

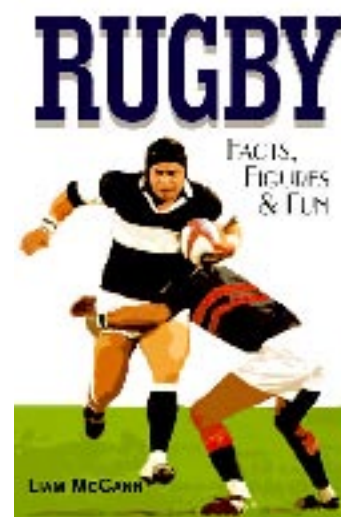
## LEAD TITLE

# RUGBY

FACTS, FIGURES & FUN

by Liam McCann

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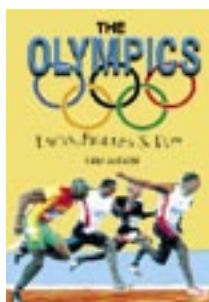
Beautifully-produced, well-researched and entertaining pocket history of the game from its origins to the present day. Rugby Union, League, Aussie Rules and Gaelic football, with reference to American football too – all interspersed with a wealth of facts, records and entertaining snippets and stories.

*“A good punch never hurt anybody”*

*“Well the first half was a half of two halves. The first half of that half belonged to England while the second half of the first half belonged to Australia”*

*“And he’s got an ice-pack on his groin so it’s probably not the old shoulder injury”*

see also *THE OLYMPICS FACTS, FIGURES & FUN* by the same author

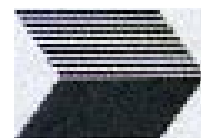


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# RUGBY

## FOUNDER MEMBERS OF THE RFU

Harlequins, Blackheath, Guy's Hospital, Civil Service, Wellington College, King's College, St Paul's, Gipsies, Flamingos, Mohicans, Wimbledon Hornets, Marlborough Nomads, West Kent, Law, Lausanne, Addison, Belsize Park, Ravenscourt Park, Clapham Rovers, Queen's House

*"You know you're up against it when the ref shouts 'our ball' at the put-in to the scrum"*

## THE SIX NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP

This was originally called the Home Championship when contested by England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, then, with the addition of France in 1910, the Five Nations, and finally, the Six Nations when Italy joined in 2000. With the first international matches being played between the home nations from 1871 onwards, it was only a matter of time before a championship was devised. The first was played in 1883, with England winning.

*"This is great stuff. Phil Bennett covering. Chased by Alasdair Scown. Brilliant! Oh, that's brilliant! John Williams. Brian Williams. Pullin. John Dawes, great dummy. David, Tom David. The half-way line. Brilliant by Quinnell! This is Gareth Edwards!  
A dramatic start! What a score! "*

According to Maori mythology Tane-rore, son of the Sun God Tam-nui-to-ra and his wife Hine-raumati, performed the first haka. The All Blacks' derivative, the Ka Mate haka, dates to 1810 when Chief Te Rauparaha of the Ngati Toa tribe hid from his enemy in a food storage pit. When he tried to escape, he found a man standing over him, but instead of killing him, the man turned out to be another chief from a friendly tribe. So overjoyed was he at his good fortune that Te Rauparaha performed a haka with the words:

*It is death, it is death. It is life, it is life.  
It is death, it is death. It is life, it is life.  
This is the hairy man who fetched the sun  
and caused it to shine again.  
One upward step, another upward step.  
An upward step, another!  
The sun shines!*

Two devoutly religious teams, South Africa and Samoa joined each other for a communal prayer on the pitch after their 2003 encounter

In the 1999 Five Nations match between Ireland and France, Irish hooker Keith Wood was dumped to the turf during a collapsed scrum. He emerged covered in paint—courtesy of the on-pitch advertising—and played the rest of the game with a blue head!

*"It's very easy to become exposed if you don't have your mate up your backside"*