



INFORMATION PAGE

Week of September 10th, 2004

1 **A bad hurricane season - already**

As I write this, the tail end of hurricane 'Frances' is causing heavy rain and wind conditions in Eastern Canada. I am glad to be inside! But the conditions here are *nothing* compared to those being suffered elsewhere in NAWIRA. So, as 'Ivan' sweeps across the Caribbean Sea, my first thought in this edition is to send best wishes to Rugby sisters and brothers in the Bahamas, Barbados, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Cuba, Jamaica, St. Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos, and the United States (and others that I have missed). Also remembering Bermuda, which was hit hard last year.

2 **Caribbean Nations Youth Development Symposium and Planning Session**

I am delighted to confirm that the Symposium and Planning Session will take place in Kingston, Jamaica, Saturday 20th - Tuesday 22nd, November 2004.

The following Unions have been invited to send a representative: Bahamas, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Guadeloupe, Guyana, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, and Turks and Caicos.

So this presents an outstanding opportunity to gather as one, to develop friendships, to learn from each other, and to give Rugby and Youth Development in the Caribbean Region a huge boost.

The Aim of the event is: to help Caribbean Unions to plan, prepare and deliver Youth Development Programming.

Outcome Goals: Assemble Unions, Youth Development Directors/Officers to:

- Review examples of best practice from other Caribbean Unions
- Share expertise and experiences
- Receive IRB resources
- Generate and/or fine tune Youth Development action plans for each individual Union.

The IRB will cooperate with NAWIRA to provide flights, shared accommodation and a *per diem* contribution towards meals and other expenses for one attendee per Union.

The Jamaica Rugby Union has kindly volunteered to help with hotel, ground transportation and local arrangements.

3 More on Scrummaging

This week I include a piece by Brian O'Shea ("Box Head" to his mates) entitled the "Importance of Scrum in the Contemporary Game". It provides an explanation of player skills and coach involvement, including practice design, and insight that will be helpful to referees and spectators.

Box is a Rugby expert. A member of the 'Brains Trust' that laid the foundation for Australia's first World Cup triumph in 1991, he remains active as an IRB Trainer. He has made excellent presentations over many years in Canada, the USA and throughout the world. This latest offering is notes from a Scrum Presentation given in July, in England.

Best wishes to all.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Tom Jones
Regional Development Manager