



STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

RBS 6 NATIONS 2008

IRB GAME ANALYSIS



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COMMENTARY


This year's RBS 6 Nations was the first tournament to be played since RWC2007. What was going to be of interest therefore was the performances of the teams following that competition.

Of the 6 participating teams, **ENGLAND** was the only team that came into the competition with a positive World Cup behind them. They had reached the final when the other 5 teams had faltered on the way. Despite this however, try scoring had proved difficult. In England's 4 matches against Tier 1 countries (South Africa twice, Australia and France) they managed to score just one try. The interest therefore was to see if England's RWC success had created a level of confidence that would enable it to convert possession into points more effectively than in the past.

This was not to be. England scored just 8 tries in 5 matches which continued their declining try count over the years since 2001. The records show that England's try count has gone down every single year since then - and the following table shows the extent of the year by year reduction:

England 6 Nations Try Count

	Total Tries
6N 2001	28
6N 2002	23
6N 2003	18
6N 2004	17
6N 2005	16
6N 2006	12
6N 2007	10
6N 2008	8



This declining try count had happened in spite of England routinely obtaining more possession than any other team in the championship. This however changed in 2008. England obtained less possession than any other team in 6 Nations 2006 which explains why, quite exceptionally, England made fewer passes and created fewer rucks than any other team. Nevertheless, their defence remained strong - they conceded only 5 tries in the 5 matches which was half those conceded in 2007 - and despite the English forwards making proportionately more passes than ever before (and more than any other team), each one of England's tries were scored by their backs, two thirds of which came from set piece possession.

When **WALES** won the Grand Slam in 2005, they showed a number of characteristics that were different from other teams. What was interesting this year was to see if those characteristics also applied this year. A number did.

- they put the ball into touch noticeably less than any other team
- they kicked long at almost every restart – 25 out of 27
- they scored more tries from opponents' handling errors and opponents kicks than several of their opponents put together
- they scored more tries from inside their own half than England, Scotland, Ireland and Italy combined.

There were, on the other hand, a number of substantial differences. Their forwards made proportionately fewer passes this year than 2005 (22% of all passes down to 17%). The major difference however was in defence. From conceding 24 tries in 2007 and 2006, they conceded just 2 in this year's campaign - the lowest figure ever achieved in the 6 Nations championship.



Wales was a team therefore that managed to ally a huge defensive achievement with an ability to score tries from broken play and from play starting inside their own half, a common characteristic frequently found in successful teams. Twelve of their 13 tries were scored by backs, their only forward try coming in the last 5 minutes of the final game. This try scoring success was then supplemented by high kick success rate. A 100% conversion success rate made every try worth 7 points.

Another area showed noticeable change. From being the team that obtained the least overall possession in 2007, they increased it by almost 35% this year to become the second highest in 2008. Such increased possession contributed towards Wales becoming the highest rucking team as well as the team with the highest rate of rucking.

Another Wales characteristic in 2008, was the greater intensity of performance in the second half of their matches. They did not concede a try in the second half – and 11 of their 13 tries were scored in that period. In addition, they were the only team to kick most of their penalty goals in the second half.

IRELAND saw a considerable change in fortune compared with 2007. Last year they were the most successful team in turning possession into points – and were also the most efficient in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. This changed in 2008.

While 17 tries and 15 tries were scored in the previous two tournaments, this year Ireland managed just 9. Allied to this was the fact that the 10 tries they conceded were twice as many as they conceded in 2007. Further, they were the only team in this championship whose opponents required less time to score tries than last year and the only team to concede at least one try in the second half of every game.

Another Ireland characteristic over the last two years has been their high rate of passing. In 2007 for example, they passed at a higher rate than any other team, and at a consistently high level. The fewest passes they made in a game in 2007 was 118 – this year, however in two matches, they made just 82 and 84, the lowest figures in the tournament.

While Ireland's passing game fell back somewhat, one area which saw little change was the role of their forwards. Ireland's approach sees forwards as providers of the ball with backs as distributors. This resulted this year in the Ireland forwards making a total of 66 passes in the entire tournament, or just over a half of those made by Wales forwards. This proportion of passes made by their forwards at 11% of the Irish total is now less than one half of the percentage seen by many other teams.

Historically, **ITALY** have consistently conceded a considerable number of tries - 22 in 2005 and 18 last year for example. One of their priorities this year therefore was to reduce the number of tries conceded to a more competitive level in the hope that they could equal, if not improve, on their performance in last year's 6 Nations when they had two victories.



Some of this was achieved. Although only one win was recorded, five fewer tries were conceded bringing the 2007 total down from 18 to 13 – but together with Ireland, they were the only teams to concede at least one try in every game. Conversely however, they, and Wales, were the only teams to score a try in all 5 matches. What was of note in the Italian tries was that 5 of the 6 did not contain a single pass coming largely from scrums, lineouts and mauls and being scored by forwards.

In terms of the constituent elements of the game Italy performed well. They obtained more possession than their opponents in 3 of their 5 games, they topped the lineout possession figures and had the highest scrum success rate of all 5 teams. What is also noticeable is that Italy forwards are now more liable to pass the ball than in the past with their back row being the most likely of all teams back rows to distribute the ball.

SCOTLAND won just one game in 6 Nations 2007. They were the least effective team in turning possession into points, as well as being one of the least effective team in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. Little changed in 6 Nations 2008.

Last year, 7 tries were scored. This year, Scotland managed to score just 3 tries in 100 minutes' possession, thereby requiring some 33 minutes possession to score a try. All three came from set piece possession – none from broken play. The result was that of all Scotland's points, just 22% were accounted for by tries. The paucity of tries is also unfortunate in view of Scotland's outstanding place kicking record. All three tries were converted and 15 of 16 penalty attempts were successful

Conceding tries also continued to be a problem. Together with Italy, the 13 tries conceded were the highest in the tournament.

Scottish forwards, especially their second row, invariably produce a relatively high proportion of passes and this year was no exception. Their second row passed the ball on almost one in two occasions – an extremely high proportion compared with most other teams. Scotland were also the most effective in obtaining opposition ball at the lineout. Despite this, try scoring remained a major problem.

FRANCE was one of the 6 Nations' teams that had a new coach in 2008. What was of potential interest was to see what their approach would be since evidence suggests that there seem to be two distinctive and contrasting French ways of playing. There is the relatively conservative approach of recent years where kicking has been more noticeable than passing, an approach that contrasted dramatically with the game plan adopted by France in the match against Scotland in 2007. This involved a constant recycling of the ball that produced an approach that was seen by some as more typically French.

Certainly, an element of this latter approach appeared at times throughout the tournament.

- 10 of their 11 tries were scored by backs
- 5 tries were scored from turnovers out of a tournament total of 11
- Over half of their tries were scored from inside their own half

Such scores however did not come from the sort of expansive game that involves all 15 players handling the ball. While France were the highest passing team, and their rate of passing was the highest – albeit marginally - the French forwards made only 12% of all passes which is a low figure compared with several other countries whose percentage can be twice this figure.

It would be premature however to draw too many conclusions from this year's tournament. Well over 30 players were chosen for the 5 matches as options were evaluated. Things will become somewhat clearer in next year's tournament.

Finally, the tournament itself produced some data of interest:

- Average ball in play exceeded 50% for the first time
- One game (Wales v France) reached 57% or 46 minutes 08secs, the highest ever recorded
- This increase largely came about through a reduction in lineouts from 31 to 28, and a reduction in the number of scores
- There was a noticeable reduction in tries - but an increase in the number of penalty goals
- More tries came from broken play and fewer from set piece possession
- Of the 30 tries scored by the top 3 teams – Wales, England and France – 28 were scored by the backs.

Further detail on these and other areas of the game can be found in later sections of this report.



FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
WALES	5	5	0	0	148	66	+ 82	10
ENGLAND	5	3	0	2	108	83	+ 25	6
FRANCE	5	3	0	2	103	93	+ 10	6
IRELAND	5	2	0	3	93	99	- 6	4
SCOTLAND	5	1	0	4	69	123	- 54	2
ITALY	5	1	0	4	74	131	- 57	2

P = Played W = Won D = Draw L = Lost F = Point For A = Points Against PD = Points difference PTS = Points

	IRELAND	16		ITALY	11
	ENGLAND	19		WALES	26
	SCOTLAND	6		FRANCE	27
	WALES	30		SCOTLAND	15
	FRANCE	26		IRELAND	21
	ITALY	19		ENGLAND	23
	WALES	47		ITALY	8
	IRELAND	34		SCOTLAND	13
	FRANCE	13		ENGLAND	24
	IRELAND	12		WALES	16
	SCOTLAND	15		ENGLAND	9
	FRANCE	25		ITALY	13
	ITALY	23		SCOTLAND	20
	ENGLAND	33		IRELAND	10
	WALES	29		FRANCE	12



SUMMARY

This Report is divided into 3 sections.

- Section 1 takes a brief look at constituent game elements in 6 Nations 2008 and compares them to 6 Nations 2007. It also includes a summary of each team's activities and performance in certain critical areas of the game
- Section 2 comprises a detailed statistical analysis of all matches played in the tournament, together with all the match results.
- Section 3 contains a one-page-per-team summary of key statistics relating to each of the 6 participating teams



THE 6 NATIONS 2008

In a number of the core elements, 6 Nations 2008 showed little change from 6 Nations 2007 as shown in the following comparisons. There were however certain areas that were noticeably different from previous years – tries were down, penalty goals were up, while ball in play reached over 50% for the first time in any tournament. These changes are considered in further detail in the more comprehensive analyses which follow in a later section.

Averages per game

	6 NATIONS 2008	<i>6 NATIONS 2007</i>	<i>6 NATIONS 2006</i>	<i>6 NATIONS 2005</i>
POINTS	40	46	42	45
TRIES	3.3	4.3	4.1	4.7
PENALTY GOALS	5.5	5.7	4.9	4.4
DROP GOALS	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
BALL IN PLAY	50%	46%	46%	44%
PASSES	259	261	276	264
RUCK/MAULS	179	167	149	149
KICKS	57	53	63	62
LINEOUTS	28	31	37	34
SCRUMS	16	17	19	20
PENALTIES	18	21	21	20



SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS

The following data also comes from the detailed report that follows and reflects in summary form the modern game as expressed through this year's 6 Nations championship:

	6 NATIONS 2008	6 NATIONS 2007
% of points from TRIES	42%	46%
% of points from PENALTY GOALS	42%	37%
% of points from CONVERSIONS	14%	15%
% of points from DROP GOALS	2%	2%
TRIES per game	3.3	4.3
PENALTY GOALS per game	5.5	5.7
DROP GOALS per game	0.4	0.3
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	78%	72%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	18%	28%
PENALTY TRIES	4%	0%
MATCHES with point margin of 19 or less	11 of 15	9 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	84%	77%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	80%	79%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	31%	31%
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	12 of 15	10 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	0 of 15	1 of 15
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	20%	35%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	26%	14%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	6%	12%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	22%	12%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	20%	15%
OTHER	6%	12%
BALL IN PLAY TIME	50% or 40min 15secs	46% or 36min 38secs
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	38%	38%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	47%	47%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	15%	15%
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	83%	85%
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	92%	92%
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	94%	95%
YELLOW AND RED CARDS	7 and none	7 and none
REFERENCES TO TMO	11	16

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 2008	TRIES SCORED 2007	TRIES CONCEDED 2008	TRIES CONCEDED 2007	PENALTY GOALS 2008	PENALTY GOALS 2007	DROP GOALS 2008
WALES	13	7	2	9	19	12	0
ENGLAND	8	10	5	9	16	17	2
FRANCE	11	15	7	9	10	18	0
IRELAND	9	17	10	5	12	14	0
ITALY	6	9	13	18	11	9	1
SCOTLAND	3	7	13	15	15	16	1

The table shows where each teams points came from - distinguishing between points from tries and points from kicks.

FRANCE	53%	47%
WALES	44%	56%
IRELAND	43%	57%
ENGLAND	37%	63%
ITALY	34%	66%
SCOTLAND	22%	78%

	% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks
FRANCE	53%	47%
WALES	44%	56%
IRELAND	43%	57%
ENGLAND	37%	63%
ITALY	34%	66%
SCOTLAND	22%	78%

The table shows how effective each team was in converting possession into points - the most successful country was Wales.

WALES	1 Try scored every 8min 17secs	11min 31secs
FRANCE	10min 03secs	6min 28secs
IRELAND	10min 53secs	5min 18secs
ENGLAND	11min 31secs	9min 54secs
ITALY	16mins 01secs	9min 37secs
SCOTLAND	33min 31secs	13min 27secs

	6N 2008	6N 2007
WALES	1 Try scored every 8min 17secs	11min 31secs
FRANCE	10min 03secs	6min 28secs
IRELAND	10min 53secs	5min 18secs
ENGLAND	11min 31secs	9min 54secs
ITALY	16mins 01secs	9min 37secs
SCOTLAND	33min 31secs	13min 27secs

The effectiveness in preventing opponents from converting possession into points is in the attached table.

	WALES
	ENGLAND
	FRANCE
	IRELAND
	SCOTLAND
	ITALY

6N 2008	6N 2007
1 Try conceded every 49min 50secs	<i>11min 14secs</i>
20min 20secs	<i>8min 49secs</i>
13min 15secs	<i>10min37secs</i>
10min 46secs	<i>17min 39secs</i>
8min 00secs	<i>5min 53secs</i>
7min 33secs	<i>5min 11secs</i>

Each teams overall kicking success rate was as follows:

	SCOTLAND
	WALES
	ENGLAND
	IRELAND
	FRANCE
	ITALY

6N 2008	6N 2007
95%	<i>88%</i>
89%	<i>78%</i>
79%	<i>77%</i>
78%	<i>74%</i>
73%	<i>82%</i>
71%	<i>71%</i>

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

	FRANCE
	WALES
	SCOTLAND
	IRELAND
	ITALY
	ENGLAND

6N 2008	6N 2007
22min 6secs	<i>19min 24secs</i>
21min 31secs	<i>16min 07secs</i>
20min 07secs	<i>18min 49secs</i>
19min 35secs	<i>18min 01secs</i>
19min 12secs	<i>17min 07secs</i>
18min 14secs	<i>19min 49secs</i>

SCORING

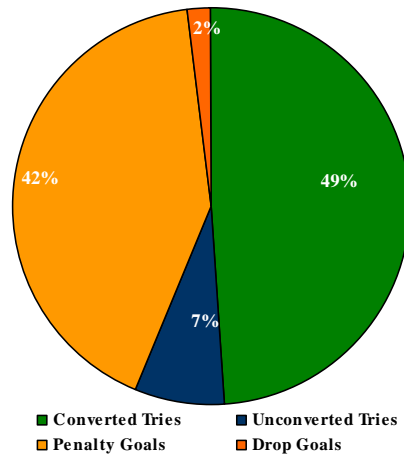
There were **595** points scored in the 15 matches played, giving an average of **40** points per game. They were made up as follows:

	Type of Score			% of points scored by Tries
	Total	Points		%
Converted Tries	42	294	6N 2008	42%
Unconverted Tries	8	40	6N 2007	47%
Penalty Goals	83	249	6N 2006	48%
Drop Goals	4	12	6N 2005	53%
Total		595 pts	6N 2004	53%
			6N 2003	52%

Of the total points scored:

- 42% came from **TRIES**
- 42% came from **PENALTY GOALS**
- 14% came from **CONVERSIONS**
- 2% came from **DROP GOALS**

Points Makeup



It can be seen that the % of points scored by tries is the lowest for at least 6 years.

There were **fewer tries** scored than in any of the previous 6 years, and – with one exception- more penalty goals:

Scoring Details in 6 Nations

	Av points per game	Av tries per game	Conversion success rate	Av pen goals per game	Try: penalty ratio	Av drop per game
6N 2008	40	3.3	84%	5.5	1 to 1.7	0.4
6N 2007	46	4.3	77%	5.7	1 to 1.3	0.3
6N 2006	42	4.1	74%	4.9	1 to 1.2	0.3
6N 2005	45	4.7	66%	4.4	1 to 0.9	0.5
6N 2004	43	4.5	63%	4.6	1 to 1.02	0.2
6N 2003	47	5.0	74%	4.3	1 to 0.9	0.7

SCORING PROFILES of the modern game

The following table shows the comparative figures for the 5 Nations championships played in 1958, 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 – and compares them with 6 Nations 2008

	Converted Tries	Unconverted Tries	Total Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals	Conversion Success
6N 2008	2.8	0.5	3.3	5.5	0.4	84%
<i>5N 1998</i>	<i>4.1</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>5.5</i>	<i>4.4</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>75%</i>
<i>5N 1988</i>	<i>1.5</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>3.1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>48%</i>
<i>5N 1978</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>1.4</i>	<i>2.4</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>42%</i>
<i>5N 1968</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>2.3</i>	<i>1.0</i>	<i>53%</i>
<i>5N 1958</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>2.2</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>0.3</i>	<i>27%</i>

The above table shows a big change from 10 years ago, tries were noticeably less this year while penalty goals showed an increased of 25%.

WINNING MARGINS







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

Points Difference in 6 Nations 2008

Points Difference	No of matches	Cumulative	6N 2007
1 – 4	3	3 with 4 points or less	3
5 – 9	4	7 with 9 points or less	2
10 – 19	4	11 with 19 points or less	4
20 – 29	3	14 with 29 points or less	4
30 – 39	1	15 with 39 points or less	2

Not surprisingly, points scored and conceded varied throughout the various teams and the average points per team are shown.

Points for/against per Team







		Points For		Points Against	
		TOTAL	AVERAGE	TOTAL	AVERAGE
	WALES	148	30	66	13
	ENGLAND	108	22	83	17
	FRANCE	103	21	93	19
	IRELAND	93	19	99	20
	ITALY	74	15	131	26
	SCOTLAND	69	14	123	25

PENALTY GOALS

There were 83 penalty goals kicked in 2008 – this is 3 fewer than 2007.

	%
6N 2008	80%
6N 2007	67%
6N 2006	67%
6N 2005	67%
6N 2004	87%
6N 2003	67%

A further breakdown shows that in 2008 only one team scored more tries than penalty goals and that was France

	Tries Scored	Penalties Goals Kicked	Ratio Tries : PGs
 FRANCE	11	10	1 : 0.9
 IRELAND	9	12	1 : 1.3
 WALES	13	19	1 : 1.5
 ITALY	6	11	1 : 1.8
 ENGLAND	8	16	1 : 2.0
 SCOTLAND	3	15	1 : 3.0

IMPACT OF THE PENALTY GOAL ON MATCH RESULTS

Nevertheless, in general and despite this, it remains true that it is tries that win matches. In 6 Nations 2008, the winning team scored the most tries in 12 of the 15 matches or 80% of matches. It has always been at around this percentage.









No team scored fewer tries than their opponents and won the game.







TRY SCORING

The total number of tries, penalty goals and drop goals scored by each country in 6 Nations 2008 was as follows:

Total tries/Penalty Goals/Drop goals per Team

		Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals
	WALES	13	19	0
	FRANCE	11	10	0
	ENGLAND	8	16	2
	IRELAND	9	12	0
	ITALY	6	11	1
	SCOTLAND	3	15	1

Scoring % per Team

		% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks
	FRANCE	53%	47%
	WALES	44%	56%
	IRELAND	43%	57%
	ENGLAND	37%	63%
	ITALY	34%	66%
	SCOTLAND	22%	78%

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 matches played and then dividing it by the number of tries scored. The result then gave a rate of try scoring – or a measure of how effective each country was in converting possession into tries.

Rate of try scoring per Team

	Total Tries Scored	6N 2008	6N 2007
WALES	1-2-2-3-5 = 13	1 try scored every 8min 17secs	11min 31secs
FRANCE	0-1-3-3-4 = 11	10min 03secs	6min 28secs
IRELAND	0-1-1-2-5 = 9	10min 53secs	5min 18secs
ENGLAND	0-1-2-2-3 = 8	11min 31secs	9min 54secs
SCOTLAND	0-0-0-1-2 = 3	33min 31secs	13min 27secs
ITALY	1-1-1-1-2 = 6	16min 01secs	9min 37secs

RATE OF TRY CONCEDED

Following the above exercise, the converse was looked at ie. how effective was each team in restricting tries in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The following paragraph tries to measure this by illustrating how successful each team was in preventing their opposition from converting possession into tries. 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.

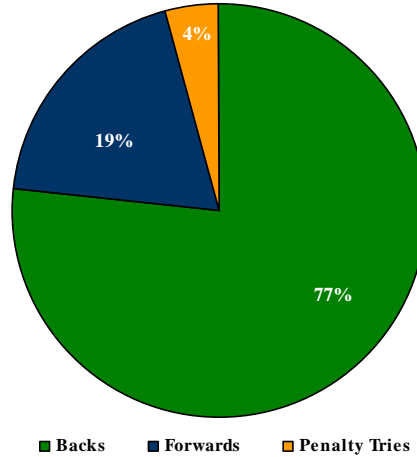
Rate of try conceding per Team

	Total Tries Conceded	6N 2008	6N 2007
WALES	0-0-0-1-1 = 2	1 try conceded every 49min 50secs	11min 14secs
ENGLAND	0-1-1-1-2 = 5	20min 20secs	8min 49secs
FRANCE	0-1-2-2-2 = 7	13min 15secs	10min 37secs
IRELAND	1-1-1-3-4 = 10	10min 46secs	17min 39secs
SCOTLAND	0-2-3-3-5 = 13	8min 00secs	5min 53secs
ITALY	1-2-2-3-5 = 13	7min 33secs	5min 11secs

PLAYERS AND TRIES

It has been noted above that there were 50 tries scored in the 15 matches:

- 39 tries were scored by Backs
- 9 tries were scored by Forwards
- 2 penalty tries



The breakdown between the 6 competing teams is shown below:

Tries scored by Backs and Forward per Team

	Tries by Backs 6N 2008	Tries by Forwards 6N 2008	Penalty Tries 6N 2008	Tries by Backs 6N 2007	Tries by Forwards 6N 2007
 WALES	12	1	0	4	3
 FRANCE	10	1	0	8	7
 IRELAND	5	3	1	14	3
 ENGLAND	8	0	0	9	1
 ITALY	2	3	1	7	2
 SCOTLAND	2	1	0	5	2
TOTAL	39	9	2	47	18

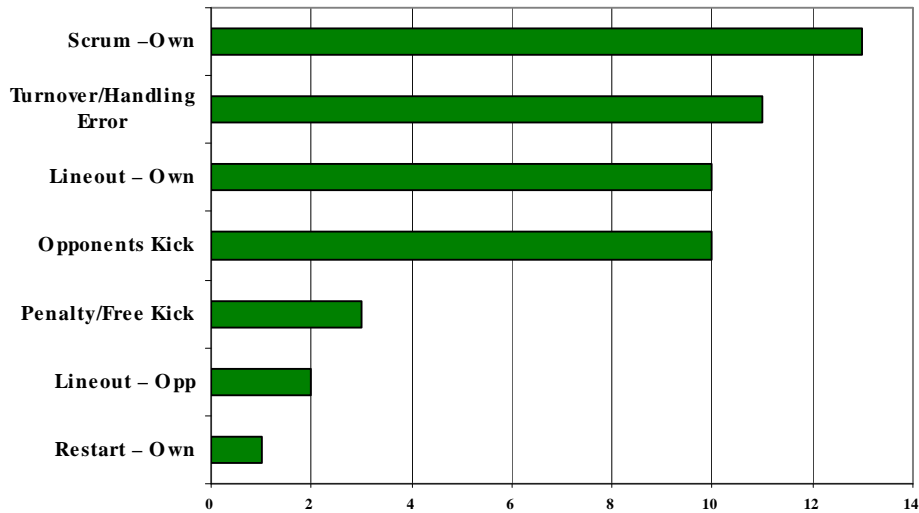
Of the 30 tries scored by the top 3 teams – Wales, England and France only 2 were scored by forwards.

TRIES

1. SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 50 tries scored in 6 Nations 2007.

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:



Analyses of matches played at international level, over several years, have shown that the most fruitful source of possession has consistently and clearly been the lineout. This was not maintained in 2008 – it was overtaken by both the scrum and turnover/handling errors.

	6N 2008	6N 2007
Scrum - Own	13	9
Turnover/Handling Error	11	8
Lineout - Own	10	23
Opponents Kick	10	10
Penalty/Free Kick	3	8
Lineout - Opp	2	4
Restart - Own	1	2
Restart - Opp	0	0
Scrum - Opp	0	1
	50	65

The following table shows the source of tries scored by the 6 teams:

Source of Tries Scored per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Opp Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Scored
WALES	3	1	1	5	3		13
FRANCE	2	2	1	1	5		11
IRELAND	1	3	1	2	1	1	9
ENGLAND	2	4		1	1		8
ITALY	3	1		1	1		6
SCOTLAND	1	2					3

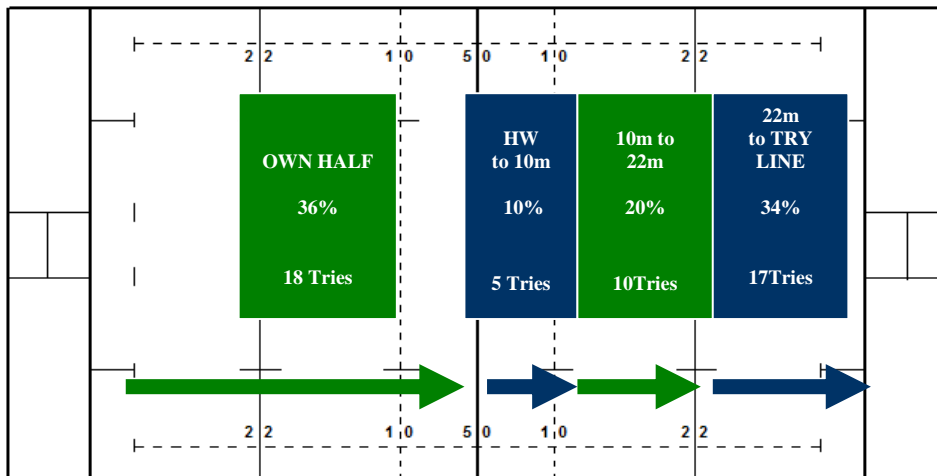
The next table shows the source from which their opponent's tries came:

Source of Tries Conceded per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
ITALY	4	4	1	3	1		13
SCOTLAND	1	2	1	4	4	1	13
IRELAND	2	4			4		10
FRANCE	2	2		1	2		7
ENGLAND	1	1	1	2			5
WALES	2						2

2. ORIGIN OF TRIES

Tries originate from various parts of the pitch – this is illustrated below:



In 2008, 1 in 3 tries originated from within the scoring teams own half. This is a high percentage – double that seen in 2003 and 2004 for example. The high percentage this year was largely down to Wales and France as seen below who accounted for 13 of the 18 tries starting over 50metres out.

Origin of Tries scored per team

	Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Try-line	Total Scored
 WALES	7	2	2	2	13
 FRANCE	6	1	2	2	11
 IRELAND	1	1	2	5	9
 ENGLAND	1	1	2	4	8
 ITALY	1	0	1	4	6
 SCOTLAND	2	0	1	0	3

The following table provides the converse to the above ie. It shows – for each team – the origin of all tries conceded. This shows that 17 of the 18 tries that were conceded from opponents possession gained in their own half, were conceded by the bottom three teams. Wales, France and England conceded just one between them.

Origin of Tries conceded per team

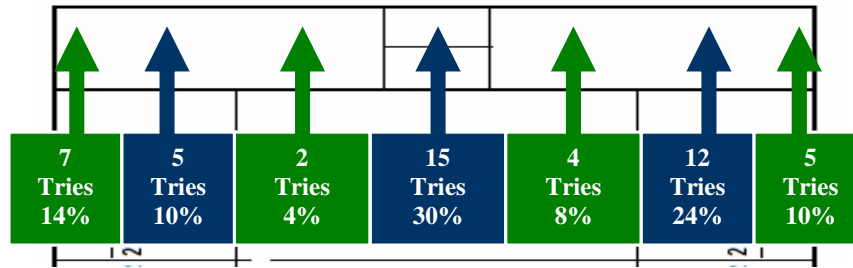
	Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Tryline	Total Conceded
 ITALY	8	0	2	3	13
 SCOTLAND	5	2	3	3	13
 IRELAND	4	1	3	2	10
 FRANCE	1	1	0	5	7
 ENGLAND	0	0	2	3	5
 WALES	0	1	0	1	2

3. TRY LOCATIONS

The chart below indicates where across the goal-line tries were scored. It shows that:

30% were scored under the posts	<i>2007 23%</i>
28% the left side of the posts, and	<i>2007 48%</i>
42% on the right side of the posts.	<i>2007 37%</i>

Overall position of tries scored (%)



4. BUILD-UP TO TRIES

Possession of the ball that leads to tries is obtained from a number of sources – and they are listed above. More often than not, other actions – second phase, kicks and passes – then take place before the try is scored.



The first table below shows the number of rucks and mauls (2nd phase) that preceded each of the 50 tries scored in 6 Nations 2008

Build Up to Tries - Ruck/Mauls

	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 R/Ms	14	28	28
1 R/Ms	10	20	48
2 R/Ms	6	12	60
3 R/Ms	4	8	68
4 R/Ms	2	4	72
5 R/Ms	2	4	76
6 R/Ms	3	6	82
7 R/Ms	1	2	84
8 R/Ms	3	6	90
9 R/Ms	1	2	92
10+ R/Ms	4	8	100
Total	50	100%	100%

The table shows that 68% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer second phases (2007 – 78%)

The next table below shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 50 tries scored in 6 Nations 2008

Build Up to Tries - Passes

	Number	%	Cumulative %
0 pass	11	22	22
1 pass	5	10	32
2 passes	7	14	46
3 passes	3	6	52
4 passes	5	10	62
5 passes	3	6	68
6 passes	3	6	74
7 passes	0	0	74
8 passes	2	4	78
9 passes	2	4	82
10 passes	3	6	88
11+ passes	6	12	100
Total	50	100%	100%

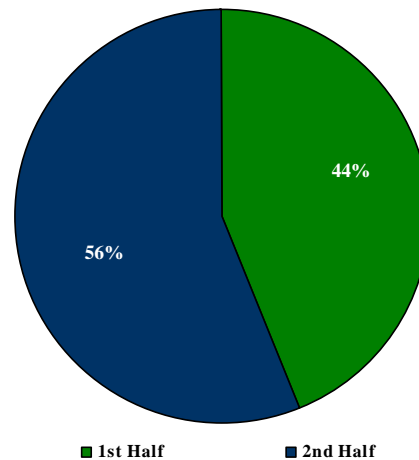
The table shows that 52% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes. (2007 – 58%). This was not a figure that was seen consistently throughout all teams. In **Italy's** case, for example, 5 of their 6 tries did not contain a single pass. By contrast, almost half of **Wales'** tries contained 9 or more passes.

TIMING OF SCORES - TRIES

22 or 44% of tries were scored in the first half – 28 or 56% in the first half.

The following table breaks down these figures further and shows the halves in which teams scored tries and the halves which they conceded tries.

Timing of Tries



Timing of Tries Scored and Conceded per Team

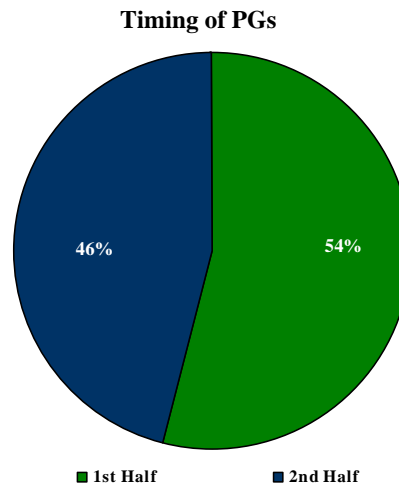
	Tries scored 1st half	Tries scored 2 nd half	Tries conceded 1st half	Tries conceded 2 nd half
WALES	2	11	2	0
FRANCE	7	4	1	6
IRELAND	4	5	4	6
ENGLAND	5	3	2	3
ITALY	2	4	7	6
SCOTLAND	2	1	6	7

One figure to note is that France conceded 6 of their 7 tries in the second half.

TIMING OF SCORES - PENALTY GOALS

There is a noticeable difference between the time when tries are scored and the time when penalties are kicked.

In 6 Nations 2008, 22 tries were scored in the first half – 28 in the second. Penalty goals however showed a different profile - 45 penalties were kicked in the first half - 38 in the second.



The following chart shows the number of penalties kicked and conceded by each team:

Timings of Penalty Goals kicked and Conceded per Team

	PGs scored 1st half	PGs scored 2 nd half	PGs conceded 1st half	PGs conceded 2 nd half
WALES	9	10	9	8
ENGLAND	9	7	8	8
SCOTLAND	9	6	4	7
IRELAND	6	6	6	5
ITALY	7	4	8	6
FRANCE	5	5	10	4

KICKS AT GOAL

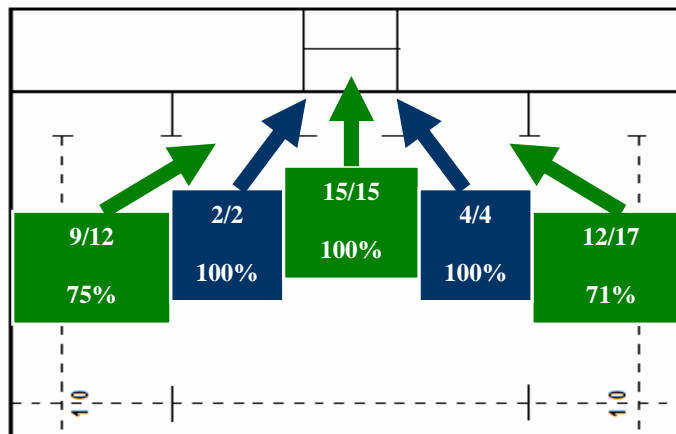
It has been noted many times in earlier reports that the success rates of kicks at goal have improved noticeably since the game went professional.

In the 5 decades since 1946, conversion rates were 50%, 61%, 55%, 54% and 47% which reflected a running average of 52/53%. These figures are now exceeded comfortably in all major rugby competitions. This level of success was maintained this year when **84%** was achieved.

Kicking success rates were as follows:

	Kicking success rates
Conversions	84%
Penalty goals	80%
Drop goals	31%

Map of Conversion Success



The kicking success for penalty goals, conversions and drop kicks – of each of the participating countries was as follows:

Kicks at Goal Success

	Penalty Success	Conversion Success	Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
SCOTLAND	15 of 16=94%	3 of 3=100%	95%	1 of 4
WALES	19 of 23=83%	13 of 13=100%	89%	0 of 1
ENGLAND	16 of 21=76%	7 of 8=88%	79%	2 of 4
IRELAND	12 of 14=86%	6 of 9=67%	78%	0 of 0
FRANCE	10 of 15%=67%	9 of 11=82%	73%	0 of 0
ITALY	11 of 15=73%	4 of 6=67%	71%	1 of 4

Scotland had the most successful percentage, missing one kick out of 19. Wales were also successful in converting all of their 13 tries which made each try worth 7 points.

BALL IN PLAY

In percentage terms, 6 Nations 2008 matches produced an average ball in play time of **40min 15secs – or 50%** (2007 46% or 36 mins 38 secs)

Over half the matches had ball in play of 50% or more. This the highest ever recorded.










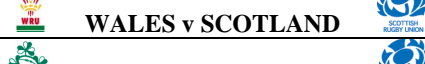
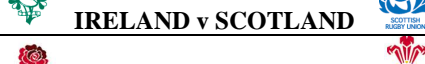
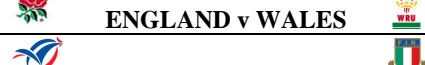
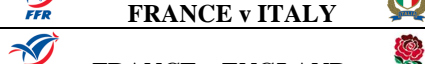
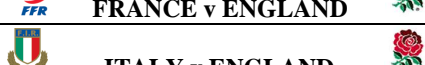
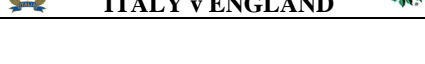
The highest Ball in play figure was **57%** or 46 mins 08 secs (**Wales v France**)
 The lowest Ball in play figure was **43%** or 34 mins 43 secs (**Italy v England**)

This represents an increase of 9% from the 46% achieved in 2007, which was gained largely from a reduction in lineouts and scores.

6N 2008
 6N 2007
 6N 2006
 6N 2005
 6N 2004

Ball in Play Time (average)	
6N 2008	50%
6N 2007	46%
6N 2006	46%
6N 2005	44%
6N 2004	46%







In percentage terms, the 2008 matches produced the following ball in play times

MATCH	BALL IN PLAY %	BALL IN PLAY TIME
 WALES v FRANCE	58%	46min 08secs
 IRELAND v WALES	55%	43min 45secs
 SCOTLAND v ENGLAND	54%	43min 20secs
 SCOTLAND v FRANCE	54%	42min 51secs
 IRELAND v ITALY	52%	41min 29secs
 FRANCE v IRELAND	51%	41min 09secs
 ITALY v SCOTLAND	51%	41min 04secs
 ENGLAND v IRELAND	50%	40min 22secs
 WALES v ITALY	50%	40min 04secs
 WALES v SCOTLAND	49%	38min 48secs
 IRELAND v SCOTLAND	48%	38min 35secs
 ENGLAND v WALES	48%	38min 31secs
 FRANCE v ITALY	46%	37min 06secs
 FRANCE v ENGLAND	45%	35min 57secs
 ITALY v ENGLAND	43%	34min 43secs









SECTION 2 – STATISTICAL ANALYSIS AND MATCH SUMMARY

This increased ball in play time means that the possession obtained by teams this year exceeded the amount gained in the past. The following table shows how much possession was obtained by each team in the 15 matches. There are some noticeable differences. At one extreme, England had the ball in their possession for 14 minute 09secs in their game against Italy while France had almost double that in their game against Wales.

MATCH	BALL IN PLAY TIME	%	WAL 	ENG 	FRA 	IRE 	SCO 	ITA 
WALES v FRANCE	46min 08secs	58%	18m39s 40%		27m29s 60%			
IRELAND v WALES	43min 45secs	55%	24m43s 56%			19m02s 44%		
SCOTLAND v ENGLAND	43min 20secs	54%		22m08s 51%			21m 12s 49%	
SCOTLAND v FRANCE	42min 51secs	54%			26m07s 61%		16m 44s 39%	
IRELAND v ITALY	41min 29secs	52%				20m28s 49%		21m01s 51%
FRANCE v IRELAND	41min 09secs	51%			18m29s 45%	22m40s 55%		
ITALY v SCOTLAND	41min 04secs	51%					21m03s 51%	20m01s 49%
ENGLAND v IRELAND	40min 22secs	50%		20m14s 50%		20m08s 50%		
WALES v ITALY	40min 04secs	50%	25m00s 62%					15m04s 38%
WALES v SCOTLAND	38min 48secs	49%	20m12s 52%				18m 36s 48%	
IRELAND v SCOTLAND	38min 35secs	48%				15m37s 40%	22m58s 60%	
ENGLAND v WALES	38min 31secs	48%	19m02s 49%	19m29s 51%				
FRANCE v ITALY	37min 06secs	46%			17m37s 47%			19m29s 53%
FRANCE v ENGLAND	35min 57secs	45%		15m11s 42%	20m46s 58%			
ITALY v ENGLAND	34min 43secs	43%		14m09s 41%				20m34s 59%
TOTAL			107m36	91m11s	110m28	97m55	100m33	96m09

The following table shows the average possession time obtained by all 6 teams

	Average Possession
 FRANCE	22min 06secs
 WALES	21min 31secs
 SCOTLAND	20min 07secs
 IRELAND	19min 35secs
 ITALY	19min 12 secs
 ENGLAND	18min 14secs



As a formula for winning, having the most possession is no guarantee of success.

In 6 Nations 2008, the winning team had the most possession in only 5 games of the 15.

ACTIVITY CYCLES







Activity cycles comprises
 - ruck/mauls, passes, and kicks.
 The following paragraphs show the number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks made in 6 Nations 2008 compared with 6 Nations 2007.

	6N 2008	6N 2007
Rucks/Mauls	179	167
Passes	259	261
Kicks	57	53

PASSING







Games, on average, contained **259** passes (2007 - 261).
 The most in any game was **317 (Wales v France)** – the fewest was **208 (England v Wales)**. The most by any team in a game was **201** – the fewest, **83**.

The following table shows the average passes per game per team
Average Passes per Team per game

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 FRANCE	150	141
 WALES	144	120
 SCOTLAND	133	135
 IRELAND	127	139
 ITALY	118	117
 ENGLAND	107	130







Again, there were noticeable differences between the 6 teams with France making 40% more passes than England. Much of this is accounted for however by the greater possession that France obtained. When an adjustment is made to take account of this, for all teams, then the above table changes – albeit slightly. This next table now shows the average number of passes per minute’s possession ie the rate of passing.

Rate of Passing per Team – ie passes per minutes possession

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 FRANCE	6.8	7.3
 WALES	6.7	7.4
 SCOTLAND	6.6	7.2
 IRELAND	6.5	7.7
 ITALY	6.1	6.7
 ENGLAND	5.9	6.6

Under this method of calculation, when passing is related to possession, then **France**, for example, made only 14% more passes than **England** and not 40% as shown in the earlier table.

The number of passes made by a team can also vary considerably 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

	Average 6N 2008	6N 2007	Most 6N 2008	6N 2007	Least 6N 2008	6N 2007
 FRANCE	150	141	201	193	121	115
 WALES	144	120	188	157	97	101
 SCOTLAND	133	135	187	198	84	91
 IRELAND	127	139	167	157	82	118
 ITALY	118	117	157	183	86	73
 ENGLAND	107	130	131	175	83	98

It can be seen from the above that there were noticeable contrasts between the highs and lows of certain teams. Scotland for example, made 103 more passes in their game against Ireland than they did in their game against Wales.

PLAYER PASSING

Total passes made in the championship were broken down into 3:

- Passes made by forwards
- Passes made by the scrum half
- Passes made by backs

When the almost 4000 passes made in 6 Nations 2008 were allocated into these 3 groups, the results were as follows:

The percentages for each country in each of the categories are shown below:

	6N 2008
Passing % by forwards	38%
Passing % by scrum half	47%
Passing % by backs	15%
	100%

Total number of passes made by Forwards/Scrum Half/Backs per Team

	Passes Forwards	Passes Scrum half	Passes Backs
WALES	122	318	278
ENGLAND	114	251	170
SCOTLAND	113	315	239
ITALY	87	262	239
FRANCE	93	356	302
IRELAND	66	328	239

What the above table shows is the level of passing made by the three groups of players. It simply shows how active they were in passing the ball.







The following table takes this further. It shows the proportion of a teams passes made by each group. 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. This is what the table shows:

Percentage of total passes made by forwards/scrum half /backs

	% by Forwards	% by Scrum Half	% by Backs
ENGLAND	21%	47%	32%
WALES	17%	44%	39%
SCOTLAND	17%	47%	36%
ITALY	15%	45%	40%
FRANCE	12%	47%	41%
IRELAND	10%	52%	38%







The next tables show what each rank of forwards of each team did with the ball when they were in possession of it. The first table shows the number of times each countries’ 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. Again, the table shows major differences between the countries.

Ratio of Passes to Possession – by Forwards per Team

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 ENGLAND	1 in 3.4	1 : 4.1
 SCOTLAND	1 in 3.6	1 : 3.5
 WALES	1 in 3.7	1 : 2.7
 ITALY	1 in 3.8	1 : 3.8
 FRANCE	1 in 4.1	1 : 4.2
 IRELAND	1 in 5.5	1 : 4.0







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.

% of times ball passed by Front Row







	6N 2008	6N 2007
 IRELAND	23%	15%
 FRANCE	22%	18%
 WALES	21%	27%
 ENGLAND	21%	26%
 SCOTLAND	14%	19%
 ITALY	14%	14%

These percentages were however not the same as far as the second rows were concerned. While Ireland’s front row were the most likely front row to pass the ball – albeit only marginally – Ireland’s second row were by far the forwards were least likely to pass the ball. England and Scotland’s second row distributed at a rate which was almost 4 times higher.

% of times ball passed by 2nd row

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 SCOTLAND	41%	48%
 ENGLAND	38%	19%
 FRANCE	22%	21%
 WALES	18%	27%
 ITALY	16%	34%
 IRELAND	11%	24%

Percentage of times ball passed by Back Row

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 ITALY	39%	30%
 ENGLAND	32%	26%
 WALES	33%	44%
 SCOTLAND	29%	20%
 FRANCE	27%	30%
 IRELAND	20%	29%

PASSING MOVEMENTS

Passes are grouped into passing movements – i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on. The data shows that some 83% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. This now appears to be a constant and varies little from year to year. It also varies little between teams. All 6 countries fell within 82% and 85%.



RUCKS/MAULS (2ND PHASE)







The average number per game was **179**. (2007 – 167)

The most in any game was **214** – the fewest was **158**.

The most by any team in a game was **130** – the least, **58**.

The average for all countries is shown below:







Average Ruck/Mauls per Team per Game

		6N 2008	6N 2007
	WALES	106	69
	FRANCE	92	91
	SCOTLAND	92	94
	IRELAND	88	78
	ENGLAND	81	89
	ITALY	78	81

The above table indicates the total number of rucks/mauls created by each team in the competition expressed as average per game.

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. This is expressed in the number of rucks created for every minutes' possession obtained by a team and shows, for example, that Wales' rate of rucking exceeded that of the other teams.

Rate of Rucks/Mauls per Team







		6N 2008	6N 2007
	ENGLAND	4.5	4.5
	FRANCE	4.2	4.7
	SCOTLAND	4.6	5.0
	IRLANDE	4.5	4.3
	WALES	4.9	4.3
	ITALY	4.1	4.7

BREAKDOWN RETENTION

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on 94% of occasions.

The percentage success rate for each team was very similar and was as follows:

Rate of Rucks/Mauls per Team – ie rucks/mauls per minutes possession

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 WALES	95%	94%
 ITALY	95%	95%
 IRELAND	95%	95%
 FRANCE	94%	95%
 SCOTLAND	93%	95%
 ENGLAND	92%	94%

KICKING







The average number per game was **57**. (2007 – 52)

The most open play kicks in a game was **79** - the fewest **33**

The most by a team was **42** – the least **14**







There average number of kicks per team per game are shown in the table below:

Average Kicks per Team per Game

	6N 2008	6N 2007
 WALES	31	27
 ENGLAND	29	25
 SCOTLAND	29	19
 ITALY	29	31
 IRELAND	29	28
 FRANCE	25	29

When an adjustment is made to take account of possession obtained, by each team, then the kicking table changes slightly. It shows that England kicked at a higher rate than the other teams.. The table below shows the average number of kicks per team per minute's possession:

Rate of Kicking per Team – ie kicks per minutes possession







	6N 2008	6N 2007
 ENGLAND	1.6	1.3
 FRANCE	1.1	1.5
 SCOTLAND	1.4	1.0
 ITALY	1.5	1.8
 IRELAND	1.5	1.5
 WALES	1.5	1.7

SUMMARY

A summary of previous tables is shown below – it shows the average number of rucks, passes, and kicks per game and the rate for each per minute possession.



Activity Cycle Summary
Average per game and Rate per minute possession

	Rucks/Mauls		Passes		Kicks	
	Average	Rate	Average	Rate	Average	Rate
 WALES	106	4.9	144	6.7	31	1.5
 ENGLAND	81	4.5	107	5.9	29	1.6
 FRANCE	92	4.2	150	6.8	25	1.1
 IRELAND	88	4.5	127	6.5	29	1.5
 SCOTLAND	92	4.6	133	6.6	29	1.4
 ITALY	78	4.1	118	6.1	29	1.5

RESTARTS

Of 50m restarts, 60% were kicked long – 40% were kicked short and were contestable.

When 50m restarts were kicked short, the kicking team regained possession on 1 in 4 occasions.

Success rate and restart type varied between the 6 teams. The most effective teams in retaining short restarts are shown below.

The table shows the type of restart kicked by each team at 50m and retention rates of short 50m restarts.

		50m Restarts		22m Restarts		Retention rate
		Short	Long	Short	Long	Short
	FRANCE	22	5	1	3	7 of 23
	ENGLAND	13	11	3	2	4 of 16
	IRELAND	11	15	7	2	6 of 18
	SCOTLAND	8	20	1	4	3 of 9
	ITALY	7	24	0	6	1 of 7
	WALES	2	21	0	4	1 of 2

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between Wales and France. While Wales kicked long 25 times out of 27, France kicked long 8 times out of 31.

LINEOUTS

The average number of lineouts per game was 28 (2007 – 31)

The most line outs in a game was 37 – the least 23.

	6N 2008
Average no per game	28
Percentage competed	60%
Possession retained	83%
Pens/f/k per game	

Lineout trends over the last 4 years are shown in the following table:

	6N 2008	6N 2007	6N 2006	6N 2005
Av no per game	28	31	37	34
% competed	60%	59%	64%	72%
L/o Pens and Fks	1.1	1.1	1.5	1.1
Possession retained	83%	85%	84%	86%

A further breakdown shows that Wales’ opponents had relatively few lineouts. In the 5 matches, the total came to 54. this contrasts with Italy whose opponents threw the ball into the lineout 80 times. This reflected Wales’ policy of kicking in field and for territory. This also replicates Wales approach to restarts which were almost invariably kicked long.



All teams had high success rates on their own throw - and except in the case of Wales- had the similar rates of success on opponents throw-ins. Lineout success on own throw and opposition throw are shown below. It also highlights lineout steals won and lost

Lineout Success (Own Throw and Opposition Throw)

		Success %		Lineout Steals		Not straight / Pen/FK / Knock-on	
		Own Throw	Opposition Throw	Lost on Own Throw	Won on Opposition Throw	Own Throw	Opposition Throw
	ITALY	88%	19%	7	10	1	5
	ENGLAND	84%	17%	4	11	7	2
	SCOTLAND	82%	20%	8	9	6	5
	WALES	83%	11%	9	4	4	2
	FRANCE	80%	17%	11	10	1	3
	IRELAND	80%	17%	11	6	4	6

SCRUMS

The average number of scrums per game was 16 (2007 – 17). This amounts to an average of 8 scrums per team per game. In England’s case however it was 6 – in Italy’s 10.

	6N 2008
Average no per game	16
Possession retained	92%
Pens/t/k per game	2.9







The most scrums in a game was 22 – the least 12

The following compares scrums in 2008, 2007, 2006 and 2005

	6N 2008	6N 2007	6N 2006	6N 2005
Av no per game	16	17	19	20
Scrum pens and f/k per game	3.1	3.5	2.7	3.4
Possession retained	92%	92%	95%	94%







The Scrum success on own feed and opposition feed are shown below:

Scrum Success (Own feed and Opposition feed)

		Scrum Success %	
		Own Feed	Opposition Feed
	ITALY	98%	6%
	WALES	97%	11%
	IRELAND	94%	10%
	ENGLAND	94%	9%
	FRANCE	89%	2%
	SCOTLAND	83%	7%

Again, ball retention was relatively high for all teams.

With such high percentage of possession retained, it is no surprise that heels against the head were few and far between. In total there were just 5 in 239 scrums – or 1 in every 3 games. The following table shows the countries that won and lost tight heads:

		Heels against the head	
		Won	Lost
	WALES	2	0
	ENGLAND	1	1
	SCOTLAND	1	0
	IRELAND	1	0
	ITALY	0	1
	FRANCE	0	3







PENALTIES

In 6 Nations 2008, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was **18**. This is 1 less than the 19 in 2007.

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 25 – the least, 10.

The following table comprises the total penalties awarded to and conceded by each team. However, because the number of penalties can vary from match to match, a better measure is the **proportion** of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. This shows that Italy were the least penalised team in relation to their opponents.

Average Penalties For and Against per Team per Game

	Pen/FK For	Pen/FK Against
 ITALY	52	37
 SCOTLAND	46	43
 IRELAND	46	47
 FRANCE	42	45
 ENGLAND	49	55
 WALES	40	48

Proportion of Penalties For and Against per Team

% Pen/FK For	% Pen/FK Against
58%	42%
52%	48%
49%	51%
48%	52%
47%	53%
45%	55%

CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table groups the penalties awarded into 10 categories – these are as follows. The table also shows the comparative figures since 2005:

% of Offences Penalised

	%
Ruck/tackle on ground	42%
Offside	24%
Scrum	14%
Lineout	7%
Foul play	3%
obstruction	3%
Dangerous tackle	4%
Maul	2%
Other	1%
	100%

The above figures are similar to those seen currently in matches at international level.

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REFEREES

Of the 15 matches, 7 were refereed by northern hemisphere referees and 8 by southern hemisphere referees. The following compares the number of penalties and free kicks, and other match details between the two groups.

	Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Av no of penalties	16	20

CARDS – YELLOW & RED

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during 6 Nations 2008

RED CARDS

There were **no** red cards issued during 6 Nations 2008 (*2007 – none*)

YELLOW CARDS

There were **7** yellow cards issued during the championship.







Of the 15 matches, there were 5 which contained at least one yellow card as shown in the following table, meaning 10 (or 67%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 2 – this happened on 2 occasions (**Ireland v Italy** and **Ireland v Wales**)

Match	Referee	No of cards
IRELAND (1) V ITALY (1)	Kaplan	2
WALES V SCOTLAND (1)	Lawrence	1
WALES V ITALY (1)	Pearson	1
IRELAND V WALES (2)	Barnes	2
WALES (1)V FRANCE	Jonker	1
	TOTAL	7
	<i>2007</i>	<i>7</i>

The reasons for each of the yellow cards were as follows:

Reason for Cards	
	6N 2008
Foul play	4
Dangerous Tackle	1
Ruck/Tackle – Hands in Ruck	1
Ruck/Tackle – Preventing Release	1

The following table shows the breakdown of yellow and red cards per team with comparatives for previous years. It shows that France have conceded only 1 card in 5 years while Wales and France have each conceded 8:

		Yellow cards conceded				
		6N 2008	<i>6N 2007</i>	<i>6N 2006</i>	<i>6N 2005</i>	<i>6N 2004</i>
	WALES	3	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>
	ITALY	2	<i>2</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1</i>
	SCOTLAND	1	<i>3</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>
	IRELAND	1	<i>0</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>
	ENGLAND	0	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>
	FRANCE	0	<i>0</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>0</i>

TELEVISION MATCH OFFICIAL (TMO)

In 6 Nations 2008, there were 11 references to the TMO.

As a result of the 11 references, 7 tries were awarded.

The shortest reference took 47 seconds – the longest 3 mins 28secs.

ENGLAND



MATCH RESULTS				
ENGLAND	19	WALES	26	
ITALY	19	ENGLAND	23	
FRANCE	13	ENGLAND	24	
SCOTLAND	15	ENGLAND	9	
ENGLAND	33	IRELAND	10	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	5	3	8	
Tries conceded	2	3	5	
Conversions	5	2	7	
Penalty Goals	9	7	16	
Drop Goals	1	1	2	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	11mins 31secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	20mins 20secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
2	Lineout	1		
4	Scrum	1		
0	Penalty/ Free kick	1		
1	Kick receipt	2		
1	Turnover	0		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	81	90	4.5 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	107	130	5.9 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	29	28	1.6 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	21%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	47%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	32%	38%		
SCRUMS				
Total Own Scrums	32	Success %	94%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	45	Success %	9%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	69	Success %	84%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	78	Success %	17%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free kicks For	49 – 47%			
Penalties/Free Kicks Against	55 – 53%			
Total Cards conceded	0			

FRANCE



MATCH RESULTS				
SCOTLAND	6	FRANCE	27	
FRANCE	26	IRELAND	21	
FRANCE	13	ENGLAND	24	
FRANCE	25	ITALY	13	
WALES	29	FRANCE	12	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	7	4	11	
Tries conceded	1	6	7	
Conversions	6	3	9	
Penalty Goals	5	5	10	
Drop Goals	0	0	0	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	10mins 03secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	13mins 15secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
2	Lineout	2		
2	Scrum	2		
1	Penalty/ Free kick	0		
1	Kick receipt	1		
5	Turnover	2		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	92	90	4.2 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	150	130	6.8 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	25	28	1.1 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	12%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	47%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	41%	38%		
Total Own Scrums	45	Success %	89%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	41	Success %	2%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	61	Success %	80%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	75	Success %	17%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free kicks For	42 – 48%			
Penalties/Free kicks Against	45 – 52%			
Total Cards Awarded	0			

IRELAND



MATCH RESULTS				
IRELAND	16	ITALY	11	
FRANCE	26	IRELAND	21	
IRELAND	34	SCOTLAND	13	
IRELAND	12	WALES	16	
ENGLAND	33	IRELAND	10	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	4	5	9	
Tries conceded	4	6	10	
Conversions	4	2	6	
Penalty Goals	6	6	12	
Drop Goals	0	0	0	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	10mins 53secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	10mins 46secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
1	Lineout	2		
3	Scrum	4		
1	Penalty/ Free kick	0		
2	Kick receipt	0		
1	Turnover	4		
1	Restart	0		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	88	90	4.5 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	127	130	6.5 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	29	28	1.5 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	10%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	52%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	38%	38%		
SCRUMS				
Total Own Scrums	33	Success %	94%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	42	Success %	10%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	74	Success %	80%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	70	Success %	17%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free kicks For	46 – 49%			
Penalties/Free kicks Against	37 – 51%			
Total Cards Awarded	1			

ITALY



MATCH RESULTS				
IRELAND	16	ITALY	11	
ITALY	19	ENGLAND	23	
WALES	47	ITALY	8	
FRANCE	25	ITALY	13	
ITALY	23	SCOTLAND	20	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	2	4	6	
Tries conceded	7	6	13	
Conversions	1	3	4	
Penalty Goals	7	4	11	
Drop Goals	0	1	1	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	16mins 01secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	7mins 33secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
3	Lineout	4		
1	Scrum	4		
0	Penalty/ Free kick	1		
1	Kick receipt	3		
1	Turnover	1		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	78	90	4.1 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	118	130	6.1 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	29	28	1.5 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	15%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	45%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	40%	38%		
SCRUMS				
Total Own Scrums	48	Success %	98%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	33	Success %	6%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	68	Success %	88%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	80	Success %	19%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free kicks For		52 – 58%		
Penalties/Free kicks Against		37 – 42%		
Total Cards Awarded		2		

SCOTLAND



MATCH RESULTS				
SCOTLAND	6	FRANCE	27	
WALES	30	SCOTLAND	15	
IRELAND	34	SCOTLAND	13	
SCOTLAND	15	ENGLAND	9	
ITALY	23	SCOTLAND	20	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	2	1	3	
Tries conceded	6	7	13	
Conversions	2	1	3	
Penalty Goals	9	6	15	
Drop Goals	1	0	1	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	33mins 31secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	8mins 00secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
1	Lineout	1		
2	Scrum	2		
0	Penalty/ Free kick	1		
0	Kick receipt	4		
0	Turnover	4		
0	Restart	1		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	92	90	4.6 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	133	130	6.6 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	29	28	1.4 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	17%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	47%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	36%	38%		
SCRUMS				
Total Own Scrums	42	Success %	83%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	44	Success %	7%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	77	Success %	82%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	69	Success %	20%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free Kicks For		46 – 52%		
Penalties/Free kicks Against		43 – 48%		
Total Cards Awarded		1		

WALES



MATCH RESULTS				
ENGLAND	19	WALES	26	
WALES	30	SCOTLAND	15	
WALES	47	ITALY	8	
IRELAND	12	WALES	16	
WALES	29	FRANCE	12	
TIME OF SCORES				
	1 st Half	2 nd Half	Total	
Tries scored	2	11	13	
Tries conceded	2	0	2	
Conversions	2	11	13	
Penalty Goals	9	10	19	
Drop Goals	0	0	0	
RATE OF TRY SCORING/CONCEDING				
Rate of try scoring	8mins 17secs	Tournament rate	12min 05secs	
Rate of try conceding	49mins 50secs	Tournament rate	12mins 05secs	
POSSESSION SOURCE OF OWN TRIES		POSSESSION SOURCE OF OPP TRIES		
3	Lineout	2		
1	Scrum	0		
1	Penalty/ Free kick	0		
5	Kick receipt	0		
3	Turnover	0		
ACTIVITY				
	AVERAGE	Tournament rate	RATE	Tournament rate
Rucks	106	90	4.9 per min	4.5 per min
Passes	144	130	6.7 per min	6.4 per min
Kicks	31	28	1.5 per min	1.4 per min
PLAYER PASSING				
	%	Tournament rate		
% of passes made by forwards	17%	15%		
% of passes made by scrum half	44%	47%		
% of passes made by backs	39%	38%		
SCRUMS				
Total Own Scrums	39	Success %	97%	92%
Total Opp Scrums	35	Success %	11%	8%
LINEOUTS				
Total Own Lineouts	77	Success %	83%	83%
Total Opp Lineouts	54	Success %	11%	17%
PENALTIES/FREE KICKS				
Penalties/Free kicks For	40 – 45%			
Penalties/Free kicks Against	48 – 55%			
Total Cards Awarded	3			