



**IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION
ANNUAL REPORT 2012/2013**





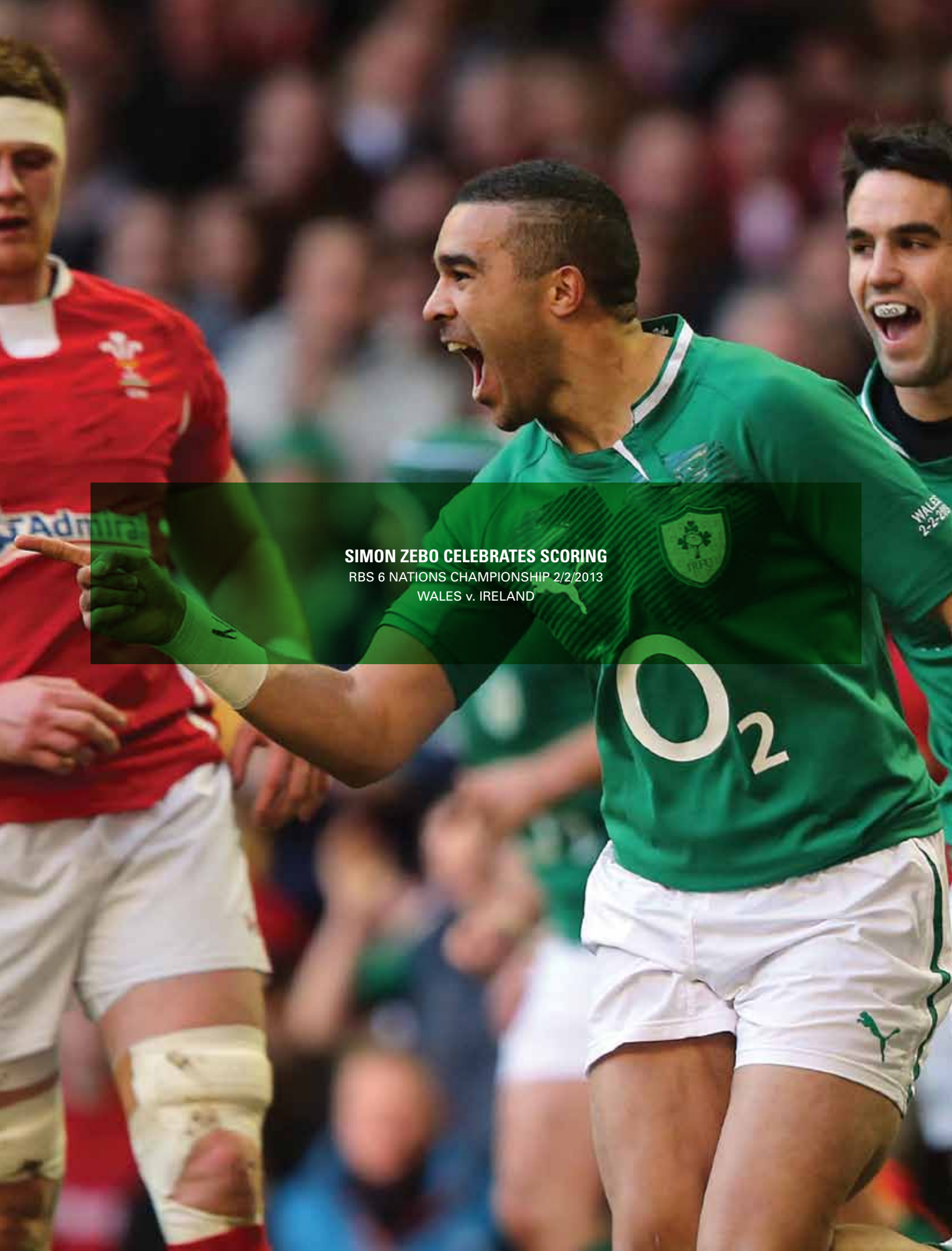
IRELAND WOMEN'S TEAM CELEBRATE WINNING GRAND SLAM

RBS WOMEN'S 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP, PARABIAGO, MILAN 17/3/2013
ITALY WOMEN v. IRELAND WOMEN

CONTENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT	03
HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT	06
CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT	09
OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE	28
STANDING COMMITTEES	30
SPONSORS OF IRISH RUGBY	32
ACCOUNTS	37





SIMON ZEBU CELEBRATES SCORING
RBS 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 2/2/2013
WALES v. IRELAND

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

BILLY GLYNN



It was my privilege in my year in office as President to preside over a number of significant initiatives designed to further benefit our game long into the future.

Taking primacy is the Union's third Strategic Plan, covering the period 2013 to 2017 and which incorporates the outcomes of the Plan Ireland process whose objective was to establish the pre-eminence of the Ireland team and the need to be consistently ranked in the top echelons of World rugby, while simultaneously sustaining high achievement by the provincial teams in the Heineken Cup and RaboDirect Pro 12 League.

I thank all those who took part in the consultation and preparation of the document. It is designed to meet the aspirations of the entire Irish rugby family and it is my fervent hope that we achieve all the objectives and values set out, so as to continue the enjoyment and success of our game and the values we so dearly treasure.

Essential to that objective is the execution of another landmark project, namely:- the Club Sustainability Report. It has been developed after two years of consultation with clubs by a Working Party chaired by Ian McIlrath and is being introduced by the Union in season 2014/15 in response to anxieties raised by a significant number of our clubs that a culture for "pay for play" has developed, which is not in the best interests of Irish rugby.

Domestic club rugby is the bedrock of our game and the changes introduced in this report are designed to protect and develop it against disturbing evidence that some clubs are in disarray partly as a result of payment to players at the detriment of club facilities, coaching and other ancillary services. Whilst I am content that Irish rugby is generally in good order and providing reason for optimism across all strands it is important that this particular issue is addressed.

The selection of eleven players on the Lions tour to Australia, the historic Grand Slam victory by the Irish women's team, the achievement of Leinster in winning the European Amlin Challenge Cup and of Leinster 'A' winning the British and Irish Cup, together with Leinster and Ulster making it an all Irish final of the RaboDirect Pro 12 League; is, to my mind, a more accurate indication of the depth and quality of where Irish rugby stands.

Of course, I share in the disappointment of a poor RBS 6 Nations campaign when the National team could not follow-up on the rich promise of a sparkling seven-try rout of Argentina in the November Guinness Series. In mitigation, we must acknowledge how, in spite of a satisfactory opening game against Wales, an extraordinary high number of injuries militated against the cause. A positive by-product was the opportunity it afforded to introduce many new faces. I believe this will pay dividends at a time when the team is destined to undergo much change in personnel over the next few seasons. In this regard, I congratulate Joe Schmidt on his appointment as new National Coach and I wish him well. I also thank his predecessor Declan Kidney for all he achieved during his term in office.

Notwithstanding that it was a less than satisfactory time for our men's team this season; the ladies most certainly lifted the gloom. It was a proud experience for me as IRFU President to be in Milan and present the team with their historic winning Grand Slam RBS 6 Nations trophy. The achievement heralds the arrival of Irish women's rugby as a truly formidable movement. The healthy state of affairs can be attributed to the IRFU's Domestic Game Committee, including Stephen Hilditch, Mary Quinn and Scott Walker, together with the support of the Irish Sports Council "Women in Sport" grant. Special commendation also to the team's coach Philip Doyle, manager Gemma Crowley and captain Fiona Coghlan. Well done to all.

Over the last number of years there has been unprecedented surge of interest from those wanting to become part of the Irish rugby movement. Our collective challenge now is to maintain the proper environment to capitalise on this positive recruitment opportunity and to ensure the provision of coaches, volunteers and facilities to accommodate all those who want to join in, all the while protecting the ethos and values of our game.

I am delighted to note that this growth phenomenon also applies in the UK where the Union's Exiles Development Officer Mark Blair and a widespread team of volunteers are doing so much good in strengthening the links between the IRFU and the Exiles. I got first hand evidence in one of the highlight experiences of my year in office when I travelled to London for the annual IRFU – Exiles promoted under age regional finals.



Over three hundred young players took part in what was a demonstration to me that a new generation of young players, and their parents, share the same passion for Irish rugby as in the past did the British based likes of Simon Geoghegan, Jim Staples, David Curtis and the Easterby brothers, Guy and Simon; when they adorned the Irish provincial scene and subsequently went on to play for Ireland.

This and the other projects I have referenced in this Report highlight just some elements of the very good work being carried out from Union level onwards, with the objective of enhancing the well-being of the professional, club, third level, women's and schools' domains. I urge that these initiatives be supported.

As a club-man at heart, I find it reassuring that in my time in office as President and travelling extensively to clubs around the Island of Ireland that I experienced so many positives in our game. I have spent most of my playing and administrative career connected to senior rugby and the professional game. I was flabbergasted by what I have experienced at the grassroots, particularly at rural junior clubs. My eyes were opened by the passion and commitment and high standard of facilities.

It all augurs well for the future of Irish rugby, although my appeal to the grassroots in general is that rugby clubs must become more multi-faceted and engrossed in the local community. I urge clubs to open their doors so that the club becomes attractive to everyone in the locality, providing many varied activities, be they sporting or social; and not confined exclusively to the oval ball!

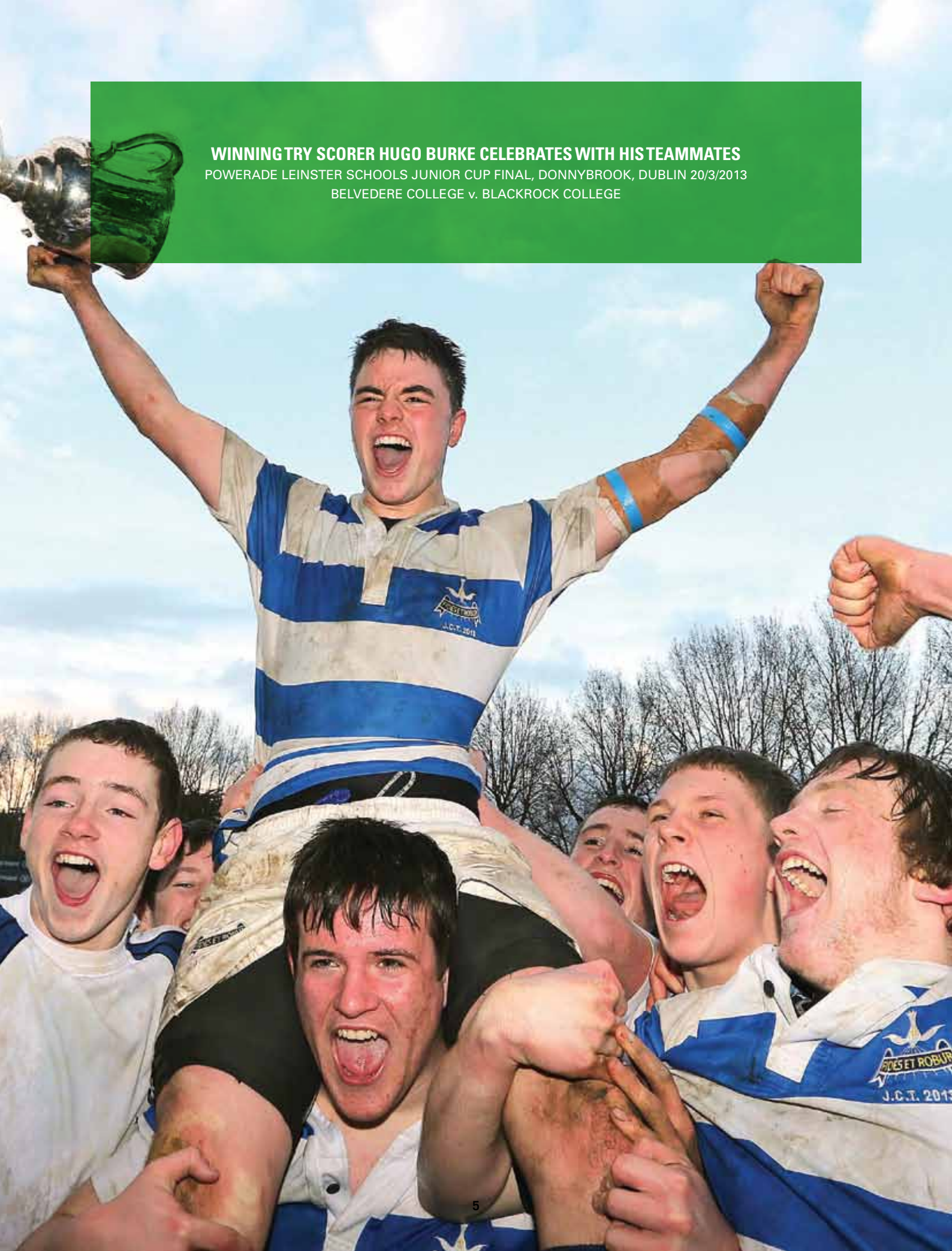
It has been a special pleasure for me, as the seventh person representing my club Galwegians RFC, to have been the 125th President of the IRFU. It was a most enjoyable and insightful

experience. It reinforced my belief that Irish rugby stands apart for the values it upholds and the role it performs in our society. We can all take great pride. I would like to warmly acknowledge the role played by my fellow Union Committee members, including my vice Presidents, Pat Fitzgerald and Louis Magee, who so willingly helped me in my duties. I also salute the huge contribution by our Provincial Branches and of course our vast volunteer force which forms the backbone of our game.

Special thanks also to our professional staff, headed by our excellent Chief Executive Philip Browne. It is a privilege to have such an administrative and technical staff and I would like to thank the various department Directors – Kevin Potts (Operations), Padraig Power (Commercial and Marketing), Maurice Dowling (Human Resources), Declan McPhillips (Legal), Eddie Wigglesworth (Rugby), Scott Walker (Rugby Development and Club Game) and Conor McCarthy (Medical). Without their dedicated and professional input, working in tandem with our volunteer committees, it would not be possible to achieve the success we have. The Union is also fortunate in these trying economic times to be able to manage its financial affairs in such a prudent fashion as evidenced by the outcome for the season – and much praise and thanks must go to our Honorary Treasurer Tom Grace and our Director of Finance, Conor O'Brien.

I also pay my respects to Grainne Fulham, who managed my busy diary and me so well over the past exhilarating twelve months. Of course, the whole experience would not have been possible without the enduring encouragement and support of my wife, Margaret and my sons, Barry and Richard.

Thank you all.



WINNING TRY SCORER HUGO BURKE CELEBRATES WITH HIS TEAMMATES
POWERADE LEINSTER SCHOOLS JUNIOR CUP FINAL, DONNYBROOK, DUBLIN 20/3/2013
BELVEDERE COLLEGE v. BLACKROCK COLLEGE

HONORARY TREASURER'S REPORT

TOM GRACE



It is my privilege to present to you the annual accounts of the IRFU for the 2012/13 season.

This year the Union achieved its highest ever surplus of €14.9m but this includes an exceptional item amounting to some €11.5m which relates to a settlement reached with one of our former sponsors.

When this once-off item is removed from the income and expenditure account it can be seen that the Union's surplus for the year was €3.4m, some way down on the €7.8m achieved last year but ahead of the €2m surplus that was budgeted. When non-cash items are stripped out the Union actually suffered an operating cash deficit of some €4.5m.

The Union is required to prepare consolidated accounts and as in the past I will restrict my comments here to explaining any significant differences between the Union's accounts and the consolidated accounts. Whilst the IRFU does not directly control either Aviva Stadium or Thomond Park they have representation on the board of each. The difference between the Union income and expenditure account and the Consolidated income and expenditure account arises from the replacement of the Union's amortisation charge on stadium investment of €5.9m with a share of operating losses from the Aviva Stadium and Thomond Park of €1.6m, €0.5m depreciation in respect of the car-park asset, and amortisation of goodwill of €0.2m.

As I indicated last year, 2011/12 was a Rugby World Cup year which makes year-on-year comparisons difficult but I will endeavour to explain the changes between this year's and last year's income and expenditure account.

International Rugby income includes all of the gate receipts and broadcasting income received in respect of the international game. The decrease of €2.8m here is largely due to the absence of net Rugby World Cup participation fees, broadcasting income arising from the Guinness Series warm-up matches in 2011 being greater than that generated by the Guinness Series matches in 2012 together with a reduction in Six Nations prize-money. Whilst both

of the RBS 6 Nations matches were sell-outs the matches against South Africa and Argentina were somewhat short of this.

Commercial income is down by c. €275k reflecting the continuing decline of advertising and programme revenues and some reduction in sponsorship values. That said it is good to report that we had a number of sponsorship acquisitions and renewals during the year.

Ten year ticket and box income of €14.5m reflects the fair value of the amount of total ten year and corporate box sales deemed to have been used in the current year which is higher than last year due to a combination of factors including past, current and future ticket prices and estimated number of future matches. I would remind all that this is a non-cash item inasmuch as the revenues raised from the sale of ten year and premium tickets and boxes have already been spent on the development of Aviva Stadium.

ERC and Provincial income is slightly lower than last year largely due to the fact that our Provincial teams competed in fewer knock-out matches in the Heineken Cup this year. However it should be noted that a significant amount of prize-money was earned due to the performance of three of the Provincial teams in the Heineken and Amlin Cups which gives considerable assistance to the Union meeting its annual funding of the Provincial teams of over €22m.

Funding from the Irish Sports Council fell from €2.9m to €2.6m reflecting the pressures that are on public finances at present. This grant assists the Union enormously with its various domestic game programmes and the Union are grateful to all at the Irish Sports Council for the continuation of this vital funding.

Other Rugby income includes grant funding from the IRB together with revenues generated by Tag Rugby. Other income is made up of the net interest payable or receivable by the Union together with the rents it receives in respect of Lansdowne Road and various properties surrounding it. Overall this fell by c. €250k due to higher levels of debt during the year coupled with higher interest rates and the inclusion of a significant exchange gain in 2011/12 compared with a small loss in 2012/13.



Overall the Union's costs have increased by €2.9m from 2011/12. Professional game costs account for some €0.8m of this increase largely due to the fact that no tour took place in 2011/12. Elite player development costs increased by €300k reflecting the increased level of investment by the Union in this area through the appointment of additional staff at Union and Provincial level in line with agreed plans.

Domestic and community rugby costs increased by c. €250k largely due to the activities of the new Women's Sevens team. Under the service level agreements in place with each Branch the Union funded some 48 positions together with other activities at a cost of €2.7m in the four Branches in season 2012/13.

Marketing costs increased by c. €220k due in part to the addition of a new Director of Communications. Website costs increased significantly due to the creation of a number of new applications and the cost of increased security and testing. A significant amount of ticket sales are generated through the website.

Grounds costs increased by c. €670k due to a combination of factors namely a reduction in the number of Provincial matches held at Aviva Stadium and a once-off legal cost relating to facilities.

Administration and overheads are almost exactly on budget but year-on-year there is an increase of €550k of which some €280k relates to staff costs. This is largely explained by the addition of a full-time Head of Legal together with a once-off bonus paid to staff in December. It should be noted that no annual increases have been paid to staff for the last four years.

Overall the Union's balance sheet at 30th April, 2013 is much stronger than it was in 2012 with Union funds now totalling some €51.8m compared with €37.2m and net current liabilities falling from €16.3m to €3.5m. The most striking thing to note about the Union's balance sheet is the fact that the Union is back in a net cash positive position for the first time in two years. This has been achieved largely through the once-off receipt of €11.5m and €8.6m of ten and five year ticket receipts.

However the future outlook has in my opinion disimproved significantly. I mentioned in my report last year the importance of a successful renewal of our ten year tickets and at that time it would have been anticipated that this would raise over €40m. Clearly we are some way short of this and even when this year's exceptional result is factored in the Union has had to adjust its long-term financial plan. Put simply because the Union spends more than the cash revenue it generates in each year, if the Union wish to maintain current expenditure levels then it will have to borrow more money in the future to fund its operations and repay this borrowing from a successful renewal of premium tickets in 2020/21.

Elsewhere in the balance sheet you will note that the Pension liability has again increased and now stands at €2.7m. It is intended to again review the Union's exposure to its defined benefit pension scheme during the year.

In my Report last year I referred to two of the key risks facing the Union as being uncertainty surrounding general economic conditions and the future of competitions in which Irish teams compete. Both of these issues continue to be at the forefront of our thinking.

In conclusion I would like to thank my colleagues on the Union, Management and Finance Committees and Conor O'Brien and his accounts team ably led by Fiona O'Flaherty and Sharon Coffey for their support and assistance throughout the year.

A full-page photograph of two Irish rugby players, Jonathan Sexton and Tommy Bowe, celebrating on the field. They are both wearing green jerseys and white shorts, with Sexton's number 17 visible. They are embracing each other, with Sexton holding Bowe. The background shows a blurred crowd of spectators in a stadium.

JONATHAN SEXTON CONGRATULATES TOMMY BOWE

GUINNESS SERIES 24/11/2012

IRELAND v. ARGENTINA

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

PHILIP BROWNE



The 2012/13 season has marked the end of perhaps the most extensive consultation ever undertaken by the IRFU with its members. The outcome of this process will be the publication in July of the IRFU Strategic Plan to 2017. The level of engagement and feedback from meetings with clubs and schools at venues throughout Ireland has not only been informative but also encouraging and uplifting.

Strategic Plan

Our clubs are undoubtedly facing significant challenges in economically difficult times but there is still energy and enthusiasm for the task at hand which augurs well for the future. It is our job to provide the structures and resources to help clubs to help themselves to become vibrant and meaningful organisations within the local communities. The new Strategic Plan will focus on how this can be achieved using the feedback and inputs from consultation with the clubs.

Club Sustainability Report

One of the perennial debates in Irish rugby has been payments made by clubs to players outside the professional game in the All Ireland Leagues and Provincial Leagues. Some of our clubs have put themselves in to financially unsustainable positions as a result of following such a policy and living beyond their means. Inducements allegedly made to players have eroded club loyalty and the values of the club game. The future role of Clubs and Play Reward was reviewed under the guidance of Ian McIlrath into the issues around the sustainability of the club game and resulted in the publication of the Club Sustainability Report in April. One of the key recommendations in the report is the removal of payments to players in the amateur club game. The IRFU will put in place a regulatory framework to underpin this decision, a decision which requires the support and acceptance of clubs if it is to be successful.

Plan Ireland

In the professional game there was also an extensive consultation exercise which is detailed later in this report which produced a document entitled Plan Ireland. The object of this exercise was to take all of those involved in the professional game, both professional staff and voluntary personnel, and to explore how the professional game could be more successful, particularly at national level. There was a consensus around the priority of the National Team and its importance to the financial wellbeing of the

game cannot be overstated however it was also recognised that Provincial team success is important in feeding into National Team success. The key recommendation from the process was that operational decision making in the professional game should be made the responsibility of professional staff and that it is no longer feasible or realistic that voluntary personnel be involved at this level of decision making. This would require the appointment of a Performance Director who will take responsibility for all aspects of the professional game and structures underpinning the professional game including the elite player pathway and succession planning. This person will report to the Chief Executive and through him to a new National Professional Game Board which will work with the Performance Director in making recommendations on strategy and policy to the IRFU Committee and which will monitor and review the implementation of agreed strategy and policies. The Board will involve not only members of the IRFU Committee but also has the scope to bring in outside expertise to sit on the Board as well. This is a hugely important step in the governance of the professional game in Ireland and will ensure that objective decisions are taken with measurable results and clear lines of responsibility and accountability. All involved in the Plan Ireland process, together with the IRFU, agree that these changes are necessary if the Irish National Team is to achieve more consistent success. There is currently an international recruitment process in place for the Performance Director involving London based consultants.

European Rugby Cup

The continuing threat to the structure of European Rugby Cup (ERC) competitions, the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup, has not been resolved and if anything has been exacerbated by the actions of Premier Rugby Ltd. (PRL) which represents the English clubs. The unilateral sale by PRL of TV rights for any future European Competitions involving English clubs to BT Vision, apparently both in the UK and Irish territories, has made the situation more difficult to resolve. The perception of the smaller Unions involved in ERC is that the position taken by PRL is a grab for money and power without any thought as to the consequences for professional rugby in Scotland, Italy, Ireland or Wales – French rugby with its Top 14 competition being big enough to look after itself if necessary. Part of the problem is the different philosophy governing the game in Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Italy. Club/provincial rugby is only a means to an end in that it underpins the National Team of each of these Unions and the revenues generated by the National Team subsidises the club/provincial teams. In England and also



in France, the club game is an end in itself and the clubs and their shareholders are interested mainly in the bottom line for their club and club success. It is the clash of these two philosophies which threatens to undo the premier club competition in the northern hemisphere and more worryingly it also threatens to unravel the professional game in the smaller Unions in Europe which could ultimately be to the detriment of the RBS 6 Nations Championship and international rugby. At present there is little progress being made but discussions continue with the RFU who have an important role in resolving the matter with their constituents, the English clubs. The French Federation have shown their support for the European competitions and whilst there is some discussion to be had with the French clubs, it is felt any issues they have are surmountable. The clock ticks away on this matter with the English clubs having given notice of their intention to leave the Heineken Cup and Amlin Challenge Cup at the end of the 2013/14 season.

Rugby World Cup 2023

Ireland as venue for rugby whether at RaboDirect Pro12, European or International level is second to none as we are fortunate to now have the stadia to match the quality of our teams. This, together with the great support the Irish rugby and sporting public give to big events, makes Ireland an attractive venue for fixtures. The Heineken Cup Final was staged in the Aviva Stadium in May, despite the fact there were no Irish teams involved, and provided a wonderful occasion, showcasing Dublin to an international television audience in one hundred and fifty countries measured in the millions, not to mention the 22,000 overseas visitors who travelled to Dublin. With an eye to the future, the IRFU, with support from the governments in North and South of the border, conducted a feasibility study in relation to the hosting of Rugby World Cup in Ireland in 2023 having seen what a success New Zealand made out of Rugby World Cup in 2011. The study was conducted with professional help from the Deloitte (UK) Sports Business Unit and the results have been provided to the two governments. Key to the feasibility of hosting Rugby World Cup is the provision of sufficient stadia and we are fortunate in Ireland that between the IRFU and the GAA there are stadia in all parts of the Island of sufficient size to cater for a major international tournament like Rugby World Cup. Great support was received from the President of the GAA, Liam O'Neill, and the Director General, Paraic Duffy, who facilitated the feasibility study and brought a motion to the Annual Congress of the GAA which was passed, allowing the provision of GAA stadia to any Irish bid to

host this tournament. There are further discussions to be had with government and the tendering process has been put back by the IRB to 2016 but there is a groundswell of support for this initiative and the feasibility study backs this up, showing significant benefits for Ireland as a whole.

Outlook

The difficult economic climate continues to impact Irish rugby not only at club level as alluded to earlier in this report but also at Provincial and IRFU levels. Ticket pricing strategies have had to be tempered by slow demand, corporate hospitality has taken a significant drop in demand along with a less buoyant sponsorship and advertising market. This has impacted the finances of the Branches and the Union and whilst it was gratifying to see about 50% of East Stand 10 year tickets renewed in the Spring, it has meant that the IRFU has had to revisit its longer term financial plan and adjust it accordingly. This inevitably means that the IRFU has to be more prudent if it is to have a sustainable financial model. This will pose a challenge in terms of maintaining our current level of activity and investment in the amateur and professional game. It also brings in to focus more sharply the danger from calls for the removal of sponsorship of sport by the alcohol industry. It is most unlikely that the revenues generated from such sponsorship could be replaced in the current diminished sponsorship market with significant financial consequences for the continued wellbeing of the game. The unintended consequences of a removal of alcohol related sponsorship will be a significant reduction in the participation programmes at grassroots levels in our game – the very area that repays investment in terms of a healthy active population of underage players which delivers a health dividend to the State as many of these kids form the habit of healthy activity in their teens regardless of whether they continue to remain involved in rugby or not. We fully accept that sport and Rugby has a role to play in educating our youth and the IRFU has offered to work with the HSE to deliver programmes around alcohol awareness to the key cohort of the population that the IRFU has access to at club and schools level. However it is simplistic to think that the removal of alcohol related sponsorship is going to have a significant impact on a societal problem particularly as there is evidence to show that similar policies in other countries have not been effective. Furthermore it is naïve and irresponsible to suggest that revenues from alcohol related sponsorships can be easily replaced in the current economic climate. The danger is that the financial impact on our sport could have significant consequences for the future



viability of the game as currently structured. The IRFU along with the GAA and the FAI have appeared before a Dail Committee and have made strong representations to Government on this issue. Time will tell as to whether these representations have had the desired impact.

NATIONAL TEAM

In an attempt to balance the commercially viable international fixtures between the northern and southern hemispheres the current IRB international match schedule requires the stronger northern hemisphere unions to play three match test series against Australia, South Africa and New Zealand other than in the Lions year or the year of a Rugby World Cup. As luck would have it Ireland travelled to New Zealand in June 2012 to play three test matches in Auckland, Christchurch and Hamilton, the match in Christchurch being the first test match in that city since the devastating earthquakes of 2010 and 2011.

The end of a long season saw a number of key players injured or in need of rehabilitation and unable to travel. With there being three test matches on consecutive weekends this tour was always going to be severe test of the strength and depth of the Irish squad, particularly against the World Cup winners in their first matches since the World Cup and under a new coach. The first test in Auckland followed the pattern of many previous matches against New Zealand with Ireland giving a good showing in many facets of play but eventually giving way to the relentless accuracy and power of New Zealand. There was much to be encouraged by for the Ireland team and they went into the second test in Christchurch in a good frame of mind. Ireland established a 10-0 lead but this was clawed back to 10-9 at half time. In a tremendous match it looked as if Ireland might get that elusive first win over New Zealand but they were undone by a debatable penalty with less than five minutes to go whilst pressing the New Zealand try line. Possession reverted to New Zealand who in clinical fashion worked their way up the field and Dan Carter scored a drop goal in the last moments to close out the match 22-19 to New Zealand – an opportunity lost for Ireland who deserved more out of that match. The third test in Hamilton proved to be a match too far for this team, undone by further injuries, errors and a ruthless performance by New Zealand, Ireland losing by a record margin of 60-0. It is hard to find the balance between the need to play more matches at this level against SANZAR opposition and the reality

of the strength and depth of the National Squad, all tempered by the commercial realities of international matches which generate revenues for the game. The IRB will need to look carefully at this in future international match schedules.

The Guinness Series in November provided an opportunity for redemption with matches against South Africa and Argentina at the Aviva Stadium. Again missing some key players through injury, Declan Kidney had to introduce some new caps. Ireland, Captained by Jamie Heaslip in the absence of Brian O'Driscoll, put up a good performance to lead the first half by 12-3 in what was a very tight and physical encounter. The second half started with Jamie Heaslip being sin-binned and South Africa scored the only try of the game shortly before his return to the field. Two further penalties and a very mean defence that Ireland could not breach closed the game out, South Africa winning by 16-12.

The match against Argentina two weeks later saw Ireland giving a potent display of open running rugby as well as being able to mix it with the powerful Argentinean pack. Craig Gilroy scored a wonderful try on his debut and three further tries by Sexton, Strauss and Zebo effectively finished this match at half time with a score of 24-9. Three further tries in the second half put this game out of reach of Argentina despite a spirited fight back, Ireland winning by 46-24, perhaps our most comprehensive defeat of Argentina.

There were plenty of positives from the Guinness Series particularly the introduction of four new caps and first outings in Ireland for a further three players. The disappointment probably being the team's inability to take advantage of the first half lead over South Africa. The RBS 6 Nations Championship schedule saw Ireland with a tough opening fixture away to Wales followed a week later by a resurgent England at home. In a great start to the Championship campaign Ireland beat Wales by 30-22, a score which masks a totally dominant display in the first half which ended with two tries and three penalties to finish the first half leading 23-3. A perfect start to the second half with an O'Driscoll try almost wrapped the match up as contest but for a strong fight back by Wales compounded by two yellow cards against Irish players. The final score after a nervy finish saw Ireland hold out for a 30-22 victory.

The following week Ireland hosted England in the Aviva Stadium in appalling wet and windy conditions. The match was a hugely



physical encounter dominated by the defence of both teams. England led by 6-0 at half time and with Ireland unable to break down the English defence the final score, all from penalties, was a victory to England 12-6. The loss of Sexton and Zebo, effectively for the rest of the RBS 6 Nations, through injury was a significant blow to the Team, already depleted by injury to experienced and key players such as Ferris and O'Connell.

Ireland generally travel to Scotland in trepidation of what is usually a closely fought encounter and this year was no different. With a further injury to Gordon D'Arcy and two new caps were selected, Paddy Jackson at outhalf and Luke Marshall in the centre, along with Stephen Archer also uncapped on bench. In a match where Ireland certainly looked in the first half as if they were capable of scoring tries with some excellent work by Marshall, try scoring chances were lost through unforced errors and the first half ended with Ireland leading by 3-0 from a Jackson penalty. The second half started similarly but after a try by Gilroy it looked as if Ireland was going to pull away. However Scotland fought their way back into the match and errors by Ireland created penalty chances which were taken by Scotland. The Scottish backrow outplayed their Irish counterparts in the closing stages of the match and Ireland could not break the Scottish defence, the final score being a victory to Scotland 12-8, leaving Ireland rueing the errors and missed kicks that let Scotland back into the game.

On 13th March Ireland hosted France in the Aviva Stadium in similar difficult conditions to that experienced at the English match. In a first half marked by a very focused performance by Ireland, a converted try and two penalties put Ireland ahead by 13-3 at half-time. In the second half the French started to turn on their power helped by some judicious replacements and put Ireland under significant pressure. However it was not until the seventy fourth minute that France finally managed to break the stout Irish defence with a converted try by Picamoles to add to a penalty by Parra, which brought the result to 13-13. Ireland again pressed the French line and were unlucky not to score on a kick through and the match ended in a draw for the second year in a row. Two new caps were awarded in Ian Madigan and Stephen Archer.

The final match of the Championship was against a resurgent Italian team in Rome, playing a more attractive style under their

new coach. Ireland, without the service of Reddan through injury, started brightly and opened the scoring with a penalty, the inability to convert territorial advantage in to points continued to frustrate. Injuries, the feature of this season continued to impact, with Earls and Marshall had to be replaced. This was compounded by a yellow card to O'Driscoll and then replacement Fitzgerald coming off with an injured knee prompting the move of O'Mahony from the back row to wing. Ireland were now in some disarray but a penalty at half time left Italy ahead 9-6. The second half started badly with an early try by Italy, converted by Orquero leaving Ireland to chase the game. Despite bringing the score to within a point of Italy through Jackson penalties arising from Irish pressure on Italy, this match in the Olympic Stadium in Rome seemed destined to be a victory for Italy. Two yellow cards in the dying minutes of the game and two Italian penalties closed the match out, Italy winning by 22-15.

Thus ended a very disappointing Championship, Ireland's fifth place the worst placing since the formation of the RBS 6 Nations Championship along with IRB ranking fallen to ninth. Bedeviled by an unprecedented injury crisis the main positive to be taken from the season was the number of newly capped players blooded at international level. Following a detailed review of team performances over the season and since RWC 2011 by the National Team Review Group, it was decided that it was in the best interests of the National Team that there be a change in the Head Coach and that Declan Kidney should not be offered a new contract. It was also felt that it would be better for all if the tour to USA and Canada in June should be led by an "interim" team management headed up by Les Kiss to provide some certainty whilst the IRFU sought to recruit a new coach. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the achievements of Declan Kidney and his coaching team of Gert Smal and Les Kiss during their tenure, and particular in delivering the Grand Slam in 2009 and some memorable victories including the victory over Australia in the Rugby World Cup in 2011. Declan and his team management were committed and professional in their desire to deliver success for the Irish Team and for this I must thank them most sincerely.

Following this decision the IRFU engaged a London based consultancy, CSM, to assist in the recruitment of a new National Coach. Contact was made with some of the leading coaches in the game and after shortlisting and interviews the current Head Coach of Leinster, Joe Schmidt, was appointed the Ireland National Team



Coach, commencing after the summer tour to USA and Canada. Best wishes to Joe Schmidt in his new challenge in which he will have the full support of the IRFU and all at Lansdowne Road.

PROVINCIAL TEAMS/PROFESSIONAL GAME

It was perhaps not a vintage year for the Provinces compared to the performances of last season but despite that there was a Heineken Cup semi-finalist in Munster, a Heineken Cup quarter-finalist in Ulster and Leinster reached the final of the Amlin Challenge Cup. In the RaboDirect Pro12 Ulster and Leinster were the two finalists, having finished the league section in first and second place respectively.

The RaboDirect Pro12 continues to grow as a competition with increased attendances and increased viewing figures on television year on year yet again. It has produced some memorable matches again this season and the derby matches in Ireland and Wales in particular are high quality fixtures. Ulster deservedly topped the league section of the season with Leinster holding out in a tight finish to gain second place. Munster had a disappointing season in many respects – bedevilled by injury and inconsistent performances they finished in sixth place. Connacht finished in eighth place, the same as last season, but in doing so scored more tries and had one more win than the previous season, a very positive reflection on the progress being made in Connacht. In the semi finals Ulster beat Llanelli in Ravenhill and Leinster beat Glasgow in a very tight game in the RDS, setting up an all Ireland final between Ulster and Leinster in the RDS. In a great derby match with the attendance equally split between Ulster and Leinster supporters, Leinster deservedly won a tight match to finish the season with three trophies, the Amlin Challenge Cup, the RaboDirect Pro 12 and also the British and Irish Cup for the Leinster 'A' team.

Thanks to the Leinster victory in the Heineken Cup last season Connacht gained a place in the Heineken Cup along with the other three provinces. Connacht certainly did not look out of place in the competition and produced a memorable victory over Biarritz in the Sportsground along with home and away victories over the new Italian side Zebre. They were undone by appalling almost unplayable conditions in Biarritz and by home and away losses to Harlequins who emerged from the pool stages unbeaten, leaving Connacht holding third spot in the pool. Again signs of greater consistency and experience which can only be gained by playing opposition at this level. Leinster were unlucky to be drawn in a

tough pool with Clermont Auvergne and Exeter, a team new to Heineken Cup but well coached and hard to breakdown. The dominance of Clermont in the Top 14 French League was mirrored in the Heineken Cup. Leinster, shorn of some first choice players through injury, lost home and away to Clermont albeit scoring losing bonus points in both matches. This was bridge too far and Leinster failed to qualify for the knock-out stages of Heineken Cup dropping down to the Amlin Challenge Cup where they reached the final, seeing off Wasps in London and Glasgow in the RDS. The final held in the RDS with a capacity attendance was against Stade Francais. Leinster won the match in fine style 22-17 against a Stade Francais team that never really got to grips with Leinster.

Ulster and Munster faced two quarter finals in London against Saracens and Harlequins respectively. Ulster, who had struggled with injuries post-Christmas, never really got going against a Saracens team that had a watertight defence, losing 27-16. Munster in contrast, with Paul O'Connell back on the park, produced a defiant performance against a fancied Harlequins team, beating them by 12-18 – their reward a semi-final against Clermont in Montpellier. Despite being widely seen as the underdogs going into the semi-final Munster rose to occasion and pushed Clermont hard to the extent that a kinder bounce of a kick through ball could have seen Munster lead in the last ten minutes against an uncharacteristically nervous and restrained Clermont team. It was not to be and the quality and strength of Clermont and their bench won through in the end, Clermont winning 16-10. This result along with the victory by Toulon over Saracens led to a Heineken Cup Final in Dublin at the Aviva Stadium, regrettably without an Irish team, but a great occasion nonetheless with Toulon winning by 16-15.

Academy

The provinces and the IRFU have to live in the present but also have to plan for the future and in the context of player succession, the work done now may not bear fruit for several years. A very thorough independent review of the Academy structures in all four provinces was commissioned by the Performance Committee carried out by Paul McKinnon, a former High Performance Manager in New Zealand rugby. The recommendations specific to each provincial academy are now being implemented and will hopefully further tune our academies. The new High Performance Manager, Colin McEntee, has a key objective of maximising the potential of the pool of Irish players in the four academies to meet the succession needs of both the provinces and the national team.



Coaching

The appointment of Dave Clark as Head of Fitness and Jason Cowman as National Team Fitness Coach are important appointments in the context of ensuring that the strength and conditioning needs of the provincial teams and the national team are met and that we continue to manage the playing time of our key players objectively through individualised programmes.

A national scrum development programme has now been rolled out across all four provinces under the central management of Colin McEntee and is being implemented through the provincial scrum coaches as an initiative to promote and focus on the development of front row forwards and in particular props.

Player Succession

The debate regarding the player succession needs of the National Team and the Provincial teams continued. It involves finding the correct balance between recruitment of non-Irish eligible players and Irish eligible players; finding the correct balance between provincial requirements and prioritising National Team success; and managing the game time of senior players together with the playing opportunities for emerging players. This debate was managed through the “Plan Ireland” process which involved a collaborative consultation exercise involving all the key people involved in the professional game in Ireland both on the professional technical side and also the voluntary representative side. There were three plenary meetings and a number of workshops covering coaching, strength and conditioning, performance analysis, medical, nutrition, governance, and branding. The outcome of the process was agreement that there is a hierarchy from the National Team down to Provinces and that National Team success is vital for the future wellbeing of Irish rugby but that this should not preclude provincial team success. It was agreed that there needed to be a more streamlined management of the professional game and it was agreed that a Performance Director should be appointed who would be responsible for managing the professional game and who would be accountable to the Chief Executive. A National Professional Game Board will be appointed which will be responsible for working with the Performance Director to recommend policy and strategy in the professional game to the IRFU and when approved, monitoring that it is implemented.

Professional Game Future

As highlighted earlier in the report the ongoing negotiations around the future of the Heineken Cup as a competition will have a significant impact on how the professional game develops in Ireland over the next few years. One thing for certain is the importance of growing the quality and commercial impact of the RaboDirect Pro12 as that competition provides twenty two fixtures a season and is the foundation that underpins the season structure. The general consensus is that this tournament is growing in stature and the standard of rugby being played has greatly increased. The performances of Glasgow and Treviso show that the professional game in Scotland and Italy is beginning to bear fruit. On the administration front good work is being done by John Feehan on the commercial side, the notable success being the deal with Sky for television rights from 2014 season, and by David Jordan on the operations front as the tournament runs smoothly. The disciplinary process put in place last season is well bedded in and criticism about refereeing standards is being addressed through the appointment of former international referee, David Pearson, by the 6 Nations who will act as referee coach with specific responsibilities for the development of high performance referees in Scotland and Italy. The agreement that provides for the participation of Italian teams ends at the end of 2013/14 season and negotiations will take place over coming months in relation to the extension of this agreement. In principle all are agreed that the inclusion of two Italian teams is important for the development of the game in Italy and for the wellbeing of the RBS 6 Nations Championship and, subject to agreement of terms, it is likely that this arrangement will continue.

OTHER REPRESENTATIVE TEAMS

O₂ Wolfhounds

The O₂ Wolfhounds, playing under the moniker “Ireland XV” took on Fiji in Thomond Park in November and then as the O₂ Wolfhounds played England Saxons in the Galway Sportsground in January. The National Team Management coached the “Ireland XV”, using it as a valuable opportunity to view players on the fringe of the National Team. In an entertaining fixture the young Irish team produced eight tries in a 53-0 victory over a tired looking Fiji team. Star of the show was Craig Gilroy who scored a hat



trick of tries and good showings by Luke Marshall and Paddy Jackson resulted in their later call up to the National Team. The O₂ Wolfhounds played England Saxons at a full house in the Galway Sportsground the weekend prior to the start of the RBS 6 Nations Championship, again coached by the National Team Management. The O₂ Wolfhounds put up a very good performance against a much bigger English team in difficult conditions. Leading 10-0 at half time Ireland struggled at times to contain England Saxons in the second half and in a closely fought encounter Saxons won 14-10.

Ireland U.20's

The Ireland U.20s coached by Mike Ruddock performed very well in the U.20 Junior World Championship, finishing in fifth place, their best result to date, and beating the hosts South Africa on the way, along with France and pushing a talented English team very close indeed. A number of the players involved are now regular starters for their provinces and Iain Henderson gained a full international cap in the Autumn. With a new squad the U.20s had a tough 6 Nations series recording some good victories over England and France, a draw against Italy and narrow defeats against Wales and Scotland. First preference is given to Provinces if they require an U.20 player to play in the RaboDirect Pro12 and a number of players who were not available in the Spring for this reason will hopefully be available for the U.20 Junior World Championships in France this coming June. Mike Ruddock has been appointed U.20 coach for a further two year period.

Women's XV

The success story of the season was by far and away the Irish Women at both fifteens and sevens. The Ireland Women's XV had a magnificent RBS 6 Nations to win a Grand Slam and Championship for the first time, beating Wales, Scotland and Italy away and England and France at home in Ashbourne in front of large crowds of spectators. It was a close affair given the last match played in atrocious conditions in Italy led to a game of attrition with Italy, Ireland Women holding out to win 6-3 in the levelling conditions. It was a great boost for the women's game and a tribute to a great squad of players under Coach Philip Doyle and Captain Fiona Coughlan. In the process the Ireland Women's XV have now qualified for the 2014 Women's Rugby World Cup. It will be important to maximise the promotional impact of this performance to help grow the awareness of the women's game in Ireland.

Women's Sevens

Not to be out done the Ireland Women's Sevens team has produced heroic results as well, with minimal experience of the short form of the game. A decision was taken by the IRFU in 2012 to try and qualify a Women's Sevens team for the Women's Sevens World Cup in Moscow in 2013. A small dedicated group of players, coached by Jon Skurr, qualified out of the European Qualifying Tournaments in Ghent and Moscow in 2012 after only twelve weeks of preparation and experience of the short form of the game. They backed these performances up in an invitational event in Hong Kong and a round of the IRB Women's Series in Guangzhou in China, winning the Bowl Final in the former and the Plate Final in the latter. They competed in an invitational event at the London Sevens and again won the Plate Final. The Rugby World Cup Sevens take place in Moscow in June and hopefully they will have good performances that will set the squad up for an attempt to qualify for the 2016 Olympics in Rio under a programme funded by the IRFU together with assistance from the Irish Sports Council which is gratefully acknowledged.

Ulster Bank Club International Team

Lead by Conor Twomey (Coach) and Niall Cowhey (Team Manager) played two games. The first game hosted at Cork Constitution against England counties, which resulted in a win to Ireland 30-20. In Glasgow the team played a second game against Scotland clubs, Scotland eventually winning 30-18.

National Age Grade Teams

The National Schools Team, led by Noel McNamara (Coach) and John McKinney (Manager) participated in the FIRA/AER European Championship finishing in third place after a victory against Georgia and losing a close match 23-18 to France in the semi-finals. In the playoffs the team won a decisive victory against Scotland 40-0.

The National U.18 Youth Team, led by Wayne Mitchell (Coach) and Tom Nyhan (Manager) played four international fixtures this season drawing with Italy 16-16, losing to Scotland 25-0, beating England 30-15 and losing the final fixture v. France 10-5.

The National U.19 squad, led by Colin McEntee, played two fixtures. The first was a close loss to England 16-15 and loss to France 14-20.



DOMESTIC GAME

Rugby Development and Club Game Report

Over the last twelve months a significant level of engagement has occurred with Clubs and Schools in the development of the next strategic plan for Irish Rugby. As highlighted earlier in the report, a series of stakeholder meetings occurred across clubs, schools, youth and women's rugby to identify the key strategic actions that need to be undertaken to allow the game to continue to develop and grow. These meetings also created the opportunity to discuss and reconfirm the values of Irish rugby, which must be embedded in all plans and strategic initiatives.

The Strategic Plan aims to tackle a number of areas outlined in the Club Engagement Report and also the Consultation workshops. It is evident that there are a number of social changes which are effecting all sports, and it is important that Irish rugby moves forward to provide the youth, male and female, the opportunity to participate in our sport. It is with the kind support of the Irish Sports Council and Sport NI, that Irish rugby is able to continue to assist our clubs and schools to create this opportunity.

Club Sustainability

The Domestic Game covers a large cross section of rugby activities, from the Ulster Bank League, through to mini-rugby and social Tag Rugby. While it may not always receive the media attention which it deserves, it is a massive undertaking supported by a large number of volunteers who are driven by their passion for the game. It is impossible to place a value on this resource, but it is a resource that must be supported and celebrated. Over the last eighteen months a working party led by Ian McIlrath, has been working to address the issue of club sustainability, with the aim of protecting the two fundamental pillars of club rugby, volunteerism and club loyalty. The Club Sustainability Report was released in April, and outlined a number of proposals endorsed by the IRFU Union Committee, which ensures that the above values of the game are protected and encouraged. The report also addressed the issue of player payment at Club level. While it may be the perception that it is the role of the IRFU to solve the issue of player payments, the adoption of the recommendations in the report, will only have meaningful impact if the clubs accept and support them. For clubs to embrace the new proposals, the IRFU will create and manage a robust and appropriate regulatory framework

that will allow clubs a degree of self-regulation. To support the recommendations the IRFU has established a Club Affairs Committee, which will lead the implementation of the recommendations of the report.

Women's Rugby

As reported earlier the highlight of the season was the securing by the Irish Women's National Team of their first ever Grand Slam Women's in the Six Nations. This historic feat was achieved by some great performances throughout the series and their success has given a big boost to women's rugby in Ireland.

The IRFU, as detailed earlier, decided in early 2012 to embark on a Women's Sevens Programme on the basis that a successful Sevens and Fifteens National programme will enhance the profile of women's rugby and increase the appeal for young women to take up the sport. Following an intensive thirteen week programme during early 2012, the team finished sixth in the 2012 European Championship, and thus qualified for the 2013 Women's Sevens RWC. The development of the Talent Identification Programme has seen an influx of non-rugby players into an Emerging Sevens programme. Whilst Women's Sevens still has a long way to go before it would be in the position to challenge for an Olympic Podium position, the squad has already achieved some early successes as detailed earlier in this report.

Development of the Women's Game

With the RBS 6 Nations Grand Slam success of the National Women's team and the early success of Women's Sevens team, it is important that our clubs seize the opportunity for the promotion and development of both the fifteen and seven a-side game. The Women's trophies have made a number of visits to matches and clubs. The impact of the Women's 6 Nations success has been to increase substantially the number of young female players who wish to play the game. With the hope of future success in the 2014 fifteen-a-side Rugby World Cup and 2016 Olympics, the IRFU will be working with clubs to put in place the resources to ensure that more female players can take up the game.

The generous contribution of the Irish Sports Council "Women in Sport" funding continues to support the development of women's programmes including age grade participation programmes such as PLAY RUGBY. A national promotion campaign 'Give it a TRY!' will be developed and delivered over the coming months

A female rugby player in a green jersey is running with the ball, looking forward with a determined expression. She is wearing white shorts and green socks. In the background, other players in blue and green jerseys are visible on a grassy field.

NIAMH BRIGGS BREAKTHROUGHTO SCORE IRELAND'S OPENING TRY

RBS WOMEN'S 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 8/3/2013

IRELAND WOMEN v. FRANCE WOMEN



to capitalise on this success and thus developing women's rugby in Ireland. Following increased numbers in schools and clubs, age grade girls continue to be included in Mini Festivals and Age Grade Festivals.

The Women's Interprovincials took place in December 2012, with an undefeated Munster winning the title. An U.19 Blitz also occurred which allowed the National Fifteens and Sevens management to view the emerging talent. UL Bohemians won the All Ireland League Division 1 title, their eleventh title in twelve years. Highfield won the All Ireland Cup beating UL Bohemians 18-14 in an exciting final.

Ulster Bank League

The Ulster Bank League had a new name on its' roll of honour as Lansdowne FC won the title for the first time. They won the title with three matches to spare by beating Clontarf in a match televised live by RTE from the Aviva Stadium back pitch.

UL Bohemian were relegated from Division 1A along with Shannon who were beaten 42-0 by UCD in the playoff match. Ballynahinch won Division 1B and Ballymena and Bruff were relegated. Terenure College won Division 2A and they were promoted to Division 1B along with Galway Corinthians. Midleton and De La Salle Palmerston were relegated from Division 2A along with Greystones who lost their playoff match to Naas. Rainey OB won Division 2B and NUIM Barnhall were automatically promoted with them.

Connemara were relegated from the Ulster Bank League, ending an eleven year stay there, and were replaced by Tullamore who won the Provincial Round Robin along with the All Ireland Junior Club Cup where they defeated Enniscorthy 29-10 in the Final. In the playoff match Richmond beat Clonakilty to regain a place in the League which they last held eleven years ago.

Cork Constitution won the Ulster Bank All Ireland Bateman Cup Final in late April beating St. Mary's College 24-19 in Templeville Road, this match also being televised live on RTE in an excellent advertisement for Club rugby.

Community Rugby Programmes

All Community/Social Inclusion activities are conducted in partnership with rugby clubs, rather than in isolation. To facilitate this, the IRFU/

Branches are actively engaging with Local Sports Partnerships to explore opportunities to jointly operate Community Rugby Programmes. The IRFU supported programmes in Ballymun, Ballyogan and Swords, which are linked to established clubs and which are having a significant impact on the youth in each of the areas.

After six years in operation, the Donegal Community Rugby Project will finally conclude and be assimilated into the Ulster Branch. The investment by the IRFU into Donegal has produced significant dividends with the increased recruitment in the four established clubs, and the establishment of two new clubs. The deployment of Community Rugby Officers in the schools over the last six years has resulted in thirteen schools playing in the Ulster Developing Schools league from a starting position where there were no Donegal schools involved.

This year was also the final year (of three years) of the Dingle Community Rugby Project in conjunction with Corca Dhuibhne RFC. The rugby programme is delivered by native Irish speaking Development Officers in two secondary schools and sixteen primary schools. This includes the production of rugby literature in Irish and the linking of Gaeltacht communities through blitzes and rugby open days.

This year the Heineken Cup Final was hosted in the Aviva Stadium. To ensure that inner city youth had an opportunity to engage with this event, the IRFU in conjunction with European Rugby Cup (ERC), Dublin City Council and IRFU Leinster Branch, coordinated a number of rugby initiatives around the finals. The programmes include a tag rugby extravaganza and a Dublin City Council U.15 Selection from non-traditional rugby areas playing against a team drawn from established rugby schools.

Third Level Rugby

Over the last year a significant amount of work has been undertaken to ensure that the governance and operations are in place to maximise the participation of Third Level students in rugby. Branches are establishing Third Level Sub Committees, which allow Colleges to affiliate to the Branches and access the same services as any other club. To assist with the operations of this vibrant environment, the IRFU entered into a partnership with the Colleges and Universities Association of Ireland (CUSAI) to operate all Third Level Leagues and Competitions (fifteens and sevens). Competitions include six leagues of men's rugby, two leagues



of men's fresher rugby and two leagues of a men's development league totalling forty-two teams. The women's college league features twelve teams this season. This partnership will allow the IRFU to better service the needs of third level players, while also bring the rugby leagues into alignment with the majority of competitions operating within Third Level.

The IRFU has undertaken significant investment into Third Level with the appointment of Rugby Coordinators (in partnership with the institutions) within Dublin Institute of Technology, Dublin City University, Cork Institute of Technology, Limerick Institute of Technology, University of Ulster (specifically for Women's rugby), Queens University and Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology. Other institutions that have benefitted from Community Rugby Officers being deployed to them for a set number of hours a week include the University of Limerick, Colaiste Stiofain Naofa, Institute of Technology, Tralee and Tipperary Institute with Club/College links occurring between Athlone Institute of Technology and Buccaneers RFC and NUI Maynooth and Barnhall RFC.

Leisure Rugby

The programme creates the opportunity for participants to participate in a 'Lite' form of rugby, with the aim of attracting new participants and/or retaining participants to a non-contact form of the game. Key to the success of these initiatives is that they have a social, fun and fitness dimension. It should also be noted that these programmes also create the opportunity for referees to maintain their competencies over the summer break - a total of two hundred and ninety-one association/society referees participated in the programme.

During the summer of 2012, the IRFU focused on maximising the number of Tag teams in each venue; in total six hundred and twenty teams participated in a nine week programme of Tag Rugby across sixteen venues. In addition over eighty teams competed in four Beach Tag events and seventy-two teams in the All-Ireland Finals day in Suttonians RFC.

The IRFU Touch programme in its first season saw forty-five teams taking part in competitions in Dublin, with the 2013 programme expanding to include Adult and Under-Age leagues in both Dublin and Belfast.

In 2012 season, the Club Sevens programme consisted of four provincial qualifiers progressing to an All-Ireland Championship,



which saw Dublin University FC (Men's) and Blackrock College RFC (Women's) taking the honours. However, it has become evident that the Club Sevens format hasn't been a successful one with poor uptake by clubs. The programme is currently under review and it is likely that the timing and format of this tournament will change for next season.

Coach Development

Significant work has been undertaken in delivering targeted coach support and the provision of a broad range of professional development initiatives for coaches across all stages of the LTPD, though not necessarily through formal IRFU coaching courses. Although coaching courses will be provided as before, there will be an increased emphasis on "self-directed learning" of coaches with workshops, seminars and in-club visits catering on a more personal level for the needs of coaches, as well as the significant expansion of online coach development resources.

The IRFU Technical Model, has added great value to IRFU Coach Development through its focus on 'coaching players to be effective in the game', and its core elements are key to coach understanding of both the rugby technical aspects and coaching process involved in player development. The above, has increased the credibility of the Branch Coach Development Officers who are working directly with Club Coaches to improve the quality experience of players.

The launch of the revamped Stage 1 (Mini rugby) and Stage 2 coaching course resources has been very well received by both tutors and coaches and a follow-up review of these resources with the four Branches has led to further improvements to ensure that the experience of participants on these courses is both worthwhile and enjoyable. The revamp of Stage 3 and Stage 4 courses, to reflect key aspects of the IRFU Technical Model and further best practice is ongoing.

Work is continuing on the detailed process of seeking QQAI ratification of IRFU Coaching Courses on the National Qualification Framework (NQF). The initial mapping of our Stage 1 and Stage 2 coaching courses onto the NQF is very encouraging and the intention is to have other IRFU Coaching courses ratified in this way. The process of formal ratification will involve a significant expansion of current accreditation requirements for coaches and careful consideration of the potential implications for both attendees and



staff is paramount. The benefits of this process, gives the option for participants of coaching courses to progress to a 'transferable' coaching qualification across foreign jurisdictions and the potential for further formal educational and vocational opportunities.

IRFU Internationally

Internationally, the IRFU continues its long-standing and much-valued contribution to the IRB 'TES' (Training and Education Support scheme) and other initiatives, through the deployment of IRFU/IRB Educators on several player and coach development projects assisting other Unions; including Finland, Sweden, Croatia, Bosnia Herzegovina and Spanish Unions. During the year the IRFU also engaged with Basque Rugby to share knowledge in the development of community based rugby programmes.

Age Grade Rugby

The focus of the Age Grade Programmes is to ensure that players have a very positive experience from playing the game. From the recent surveys and consultations, it is evident that rugby continues to provide a good experience, but there is still a requirement to strengthen the youth leagues and ensure that quality coaching occurs across all levels of the game.

Mini rugby still continues to grow through a focus on promoting participation. Participation numbers (players and volunteer) remain healthy - there are about 25,000 players and 7,000 coaches participating in rugby at this level. This season two National Festivals took place (Ashbourne RFC – October 2012 and Portlaoise RFC – April 2013) with over forty teams and eight hundred players participating in these events.

All affiliated clubs and schools received equipment packages (balls and markers) at the start of the season. The season plan ensures the various levels (club/school, area/provincial and national) are all being accommodated. In spite the current economic climate Branches continue to run successfully a large number of competitions at age grade level.

The four provincial committees are overseeing more than 200 affiliated clubs participating in more than 6,000 matches with close to 30,000 players playing in various competitions culminating in the All Ireland U.17 and U.19 Club competitions. The Youth Committee also run an interprovincial series which culminates in the selection of the National U.18 Clubs Team.



Child Welfare

The Committee, led by Pat O'Connor, is in the process of reviewing the IRFU Garda Vetting Policy and procedures in order to facilitate new legislation (making vetting of individuals involved in age grade rugby mandatory). The current IRFU Child Welfare policy document will also be upgraded in line with the Government's Children First document continuing to promote age grade rugby in a safe and enjoyable environment through best practice.

Schools

Currently 377 schools are affiliated with an estimate of up to 60,000 players participating in close to 12,000 matches across various levels in the four provinces. Significant amount of engagement occurred with the schools, which also included discussions on the future structure of the Schools of Ireland scheme. This IRFU initiative remains very important to the school sector in light of their concerns relating to the Croke Park Agreement. The Schools' Committee also run an interprovincial series which culminates in the selection of the National Schools' Team.

The PLAY RUGBY programme is an eight week programme delivered in schools by teachers with the support of Development officer cumulating in an area blitz. This season over 500 schools in close proximity to 69 rugby clubs have engaged with the programme. Discussions are presently occurring with a number of LSP's to deliver the programme in conjunction with provincial staff. These participation programmes are vital in ensuring continued growth in player numbers and creating a link between the club and school. A similar programme, supported by the ISC Women in Sport, is operated with secondary school girls.

Fitness Programmes for Clubs and Schools

The IRFU Certified Conditioning Coach (C.C.C.) programme has now entered it's tenth year of operation. The programme has evolved into two levels of education being delivered by IRFU staff, with a number of practitioners from other sports attending the course. The programme is recognised by the International Rugby Board (IRB) as best practice in the education of fitness coaches, and is being rolled out by the IRB to other National Rugby Unions. Key to the continued development of player fitness, there has been an emphasis over the last twelve months on continuing education of qualified coaches with a total of twelve workshops (814 coaches attended) taking place to ensure that qualified coaches keep abreast of best practice.



Supporting Clubs and Volunteers

The continued development of our domestic game requires increased promotional programmes and activities. The IRFU continually strives to support the domestic game both on and off the field. To ensure that the needs of our players are continually met the IRFU carried out a player survey Your Game Your Say targeting current players. This resulted in over 1,000 respondents and allows the IRFU to review present initiatives and evaluate their impact.

The IRFU continued to expand the Welcoming Clubs Programme. This programme supports clubs to engage with the community as well as create a training pathway for the “team off the field” to assist them in running their club as efficiently as possible. Supported through workshops, networking sessions and an online system, it allows clubs to share best practice and create opportunities for engagement with the Community to generate additional revenue.

Clubhouse

A large project over the last season has been the development of ‘IRFU Clubhouse’ which is a club centric database system which will assist clubs to manage their members and competitions. The system was launched in the Spring of 2013, with additional modules to be implemented over the coming season. The aim of the system is to automate a number of administration processes, thus reducing the burden on volunteers. From a club perspective, the IRFU Clubhouse will enable clubs to communicate directly with specific groups within their clubs increasing their ability to attract sponsors and entice past members to come back to the club to renew their memberships.

The continued development of our domestic game requires increased promotional programmes and activities. The IRFU continually strives to support the domestic game both on and off the field. Friday Night Lights continues to grow with clubs recording increased coverage from local media, increased attendance and increased revenue generation. Any programme which supports increased revenue generation has been well supported by the clubs. Your Club Your Country enabled clubs to generate up to €10,000 through a Grand Draw with prizes donated by our sponsors; following its success the IRFU hopes to develop similar projects on an annual basis. The Club Excellence Award continues to operate, with De La Salle Palmerston FC receiving the award during the season.



REFEREES

Referee Development Programme

The Referee Development Officers work closely with the Branch Referee Association/Society to operate provincial programmes to increase the number of qualified referees and associate referees. The recent governance work in modernising the Branch Referee Societies/Associations to ensure that appropriate management systems are in place has resulted in more vibrant referee recruitment and training.

Representative

The IRFU continues to lead northern hemisphere refereeing by virtue of the number of appointments at International, European and Celtic appointments. Globally, we are a close second to South Africa.

Alain Rolland and George Clancy are to the forefront at Test level in both RBS 6 Nations and the Rugby Championship. John Lacey made the step to full Test status during the November Internationals.

Helen O'Reilly became the first Irish Woman to officiate (in two matches) in the Women's RBS 6 Nations. This is particularly pleasing to report in the year that Ireland Women won the Grand Slam.

In Europe we had five referees in the Heineken Cup (G. Clancy, A. Rolland, P. Fitzgibbon, D. Phillips, J. Lacey); with a further two (D. Wilkinson, L. Colgan) in the Amlin.

Domestic

The domestic development programme continues apace, with early talent identification being key. The provincial refereeing organisations are working in close tandem with D. McHugh, the Referee Coach and Development Manager. Performances across the Ulster Bank League are very encouraging; the objective continues to be consistency of Law Application.

There is very healthy competition nationally for places on the IRFU Panels and this augurs well for future development and success at all levels of the game.



MEDICAL

The 2012/13 season has been another busy one at the Medical Department with a number of important new initiatives. On the injury front, there were an unprecedented number of injuries of the front-line National team players, which reduced the availability of a number of players for selection. The reasons for this higher number of injuries than in previous years are not clear. The National medical team has produced detailed injury information and statistics on the past season and they will be working closely with the new Head of Fitness, Dave Clark, to see if there are any factors that can reduce injuries in the seasons ahead.

SAFE-Rugby

The SAFE-Rugby programme has been established to deliver a wide-ranging number of activities to ensure that the game of rugby is as safe as possible. The programme includes the provision of rugby-specific first aid, concussion education and awareness, serious injury reporting, injury prevention programmes, information regarding player screening, to include cardiac screening, web-based medical education and course delivery.

The appointment of Shane Mooney as the first ever IRFU First Aid and Injury Prevention Officer is a major new initiative and will be the driver of the SAFE-Rugby programme. His role will mainly focus on provision of rugby-specific first-aid to clubs and schools around the country (Level 1 courses). Through grant funding from the Irish Sports Council, the IRFU has purchased thirty defibrillators and these will be distributed to different clubs during the delivery of these courses. The role will also provide courses in First Aid to IRFU staff, coaches, strength and conditioning staff, players and referees. The role will also help to deliver and coordinate courses to doctors and physiotherapists working in the club game (Level 2) and the professional game (Level 3).

Education

There were a number of education initiatives performed during the season to include:

- Medical newsletters on concussion, anti-doping, nutrition and supplement and non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs. These newsletters have been distributed to the professional players and the clubs and are available on the medical section of the IRFU web-site
- Functional Movement Screen courses were delivered in December 2012 and April 2013 with over 120 people attending



- Level 2 and 3 SAFE-Rugby Courses in September 2012 at the Aviva Stadium and Level 2 courses in January and May 2013 for Ulster Rugby (Ravenhill) and Munster Rugby (Thomond Park), respectively
- Dr. Erik Swartz, who is on the NFL Safety Committee, delivered a lecture entitled 'The prevention of spinal injuries in sport' in August 2012.

Concussion

The IRB changed the regulation in relation to concussion in 2011. Since then the IRFU has maintained representation on the IRB Concussion Working Group which has set up a worldwide trial in concussion using a pitch side concussion assessment (PSCA) tool. This trial started during the Junior RWC in June 2012 and following use in a number of tournaments the trial was modified in April 2013. The PSCA trial will run for two seasons and will be the largest trial performed on the evaluation of concussion in rugby.

- Research – the IRFU Medical Department published a paper entitled 'Concussion among Under 20 rugby union players in Ireland: incidence, attitudes and knowledge' in the Irish Journal of Medical Science in 2013. A second paper 'Concussion incidence and reporting rates in Irish Rugby Union players' is currently under peer review
- Our professional players and U.20 National squad continue to have ImpACT testing as part of the concussion programme
- The IRFU Medical Department has met with two groups of researchers and provided support for their applications for EU funding:
 - Bio-TRY – Brain injury outcomes in the rugby young – Prof. Michael Farrell, RCSI/IRFU
 - FP7 Proposal - Early detection of concussion in high impact field sports. IRFU/MARC- Sports/UCG

The medical section of the IRFU website is regularly updated and contains updates on medical matters and information relevant to all involved in rugby in Ireland. The link (www.irishrugby.ie/medical/) includes information on educational initiatives, first aid programmes, medical newsletters, anti-doping and concussion information along with general links to relevant rugby related medical information.

The new IRFU web-based injury tracking system has been finalised and is currently undergoing the final stages of implementation for national and provincial teams. This system will allow injury rates to be tracked across all teams for the first time and allow for



more effective communication between national and provincial medical teams.

Dr. Eanna Falvey has been appointed as one of the doctors for the upcoming British and Irish Lions tour to Australia. This is an important honour for Dr. Falvey and the IRFU. Dr. Falvey carries on the tradition of having an Irish team doctor on the British and Irish Lions – Dr. Gary O’Driscoll was on the last Lions tour.

The IRFU would like to acknowledge the support of the Mater Private Hospital in providing the radiographic equipment, radiographer, physicist, and radiologist on International Match days at the Aviva Stadium. The role of Professor Stephen Eustace in establishing this facility from the earliest stage when the stadium was being developed was critical in ensuring the success of this initiative.

Research

The Medical Department has continued to maintain an active research programme to include ongoing research initiatives in concussion, functional screening, probiotics in rugby performance, GPS monitoring, referees injury survey, age-grade player profiling. The IRFU has also received funding from the IRB and SIS Ltd. to investigate biomechanical loads on natural and artificial turf in rugby union activities in collaboration with UCD led by Dr. Garrett Coughlan, IRFU Medical Coordinator and National U20’s Team Physiotherapist. A number of research articles have been accepted in peer reviewed international journals from this work.

Dr. Conor McCarthy resigned as Medical Director following eight years as the first incumbent of this position. In that time the important role has evolved under his guidance and new medical structures have been put in place. Our thanks to Dr. McCarthy for his valuable contribution.

ANTI-DOPING

The IRFU once again commissioned anti-doping tests through the Irish Sports Council (ISC) supplementing the ISC National Anti-Doping Programme.

Details of the tests performed are outlined above right, there was one positive test for a non-performance enhancing drug:



2012/13 Anti-doping Programme

In Competition Testing

<i>Team</i>	<i>No. of Players tested</i>
Senior XV	06
U.20	16
ERC and RaboDirect Pro12 League	38
AIB League Club XV's	11
Women	04

Out of Competition Testing

<i>Team</i>	<i>No. of Players tested</i>
Senior XV	17
U.20	06
Provincial Squads	64
Clubs	03
Provincial Academy	11

With the support of the ISC Anti-Doping Unit and the IRB, the IRFU undertook an Age Grade Anti-Doping Education programme across all National and Provincial Age Grade Teams (U.18 Schools, U.18 Clubs, U.19 and U.20s). The Programme encompasses education and anti-doping control (testing) and sought to preserve what is intrinsically valuable about the sport, regardless of the level and age of the players. This involves a blend of workshops conducted by the ISC and completion of the IRB Real Winners e-learning modules. During 2012/13 season over 240 club and school players underwent the programme.

CHARITABLE TRUST

Regular contact with each injured player and the people closest to him, remains a core aspect of the work of the Trust. Progress reports, needs or requests from players are on the agenda of the Committee’s monthly meeting, whilst at the April meeting a special presentation was made of the current circumstances of all of our players.

Support continues to be given in numerous ways, the most common being for home conversion, furthering education, vehicular provision and adaptation, and of course for various medical issues, whilst the ageing profile of many of our players is adding to requirements. The Care group whose business all of this is, has furthered its association with Spinal Injuries Ireland, significant and important at this time of State care cutbacks. Guidelines from the Care group’s Document on the Response



to Serious Injury have proved valuable when dealing with the challenges of this season's new injuries. Also highlighted is the importance of the immediate and effective reporting of serious injury. To date, the sum for supporting players this season comes to €280k with incoming donations at €85k, again emphasising the importance of having a fundraising strategy.

Most successful and rewarding has been the Union's invitation through the Trust to bring injured players to the pre-match lunch on the days of Internationals. This has now been experienced by ten players since being introduced in November 2011. In addition, Brian O'Driscoll nominated the IRFU Charitable Trust as the beneficiary of his Testimonial in London in March, and four of our injured players were special guests at the event.

As part of the fundraising strategy, the contract with Quintessential Marketing Ltd. was renewed for a further three years, and a calendar of major events established. Encouragingly, many other events and contributions continue to come from Clubs, Schools and individuals throughout the country. With all events there is a need for constant vigilance on the protection of our Brand.

The interesting liaison with Rugby du Monde – a rugby charity based in the Toulouse area – again was of financial gain when its members visited Dublin for the French match. A very positive association has been developed with Omar Hassanein and IRUPA which among other things has resulted in a more formal arrangement regarding the signing of jerseys and a more constructive use of players time at events. Underpinning everything has been the authority, support and cooperation of the IRFU and its various departments.

The 2012/13 season has seen great sadness with the passing of three of our seriously injured players - Norman Ogilby (Coleraine), Pat Carroll (Sundays Well) and Mark Webb (Palmerston). Unfortunately, three new injuries have occurred within the same period so that the number of injured players supported by the IRFU Charitable Trust remains at thirty-three. Of this number, thirteen are from Ulster, twelve from Leinster, six from Munster and two from Connacht.

On a happier note, Stanley Millar (Omagh) celebrated his 70th birthday in February this year, some fifty-one years from the time of his injury in February in 1962.

The structural changes in the organisation of the Trust, which were introduced at the beginning of the 2011/12 season have had their bedding in time with the three working groups, Care, Finance and Fundraising now well established. It is once again time for review.

FACILITIES

The Aviva Stadium is the financial engine for Irish rugby but its multi-purpose use for field sports and also for concerts has thrown up a problem in relation to the pitch. The quality of the fibre elastic pitch installed was second to none for soccer and rugby but it did not lend itself to sodding after concert usage given that there are no turf nurseries growing turf on this substrate. On advice the fibre elastic pitch was taken up in summer 2012 and replaced with a normal fibre sand turf pitch that could be re-turfed as necessary. Unfortunately this new turf did not successfully knit with the fibre elastic substrate leading to poor pitch stability throughout the rugby season. Following further advice the Board of the New Stadium Ltd. has recently agreed to install a Desso Grassmaster pitch which has been proven to work well in multi-purpose stadia in the UK. Surface stability can be maintained even if grass cover is poor during the winter months, an essential ingredient for rugby.

The Union has entered a five year agreement with Carton House where all the key elements of a modern training facility are in place – accommodation beside a swimming pool, pitches, team rooms, and recreational facilities. The only piece of the jigsaw missing was a weights facility but, working with Carton House, a very good temporary facility has been put in place and it is hoped that a longer term arrangement with Carton House would allow for permanent weights facility to be developed. The National Team used the new facilities for the first time this season and they were to everyone's satisfaction. The Lions will be using them for a week prior to their departure on tour.

Ravenhill

Good progress has been made in relation to the redevelopment of Ravenhill. The two stands at either end of the ground are well progressed and were erected without adversely impacting the use of the ground during the season. The plans include a permanent training facility for Ulster which will give Ulster a completely self-contained facility on site at Ravenhill. Work is progressing on schedule and on budget for completion in 2014.



Munster

Munster have now agreed to locate at a single training facility to be based in University of Limerick rather than spread across Cork and Limerick as at present. The province is also exploring options in relation to the upgrading of Musgrave Park. It is hoped that there would be some progress on this over the next six to twelve months.

COMMERCIAL AND MARKETING

Irish rugby is not immune to the difficulties created by the recession which has gripped our economy but nevertheless, Irish rugby continues to perform very well in this area.

Our thanks to outgoing Chairman of Commercial and Marketing, Pat Fitzgerald and his Committee and the Commercial and Marketing Department for their efforts and results this past year.

Commercial and Sponsorship Programme Up-date

Our sponsorship portfolio continues to develop and Irish rugby, the National Team, the provinces and the IRFU again perform strongly as attractive marketing platforms for brands and organisations.

Our thanks to O₂ CEO, Tony Hanway, and new Marketing Director, Eugene Mitchell, and all of the team at O₂ our National Team sponsor. In addition to the commitment and support they bring to the Union and the Team, this season they have again continued in the spirit of innovation through new communication campaigns and initiatives designed to create more intense and exciting match day atmosphere in the stadium. This past season's campaign 'Bring on the Green' continues to help promote the Team and deliver greater fan engagement and access to the Team.

To Diageo, Aviva, RBS, Ulster Bank, Lease Plan, Volkswagen, Paddy Power, PWC, DHL, Eden Park, Kelloggs and to our many other partners listed elsewhere in this document, we are most grateful for your valued contribution and continued support.

I would like to welcome new partners Lucozade Sports and Dove Men + Care to the IRFU. In doing so I acknowledge the support we received from Powerade and Coca Cola over the years and I would wish them all the best in the future.

We do bid farewell to kit sponsors Puma this year and I would like to thank their MD - Tony Ward and Sean Kavanagh - GM Ireland

and all their team for a considerable and positive contribution to our partnership.

There were strong match attendance figures with two sell-out home RBS 6 Nations games and two games in the Guinness Series in November 2012 against South Africa and Argentina delivering ticket sales figures in excess of 45,000 each. With the creation of the 'Green Zone' around the stadium and increased match day entertainment in the Aviva, we continue to work towards enhancing the fans day out. Similarly the Ireland XV game against Fiji in Thomond Park in November also provided the opportunity to take the Ireland Team brand out of Dublin and a very exciting display from Ireland was enjoyed by over 20,000 people at the venue.

Marketing and Game Promotion

Across an ever fragmenting media landscape Irish rugby's 'share of voice' continues to increase and the popularity of the Team and the sport. There is more Irish rugby on TV than ever before, delivered in a high quality and exciting way. Broadcast viewership figures both on RTE and on BBC in the UK for the Guinness Series and the RBS 6 Nations again show additional growth this past season. The Women's Team Grand Slam RBS 6 Nations final match against Italy delivered an historic first as it was the first ever women's match to be broadcast live on RTE.

Parallel to the marketing platform that professional rugby delivers; great strides continue to be made in promoting all of the domestic game programmes and grassroots rugby initiatives that the Union administers. Ulster Bank sponsored 'Your Club Your Country' IRFU Grand Draw which saw over €650,000 being raised for club rugby in the country. I congratulate and commend all the clubs that participated and our sincere thanks goes to all of our sponsors and partners that contributed prizes to the draw.

Volkswagen IRFU tag rugby and mini rugby continues to grow and in all of these activities the role of our professional players across the four provinces deserves special mention. I thank the National Team Management and all the professional players for the exceptional job that they do 'off the pitch' in helping to promote Irish rugby.

The Patrons Club

The second season of the Patrons Club saw continued and ongoing engagement with our Ten Year and Premium Ticket holders with events such as a Q&A night with members of the Ireland



Team including team captain, Jamie Heaslip in Aviva Stadium; our Patrons Club travel package which offered an exclusive weekend in Rome, staying in the team hotel with a rugby banquet and accompanied by former international Alan Quinlan.

The Patrons Club launched a new five and ten year ticket offering with excellent value packages available to renewing members and new applicants. Despite the challenging economic circumstances the offering has been well received.

Irish Rugby Supporters Club

This season saw a strong financial performance from the Supporters Club with revenues increasing.

Our match day event in November at the Argentina game again proved popular with families. There was a pre-match preview from Alan Quinlan and post-match appearance from Ronan O'Gara, Donncha Ryan, Conor Murray and Iain Henderson.

Our annual travel charter saw us take in Ireland's win in Cardiff. Yet again the package sold out early. Ticket sales for all of Ireland's games in the RBS 6 Nations proved popular and a priority booking for Supporters Club members proved a key benefit.

Other events included an Open Training session in Donnybrook in November, two live radio broadcasts with RTE 2FM from Aviva Stadium, mascot competitions as well as a number of team related competitions run in conjunction with our sponsors.

Communications

Following an audit of our communications function this year, the Union has appointed a new Communications Director, Stephen McNamara, whose role it will be to devise and implement a new communications strategy for the organisation informed by

the findings of the various research projects which have been undertaken over the past year. Our thanks to Karl Richardson our Media and Communications Manager for the past eight years who is leaving the Union and moving on to a new challenge in Rehab Ireland. He has made a very valuable contribution to Irish rugby and we wish him well.

Irish Rugby Online

Irish rugby's digital presence continues to grow offering stakeholders a wide range of engagement channels to access news and information as well as encouraging fan engagement through social media.

The single biggest area of growth and the challenge for the future is the level of 'mobile first' engagement. Mirroring the market trend we saw up to 40% of fans' first engagement coming via a mobile device.

Our introduction of a mobile variant of the website last year has thus proved very timely.

IrishRugby.ie continues to be the most visited dedicated sport website in Ireland averaging over 275,000 unique visitors per month and Irish Rugby TV has proved a huge success with a mix of live broadcasts, match highlights, interviews and behind the scenes features.

The IRFU YouTube channel proved very popular this year with an 88% increase in subscribers with our 'Behind The Scenes' videos proving a particular success.

The IRFU presence on twitter has continued to grow with over 150,000 people around the world following us.

The Irish rugby app has been downloaded over 165,000 times across a variety of platforms and continues to deliver live match updates.



COMMITTEE

As ever we are indebted to the work of volunteers throughout the game in schools, clubs, Branches and the IRFU itself. The vast majority of people playing the game in Ireland do so on a recreational and amateur basis and Irish rugby is no different to any other sport in this regard. The professional game is made up of a very small number of players in the four provincial teams and their Academies. The *raison d'être* for the professional game is that it funds and promotes the recreational amateur game and whilst it occupies a lot of time and effort and gains much of the media exposure, it is what happens at grassroots club and schools level that will ultimately dictate the wellbeing of the game in Ireland into the future. The voluntary structures and personnel are equally important to the wellbeing of the game into the future and this is something that requires constant attention and support.

John Hussey retires from the IRFU Committee following his year as Immediate Past President. John joined the IRFU Committee in 1996 and also served as President of Leinster Branch in 1998/99 and his club St. Mary's College in 1988/89. He was appointed the Chairman of the first IRFU Management Committee, serving two terms of three years each, during a very important phase in the development of the professional game in Ireland. He also served as Chairman of Celtic Rugby Ltd. for seven years and was instrumental in bringing the two Italian Teams into that competition. He was a Director of New Stadium Ltd. and sat on the board during the stadium development and its first years of operation. John has made a very significant contribution to Irish rugby in all these roles and in particular in bringing the governance of the Union more into line with the needs of a modern organisation with a turnover in excess of €60m. Best wishes to John and his wife, Patricia, on his retirement from the IRFU.

Denis Keohane also steps down from the IRFU Committee following his term representing Munster. He has made a significant contribution sitting on the Domestic Game Committee and was also co-opted on to the Management Committee. Our thanks to Denis and best wishes to him and his wife, Finola, on his retirement from the IRFU Committee.

OBITUARIES

Gerry Culliton

Ex-International (19 caps), Cisterian College Roscrea, Tullamore RFC, Wanderers FC

Gerald Reidy

IRFU President 1983/1984, Munster Past President, Ex-International (5 caps), Dolphin RFC, Old Crescent, Munster

OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE



President

W.B. Glynn

Vice Presidents

P. Fitzgerald

L.P. Magee

Hon. Treasurer

T. Grace

Immediate Past President

J.D. Hussey

Chairman Management Committee

F. Crowley

Committee

P.J. Boyle

N. Comyn

M. Cunningham

G. Drennan

L. Galvin

B. Gormley

S.R. Hilditch

T.H.N. Jackson

D. Kavanagh

D.G. Keohane

D. Lamont

K. Lyons

I. McIlrath

J. O'Driscoll

M.J. O'Sullivan

P. Orr

P. Whelan

International Rugby Board

P.J. Boyle

P. Whelan

Six Nations Committee

P.J. Boyle

P. Whelan

European Rugby Cup

P.J. Boyle

P. Browne

Celtic League

P. Browne

P. Orr

Lions

T. Grace

FIRA

S.R. Hilditch

Trustees

A.R. Dawson

T.J. Kiernan

W.S.H. Lavery

Dr. S. Millar

Chief Executive

P. Browne

National Coach

D. Kidney

IRELAND'S COLM JOYCE AHEARNE WINS POSSESSION

UNDER 18 FRIENDLY INTERNATIONAL, ASHBOURNE RFC, MEATH 30/3/2013
IRELAND U.18 CLUBS v. ENGLAND U.18 CLUBS AND SCHOOLS

STANDING COMMITTEES



Management

F. Crowley, T. Grace, P.J. Boyle, P. Whelan, M.J. O'Sullivan, P. Fitzgerald, L.P. Magee, W.B. Glynn, S.R. Hilditch, I. McIlrath (co-opted), P.R. Browne, K. Potts, E. Wigglesworth and S. McNamara.

Representative Game

M.J. O'Sullivan, L.P. Magee, T.H.N. Jackson, L. Galvin, P. Orr, P. Whelan, D. Lamont, Chairmen of 4 PTMC's, M. Dawson, P.R. Browne, E. Wigglesworth, M. Dowling, C. O'Brien, C. McEntee and O. Hassanein.

Domestic Game

S.R. Hilditch, I. McIlrath, G. Drennan, M. Cunningham, D. Kavanagh, D. Keohane, L.P. Magee, N. Comyn, B. Gormley, M. Quinn, S. Walker, G. Black.

Finance

T. Grace, F. Crowley, L. Galvin, T.H.N. Jackson, K. Lyons, D. Lamont, P.R. Browne, K. Potts, C. O'Brien, F. O'Rourke (co-opted) and L. Quinn (co-opted).

Commercial and Marketing

P. Fitzgerald, P. Orr, G. Drennan, K. Lyons, T. Grace, P.R. Browne, P. Power, K. Richardson, J. Redmond, D. Devaney, D. Templeton and P. Dean.

Performance Committee

L.P. Magee, M.J. O'Sullivan, T. Grace, P. Whelan, F. Crowley, P.R. Browne and E. Wigglesworth.



IRELAND'S DAVID PANTER CELEBRATES AT THE FINAL WHISTLE

UNDER 20 6 NATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP 8/2/2013

IRELAND U.20 v. ENGLAND U.20

THE IRFU WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING SPONSORS OF IRISH RUGBY



Sponsor of the Ireland Senior team and Ireland O₂ Wolfhounds,
Official Mobile Telecommunications Partner to the IRFU



Sponsor of the RBS 6 Nations Championship



Match Sponsor of the Guinness Series,
Official Beer Supplier to the IRFU



Sponsors of Community Rugby,
the Ulster Bank League and RugbyForce



Stadium and insurance partner to the IRFU



Official Sponsor of the U.20, U.19, U.18
and Ireland Schoolboy teams



Official Betting Partner of the IRFU



Official sports drink of the IRFU



Supporting Irish Rugby



Official Formal Outfitters to the IRFU



Official car supplier to the IRFU and
sponsor of IRFU Tag rugby



An official partner of the IRFU



Official cereal and snack provider to the IRFU



Official Express and Logistics Partner to the IRFU



Official Supplier of Match Balls



Official Spirit of the IRFU



Retail Partner to the IRFU



An official supplier to the IRFU



Fleet Management Services



An Official Partner of the IRFU

FIREWORKS LIGHT UP THE AVIVA STADIUM

GUINNESS SERIES 10/11/2012
IRELAND v. SOUTH AFRICA





ACCOUNTS

UNION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	38
CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	39
UNION STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES	40
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES	40
UNION RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN UNION FUNDS	41
CONSOLIDATED RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN UNION FUNDS	41
UNION BALANCE SHEET	42
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET	43
UNION CASH FLOW STATEMENT	44
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS	45
STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES	63
INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS	64
 THE FOLLOWING DO NOT FORM PART OF THE AUDITED REPORT AND ACCOUNTS	
DETAILED SCHEDULES FOR THE UNION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT	65

UNION INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

		2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Income:	Schedule			
Representative matches	1	61,959,761	62,957,330	64,607,545
Other income	2	3,706,825	4,224,185	4,669,285
		65,666,586	67,181,515	69,276,830
Expenditure:				
Professional game costs	3	32,219,854	31,454,297	33,468,858
Elite player development	4	2,924,170	2,631,864	2,696,181
Games support costs	5	697,784	624,997	653,674
Domestic & community rugby	6	9,502,759	9,254,345	10,006,093
Marketing	7	1,248,131	1,032,020	1,198,796
Grounds	8	3,523,531	2,855,709	2,441,118
Administration and overheads	9	5,034,625	4,483,817	4,984,668
Depreciation	(Note 4)	1,218,335	1,288,398	1,380,261
Amortisation of financial fixed assets	(Notes 8 & 9)	5,907,292	5,761,592	5,699,966
		62,276,481	59,387,039	62,529,615
Surplus for the year before exceptional income		3,390,105	7,794,476	6,747,215
Exceptional income	(Note 3)	11,500,000	-	-
Surplus for the year		14,890,105	7,794,476	6,747,215

T. Grace
Honorary Treasurer

P. R. Browne
Chief Executive

CONSOLIDATED INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

		2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Income:	Note			
Representative matches		61,959,761	62,957,330	64,607,545
Other income		3,802,037	4,323,409	4,773,352
Share of loss of joint ventures	8	(1,599,137)	(1,862,431)	(4,730,518)
		64,162,661	65,418,308	64,650,379
Expenditure:				
Professional game costs		32,219,854	31,454,297	33,468,858
Elite player development		2,924,170	2,631,864	2,696,181
Games support costs		697,784	624,997	653,674
Domestic & community rugby		9,502,759	9,254,345	10,006,093
Marketing		1,248,131	1,032,020	1,198,796
Grounds		3,523,531	2,855,709	2,441,118
Administration and overheads		5,133,926	4,585,146	5,069,126
Depreciation	4	1,718,335	1,788,398	1,880,261
Amortisation of goodwill	5	196,367	432,226	370,511
		57,164,857	54,659,002	57,784,618
Surplus for the year before exceptional income		6,997,804	10,759,306	6,865,761
Exceptional income	3	11,500,000	-	-
Surplus for the year		18,497,804	10,759,306	6,865,761

T. Grace
Honorary Treasurer

P. R. Browne
Chief Executive

UNION STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Surplus for the financial period	14,890,105	7,794,476	6,747,215
Difference between expected and actual return on pension scheme assets	660,000	(45,000)	(127,000)
Experience gains on pension scheme liabilities	153,000	212,000	76,000
Effect of changes in actuarial assumptions	(1,069,000)	(3,164,000)	(237,000)
Total surplus relating to the period	14,634,105	4,797,476	6,459,215
Total surplus recognised since the last annual report	14,634,105	4,797,476	6,459,215

CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF TOTAL RECOGNISED GAINS AND LOSSES

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Surplus for the financial period	18,497,804	10,759,306	6,865,761
Difference between expected and actual return on pension scheme assets	660,000	(45,000)	(127,000)
Experience gains on pension scheme liabilities	153,000	212,000	76,000
Effect of changes in actuarial assumptions	(1,069,000)	(3,164,000)	(237,000)
Total surplus relating to the period	18,241,804	7,762,306	6,577,761
Total surplus recognised since the last annual report	18,241,804	7,762,306	6,577,761

UNION RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN UNION FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
General reserve	34,633,601	29,836,125	23,376,910
Ground development reserve	1,269,738	1,269,738	1,269,738
Financial assistance to clubs reserve	1,269,738	1,269,738	1,269,738
Balance at 1 May	37,173,077	32,375,601	25,916,386
Total recognised surplus relating to the period	14,634,105	4,797,476	6,459,215
Balance at 30 April	51,807,182	37,173,077	32,375,601

CONSOLIDATED RECONCILIATION OF MOVEMENT IN UNION FUNDS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
General reserve	39,080,507	31,318,201	24,740,440
Ground development reserve	1,269,738	1,269,738	1,269,738
Financial assistance to clubs reserve	1,269,738	1,269,738	1,269,738
Balance at 1 May	41,619,983	33,857,677	27,279,916
Total recognised surplus relating to the period	18,241,804	7,762,306	6,577,761
Balance at 30 April	59,861,787	41,619,983	33,857,677

UNION BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 APRIL 2013

	Note	30/04/13 €	30/04/12 €
Tangible fixed assets	4	34,817,856	36,036,191
Financial fixed assets			
Loans to clubs	6	1,528,426	1,258,717
Other loans	7	9,861,778	10,261,778
Joint ventures	8	92,276,987	94,770,286
Investment in subsidiary undertaking	9	8,512,314	9,012,314
		112,179,505	115,303,095
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	10	10,865,151	14,262,653
Cash at bank and in hand		24,830,778	3,024,354
		35,695,929	17,287,007
Current liabilities			
Bank loans	11	19,282,084	16,282,084
Creditors and accrued expenses	12	19,892,502	17,306,646
		39,174,586	33,588,730
Net current liabilities		(3,478,657)	(16,301,723)
Total assets less current liabilities		143,518,704	135,037,563
Pension liability	13	(2,702,000)	(2,458,000)
Deferred ticket fund	14	(81,139,622)	(87,004,208)
Deferred naming rights fund	15	(7,869,900)	(8,402,278)
		51,807,182	37,173,077
Financed by:			
Union funds		51,807,182	37,173,077

T. Grace
Honorary Treasurer

P. R. Browne
Chief Executive

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 30 APRIL 2013

	Note	30/04/13 €	30/04/12 €
Tangible fixed assets	4	43,317,856	45,036,191
Intangible fixed assets	5	2,535,496	7,409,548
Financial fixed assets			
Loans to clubs	6	1,528,426	1,258,717
Other loans	7	43,272,977	40,764,424
Joint ventures:	8		
Share of gross assets		206,603,322	211,364,959
Share of gross liabilities		(142,233,259)	(150,077,466)
		109,171,466	103,310,634
Current assets			
Debtors and prepayments	10	10,955,277	14,481,359
Cash at bank and in hand		24,847,528	3,028,488
		35,802,805	17,509,847
Current liabilities			
Bank loans	11	19,282,084	16,282,084
Creditors and accrued expenses	12	19,972,230	17,499,667
		39,254,314	33,781,751
Net current liabilities		(3,451,509)	(16,271,904)
Total assets less current liabilities		151,573,309	139,484,469
Pension liability	13	(2,702,000)	(2,458,000)
Deferred ticket fund	14	(81,139,622)	(87,004,208)
Deferred naming rights fund	15	(7,869,900)	(8,402,278)
		59,861,787	41,619,983
Financed by:			
Union funds		59,861,787	41,619,983

T. Grace
Honorary Treasurer

P. R. Browne
Chief Executive

UNION CASH FLOW STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

	Note	30/04/13 €	30/04/12 €
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	16	12,891,577	(898,373)
Returns on investments and servicing of finance			
Interest received on bank deposits		103,918	142,514
Interest received on loans to clubs		13,667	11,981
		117,585	154,495
Capital expenditure and financial investment			
Investment in and advances to joint ventures		(2,913,993)	(1,232,520)
Net advances to clubs		(275,704)	(242,069)
Repayment by Munster Branch IRFU		400,000	400,000
Advances to subsidiary undertakings		-	(11,999)
		(2,789,697)	(1,086,588)
Net cash inflow (outflow) before management of liquid resources		10,219,465	(1,830,466)
Management of liquid resources			
(Increase) decrease in short term deposits	17	(21,035,499)	5,882,558
Financing			
Bank loans		3,000,000	(5,000,000)
Further amounts received during the year on tickets and boxes		8,586,959	124,450
		11,586,959	(4,875,550)
Increase (decrease) in cash	17	770,925	(823,458)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

1. Accounting policies

The following accounting policies have been applied consistently, except as stated below, in dealing with items which are considered material in relation to the accounts.

a. Basis of preparation

The accounts have been prepared on the going concern basis in accordance with accounting standards generally accepted in Ireland. Accounting Standards generally accepted in Ireland in preparing financial statements giving a true and fair view are those published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland and issued by the Accounting Standards Board.

b. Basis of consolidation

The group accounts include the accounts of the parent undertaking and its wholly owned subsidiary undertaking, Lansdowne Car Park Limited.

c. Goodwill

Goodwill is the difference between the fair value of the consideration given on the acquisition of a business and the aggregate fair value of the separate net assets acquired.

Goodwill is being amortised through the income and expenditure account in equal instalments over its estimated economic life of up to a maximum of 20 years on a straight line basis.

Negative goodwill is amortised through the income and expenditure account in equal instalments over the remaining life of the asset to which it relates.

Goodwill is reviewed for impairment at the end of the first full financial year following acquisition and in other periods if events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable.

d. Fixed tangible assets

Fixed tangible assets are shown at their historic cost net of any capital grants received or receivable.

e. Depreciation

Depreciation is charged in order to write off the assets over their expected useful lives, on a straight line basis, at the following annual rates:

Land	Nil
Stand, buildings, etc.	2.5%
Car park	5%
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	33.33%, 25% and 12.5%
Computer equipment	20% and 33.33%
Grounds purchased and leased to clubs	Nil

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

1. Accounting policies (cont'd.)

f. Joint ventures

The Union's 50% interest in New Stadium Limited and Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited are accounted for in accordance with 'Financial Reporting Standard 9 Associates and Joint Ventures'.

In the individual accounts of the Union, investments in joint ventures are treated as fixed asset investments and valued at cost less provisions for impairment in value. The provision for impairment in value of these investments is based on the estimated useful lives of the underlying fixed assets, which is estimated to be 20 years, and written off on a straight line basis. The estimated useful life for calculating depreciation in the individual accounts of the joint ventures is significantly longer than 20 years.

In the consolidated accounts, the Union's share of the profits less losses are included in the income and expenditure account. The Union's interest in the net assets is indicated as a fixed asset investment in the balance sheet at an amount representing the Union's share of the fair values of the net assets at acquisition plus the Union's share of post acquisition retained profits.

The amounts included in the accounts of the Union are taken from the management accounts of the joint ventures made up to the Union's year end. Audited accounts of the joint venture companies made up to 30 April are not available as both joint ventures have different year ends to the Union.

g. Financial fixed assets

Investments

Investments are valued at cost. These are reviewed annually and provision is made where it is considered that there is an impairment in value.

Income from investments is recognised in the income and expenditure account in the year in which it is receivable.

Investment - subsidiary undertaking

In the individual accounts of the Union, the investment in and advances to the Union's wholly owned subsidiary, Lansdowne Car Park Limited, are valued at cost less provisions for impairment in value. The provision for impairment in value is based on the estimated useful life of the underlying fixed asset, which is estimated to be 20 years, and written off on a straight line basis.

h. Grants

Capital grants received are set off against the cost of related fixed assets.

Grants towards revenue expenditure are released to the income and expenditure account as the related expenditure is incurred.

i. Foreign currencies

Functional and presentation currency

Items included in the accounts are presented in 'Euro', the currency of the primary economic environment in which the entity operates (the 'functional currency').

Transactions and balances

Transactions in foreign currencies are recorded at the rate ruling at the date of the transaction or at a contracted rate. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are retranslated at the rate of exchange ruling at the balance sheet date or the contracted rate. All differences are taken to the income and expenditure account as part of the fair value gain or loss.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

1. Accounting policies (cont'd.)

j. Pension costs

The Union operates a defined benefit pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the Union.

Current service costs, past service costs and gains and losses on settlements and curtailments are charged to the income and expenditure account. Past service costs are recognised over the vesting period or immediately if the benefits have vested. When a settlement or a curtailment occurs, the obligation and related plan assets are re-measured using current actuarial assumptions and the resultant gain or loss is recognised in the income and expenditure account during the period in which the settlement or curtailment occurs.

The interest cost and expected return on assets are shown as a net amount in the income and expenditure account as other finance costs or income. Actuarial gains and losses are recognised immediately in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

Pension scheme assets are valued at fair value at the balance sheet date. Fair value is based on market price information and in the case of quoted securities is the published bid price. Pension scheme liabilities are measured on an actuarial basis using the projected unit method and are discounted to their present value using a rate equivalent to the current rate of return on a high quality corporate bond of equivalent currency and term to the scheme liabilities. Pension scheme surpluses or deficits are recognised in full on the balance sheet.

The Union also operates a defined contribution scheme for its employees. Pension benefits are funded over the employees' period of service by way of contributions to insured funds. The Union's contributions are charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which they relate.

k. Deferred ticket income

Monies received in respect of corporate boxes and ten year tickets have been treated as deferred income and have been released to the income and expenditure account over the period to which they relate based on the estimated number of fixtures and the expected admission prices. Details of the amount deferred are set out in note 14.

l. Liquid resources

In the cash flow statement, liquid resources comprise cash on deposit at banks with more than 24 hours notice.

m. Financing

Amounts received in respect of the transfer to the counterparty of the Union's contributions receivable under its stadium naming rights agreement (see note 15) are recorded as deferred income. Interest is accrued using the rate implicit in the financing agreement and is charged to the income and expenditure account in the period to which it relates.

2. Income and expenditure recognition

Income and expenditure are recognised in the season in which they arise and are incurred.

3. Exceptional income

During the year the Union and another party agreed to terminate a sponsorship agreement earlier than the agreed date. Compensation received for this early termination has been recognised in full in the current financial year as no significant further contractual obligation arises between the parties.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

4. Tangible fixed assets

Union	Cost at 30/4/12	Additions	Cost at 30/4/13
	€	€	€
Premises and grounds	49,458,757	-	49,458,757
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7,497,273	-	7,497,273
Grounds purchased and leased to clubs	368,713	-	368,713
	57,324,743	-	57,324,743
	Accumulated depreciation at 30/4/12	Charge for year	Accumulated depreciation at 30/4/13
	€	€	€
Premises and grounds	13,854,074	1,189,178	15,043,252
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7,434,478	29,157	7,463,635
Grounds purchased and leased to clubs	-	-	-
	21,288,552	1,218,335	22,506,887
Net book value	36,036,191		34,817,856

Consolidated	Cost at 30/4/12	Additions	Cost at 30/4/13
	€	€	€
Premises and grounds	49,458,757	-	49,458,757
Car park	10,000,000	-	10,000,000
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7,497,273	-	7,497,273
Grounds purchased and leased to clubs	368,713	-	368,713
	67,324,743	-	67,324,743
	Accumulated depreciation at 30/4/12	Charge for year	Accumulated depreciation at 30/4/13
	€	€	€
Premises and grounds	13,854,074	1,189,178	15,043,252
Car park	1,000,000	500,000	1,500,000
Fixtures, fittings & equipment	7,434,478	29,157	7,463,635
Grounds purchased and leased to clubs	-	-	-
	22,288,552	1,718,335	24,006,887
Net book value	45,036,191		43,317,856

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

4. Tangible fixed assets (cont'd.)

- (i) The Union consider the accumulated cost, less related depreciation, on expenditure capitalised in respect of the previous stadium at Lansdowne Road as relating to enhancing the value of the land on which the stadium is situated. As stated in note 8, the Union is in receipt of annual rental income of €750,000 for this land. The net amount included within premises and grounds above in respect of this expenditure is €6,683,282.
- (ii) Under a Memorandum of Understanding dated 10 December 2007, the Union entered into arrangements with the Munster Branch IRFU and Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited to redevelop the stadium at Thomond Park. As part of these arrangements, the Union advanced a loan to the Branch (note 7) and acquired a 50% interest in Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited (note 8). In addition, the Union have granted an option to the Branch to acquire the freehold interest that the Union holds in Thomond Park. The option price will be based on the original cost of the grounds to the Union adjusted for inflation by reference to the Consumer Price Index from the date of the granting of the option. This option will be exercisable by the Branch on the earlier of ten years from the date of practical completion of the stadium or by 1 January 2019.

The accumulated cost of the old stadium, less related depreciation, amounts to €3,892,334 and is included within premises and grounds above.

5. Intangible fixed asset

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Goodwill arising on share of New Stadium Limited		
Cost		
At 1 May	8,212,285	7,410,213
Expenditure during the year	5,440	160,210
Union share of movement on capital contribution	(184,651)	641,862
At 30 April	8,033,074	8,212,285
Amortisation		
At 1 May	(802,737)	(370,511)
Charge for the year	(446,282)	(432,226)
At 30 April	(1,249,019)	(802,737)
	6,784,055	7,409,548

As part of its investment in the development of the Aviva Stadium, the Union incurred certain expenditure, which was not directly advanced to the joint venture company. In addition, the Union's capital contribution exceeded 50% of the overall capital contribution made to the joint venture company.

The additional expenditure referred to above, and the excess capital contribution, which represents the fair value of the cost of the development of the stadium over the Union's share of the separate net assets of the joint venture company, have been treated as goodwill.

This goodwill is being amortised over a period of 20 years on a straight line basis.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

5. Intangible fixed asset (cont'd.)

	30/4/13	30/4/12
	€	€
Goodwill arising on share of Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited		
Cost		
Union share of movement on capital contribution	(4,498,474)	-
At 30 April	(4,498,474)	-
Amortisation		
Credit for the year	249,915	-
At 30 April	249,915	-
	(4,248,559)	-

Negative goodwill arose during the year due to the Union's share of the movement on the capital contribution in Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited.

Negative goodwill is amortised through the income and expenditure account in equal instalments over the remaining life of the asset to which is estimated to be 18 years.

6. Loans to clubs

Interest on loans to clubs is generally charged at a rate of 1%. Terms of repayment are generally over 10 years.

Loans to clubs included in the balance sheet are net of provision where applicable. Provisions against loans to clubs at the year end amounted to €681,830 (2012: €675,835). The creation of these provisions has reduced income by €5,995 in the current year (2011/2012: €10,827; 2010/2011: €665,008)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

7. Other loans

	30/4/13	30/4/12
Union	€	€
Loan to Munster Branch IRFU	9,861,778	10,261,778
Amount due within one year	6,984,778	4,270,778
Amount due after one year but within five years	2,877,000	5,991,000
	9,861,778	10,261,778
Consolidated		
Loan to Munster Branch IRFU	9,861,778	10,261,778
Loan to New Stadium Limited	33,411,199	30,502,646
	43,272,977	40,764,424

The Union advanced funds to the Munster Branch in order to assist with the development of Thomond Park. The amounts advanced are secured on the Branch's share in Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited and on the loan advanced by the Branch to that company. Interest is chargeable on the loan to the Branch based on the effective cost of funds to the Union.

Under the terms of the loan agreement, it is to be repaid on a phased basis over the next number of years and amounts outstanding are not to exceed the following:

30 April 2014	€3,114,000
30 April 2015	€1,997,000
30 April 2016	€880,000

The loan is to be fully repaid by 30 April 2017.

Although the repayment terms under the agreement have not been met as at 30 April 2013, the Committee are confident that these amounts are recoverable and no provision is necessary.

The loan to New Stadium Limited is interest-free and has no fixed terms of repayment.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

8. Joint ventures

The Union holds 50% of the ordinary share capital of New Stadium Limited and 50% of the ordinary share capital of Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited (companies formed to develop the Aviva Stadium and Thomond Park respectively).

	30/4/13	30/4/12
	€	€
Investment at cost		
- New Stadium Limited	74,734,633	74,729,193
- Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited	5	5
Loan to New Stadium Limited	33,411,199	30,502,646
	108,145,837	105,231,844
Amortisation in respect of New Stadium Limited		
Accumulated balance carried forward	(10,461,558)	(5,199,966)
Charge for the year	(5,407,292)	(5,261,592)
	92,276,987	94,770,286

No formal terms of repayment have been agreed in relation to the loan to New Stadium Limited.

Disclosures in respect of New Stadium Limited, based on the company's management accounts, required under 'Financial Reporting Standard 9 Associates and Joint Ventures' are as follows:

	30/4/13	30/4/12
	€	€
Share of turnover	6,022,813	5,878,332
Share of operating loss	(1,086,063)	(1,230,136)
Share of tax	-	-
Share of loss after tax	(1,086,063)	(1,230,136)
Share of fixed assets	188,679,919	193,757,264
Share of current assets	1,778,890	847,670
Share of gross assets	190,458,809	194,604,934
Share of current liabilities	(1,389,782)	(3,754,996)
Share of non current liabilities	(128,761,264)	(129,639,345)
Share of gross liabilities	(130,151,046)	(133,394,341)
Share of net assets	60,307,763	61,210,593

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

8. Joint ventures (cont'd.)

Disclosures in respect of Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited, based on the company's management accounts, required under 'Financial Reporting Standard 9 Associates and Joint Ventures' are as follows:

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Share of turnover	1,045,965	1,179,495
Share of operating loss	(513,074)	(632,295)
Share of tax	-	-
Share of loss after tax	(513,074)	(632,295)
Share of fixed assets	15,706,970	16,331,502
Share of current assets	437,543	428,523
Share of gross assets	16,144,513	16,760,025
Share of current liabilities	(909,901)	(379,929)
Share of non-current liabilities	(11,172,312)	(16,303,196)
Share of gross liabilities	(12,082,213)	(16,683,125)
Share of net assets	4,062,300	76,900

The Union has entered into lease agreements with each of the above companies to lease land on which the stadia have been redeveloped on the following terms:

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

8. Joint ventures (cont'd.)

Company	Term of lease	Annual rent
New Stadium Limited	99 years from Dec 2005	€750,000
Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited	55 years from Oct 2006	€9,600

The rents due became payable during the year ended April 2011 in the case of Thomond Park, and became due from May 2010 in the case of the Aviva Stadium.

9. Interest in subsidiary undertaking

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Cost		
At 1 May	10,012,314	10,000,315
Advanced during the year	-	11,999
At 30 April	10,012,314	10,012,314
Amortisation		
At 1 May	(1,000,000)	(500,000)
Charge for the year	(500,000)	(500,000)
At 30 April	(1,500,000)	(1,000,000)
	8,512,314	9,012,314

The Union owns 100% of the ordinary share capital of Lansdowne Car Park Limited, a company registered in the Republic of Ireland whose registered office is at 10/12 Lansdowne Road, Dublin 4.

The Union advanced funds to the company in order to finance the construction of a car park located adjacent to The Aviva Stadium. The Union are amortising the investment in the subsidiary over the expected useful life of the car park which is estimated to be twenty years.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

10. Debtors and prepayments

	Union		Consolidated	
	30/4/13	30/4/12	30/4/13	30/4/12
	€	€	€	€
Provincial branch balances	1,713,147	2,447,774	1,713,147	2,447,774
Sponsorship debtors	1,488,539	922,540	1,488,539	922,540
Ticket debtors	900,180	1,817,673	900,180	1,817,673
Other debtors	27,047	19,799	117,173	238,505
Prepayments and accrued income	6,577,250	8,855,868	6,577,250	8,855,868
Stock of sportswear and equipment	158,988	198,999	158,988	198,999
	10,865,151	14,262,653	10,955,277	14,481,359

Trade debtors and short term receivables above are stated net of provision, where applicable. Provisions against debtors at the year end amounted to €3,332,872 (2012: €2,945,915). The movement on these provisions has decreased net income by €386,957 (2011/2012: €121,527 decrease; 2010/2011: €443,977 decrease).

11. Bank loans

Bank loans are secured by an all sums mortgage and charge over certain properties owned by the Union. The loan is expected to be repaid by 30 September 2014. However the terms of the agreement state that the loan is repayable on demand. On that basis, the loan is reflected as due within one year.

12. Creditors

	Union		Consolidated	
	30/4/13	30/4/12	30/4/13	30/4/12
	€	€	€	€
Accruals	16,524,535	14,970,726	16,604,263	15,163,747
Income received in advance	3,266,587	2,225,341	3,266,587	2,225,341
PAYE/PRSI	59,353	85,839	59,353	85,839
VAT	42,027	24,740	42,027	24,740
	19,892,502	17,306,646	19,972,230	17,499,667

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

13. Pension commitments

The pension entitlements of certain employees of the Union arise under both a defined benefit scheme and a defined contribution scheme which are funded by annual contributions by the Union to separately administered pension funds.

The latest actuarial valuation for the defined benefit scheme was dated 1 August 2011. The assets of the fund, which amounted to €6,452,000, showed that, on an immediate discontinuance basis, the assets of the fund were adequate to meet the plan's statutory minimum funding liabilities. The assets represent 97% in aggregate of the benefits which would accrue to members at the valuation date after allowing for future salary increases. The actuarial report is not available for public inspection.

The valuations employed for FRS 17 disclosure purposes have been updated by the scheme's independent and qualified actuary to take account of the requirements of the accounting standard in order to assess the liabilities of the scheme as at 30 April 2013. The valuations have been completed using the projected unit method.

The amounts recognised in the income and expenditure account are as follows:

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Amounts charged to income and expenditure:		
Current service cost	305,000	202,000
Total operating charge	305,000	202,000
Amounts charged to finance cost (income)		
Expected return on scheme assets	(341,000)	(375,000)
Interest on scheme liabilities	356,000	333,000
Other finance cost (income)	15,000	(42,000)
Total charge to the income and expenditure account	320,000	160,000
Actual return on scheme assets	1,041,000	330,000

Actuarial losses of €256,000 (2011/12: €2,997,000) have been recognised in the statement of total recognised gains and losses.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

13. Pension commitments (cont'd.)

The amounts recognised in the balance sheet are as follows:

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Present value of funded obligations	(11,125,000)	(9,597,000)
Fair value of scheme assets	8,423,000	7,139,000
Net pension liability	(2,702,000)	(2,458,000)

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Opening defined benefit obligation	9,597,000	6,154,000
Current service cost	305,000	202,000
Interest on scheme liabilities	356,000	333,000
Actuarial loss	916,000	2,952,000
Benefits paid	(49,000)	(44,000)
Closing defined benefit obligation	11,125,000	9,597,000

Changes in the fair value of scheme assets are as follows:

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Opening fair value of scheme assets	7,139,000	6,535,000
Expected return on scheme assets	341,000	375,000
Contributions by employer	268,000	257,000
Contributions by scheme participants	64,000	61,000
Actuarial gain (loss)	660,000	(45,000)
Benefits paid	(49,000)	(44,000)
Closing fair value of scheme assets	8,423,000	7,139,000

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

13. Pension commitments (cont'd.)

The fair value of the major categories of scheme assets as a percentage of total scheme assets are as follows:

	30/4/13 %	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 %	30/4/12 €
Equities	26.0	2,210,000	52.0	3,712,000
Bonds	36.0	3,043,000	38.0	2,713,000
Property	1.0	72,000	2.0	143,000
Cash/Other	4.0	365,000	8.0	571,000
Global Absolute Return Strategies Fund	33.0	2,733,000	-	-
		8,423,000		7,139,000

The principal actuarial assumptions as at the balance sheet date were:

	30/4/13 %	30/4/12 %
Rate of increase in salaries	2.00	2.00
Rate of increase in pensions payment (pre 2009)	5.00	5.00
Rate of increase in pensions payment (post 2009)	2.00	2.00
Discount rate	3.20	3.60
Inflation assumption	2.00	2.00
Rate of return on plan assets	4.15	4.69

The mortality assumptions used were as follows:

	30/4/13 years	30/4/12 years
Life expectancy of male/female currently aged 65	22.5/24.7	22.4/24.6
Life expectancy of male/female at 65 currently aged 45	24.4/26.8	24.3/26.7

Amounts for the current and previous four periods are as follows:

	2013 €'000	2012 €'000	2011 €'000	2010 €'000	2009 €'000
Defined benefit obligation	(11,125)	(9,597)	(6,154)	(5,571)	(4,795)
Fair value of scheme assets	8,423	7,139	6,535	6,046	3,745
(Deficit) surplus in the scheme	(2,702)	(2,458)	381	475	(1,050)
Experience adjustments on scheme liabilities (%)	8	2	1	5	-
Experience adjustments on scheme assets (%)	(1)	(1)	(2)	12	(42)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

14. Deferred ticket fund

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
Tickets brought forward prior to stadium development		
At 1 May	11,503,208	16,972,839
Transfer to revenue account	(6,827,033)	(5,469,631)
At 30 April	4,676,175	11,503,208
Amounts received for Aviva Stadium		
At 1 May	75,501,000	81,865,208
Transfer to revenue account	(7,624,512)	(6,488,658)
Further amounts received during the year	8,586,959	124,450
At 30 April	76,463,447	75,501,000
	81,139,622	87,004,208

15. Deferred naming rights fund

The Union entered into an arrangement with Hibernian Aviva Group plc ('Aviva') in respect of naming rights for the stadium. The Union, the Football Association of Ireland and New Stadium Limited will receive payments over a ten year period commencing in July 2010 in return for the naming rights to the stadium. The Union agreed to transfer the rights to future elements of these payments in return for an upfront payment of €8,333,333. These funds, together with other amounts received, are shown as deferred naming rights and will be released to income and expenditure over the period of the naming rights agreement.

	30/4/13 €	30/4/12 €
At 1 May	8,402,278	8,795,312
Unwind of discount	517,622	490,299
Transferred to income during the year	(1,050,000)	(883,333)
At 30 April	7,869,900	8,402,278

The financing element of the arrangement is secured over future payments receivable from Aviva only.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

16. Reconciliation of operating surplus to net cash inflow from operating activities

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €
Operating surplus	14,890,105	7,794,476
Deposit interest receivable	(117,585)	(154,495)
Unwinding of discount (note 15)	517,622	490,299
Depreciation	1,218,335	1,288,398
Amortisation	5,907,292	5,761,592
Provisions against loans to clubs	5,995	10,827
Movement in debtors	3,397,502	(777,006)
Movement in creditors	2,585,856	(2,312,842)
Current service costs less return on investment on pension	256,000	99,000
Pension fund contributions	(268,000)	(257,000)
Transfer to revenue – deferred naming rights	(1,050,000)	(883,333)
Transfer to revenue – corporate boxes and ten year tickets	(14,451,545)	(11,958,289)
Net cash inflow (outflow) from operating activities	12,891,577	(898,373)

17. Analysis of changes in net funds during the year

	30/4/12 €	Cash flow €	30/4/13 €
Cash	1,180,368	770,925	1,951,293
Liquid resources:			
Short term deposits	1,843,986	21,035,499	22,879,485
	3,024,354	21,806,424	24,830,778
Bank loans	(16,282,084)	(3,000,000)	(19,282,084)
Net (debt) funds	(13,257,730)	18,806,424	5,548,694

18. Reconciliation of net cash flow to movement in net funds

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €
Increase (decrease) in cash	770,925	(823,458)
Cash flow from liquid resources	21,035,499	(5,882,558)
(Increase) decrease in bank loans	(3,000,000)	5,000,000
Movement in net debt	18,806,424	(1,706,016)
Net debt at beginning of year	(13,257,730)	(11,551,714)
Net funds (debt) at end of year	5,548,694	(13,257,730)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

19. Revenue grants

The following grants were received and used for the stated purpose in the year ended 30 April 2013

	30/4/13	30/4/12
Irish Sports Council		
- game development and participation	€2,614,008	€2,912,120
International Rugby Board		
- game development and participation and elite player development	Stg£250,000	Stg£250,000

20. Commitments and contingencies

Capital commitments

Under the terms of agreements to develop the Aviva Stadium the Union have a capital commitment of €Nil (2012: approximately €2,908,553).

Commitments under operating leases

On 12 November 2010 the Union entered into an operating lease in respect of property at 10/12 Lansdowne Road at an annual rent of €350,000. This lease will expire on 12 November 2015. The amount charged in respect of this rent in the current period amounted to €350,000. During the year the Union incurred operating lease rentals on motor vehicles amounting to €95,540. The commitment in respect of existing lease agreements on vehicles all of which expire within twelve months amount to €150,988.

Contingencies

In terms of agreements between the Union, the Football Association of Ireland, New Stadium Limited and the Government for the provision of grants amounting to €191 million for the redevelopment of the Aviva Stadium, the Union have agreed that in the event that the land on which the stadium is built is not used for sporting and recreational activities for a period of thirty years from the date of payment of the grants, the grant or a portion of the grant could become repayable.

In terms of agreements between the Union, the Munster Branch Irish Rugby Football Union, Thomond Park Stadium Company Limited and the Government for the provision of grants amounting to €9 million for the redevelopment of Thomond Park, the Union have agreed that in the event that the Stadium is not used as a facility for the playing of Rugby Union and associated social, recreational and cultural activities for the people of Munster and surrounding district for the period of fifteen years from the date of payment of the grants, the grant or a portion of the grant could become repayable.

The Union have pledged the lands at Thomond Park as security in respect of any liability which may arise in this regard.

The Union issued a joint and several letter of undertaking in conjunction with the Football Association of Ireland to secure a bank guarantee issued by New Stadium Limited, trading as Aviva Stadium, in favour of Iarnrod Eireann in the amount of €2,250,000.

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

21. Related party disclosures

The Irish Rugby Football Union is controlled by the Council of the Union.

The day to day affairs are managed by a Committee comprising various members, the majority of whom have been elected.

The Committee consider that all material transactions with related parties have been adequately disclosed in these financial statements and the notes thereto.

22. Approval of accounts

The accounts of the Union were approved by the Committee on 19 June 2013 and signed on its behalf by the Honorary Treasurer and the Chief Executive.

STATEMENT OF COMMITTEE'S RESPONSIBILITIES

The Committee is responsible for preparing accounts, which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Union at the end of each financial period and of the surplus or deficit for the period. They are responsible for keeping proper accounting records, for safeguarding assets, and for preventing and detecting fraud and other irregularities.

The Committee confirms that suitable accounting policies have been consistently applied, that reasonable and prudent judgments and estimates have been used in the preparation of the accounts, and that it is appropriate to assume that the Union will continue in being and to prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

We have audited the accounts on pages 38 to 62 which comprise the Union and consolidated income and expenditure account, the Union and consolidated statement of total recognised gains and losses, the Union and consolidated balance sheet and the Union cash flow statement with the related notes. The accounts have been prepared under the historical cost convention and the accounting policies set out on pages 45 to 47.

Respective responsibilities of the Committee and the auditors

As described on page 63, the Committee is responsible for preparing the accounts in accordance with applicable law and the accounting standards issued by the Accounting Standards Board and published by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland (Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland).

Our responsibility is to audit the accounts in accordance with relevant legal and regulatory requirements and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

This report is made solely to the members as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Our responsibilities do not extend to any other information.

Basis of audit opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland) issued by the Auditing Practices Board. An audit includes examination, on a test basis, of evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures in the accounts. It also includes an assessment of the significant estimates and judgments made by the Committee in the preparation of the accounts, and whether the accounting policies are appropriate to the Union's circumstances, consistently applied and adequately disclosed.

We planned and performed our audit so as to obtain all the information and explanations which we considered necessary in order to provide us with sufficient evidence to give reasonable assurance that the accounts are free from material misstatement, whether caused by fraud or other irregularity or error. In forming our opinion we also evaluated the overall adequacy of the presentation of information in the accounts.

Opinion

In our opinion the accounts give a true and fair view, in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice in Ireland, of the state of affairs of the Union as at 30 April 2013 and of the surplus of income over expenditure of the Union for the year then ended.

Grant Thornton
Registered Auditors
Chartered Accountants

24-26 City Quay
Dublin 2

Date: 19th June 2013

INCOME

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

Schedule 1: Representative matches

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
International rugby income	27,881,001	30,722,240	33,234,443
Commercial income	8,863,802	9,139,485	8,689,379
Deferred ticket income	14,451,545	11,958,289	13,359,321
ERC and provincial income	10,763,413	11,137,316	9,324,402
	61,959,761	62,957,330	64,607,545

Schedule 2: Other income

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Other rugby income	648,663	620,877	589,391
Government grants	2,614,008	2,912,120	3,388,000
Other income	444,154	691,188	691,894
	3,706,825	4,224,185	4,669,285

EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

Schedule 3: Professional game costs

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
National tours, camps and squads	925,888	255,830	925,059
National match costs	2,717,260	2,549,988	4,085,621
Player and management costs	28,576,706	28,648,479	28,458,178
	32,219,854	31,454,297	33,468,858

Schedule 4: Elite player development

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Wolfhounds/Irish "A" team	152,186	90,851	102,488
Under 20's	407,399	414,440	381,169
Academies	1,348,118	1,337,710	1,276,019
High performance unit	420,379	345,160	379,267
Fitness programme	596,088	443,703	557,238
	2,924,170	2,631,864	2,696,181

Schedule 5: Games support costs

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Referee costs	319,819	287,877	358,957
Medical costs	377,965	337,120	294,717
	697,784	624,997	653,674

EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

Schedule 6: Domestic and community rugby

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Under 19's	83,836	97,645	93,485
Irish schoolboy team	140,428	174,424	181,342
Irish youth team	216,930	154,535	153,930
Women's teams	681,078	265,655	326,268
Club Ireland	70,029	78,700	52,196
Domestic competitions	238,494	246,707	332,268
General development salaries	521,036	424,633	310,832
General development expenses	86,585	144,721	85,812
Development resources	215,476	358,444	215,281
Coaching courses	217,083	212,917	262,375
Youth and schools	331,411	273,653	425,824
YDO and provincial staff	2,716,480	2,680,456	2,644,309
Clubs and schools support	1,295,319	1,491,089	2,394,832
Referee development	532,668	504,598	523,922
Leisure and community programmes	640,115	533,222	480,144
Community rugby and other funding	1,515,791	1,612,946	1,523,273
	9,502,759	9,254,345	10,006,093

EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 APRIL 2013

Schedule 7: Marketing

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Marketing	773,635	670,386	785,108
PR and communications	159,384	140,569	130,395
Website	315,112	221,065	283,293
	1,248,131	1,032,020	1,198,796

Schedule 8: Grounds

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Licence fees, rates and insurance	2,860,279	2,512,300	1,996,925
Repairs and renewals	78,432	88,413	134,143
Other facilities	584,820	254,996	310,050
	3,523,531	2,855,709	2,441,118

Schedule 9: Administration and overheads

	2012/13 €	2011/12 €	2010/11 €
Governance costs	386,781	299,482	394,739
Salaries and pension	2,335,436	2,057,629	2,076,603
Printing, postage and stationary	170,226	130,433	186,047
Rates, rent, insurance and telephone	676,386	663,397	699,136
Office maintenance	331,834	274,620	282,143
Professional fees	757,319	745,763	1,058,560
Miscellaneous administration costs	376,643	312,493	287,440
	5,034,625	4,483,817	4,984,668

**IRISH RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION,
10/12 LANSDOWNE ROAD, DUBLIN 4.
WWW.IRISHRUGBY.IE**

