be played on March 10, 2002 at the Ceylonese RFC ground will be played now on April 6.

Chile and Uruguay – All Set

Argentine Jorge Navessi has been appointed as National Coach of Chile and will lead the nation's fortunes as they head into the Rugby World Cup 2003 qualifying rounds. Aged 50 and a lawyer by trade, he will bring his vast experience as a fiery flanker for Cuyo and the National Provincial XV in the seventies and many years as top coach in his province and a stint as Argentine XV coach last year. "If we don't qualify for Rugby World 2003 it will be a huge failure," he said upon arriving in Santiago, where he will take over as National coach for the senior, U21 and U19 teams. Under coach Elías Santillán, unavailable to coach the National Teams in a full-time capacity, Chile beat Uruguay for the first time since 1975 last October. Hopefully, Navessi will be able to convince veteran skipper Alfonso Escobar to return to international action. Escobar announced his retirement from international rugby last year, but he has already been asked by a number of senior players to reconsider. In order to reach the final round Americas Zone Round against Canada, USA and Uruguay, Chile will have to dispatch Paraguay and Brazil first, the up-and-coming power of South American rugby.

Meanwhile, Uruguay, or Los Teros as they are known – keen to reach the RWC finals for the second time - began training on January 22nd, with the aim of peaking in August, when they play the home and away series with USA, Canada and the



Uruguay Coaches Marcelo Nicola (right) and Diego Ormaechea, who captained his country's side during Rugby World Cup 1999.

winner of the South American group (Chile, Brazil or Paraguay). Coached by former internationals Marcelo Nicola and Diego Ormaechea, Uruguay played in the 1999 World Cup having qualified through the repechage. With two teams to advance directly to the finals in Australia and New Zealand and a third country going to the repechage, Los Teros are hoping to take the direct route. Last year they came close to beating both USA and Canada, yet dropped their first game against Chile in over 25 years.



CAR set the dates

The Confederation of African Rugby has announced the date and venues for the fixtures in Round Three of the RWC 2003 African qualifying zone. The first to kick off are the three Northern nations Tunisia, Morocco and Cote d'Ivoire, with the clash between Tunisia and Morocco on May 18, likely to determine the outcome of the pool. Morocco, Africa Super Six finalists won narrowly against their Tunisian arch-opponents in Super 6 and a win for either team could set them on their way to the All-Africa final. In the other pool, the most improved African team of the year Madagascar host Zimbabwe, who have been preparing since January for the campaign.



Morocco, one of the strongest contenders for a place in the finals

NORTHERN POOL

18.5.02 - Tunis:	Tunisia v Morocco
25.5.02 - Abidjan:	Cote d'Ivoire v Tunisia
1.6.02 - Casablanca:	Morocco v Cote d'Ivoire

SOUTHERN POOL

2.6.02 - Antananarive:	Madagascar v Zimbabwe
15.6.02 - Windhoek:	Namibia v Madagascar
29.6.02 - Harare:	Zimbabwe v Namibia

DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Staff Coaching

The Staff Coaching Programme is continuing with increased demand in 2002. In recent weeks the IRB Development Department has arranged courses and seminars for Staff Coaches and Referees in several Member Unions: Coaching Assistance courses were held in Chinese Taipei, Guam and Malaysia, while Refereeing course in Norway and Chile.

Union Reviews

The IRB Development Department conducts reviews of Unions in order to establish the needs of the Unions and to offer further assistance with Union planning if required. A review takes place when an IRB Staff Member or appointed representative visits a member Union and meets with its Officers / Staff. Zimbabwe, Ivory Coast, Belgium, Georgia, Russia, Canada, Romania have been some of the Unions visited most recently. The Unions who have been reviewed have found it to be very worthwhile. This process will enable the IRB identify the priorities and needs on the ground of Unions when making decisions relating IRB Assistance.

IRB Age Grade Advisory Committee

The IRB Council at its Interim Meeting in November 2001 confirmed the restructuring of the IRB Age Grade Advisory Committee. The Committee is Chaired by Noel Murphy and is made up of two representatives from the

Six Nations and one each from SANZAR, FIRA-AER, FORU, ARFU, CONSUR, NAWIRA, CAR and the IRB Development Manager, Geoff Evans. The new Committee will meet in late March 2002. The aim of the Committee is to develop the Game of Rugby at Age Grade Level throughout the World and ensure that the Game is safe and enjoyable for all participants. The Committee will endeavour to ensure that Age Grade players are provided with knowledge of the Game and the necessary skills to progress in the Game to their optimum level.

Workshop in Europe

A FIRA-AER Level 3 Coaching Workshop was run by IRB Regional Development Manager, Robert Antonin, in Brussels from 20 to 24 February 2002. The theme of the workshop was "Backline Play" and 36 delegates attended representing 21 countries from Europe. Presenters at the workshop included Pierre Chadebech - Coach of France "A", John Schropfer - District Director of Rugby with the WRU and Jean-Louis Bouladou - Regional Technical Director with the FFR. The hospitality of the the Belgian Rugby Federation was appreciated by all delegates and lecturers.

IRB Sevens Grand Prix

After a break of several weeks and after five events in Africa, Americas and Pacific, the IRB Sevens Grand Prix is back on track, with its biggest section, the Asian circuit in full swing. Following the successful delivery of the Beijing Sevens on March 16-17 the Grand Prix has travelled to Hong Kong, Kuala Lumpur, Singapore and Tokyo, after which the series will move to Europe.

In this third Grand Prix Series, that proves more competitive and balanced than ever, New Zealand are top of the table, strongly challenged by South Africa, who under coach Chester Williams have become a force to be reckoned with in the sevens game. Samoa and Fiji, with Serevi returned to international action and under a new coach, are trying to match the leaders, while a very talented England team, preparing for the Commonwealth Games, Australia and Argentina have the capacity and the talent to surprise the pundits.



Santiago Day 1

4th January 2002

POOL A

South Africa 26 France 7
 England 15 France 17
 South Africa 50 Uruguay 0
 England 54 Uruguay 0
 France 33 Uruguay 12
 South Africa 7 England 12

POOL B

New Zealand 33 Canada 10
 New Zealand 64 Paraguay 0
 Wales 17 Paraguay 7
 Wales 19 Canada 10
 Canada 73 Paraguay 0
 New Zealand 31 Wales 12

POOL C

Australia 33 USA 5
 Argentina 54 Brazil 7
 Australia 66 Brazil 0
 Argentina 41 USA 5
 USA 59 Brazil 0
 Australia 0 Argentina 10

POOL D

Samoa 38 Chile 7
 Fiji 57 West Indies 5
 Samoa 43 West Indies 0
 Fiji 76 Chile 0
 Chile 17 West Indies 21
 Samoa 0 Fiji 26

Santiago Day 2

5th January 2002

1/4 FINALS BOWL

Canada 40 Brazil 15
 West Indies 24 Uruguay 19
 France 22 Chile 7
 USA 45 Paraguay 7

1/4 FINALS CUP

New Zealand 21 Australia 5
 Fiji 36 England 7
 South Africa 28 Samoa 14
 Argentina 39 Wales 0

SEMI FINALS SHIELD

Brazil 5 Uruguay 31
 Chile 43 Paraguay 0

SEMI FINALS BOWL

Canada 24-10 West Indies
 USA 33 France 26

SEMI FINALS PLATE

Australia 7 England 15
 Samoa 35 Wales 0

SEMI FINALS CUP

New Zealand 19 Fiji 17
 South Africa 7-14 Argentina

SHIELD FINAL

Uruguay 19 Chile 10

BOWL FINAL

Canada 5 – USA 32

PLATE FINAL

England 12 – Samoa 21

CUP FINAL

New Zealand 21 – Argentina 7



First time ever – the IRB Grand Prix trophy is presented in Paris by IRB Chairman Vernon Pugh Q.C. to Eric Rush the New Zealand captain.

ALL-TIME SERIES POINTS SCORERS

Player	Pts	Team
Waisale Serevi	913	FIJ
Karl Tenana	485	NZL
Peter Miller	440	AUS
Filimoni Delasau	417	FIJ
Tony Monaghan	398	NZL
Amasio Valence	368	NZL
Jared Going	350	NZL
Damian Karauna	347	NZL
Tim Donnelly	316	AUS
Fero Lasagavibau	308	FIJ

IRB WORLD SEVENS SERIES

Series Table as of 17.3.02 (only teams who have points are shown)

Team	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6
NEW ZEALAND	100	20	20	12	16	12	20
SOUTH AFRICA	88	12	12	16	12	20	16
SAMOA	62	16	8	4	12	16	6
FIJI	62	6	12	20	8	4	10
AUSTRALIA	56	8	4	8	20	4	12
ARGENTINA	50	4	16	12	6	8	4
ENGLAND	48	12	6	6	4	12	8
WALES	14	-	4	4	-	6	-
FRANCE	10	4	-	2	-	2	2
UNITED STATES	10	-	2	-	4	-	4
COOK ISLANDS	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
NAMIBIA	2	2	-	-	-	-	-

Beijing 7s Brief

● China's premier Internet portal Sohu.com supported the event with a comprehensive sponsorship package. Having such a giant of the new Chinese economy behind the Tournament has substantially helped increase the profile of the event across China. At the beginning of February Sohu.com launched a bilingual Chinese/English Internet site www.beijing7s.com fully dedicated to the event.

● The event was held at the at the Olympic Stadium, Ya Yun Cun, Chao Yang, in Beijing for the first time ever. The Grand Prix tournament held in China for the second time started originally last year in Shanghai.

● Strong Corporate Sponsorship Support – Several blue-chip sponsors supported the event including BHPBilliton and Peugeot. The association with the event offers the companies exposure both internationally and on Chinese TV, for a truly international China-based event.

● The superb 5-star Swissotel located in the heart of downtown Beijing was the official hotel for the Tournament, while the St. Regis Hotel, Beijing hosted the official Long Lunch on Friday 15th March.

● Shanghai based ADMC have been appointed the official licensee having signed a license agreement to exclusively produce the official merchandise of the Beijing 7s.



Waisale Serevi – in a class of his own

Mar Del Plata Day 1

11th January 2002

POOL A

Samoa 36 USA 0
 Wales 33 Uruguay 0
 Samoa 49 Uruguay 0
 USA 35 Uruguay 0
 Wales 21 USA 17
 Samoa 19 Wales 10

POOL B

South Africa 33 Canada 0
 Fiji 27 Brazil 5
 Canada 35 Brazil 5
 South Africa 15 Fiji 0
 Fiji 31 Canada 0
 South Africa 45 Brazil 7

POOL C

Australia 39 Chile 0
 England 45 Paraguay 0
 Australia 47 Paraguay 14
 England 45 Chile 0
 Paraguay 12 Chile 10
 Australia 12 England 7

POOL D

New Zealand 26 France 0
 Argentina 52 West Indies 0
 New Zealand 12 Argentina 10
 New Zealand 52 West Indies 0
 Argentina 22 France 0
 France 35 West Indies 12

Brisbane Day 1

2nd February 2002

POOL A

New Zealand 47 France 0
 Samoa 38 Japan 7
 New Zealand 39 Japan 5
 Samoa 28 France 10
 France 0 Japan 19
 New Zealand 12 Samoa 10

POOL B

Fiji 45 Cook Islands 0
 Argentina 41 China 5
 Fiji 49 China 5
 Argentina 27 Cook Islands 7
 Cook Islands 38 China 7
 Fiji 29 Argentina 5

POOL C

Australia 56 USA 0
 Wales 17 PNG 35
 Australia 42 PNG 0
 Wales 14 USA 31
 USA 24 PNG 10
 Australia 29 Wales 0

POOL D

South Africa 40 Canada 5
 England 33 Tonga 0
 South Africa 26 Tonga 5
 England 29 Canada 0
 Canada 19 Tonga 14
 South Africa 17 England 5

Wellington Day 1

8th February 2002

POOL A

England 36-0 Papua New Guinea
 New Zealand 45-7 United States
 England 26-21 United States
 New Zealand 52-0 PNG
 New Zealand 50-7 England
 United States 33-0 PNG

POOL B

Wales 26-14 Tonga
 Fiji 50-7 Canada
 Wales 17-14 Canada
 Fiji 40-7 Tonga
 Canada 26-5 Tonga
 Fiji 52-0 Wales

POOL C

Argentina 34-12 Japan
 Australia 17-0 Cook Islands
 Argentina 31-10 Cook Islands
 Australia 21-7 Japan
 Argentina 17-12 Australia
 Japan 19-5 Cook Islands

POOL D

Samoa 48-0 China
 France 17-7 South Africa
 Samoa 33-0 France
 South Africa 61-0 China
 South Africa 35-12 Samoa
 France 33-12 China

Beijing Day 1

16th March 2002

POOL A

South Africa 21-5 Wales
 United States 26-12 China
 United States 22-14 Wales
 South Africa 57-0 China
 Wales 29-14 China
 South Africa 33-5 United States

POOL B

Fiji 19-7 Australia
 France 42-7 Taiwan
 Fiji 36-19 France
 Australia 56-0 Taiwan
 Fiji 53-5 Taiwan
 Australia 43-0 France

POOL C

England 7-5 Samoa
 Canada 29-7 Hong Kong
 Canada 10-7 England
 Samoa 43-5 Hong Kong
 England 43-0 Hong Kong
 Samoa 28-12 Canada

POOL D

New Zealand 31-0 Argentina
 Japan 35-17 Korea
 Korea 36-19 Argentina
 New Zealand 19-0 Japan
 Argentina 47-17 Japan
 New Zealand 26-19 Korea

Mar Del Plata Day 2

12th January 2002

1/4 FINALS BOWL

France 33 Chile 5
 USA 47 Brazil 0
 Canada 15 Uruguay 0
 West Indies 33 Paraguay 12

1/4 FINALS CUP

New Zealand 26 England 5
 Fiji 26 Samoa 0
 South Africa 56 Wales 0
 Argentina 5 Australia 3

SEMI FINALS SHIELD

Chile 15 Brazil 10
 Uruguay 14 Paraguay 17

SEMI FINALS BOWL

France 10 USA 0
 Canada 24 West Indies 0

SEMI FINALS PLATE

England 19 Samoa 12
 Wales 0 Australia 31

SEMI FINALS CUP

Fiji 5 New Zealand 0
 South Africa 17 Argentina 5

SHIELD FINAL

Paraguay 21 Chile 7

BOWL FINAL

France 29 Canada 7

PLATE FINAL

Australia 15 England 12
 (after extra time)

CUP FINAL

Fiji 24 South Africa 7

Brisbane Day 2

3rd February 2002

1/4 FINALS BOWL

Japan 26 China 19
 Canada 10 Wales 17
 PNG 14 Tonga 10
 Cook Islands 12 France 10

1/4 FINALS CUP

New Zealand 24 Argentina 10
 South Africa 25 USA 0
 Australia 29 England 12
 Fiji 5 Samoa 19

SEMI FINALS SHIELD

China 14 Canada 31
 Tonga 26 France 12

SEMI FINALS BOWL

Japan 10 Wales 7
 PNG 14 Cook Islands 19

SEMI FINALS PLATE

Argentina 36 USA 7
 England 12 Fiji 17

SEMI FINALS CUP

New Zealand 14 South Africa 12
 Australia 29 Samoa 5

SHIELD FINAL

Canada 38 Tonga 7

BOWL FINAL

Japan 7 Cook Islands 36

PLATE FINAL

Argentina 5 Fiji 12

CUP FINAL

New Zealand 0 Australia 28

Wellington Day 2

9th February 2002

1/4 FINALS BOWL

USA 21 Tonga 14
 France 10 Cook Islands 5
 Japan 36 China 5
 Canada 33 Papua New Guinea 7

1/4 FINALS CUP

New Zealand 78 Wales 0
 South Africa 28 Australia 0
 Argentina 7 Samoa 14
 Fiji 14 England 19

SEMI FINALS SHIELD

Tonga 14 Cook Islands 19
 China 17 PNG 31

SEMI FINALS BOWL

USA 14 France 31
 Japan 12 Canada 22

SEMI FINALS PLATE

Wales 19 Australia 14
 Argentina 21 Fiji 12

SEMI FINALS CUP

New Zealand 10 South Africa 26
 Samoa 36 England 5

SHIELD FINAL

Cook Islands 38 PNG 14

BOWL FINAL

France 26 Canada 5

PLATE FINAL

Wales 12 Argentina 52

CUP FINAL

South Africa 17 Samoa 14

Beijing Day 2

17th March 2002

1/4 FINALS BOWL

Wales 17 Japan 5
 Canada 40 Taiwan 17
 France 36 Hong Kong 5
 Korea 36 China 5

1/4 FINALS CUP

South Africa 33 Argentina 12
 Australia 17 Samoa 12
 New Zealand 40 United States 7
 Fiji 28 England 14

SEMI FINALS SHIELD

Japan 24 Taiwan 12
 Hong 29 China 7

SEMI FINALS BOWL

France 10 Korea 5
 Canada 28 Wales 17

SEMI FINALS PLATE

Samoa 54 Argentina 7
 England 21 United States 12

SEMI FINALS CUP

South Africa 19 Australia 12
 New Zealand 35 Fiji 12

SHIELD FINAL

Japan 40 Hong Kong 5

BOWL FINAL

France 33 Canada 14

PLATE FINAL

England 33 Samoa 14

CUP FINAL

New Zealand 41 South Africa 14

Barcelona – WRWC 2002



WOMEN'S RUGBY

STOP PRESS... STOP PRESS...

Media Accreditation WRWC 2002

The Media Accreditation for the WRWC 2002 in Barcelona, May 13-25, 2002, has commenced. All Journalists and photographers interested in covering the event could apply using the electronic application form available on the IRB Internet site www.irb.org. For those unable to use the Internet, printed application forms are available.

While the Spanish team is sharpening up its act in the Women's Six Nations, the Spanish and Catalan Federations are working round the clock to finalise the preparations for the biggest rugby competition ever held in Spain. The FER President Alfonso Mandado visited Barcelona in February to discuss with the Catalan officials state of preparedness for the big event.

"The Women's Rugby World Cup is very important for Spanish Rugby. It is important for several reasons, it helps us to create a strong, positive image for the game in Spain, it creates an awareness among public and sponsors and naturally, will help Spanish rugby and Federation



Spanish Federation President Alfonso Mandado (right) with Santboiana RFC President Victor Marlet.

establish an increasingly high international profile. That will ultimately lead to a higher profile for the game in Spain and hopefully to an increased number of players and supporters. We are aware that RWC is the vehicle and we need to attach the train." Mr. Mandado said.

Canada are ready

Rugby Canada announced the 26-strong squad for the WRWC in Barcelona. Coach Rick Suggit assisted by David Docherty, has gone for a mix of experience and youth, tested during the summer series against the Eagles and the autumn tour to Wales. The majority of the squad have been with the team since 1998, if not longer. Veteran props Josse Lacasse and Gillian Florence from Beaconsfield RFC Quebec, will be attending their third world Tournament, (the second official World Cup) while five other played in 1998. That leaves 19 RWC newcomers keen to prove themselves in the women's premier competition. On May 3rd the squad will gather in Kingston Ontario, for a six-day camp and will depart on May 9. The crucial first match against Ireland takes place on May 13, with Canada keen to defend their fourth place won in 1998.



Canada on the attack versus England

France down England

Until their match against France in the Women's Six Nations, England have been regarded as the main contender to end New Zealand's supremacy in the Women's game in the WRWC 2002 in May. But their 22-17 defeat at the hands of a buoyant French team, bristling with talent and confidence has added a new name on the list of potential challengers for the main trophy in Barcelona, and naturally has delighted the French, rebuilding after a fairly low-key season, by their standards anyway. "It was not a bad performance taking into account that we only had three days of preparation. As the time wore on we started to believe that we could defeat this English team and one day we were proven right. We scored three tries to their one and generally played a very structured, intelligent game." French coach Daniel Dupouy said.

The defeat must have acted as a cold shower for the England team, in the aftermath of their historic win over New Zealand last summer. Their Australian coach Geoff Richards, voted Sports Coach UK's 'England Coach of the Year' alongside the England soccer coach Sven Goran Eriksson, and athletics coach Alex Stanton, has been given a golden opportunity to remind his players that staying at the top is far harder than challenging for higher honours. The defeat at the hands of France is just a timely reminder of way values change at the elite end of the women's game.

Wallaroo ambitions

The 26-woman Wallaroo squad - with 12 "veterans" from the 1998 WRWC in their ranks - contains players from all over Australia, though is dominated by New South Wales contingent, contributing nearly half the squad, writes Greg Thomas.

In preparation for the 13-day tournament in Barcelona from 13-25 May the Wallaroos will assemble on May 4 in Sydney for a four-day camp before departing for Spain on May 8. The limited preparation will not include any lead up matches, but the eighth seeded Wallaroos are confident of improving upon their fifth place at the 1998 World Cup in Amsterdam - the first time they had

competed at the Women's Rugby World Wup.

Wallaroo Manager, Stephen Swan, said: "We are a little surprised to be seeded as low as eighth due to our fifth position at the last tournament but since then we have not played a lot since 1998, we have to accept where we have been placed. However, we really believe we have the squad to finish in the top three this time around. This year the squad has much more depth in all positions including the bench. Last year we fielded a competitive A team against England something we could not have done four years ago."

Penelope Anderson (NSW), Elizabeth Andrew (NT)*, Ianthe

Astley-Boden (ACT), Alyssa Campbell (NSW), Louise Cooke (ACT), Davina Craft (NSW), Genevieve Delves (NSW)*, Jennifer Egan (ASRU), Louise Ferris (NSW), Lisa Fiaola (NSW), Mieke Gladwin (QLD)*, Alexandra Hargreaves (NSW), Debby Hodgkinson (WA), Bronwyn Laidlaw (QLD)*, Melissa Latu-Lutui (VIC)*

Bronwyn Mackintosh (NSW)*, Sharon O'Kane (ACT)*, Tui Ormsby (WA), Nyree Osieck (ASRU), Pearl, Palaialii (NSW)*, Naomi Roberts (NT)*, Charmain Smith (NSW), Cherylleen Soon (WA), Rebecca Wakim (NSW)*, Nicole Wickert (NSW)*, Selena Worsley (QLD)*.

(* Played in 1998 RWC)

Black Ferns prepare ambush

New Zealand is gearing up for a major battle to retain its title at the IRB Women's Rugby World Cup in May, reports NZRU's Anna Kominik. Black Ferns selectors Darryl Suasua, Brian Hays and Colin Stevens named a 68-player training squad late last year as part of New Zealand's preparations. However fans are going to have to wait until mid-April to see the makeup of the final squad who will travel to Barcelona to defend the title it won comfortably in Amsterdam in 1998.

The challenge facing the Black Ferns was underlined last June when the touring England side tied a two-Test series by winning the second Test 22-17 in Albany. It was New Zealand's first loss in over a decade and only their second-ever defeat following the United States' 7-0 win in the semi-finals of the 1991 World Cup.

Coach Suasua said everyone associated with the Black Ferns had done a lot of soul-searching after the defeat. "We know that we cannot afford to be complacent. England is not the only threat. There are a number of other teams that have closed the gap on us since the last World Cup."

Suasua added the large training squad had ensured that a wider group of players had been exposed to the game plan, moves and culture of the Black Ferns' environment.

Eagles squad announced

The USA team, runners-up in 1998 - announced the 30 players chosen to attend the team's second and final selection WRWC 2002 camp. The announcement comes after 32 players attended the first World Cup Camp in January at the ARCO Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, California. After rigorous fitness testing Coach Martin Gallagher reduced the squad to 30, which be further reduced to 26 after the final camp in Blaine, Minnesota, in April. The squad includes hooker Cynthia Gehrke, the IRB Woman player of the year in 2001.

"The camp provided us the opportunity to look very closely at players we had been tracking throughout 2001, at events such as our United Kingdom tour and the USA Rugby All-Star Tournament," Gallagher explained. "Further, it helped us identify which players worked best together and played a solid, unified game. The next step is to refine this team even further." Gallagher said.

USA Women training squad.

Aerts, Hedwig New York Rugby Football Club, Inc.; Baja, Kristin Washington Furies Rugby Football Club; Bennett, Claudia Beantown Women's Rugby Football Club; Borkowski, Kathy No Club Affiliation; Caplan, Libby University of Northern Iowa; Crouse, Jen Beantown Women's Rugby Football Club; Cyganik, Kim Maryland Stingers Women's Rugby Football Club; Davis, Stacey East Bay Bulldogs Women's Rugby Club; Dahlberg, Shari Wisconsin Women's



USA on the attack in the 1998 final against New Zealand

Rugby Football Club; English, Ashley Berkeley Women's All Blues Rugby Club; Fenske, Jill Univ. California - Los Angeles Women's Rugby; Fitz, Nancy Washington Women's Rugby Football Club; Foley, Stacey Keystone Rugby Club; Gehrke, Cynthia Wisconsin Women's Rugby Football Club; Goodfriend, Jenny Minnesota Valkyries Rugby Football Club; Hale, Heather Washington Women's Rugby

Football Club; Jervey, Patty Atlanta Harlequins Women's Rugby Club; Karvoski, Ellie New York Rugby Football Club, Inc.; Kirk, Liz Seattle Rugby Football Club-Women; Knight, Phaidra Wisconsin Women's Rugby Football Club; Lake, Elizabeth, Minnesota Valkyries Rugby Football Club; McCabe, Kerry Beantown Women's Rugby Football Club; Metzger, Becky Maryland Stingers

Women's Conference on the Game

It has been now confirmed that the Women's Conference on the Game will be held on Wednesday 22 May 2002 in Barcelona. All Unions in membership of the IRB have been invited.

Women's Rugby Football Club; Ottens, Meredith Minnesota Valkyries Rugby Football Club; Rodriguez, Ines Keystone Rugby Club; Sandquist, Myra Twin Cities Amazons; Sikora, Jen Keystone Rugby Club; Stewart, Katie New York Rugby Football Club, Inc.; Wallison, Bex New York Rugby Football Club, Inc.; Williams, Alex Berkeley Women's All Blues Rugby Club.

The 34th World Youth (U19) Championship

The World U19 Championship kicks off as planned on the 20th of March, though Canada, scheduled to play late-entrants Moldova - promoted following the decision of Samoa to pull out - get a bye. The Moldovians have been unable to get entry visas from the Italian authorities and had to pull out, which leaves the B Division one team short. The Organising Committee chaired by FIR vice-president Filippo Duodo, from Treviso has been working round the clock to finalise the preparations for the event. Tournament Manager Tulio Rosolen confirmed that all venues and facilities in the three regions hosting the event, Friuli, Venezia Giulia are ready.

The main matches will be held to the four first

division clubs in the region: Padua Stadio del Plebisicito with 10,000 seats, Treviso, Stadio di Monigowith 10,000 seats, Rovigo – Stadio M.Battaglini for 7,000 spectators and Sand Dona di Piave, Stadio P.Torresan, with 3,500 seats. In addition another 18 rugby pitches have been prepared for the tournament, Rovigo (Battaglini 2), Badia Polesine, Monselice, Paudua University, Padua Guizza, Casale sul Sile, Favaro Veneto, Mirano, Mogliano, Paese, Silea, Villorba, Feltre, Belluno, Pordenone, Verone, Piece di Soligo and Montebelluna. A total of 65 clubs and associations in the three regions provide training facilities, contributing to the hosting of the 32-nation event, the biggest tournament of its kind in the world.



Scotland confident

The Scotland U19 squad, with Peter Gallagher as coordinator, managed by former Scotland and British Lion Bruce Hay, coached by Henry Edwards and Eamonn John and with flanker Allister Hogg (Stirling County and Scottish Institute of Sport) as captain start their campaign against Uruguay on Thursday 21 March in Rovigo, writes SRU Media Manager Graham Law.

Nineteen of Scotland's squad for this season's competition were part of the Scotland under-18 squad that made such an entertaining and high-try scoring contribution to last season's Four Nations tournament for that age-group in Wales. A further three members of the squad are graduates from last season's Scotland under-18 A side.

This season, as part of their preparations for the IRB/FIRA competition, Scotland under-19 have recorded victories over Australian and Welsh Schools and a thumping success against Italy under-19. They also lost narrowly to New Zealand Schools.

Scotland first competed in this competition seven years ago in Bucharest, Romania. Their best finishing position to date was the fourth place they achieved in Brescia, Italy in 1996 when their best result was a victory against South Africa.

Tunisia advance

Experienced coach Mohamed Sahraoui is in charge and the team has been preparing since the beginning of the year for an event, widely regarded as the engine of Tunisian youth rugby. " Although between 1994-1998 I have been one of the coaches of the Senior National Team, I worked with the Youth team, since the early 90s. I have been in charge of the U19 since 1998 and have to say that they have given me great satisfaction. I am sure we can improve on the 12th position of last year in Chile, but taking part in the World U19, in not only about winning. It is about developing players for the future, which is our main task"



Netherlands tackle Croatia to a standstill

Netherlands prepare

The Dutch team, who commenced their campaign against the US Eagles last week is coached by veteran coach and former Netherlands lock-forward Eric Hengeveld currently the coach of AAC Amsterdam, together with John Eikemans the coach of Oisters RFC. The two coaches have been together since 1990, when Hengeveld started his U19 stint, though Eikemans has been coaching the Youth since 1987. The squad managed by Piet Bakker, has been preparing since last December. The young Dutch played several matches in the build-up to the Tournament, which they ended with a training camp in France.



Portugal v Germany

Portugal, traditionally one of the protagonists of the B Division, believe that this year they have the talent to go all the way, with the promotion to Division A as the main objective.

The team coached by Sérgio Franco and Ivo Corridin and captained by Duarte Silveira is a handy mixture of talent and enterprise and will start their campaign against the German team

who have been preparing since the beginning of the year under National coach Matthias Bechtel from Heidelberg, helped by France's Matthieu Cordon. According to DRV Technical Director Peter Ianusevic the German youngsters met every three weekends for a preparation camp and in February spent a week in Vichy with Cordon and Bechtel. The Portuguese believe that they can overcome the Germans in Round one, but the Germans, perhaps smaller in size than the previous years, may agree to disagree.

Watch out for England!

It is the first time England U19 have full access to all their players, including the Schools players and the team coached by Tosh Askew and managed by Peter Drewitt has had a smooth build up to the Italian tournament. Said Askew, who played for Liverpool, Lancashire and Yorkshire between 1977-1991 "We have a reasonably settled and improving squad. We have played NZ schools who were over on tour and lost 18-33. After wins against Wales, Ireland and France we look forward to the U19 World Championship in very good heart. We have a very

talented and complementary squad and the players to watch should be Adrian Wynan (Saracens), Chris Bell (Harlequins) and Marcel Garvey (Gloucester)."

The team coached by Askew improved as the time wore on and their 15-3 win over France, last year's World Championship finalists was particularly satisfying in the build-up to the Tournament. Askew, who was appointed full-time U19 coach last November, became an RFU Senior Coach in 1991 and coached Waterloo in National 2 for five years. He coached North England U21 and North and Midland England U21 for five years, after which he took over England 17 development squad for two years. In 1999 became part-time assistant coach to England U19 which he did for two years.

Paraguay hopes

Paraguay's National U-19 squad has been preparing since September last year under the guidance of coach Rubén González, Norman A Langer writes.

Coach Gonzales said: "For Paraguay the U19 World Championship has become the engine of our development in the country. The excitement and the desire to attend has generated such enthusiasm that the U19 game is simply growing in size all the time. Our preparations commenced with a number of matches against Argentine

provinces. We beat the Argentine North East (U-19) 18-15 in a warm-up match prior to the pre-qualifying match against Brazil that we won 33-0 a few days later. The squad, with still 8 players from last year's Tournament in Chile, attended a 42 day special training programme for the South American U-19 Championship, where they played teams in the first division of the U19 championship. Although we lost, these matches have been of great help, considering the strength of our rivals, and I should be able to eliminate any bugs and hope the lads will acquit themselves better than last year."

Watson takes the lead

The SA Under 19 is determined to remain among the best in the world when they campaign in the World Junior (U19) Championships in Italy this week, reports SARFU's Vusi Kama. The 26-strong squad spent a week in camp in Cape Town, putting final touches to their preparations. They played two friendly matches, against the Sarfu Academy at Florida Park in Cape Town and one against Maties U20 in Stellenbosch several weeks ago.

The South Africans, who won the 1994 tournament in France, kick off this year's campaign against Chile on March 21, in the A Group that features New Zealand, England and France. Luke Watson son of veteran anti-apartheid hero Cheeky captains the team. Watson, who captained the 2001 SA Schools and was a member of the Sarfu Academy in Port Elizabeth has already had Vodacom Cup experience this year together with other five squad members: Carl Wannenberg, Jeremy Plaatjies, Thembani Mkhokeli, Dirk Hougaardt and Jeandre Fourie. Also

from the same Academy in PE are Joseph Fortuin and Thembani Mkhokeli. According to coach Oersond Gorgonzola, who is also the head coach of the SARFU Port Elisabeth Academy the side boasts players who can adapt to different playing tactics.

"We have a wide choice of players we can select according to the opponents on the day. Within a limited space of time, they have learnt quickly the theory and practice of what we are trying to achieve. The mix of skill is also very good." Gorgonzola said

Sixteen of the 26 players in the squad are from SA Schools and SA Academy squads. Bronwyn Julies, who is the brother of the Stormers' centre Wayne Julies, is from the Sarfu Academy at the University of the Western Cape. Two other players with strong rugby links in their families are Francois Van Der Merwe, who is the son of former Springbok, Flippie, and Carl Wannenberg, whose brother, Pedrie, is a former member of the SA Under 19 squad.

Los Pumitas on song

Argentina, one of the leading lights of the Tournament, and its South American neighbours Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay had a useful build-up in the South American Championship a fortnight before the tournament. The Young Argentines won with exquisite ease and assurance, while Chile confirmed their recent progress by finishing second after conclusively beating Uruguay. Paraguay, who will play in the B Division, found the going tough against Los Pumitas and Los Cóndores, but showed their potential against Uruguay in the final round of the Tournament played in Buenos Aires. During the Tournament Chile, Paraguay and Argentina were located in BA, while Uruguay travelled for each match shuttling from Montevideo to BA, with round trips of 24 hours that affected their play. Results: Chile 34 – Uruguay 7, Argentina 80 – Paraguay 0, Chile 47 – Paraguay 0, Argentina 33 – Uruguay 3, Uruguay 9 – Paraguay 3, Argentina 63 – Chile 0



Argentina – exquisite ease and assurance

Wales – Tough Schedule

After a fairly undistinguished U19 Six Nations so far, Wales - promoted to number three seed following Australia's withdrawal - have been looking forward to the 34th World Championship to give their 2002 Season a bit of shine. With new manager Cledwyn Edwards in charge, following the retirement of former manager and coach Martin Davies, and coached by Dai and Duncan Rees, helped by the WRU advisor John Schropfer, the Welsh embark on the four-match, 10-day campaign with a fair degree of assurance. Head

coach Dai Rees is confident that the narrow defeats at the hands of England, (an inexplicable 12-0 at Twickenham), France, New Zealand Youth and Australian Schools will ultimately help his talented team to do themselves justice in Italy.

"We start with a difficult game against Georgia, an unknown quantity at this age group, yet the most improved European team last season at senior level, but we should go through for what looks like a clash with Argentina. The Pumitas are unbeaten this year but we fancy our chances, if we managed to stay clear of injuries to our key players. A clash with France in the semis would be a very interesting proposition, which I am sure the boys would cherish" Dai Rees said.

France fine-tuning

The 15-3 defeat at the hands of rampant England in the Six Nations U19, has done France a great deal of good, argues Manager Max Goddemet. "It is true we were beaten by a better team, but we were a bit complacent after the good match against a very strong Welsh team. It is a good lesson before the World U19 Championship, and will help us to approach the Tournament in Italy with humility and improved concentration."

The match against England in Tours has revealed a number of defensive faults in the French set-up and an inability to retain possession in contact situations, aspects which will have been sorted out by coached Philippe Agostini and Didier Retiere, by the time France, the second seed, kick off against an ambitious and dynamic Russian team, returning to the first division after a year in the second.

TECHNICAL FILE with Lee Smith

In the first part of our Technical File series devised and written by the IRB Development Manager for Oceania, Lee Smith, we concentrate on the game, as it is taught and understood by coaches and players.

Understanding Rugby



Rugby is a game in which the prime objective is to ground the ball across the goal line to score a try. In order to do this, a team's players must have possession of the ball. Their opponent's objective is to prevent them from scoring a try.

There are contests during the game for possession of the ball. These are:

- scrums
- lineouts
- play after a tackle
- rucks
- mauls
- fielding the kicked or "loose" ball
- picking up the ball when it is on the ground after a tackle

During the game, contests for possession occupy a large amount of time. Scrum and lineout contests involve the forwards only, while rucks, mauls, fielding kicks and play after a tackle may involve the whole team.

Once possession of the ball has been gained the team with it may use it to score a try in the following ways.

- run with the ball towards the goal line avoiding defenders
- pass the ball amongst team mates in a better position than themselves to assist in avoiding defenders
- kick the ball towards the goal line, regain it and carry it over the goal line
- kick the ball over the goal line and ground it

The aim of these actions is to score points by:

- a "try"
 - grounding the ball over the goal line – 5 points
- a "conversion"
 - converting the try to a goal by kicking the ball over the goalposts – 2 points
- a "field goal"
 - drop kicking the ball over the goalposts from the field of play – 3 points
- a "penalty"
 - place kicking or drop kicking the ball over the goalposts when a

penalty has been awarded following an infringement by the opposing team – 3 points

DEFENDING

The team that is without possession of the ball has the task of:

- preventing the team in possession from moving the ball down the field
- preventing the opposing team from scoring
- regaining possession of the ball

This is achieved by:

- tackling the ball carrier
- "snaffling" the loose ball away from the ball carrier
- forcing the ball carrier over the touchline or forcing the ball carrier to kick the ball over the touchline. This gives the team the chance to regain the ball at the lineout that follows
- "pressuring" the ball carrier and supporting team mates into errors and minor infringements that result in a scrum from which the ball may be regained
- "fielding" the ball kicked by opponents – to either catch it or pick it up if it is on the ground
- picking up the ball that is on the ground

SET PLAYS

Set plays are used to start and restart the game when stoppages occur. These are:

Kick-offs

- kick-offs are taken from the centre of the halfway line:
 - to start the game and to restart play after half-time – a place kick
 - to restart play after a team has been scored – a drop kick
- when the ball is kicked off it must travel beyond the 10 metre line unless it is first played by an opponent
- no player of the kicking team may be in front of the ball when the kick is being taken
- the ball must not be kicked over the touch line on the full

Dropouts

- dropouts are always drop kicks
- they are taken from behind the 22 metre line and the ball must reach the 22 metre line or pass beyond it after the attacking team has:
 - kicked the ball over the goal line where it is grounded by a defending player
 - kicked the ball over the dead ball line or into touch in goal
- no player of the kicking team may be in front of the ball when the kick is being taken

Scrum

- scrums are formed in the field of play to restart play after minor Law infringements eg. the ball is passed or knocked forward

Lineouts

- lineouts are formed to restart play after the ball has gone over the touch line or has been carried over it

Penalty Kicks / Free Kicks

- penalty kicks and free kicks are taken to restart play when one team has infringed the Law
- free kicks are taken to restart play after a "fair catch" has been claimed. A fair catch or "mark" occurs when the ball has been kicked by an opponent and it is caught within the 22 metre line the catcher calling "mark"

TEMPORARY STOPPAGES IN PLAY

- after play has restarted at a set piece it is often halted and the contest for the ball takes place without any direction from the referee. These are called second phase plays and include rucks and mauls
- in addition, action that is temporarily stopped may continue after a player has been tackled, allowing others to gain possession of the ball and to run, pass or kick it
- all players may be involved in these contests although generally it is the forwards who are

THE USE OF THE BALL

- forwards win the ball for the backs to initiate an attack in which both backs and forwards may be involved
- the aim of an attack is to carry the ball down the field to score points or to create a points scoring opportunity

- to do this effectively ball carriers must at all times be supported by team mates ready to receive a pass or assist the ball carrier in some other way

POSITIONING

- attacking and defending players must place themselves in the correct positions on the field
- position simply means players being where they are best able to perform their positional roles
- there are two kinds of positioning:
 - static positioning – where to be before the action starts
 - dynamic positioning – where to go and what to do when the action starts

Static Positioning

Note : In all diagrams the number correspond to the positional numbers used in all rugby teams as directed by the IRB.

Diagram 1
Scrum Positioning

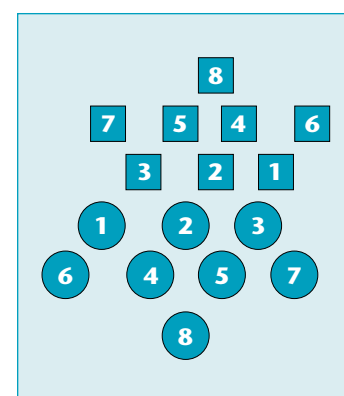
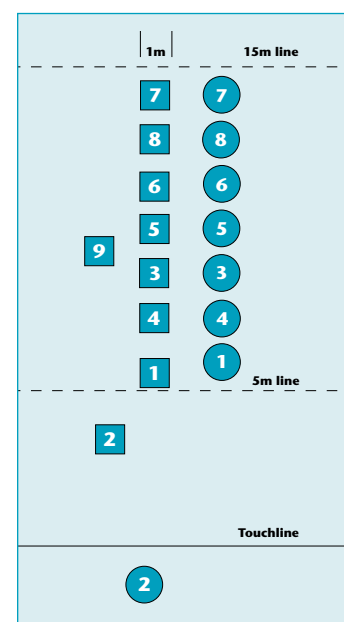


Diagram 2
Lineout Positioning



Usually No 2 – the hooker - will be the thrower and the other players will line up between the 5 metre and 15 metre lines:

- No. 1 prop/support
- No. 4 lock/jumper
- No. 3 prop/support
- No. 5 lock/jumper
- No. 6 flanker/support
- No. 8 No. 8/jumper
- No. 7 flanker/support
- No. 9 scrum half / half back

Backline Positionings

The key to backline formations for the following diagrams is:

- No. 9 halfback
- No. 10 first five eighth / fly half / out half
- No. 11 left wing
- No. 12 second five eighth / inside centre
- No. 13 centre / outside centre
- No. 14 right wing
- No. 15 fullback

Diagram 3 – Backline Positioning from Scrums – from one side of the field

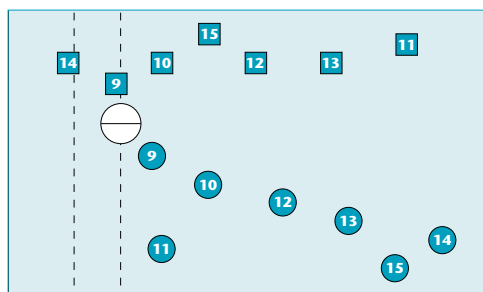


Diagram 4 – Backline Positioning from Scrums – from centre of the field

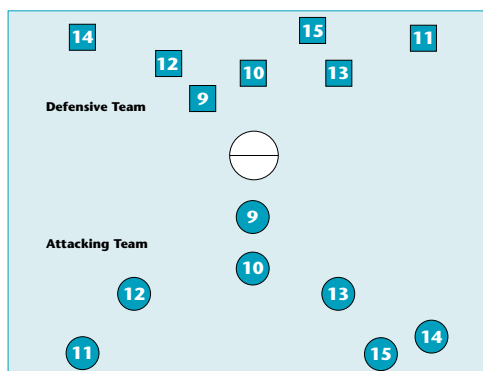


Diagram 5 – Backline Positioning from Lineouts

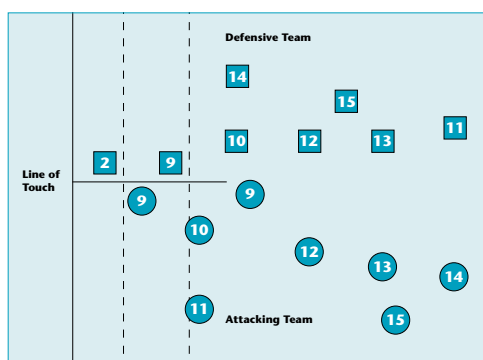
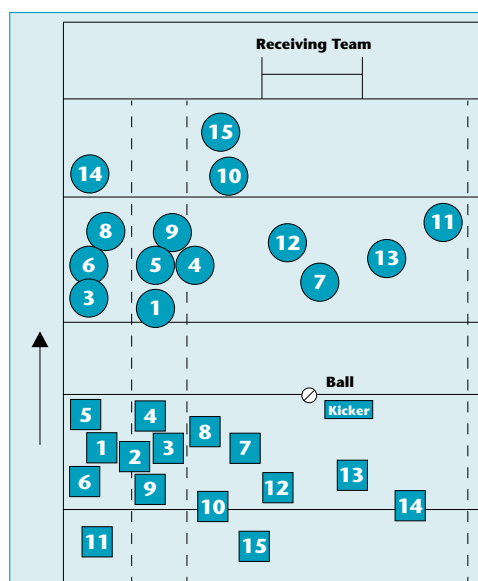


Diagram 6 – Positioning for the Kickoff Dynamic Positioning



For players to usefully contribute to the team's attacking or defensive efforts once the action commences the following guidelines will be helpful:

Attacking Players

The ball carrier should:

- go forward
- run straight
- run in balance to make a tackle more difficult and to withstand impact
- pass to supporting players in a better position i.e. those with more room and further from opposing players
- if there are no supporting players in a better position either kick ahead or retain the ball and set up a ruck or maul

The supporting player should run closely enough to the ball carrier:

- for the ball to be passed no "heaved"
- to be able to support on either side – left or right
- not run ahead of the ball carrier, as the ball cannot be passed forward

Defending Players

Defending Players should:

- run towards the ball carrier
- run in line from inside the ball carrier so that the ball carrier is driven outwards
- run in balance, ready to crouch
 - in a crouched position the defender can tackle, bind or recover the ball on the ground with minimal adjustment
- not move away from a ball carrier until the play has passed or kicked the ball
- support a team mate by completing the tackle on a partially tackled opponent
- endeavour to be in a position to move towards the ball whether it is being carried or kicked

POSITIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

Forwards

There are two types of forwards – tight forwards and loose forwards. Their roles are different but complementary.

- **The tight forwards** – The hooker, props and locks
 - these players are called "the front five"
 - they apply themselves to the job of winning possession of the ball at scrums, lineouts, rucks,

mauls, kick-offs and drop-outs

- they also take part in general play

The Hooker

as well as being a member of the front five the hooker has the additional tasks of:

- hooking the ball in the scrum
- usually throwing the ball into the lineouts
- **The Loose forwards** – The flankers and No. 8
 - these players are called "the loosies" or the back row
 - they apply themselves to the job of winning possession at set pieces but often they may be less committed to this task than the front five
 - although they have an important role in winning possession at set pieces their key role is in ensuring the ball is retained at phase play and general play
 - they have the additional task of moving quickly about the field in support of their backs on attack and applying pressure to their opponents in defence

Backs

There are three types of backs – the inside backs, the midfield backs and the back three. Again their roles are different, but complementary.

The inside backs – the halfback / scrum half; and first five eighth / fly half

- these players are the link between the forwards and the other backs
- by passing the ball quickly to the outside backs the opportunities to gain territory and to score points are increased
- these players need to be fast runners and passers and sound decision makers in choosing the best option to attack
- in defence they must be able to tackle their opposite player within the team's defence pattern
- **The midfield backs** – second five eighth and centre
 - with more space, these players are able to accelerate and manoeuvre to provide the thrust and power of the attack. They should have sound passing skills for the attack to develop
 - when defending, these players have to be strong tacklers to stop hard running opponents
 - in both attack and defence, midfield backs run in balance to withstand impact and to apply themselves strongly yet safely to their tasks
 - in contact these players must be able to retain possession so that their team can continue to attack

The back three – the wings and fullback

- these players should be fast runners so that they can complete the attack initiated by the other backs to score tries
- they must be able to evade opponents
- in defence they must be able to tackle their opponent within the team pattern
- in defence they must also be able to field any balls that are kicked to them behind the remainder of their team
- when they field the ball by catching or picking up they may then counter attack by passing, running or kicking

Rugby is a game that balances the contest for the ball with continuing play. As a result it is a game in which players of a variety of abilities assist each other to stop the opposition from scoring points, to get the ball back and to score points themselves.

REFEREES' PAGE

Mental Skills for Rugby Referees

By Dr Lewis J. O. McGill, School of Sport and Recreation, Southern Institute of Technology, Invercargill, New Zealand

As with all successful performers rugby referees must prepare physically, psychologically and emotionally for each match. Sports officials like athletes attribute their success or failure to a range of factors. Attributions cover people's perception about causes of events. For a rugby referee the challenge is to oversee a game of two teams of fifteen players in which the players have the opportunity to perform at their best while providing an enjoyable experience for the spectators. Referees like other sports officials need to exert a degree of control over the game. Rugby is a physical game with a high degree of physical contact. At elite levels of performance, rugby is played with high levels of emotion. It is the challenge of the referee to establish and maintain a setting in which the players are able to express their physical prowess and their emotions. There is just one referee on the field during the entire game. He is assisted by two linesmen whose responsibilities include indicating when either players or the ball travel out of play, indicate the success or otherwise of kicks at goal, and indicating to the referee when a major infringement of the rules has occurred. All actions of the linesmen are to be considered by the referee as advice. The referee must make the decision as to what should be the consequent outcome. According to the official rules the referee has total control of the game. It can therefore be seen that rugby referees will be candidates for the full range of fears, uncertainties, highs, lows, and decision making dilemmas as players. Referees would also like to reproduce the successful performances and eliminate the unsuccessful.

The developments within rugby in the past decade have catapulted the game well and truly away from the game as it began in the 19th century. Demands on players have increased. It is expected that they will act in a 'professional manner'. They must be physically fit and have a high level of skill competence. The large amounts of money which are now available to Unions through sponsorship deals and television rights has meant that some players are receiving relatively large salaries to play. Their income, and financial worth, are enhanced greatly when they are able to secure commercial endorsements. The

players have agents, lawyers, personal trainers and other specialists to help them to both secure the best financial package and get themselves into the best physical shape to play the game. The unions are also having to deal with large amounts of money and have been forced to employ their own team of experts to help in all the administrative areas of presenting the game to the public. Rugby has joined the many sports which are now firmly within the gambit of the entertainment industry.

A related development has been that of the professional rugby referee. Men who have been able to make a career being a rugby referee. A career that will last only while their legs can keep them up with the players on the field and they can cope with all of the pressures which come with what one referee has called ... 'the best seat in the house'!

What does a rugby referee do on the field?

1. makes decisions
2. changes attentional focus
3. control his reactions to what is going on
4. predicts where the play will go
5. deals with people
6. runs and runs and runs – making decisions all the while

What attributes must he have?

- composure
- confidence
- be prepared
- positive self-belief
- control arousal level
- ignore distractions
- have rapport with players, linesmen and others
- be fair, consistent
- know rules
- deal with 'fear of failure'
- be comfortable with being a success
- perform within the 'bubble' or 'cocoon'
- be able to move on once a decision or action has taken place

What Sport Psychology techniques and skills are required to help in preparing for a match?

1. goal setting
2. coping with distractions
3. relaxation
4. attentional focus
5. imagery and mental rehearsal
6. diary/log book
7. check lists
8. appropriate communication



Mental preparation – essential for success

This is the first in a series of articles which discuss the application of Sport Psychology skills and strategies to rugby refereeing.

Distractions

Distractions are those influences, happenings, thoughts, people or objects which cause a referee to lose focus on what is happening on the field of play. What can be distractions?

PEOPLE

crowd, family, players, team management, the assessor, the big screen, the media, fans and mascots

THINGS

banners, noise, the boss, work

NATURE

weather; rain, wind, sun, heat, humidity, The field

RELATIONSHIPS

family, fans, friends, media, players, linesmen, assessor, IRB, national rugby union, self, trainers

RESPONSIBILITIES

chores, meet mortgage payments, wash the car, paint the house

WHAT I SHOULD HAVE DONE

spent time with the family, chores at home before leaving for the game, tasks at work, telephone calls, letters to be written, reports to write, people to visit

THINGS WITHIN ME

hunger and thirst, not being fit enough, tiredness, fatigue, uncomfortable clothing and boots, earphones and microphone, not being prepared

When you run onto the paddock it is important, imperative, that you have parked all the distractions. You do not enter the arena with any of the

'baggage' of everyday life. It is all left behind. It is possible to develop simple but effective strategies to leave all of that behind you. In almost all cases distractions will serve only to distract you from your primary mission or doing a great job with the whistle. We can describe and teach you techniques that go by the titles of The Black Box, The Lake, The Sea Chest. Techniques whereby you clear your mind and allow rugby refereeing material to enter. You can learn to use imagery to enhance your ability to make decisions, to see what is going on during play, to deal with the obnoxious player, to refocus, and to reinforce that you are a great referee!

It is true that we are what we think we are. We are the result of the most effective type of self-fulfilling prophecy; our fundamental beliefs about ourselves and what we expect that we can achieve. Positive images and thoughts in; positive results will follow.

An interesting exercise is to list all the things over which you have control. Then in a second list all of those which you cannot control. As you will have probably predicted the second list will be many times longer than the first. However, there is no reason to despair! We have an indirect way of controlling this long list. We can do it by remote control by controlling how we react to all of them. There is the remote control. We control ourselves and so they do not control us.

Here is one technique which you can so as not to be bothered by your everyday responsibilities.

As you drive from your home stop just around the corner. Or if you are flying, find yourself a seat alone or do

this exercise just as the airplane leaves the ground.

Close your eyes. Take a deep breath. As you breath out imagine that you are standing beside a beautiful blue lake surrounded by mountains. See the lake in vivid colour. Now take each item which will be a distraction and drop it in the lake. Watch it hit the surface and sink out of sight. See the ripples radiate to the edge of the lake. If you have done everything at home and work that is physically possible within the time available then placing everything else in the lake will serve to eliminate a long list of potential distractions. Remember that if something keeps you awake then it is a distraction because you will be tired and tiredness is a distraction.



Goal Setting

As a successful referee you possess the skills and knowledge to apply sport psychology strategies and techniques.

Goal setting is a traditional technique and process used by athletes. It is not an add-on process. You are setting goals all of the time. To prove the point to yourself complete the following 'questionnaire':

Section A:

When did you choose to live in your present home? How did you make the choice?

Do you plan to move? If so when? If not why not?

When did you decide to play sport? Or be involved in sport?

When did you make your choice of your career?

When did you decide to become a rugby referee?

Section B:

How good do you want to be at refereeing rugby?

When do you think you will reach your peak?

When do you think you will retire from refereeing?

What do you need to improve to move up the ranks?

Who will work with you to help you improve?

When do you hope to complete these improvements?

Section C:

What would you call the answers to these questions?

Discussion. All of the answers are your goals.

Some notes about goals.

1. It is important to have goals of varying 'length'; a season, one year, two years, five years - ten years, career.

2. Goals must meet criteria

S specific
M measurable
A achievable
R relevant
T time lined

Specific; relates directly to a specific aspect of your sport. Development of strength, aerobic fitness, anaerobic fitness, flexibility, speed and acceleration; control of emotions; keeping a diary, setting goals, diet, time management.

Measurable; can you record details of your progress toward each goal? Are you able to show the percentage decrease in your 40 meter sprint time? Increase in bench press?

Achievable; even if the goal is set at a high level can you see yourself making it?

Relevant; it is necessary to work on elements which directly impact on your refereeing ability. Some things are nice to do but will not help you as a referee. These nice things can be used as rewards as you achieve each incremental goal.

Timed; when precisely will you reach the goal? Be precise. Not next year, or next winter, or in two years, or when I am 25! But, 31 March 2002, 20 November 2003.

Goal setting is a popular theme or topic which is often included in self-improvement books. The research points in the direction that you are more likely to get there when you see yourself being successful, reaching your goal, which you have created in your mind in vivid colours, stereophonic sound, with taste and smell. No iron clad guarantees, but be aware that we are the result of what we think we are and what we think we are capable of achieving. Should you not reach all of your written goals you will, all the same, arrive at a

destination which is part of your compendium of goals anyway. So why not orchestrate and programme yourself? Get to where you want to go. Be where you want to be. Do this with SMART Goals.

Some examples of goals for Rugby referees:

- By 31 March 2002 my 40 metre sprint will be 5.35 seconds.
- In the 2001 season I will pass with honours my Theory examination.
- By the end of the 2002 season I will be nominated for the I.R.B panel.
- I will be selected for the 2003 R.W.C.
- I will referee well in the 2003 R.W.C.
- My assessment rating for 2002 will average 88.0.
- I will decrease my critical incidents by 50 per cent.

I am reminded of an interview given by Andre Aggassi on the television program 60 Minutes in the mid-90's. Two of his comments included, 'When I am on the court playing tennis there is no where else that I would rather be.'. When asked about whether he was affected by the noise of the crowd he replied that the only thing that was in focus was the ball!

First Six Nations

The Six Nations match between Italy and Scotland at Stadio Flaminio in Rome in February was for the IRB-appointed referee Kevin Decker the second ever international. Before his Six Nations debut, Decker of Hawkes Bay Referees' Association - the 2001 New Zealand Referee of the Year - had only one other international under his belt, the first test between Japan and Wales last year. He started refereeing in 1991 following an injury, which put an end to his playing career and in 1996 he refereed his first representative match, between Buller and Horwenua in the NPC Division 3. Born in October 1965, Decker is together with Paddy O'Brien, Paul Honiss and Steve Walsh one of New Zealand's four professional referees.

Steve Griffith has been appointed as the new IRB Referees Manager, while former ARU National Training Referee manager Bruce Cook becomes IRB Referees Training Manager. (Full details on the back page).

SARFU BLACK REFEREES

Thirty Black South African referees attended a two-day workshop in Cape Town on March 12 and 13, to enable them to attain higher qualifications. The workshop will concentrate on the technical aspects of the game, fitness training and mental toughness. After the workshop, ten of them will participate in a fast-track programme that will enhance their refereeing skills in a relatively short time. Louis Mzomba of Guguletu, Cape Town, the first Black to referee in a Test match, will address the workshop on his experiences at the highest level of the game "There is a great potential among the group we have invited, whose experience in refereeing ranges from 1-5 years. I am confident that some of these referees will graduate to higher levels and do us proud." Freek Burger, SARFU Referees Manager said.

Australian Record

The Six Nations match England v Ireland in February enabled Sydney referee Peter Marshall's to set a new record Australian record of 24 internationals (one women). The previous record holder was the late Kerry Fitzgerald with 22 internationals. So far, the highlight of Marshall's illustrious international career, which started with the RWC 1995 qualifier between Fiji and Tonga in 1993, has been the New Zealand v Australia play-off in the RWC 1999. Marshall's debut as referee was in 1986. In 1994 he refereed the Women international between New Zealand and Australia.

UNIONS NOTICEBOARD

Rural Development in Trinidad and Tobago



Trinidad and Tobago celebrate victory in the NAWIRA Tournament

The Trinidad and Tobago Olympic Committee (TTOC) has selected rugby as one of the sports to be used in the 2002 Rural Development Programme, part of the "Shape Your Life" project, which uses sport as a developmental and educational tool for nation-building.

As part of the project, twelve hundred children from the rural communities of Basterre, Cedros, Guayaguayare, La Brea, Manzanilla, Mayaro, Moruga, Penal, Sangre Grande and Toco will be introduced to non-contact Rugby.

On March 1, TTOC President Douglas Camacho, vice-president Catherine Forde, Sports & Youth Affairs Ministry officials and TTRFU representatives attended the launch of the programme targeting children under the age of 14. Trinidad & Tobago Rugby Football Union Rugby Development Officer Verne Ross will coordinate and supervise the ten-week programme.

According to Ross the TTRFU Rural Development Programme, which began in 1996 has been instrumental in the growth and increased popularity of rugby.

Sofia Sevens

Bulgaria is hosting its first ever 7s International Tournament, with entries for international, club and social teams on April 26-28 in Sofia. The organiser Nikolay Kolev (e-mail: kolevrugby_bg@yahoo.com) is pleased to announce that so far 12 teams have entered the three day event and that more are expected to enter. In addition to the National teams of Bulgaria, Yugoslavia and Greece attending for the first time ever, the tournament will feature the Ottomans club from Istanbul, and the Spartans from Greece – who recently played each other in the first ever international between the two countries.

PNG Promotional Effort

Papua New Guinea Rugby Union's efforts to promote the code in the country has received a major boost with the signing of a three-year agreement with 'Niugini Marketing Solution' marketing company, writes Lydia Kaia, of The National.

The NMS – managed by former Pukpuk Robert Nilkare and his partner Angus Davey become the official promotion agent for PNGRU in the country. During the signing the PNGRU president Graham Osborne said this is the first time PNGRU has been able to engage a professional marketing firm to promote rugby and that this now paves the way for the growth of rugby union in the country.

Osborne said: "We would like to see the sport grow throughout the country and not be concentrated in some areas only. This will mean that NMS will have to visit other provinces to find out what the governing body can do to help that particular area progress in the sport. This will also help the concept of the National Championships as well, we now had



Puk-Puks celebrate

a total of nine teams participating from respective union around the country at this year's event which has made the selectors' job easier, having all players under scrutiny."

Osborne also highlighted the fact that the PNGRFU's development projects will be supported by the International Rugby Board. He said that IRB funds are likely to be used in the development programs especially for the junior level. As a result, second

development officer Gerald Varilyly joins Pukpuk legend and senior Development officer Robin Tarere. Tarere will concentrate on the Momase and Highlands region while Varilyly who be base here in Port Moresby.

Meanwhile, the PNGRFU also plan to host a Sevens tournament this year where teams from the Pacific- Asia region will be invited.

Romanian changes

Following his election as President of the Romanian Federation Octavian Morariu has set in place a swift series of reforms, to enable the governing body to manage more effectively game in the country. The three vice-presidents have received specific areas to coordinate: George Straton-Development, Youth and Schools, Communications and Heritage, Victor ISTRATE – referees, Disciplinary, Safety and Judicial and

Gheorghe Varzaru – Player status, Medical, Appeal and Women's Rugby. An Executive formed of the President, the three vice-presidents, the Secretary General and Treasurer was also set in place. All National Teams have had managers appointed who are in charge of the team's budget: Enciu Stoica for the senior side, Marin Mot for the U21, Gheorghe Varzaru for the U19 and Florin Constantin for Sevens.

The FRR has set in place a system of players insurance for all the national teams - including for loss of income when injured – and the international players playing abroad will be compensated for loss of earnings when representing the country. In March, the Romanian Ministry of Labour officially entered the status of "rugby player" among the legitimate professions in Romania, which eventually regulate all contractual

relations between players, clubs and the Federation. The first professional club in Romania Farul Constanta Ltd. was formed this year. Several sponsors have signed up in addition to BRD Societe Nationale: including Orange, PetRom and CCCF SA.

The contracts with the domestic TV have been re-negotiated and Prima TV has been awarded the contract for the domestic game. They will broadcast 22 programmes each year

Isipathana 7s

In September (7/8) 2002, Colombo will host an international schools' Sevens Tournament, organised by the Old Boys of Isipathana College, as part of the 50th anniversary of the school. The 24-team tournament, which has the blessing of both the Sri Lankan Rugby Union and the Asian Rugby Union and is the first of its kind in Asia is likely to attract school teams from all over the world. Isipathana College is one of the leading rugby schools in Sri Lanka having produced over 40 players who represented Sri Lanka at international level. Tournament organiser, former Sri Lanka and Isipathana fly-half and centre Dilroy Fernando has already received over 20 inquiries from overseas schools keen to attend the event. "We are delighted with the response so far and would like, if successful, to make this tournament



an annual event. The intention is to provide our top schools with good standard of opposition, and the visitors with good quality rugby and a fantastic time in Sri Lanka. We also want to use 7s to further develop the game in Sri Lanka and Asia" Mr Fernando said. Further details from dilroync@sltnet.lk

Mali to join CAR

CAR General Secretary Johan Botes, reports that a new African Union, Mali will submit their application for membership to the CAR General Meeting in Cameroon, in April. The General Meeting will elect an Executive Committee as well as the various sub-committees. A Regional competition consisting of the following Unions: Swaziland, Botswana, Cameroon, Kenya, Zambia and Uganda will be played this year. Full details will be available within the next two months. All CAR members will apply for participation in a Sevens competition in the next All Africa Games in 2003 in Nigeria.

Japan v Russia premiere

The first ever rugby encounter between Japan and Russia will take place on the 19th May 2002. The Russians view the match as an opportunity to develop ties outside Europe and as a foretaste of the IRB-brokered quadrangular between themselves, the USA, Japan and China. For Japan, the match is a useful preparation for the RWC 2003 qualifying rounds against Korea and the winner of Asian Zone, round 2.

Vernon Pugh QC, IRB Chairman commented: "This is another major step in establishing rugby as a truly global sport, and is testimony of the improving standards of the teams. I am delighted that the opportunity has arisen for these two Unions to play this international fixture."

Jerseys missing in Zimbabwe

Forty-one jerseys have been stolen from the President's Room at Hartsfield Rugby ground in Bulawayo, in Zimbabwe several weeks ago. The most valuable jersey in the collection was a 1950 British Lions jersey. Bryn Meredith's Wales jersey and Ciaran Fitzgerald Ireland's strip are also among the missing collection of memorabilia.

and a contract will be signed soon. Morariu himself, a highly successful businessman with the French engineering giant Freyssinet, has taken a four-month sabbatical to be able to concentrate on the Romanian project. He has met the IRB Development Manager Geoff Evans on several occasions and is fine-tuning the budgets for a number of far-reaching developmental programmes.

FIRA-AER U20

As the first U21 World Championship in South Africa is fast approaching, the European Governing body FIRA-AER has already commenced preparations for the qualifying rounds for the next event. In Pool 1, Spain will host Portugal, Netherlands and the winner of the playoff between Switzerland and Andorra. In Pool 2, Germany will host Romania, Czech Republic and Denmark, while Russia will organise pool 3 attended by Poland, Sweden and Lithuania or Latvia. Finally, Pool 4, held in Georgia will feature Bulgaria, Ukraine and the winner of the triangular Croatia/Slovenia/ Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile FIRA-AER has announced the qualifying pools for the 2003 Youth (Junior) U19 Rugby Championship. Naturally the age of the European competitors is U18. The four pools (tournaments) will be held



in Luxembourg (the first-ever International competition in the Duchy) attended by Belgium, Denmark and Sweden, Bosnia (also a premiere in the troubled Republic, with Hungary, Israel and Switzerland in attendance. Yugoslavia will host Slovenia, Bulgaria and Czech Republic in pool 3, while pool 4 in Latvia, at its first multinational international venture, will host Croatia, Andorra and the winner of the play-off between Norway, and Finland, in their first ever appearance at youth level.



Poland v Ukraine are bidding for a place in the European U20 Finals

Former Eagle - new USARFU President

A majority of the Board of Directors elected former US Eagle Brendel for a two-year term by secret ballot, at a meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana, at the beginning of March. He ran against past presidents Anne Barry and Terry Fleener with the fourth candidate Mike Dunafon withdrawing his nomination prior to the election.

His platform focused on growing non-CIPP revenues, broadening USA Rugby's financial resource base, assisting in the development and implementation of the professional league, lowering the age of players introduced to the game and strengthening USA Rugby's International profile and leverage

within regional and International governing bodies. Filling Brendel's former position of Executive Vice President will be Bob Latham with Jen Crawford taking over the seat of Athlete Vice President. Both Pat O'Connor and Fred Roedel will continue to fulfill their roles as Secretary and Treasurer respectively, after being re-elected. Latham is the current USA Rugby representative to the United States Olympic Committee and has been a member of the Board of Directors since 1994. Former USA Rugby Women's National Team player, Crawford ran unopposed for the position of Athlete Vice President, as Mary Dixey withdrew her nomination.

Regional Development



IRB Regional Development Manager for Oceania, Lee Smith (right) with former Cote d'Ivoire coach Daniel Devanier

Regionalisation has been a key component of the IRB's strategic policy for a number of years and Lee Smith - for Oceania (FORU) and Asia (ARFU) - and Robert Antonin - for Europe FIRA-AER - have been fulfilling the role of Regional Development Manager with outstanding results. However, in November 2001 the IRB Council approved the appointment of six additional Regional Development Managers to strengthen and accelerate the Development of the game worldwide. FIRA-AER two, CONSUR one, NAWIRA one, CAR two, FORU one and ARFU one.

The six new posts were advertised and short listing and interviews have been held in all regions. The procedure followed has been consistent across the regions (except for CONSUR) - short listing by the Development Manager in consultation with the regions followed by interviews of the short listed candidates. Each interview panel was made up of a Council member, a representative of the region and the Development Manager.

As a result of the above the following new staff have been appointed.

FIRA-AER	Michel Arpaillange
CONSUR	Jorge Braceras
NAWIRA	Tom Jones
CAR	Sas Bailey
ARFU	Jarrad Gallagher

Michel Arpaillange is currently the Regional Technical Advisor for the Toulouse Regional Youth and Sports Department in France and is seconded to the to the Midi-Pyrenees rugby Committee. He comes from a teaching background and has been very active in coaching. He has coached Montauban in the French First Division and more recently from 1997 to 2001 he was the coach to the National Under 21 team. He will share responsibility for development in Europe with Robert Antonin.

Jorge Braceras has been involved in

the game in South America for many years. He played for the Argentine National Team (the Pumas) as a hooker in the 1970's and more recently was the Technical Director for the UAR. At the same time he continued his teaching at a Buenos Aires University. He has played a leading part in establishing a development programme for Argentina and has been instrumental in spreading the game to all parts of the country. Although his main work has been focused on Argentina he has assisted many other Unions in the region and is well known and well respected in them all.

Sas Bailey is the General Manager



New CONSUR Development Manager Jorge Braceras (left) pictured here with fellow Argentine Augustin Pichot

Game Development for the South African Rugby Football Union and has been in that post since 1993. During that time he has played a leading role in managing the development and growth of rugby in South Africa and implementing and managing SARFU's Transformation Strategy. Prior to taking up his responsibilities with SARFU he was Deputy University Librarian at the University of the Western Cape at the same time fulfilling the role of General Secretary of the South African Rugby Union from 1985 to 1992.

Tom Jones was a pillar of Rugby Canada for many years before he took up his new IRB role at the start of March 2002. He joined the staff of the Canadian Rugby Union in 1982 after qualifying as a teacher at St. Luke's College, Exeter in the U.K. He

IRB EXECUTIVE APPOINTMENTS

Commercial Director

Huw Morgan joined the IRB in October 2001 as Commercial Director, having previously been the Commercial Director of the Arrows Grand Prix Racing Team and formally Chief Executive of the Harlequins RFC. He was a Board Member of English First Division Rugby and assisted in the negotiations leading to the return of the English Clubs to the European Cup Competition. His association with professional sport commenced with the European PGA Tour Courses project as European Operations Manager.

Referees Manager

The new post of Referees Manager has been created to ensure that the performance of referees at international level continues to be of as high a standard as possible. Steve Griffiths currently the IRB's Referee Development Officer took up his present appointment in May 1997. He becomes the new IRB Referees Manager. Previously Steve was the Rugby Football Union's National Referee Development Officer, after a career in Human Resource Management & Consultancy. He refereed at International level during his 11 years as a member of the RFU panel and is responsible for the IRB's merit-based international referee selection process and for referee programmes for developing and emerging unions.

Referees Training Manager

Bruce Cook who has been appointed to this post is currently the National Referee Training Manager for the Australian Rugby Union. He was previously the New South Wales Referee Manager from 1997 to 1999 having come into this post after twelve years as a Lecturer in Human Physiology at the University of Newcastle. He has coaching and refereeing qualifications and was an active referee in New South Wales for fifteen years. He has experience of developing training programmes for both coaches and referees and this will be brought to bear in this new post where he will also be involved in the development of training programmes for other officials and administrators.

Internet Editor

Dominic Kelly joined the IRB Communications Department as Web Editor in December 2001. Having completed a Masters in Electronic Publishing from City University, London in 1999, he became an editorial producer for a web site during which, he was an online journalist at the 1999 World Cup and produced event sites for the 2000/2001 Six Nations Championship. In a move to another sports site Dominic became lead producer of the UK operation, combining day-to-day editorial issues with project-based work.

IT Officer

John Corbett joined the IRB as IT Officer in April 2001. He has over 12 years experience in the IT industry during which he has worked as a project manager for Guinness Limited and IT manager for a London bank. A graduate of the University College Dublin, John received a MSc degree in Economics and BSc degree in Commerce. He also holds several IT industry technical certifications.

undertook a variety of responsibilities within the Canadian Union and he had attained the post of Director of Development with responsibility for coaching, refereeing and player development. He was a member of the IRB Age Grade Committee from 1996 and has participated in and delivered a range of IRB training courses most recently in Canada and Fiji in 2001.

Jarrad Gallagher is the youngest of our new RDM's and, as well as being a practising coach, is a player in Hong Kong. He has recently taken Aberdeen RFC in Hong Kong to the Grand Final of their club competition for the first time. He graduated from the

University of Waikato in New Zealand and taught in that country for three years before moving to Hong Kong in 1998. He is at present the Coaching and Playing Manager for the Hong Kong Rugby Football Union and through this and his playing activities has gained considerable experience of the strengths and requirements of other Unions in the region.

The six new RDMs have either already taken up post or will do so by the end of April. The interview for the remaining Regional Development Manager position for Africa is scheduled for March 19.