



## INFORMATION PAGE

Week of February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2005

### 1 **Rugbyref.net**

I am delighted to announce the launch of the NAWIRA Rugby Referees and Referee Coaches Forum.

This forum is a key outcome of the NAWIRA Officials discussion session that was held in Grand Cayman in conjunction with the Rugby World Cup Sevens 2005 qualifier, June 2004.

There is was recognised and agreed that - because of geography and finance – there are great obstacle preventing the provision of coaching and resources to officials throughout NAWIRA and its Caribbean Unions. This is a key impediment to development in the region.

So the officials have taken the initiative to attempt to in part solve the problem. Congratulations to George Nicholson (Barbados) and Dave Robinson (Cayman) who have spearheaded the design and trialing of an internet-based distance-coaching forum.

Dave Robinson kindly donated the URL [www.Rugbyref.net](http://www.Rugbyref.net)

This serves as a 24/7/365 floating referee society meeting and coaching session where any NAWIRA referee can go to ask questions.

Gerry Fitzgerald of the USA Rugby Referees Society, and an IRB Trainer of Officials, has kindly volunteered to be the moderator for the Referees Forum, while Dave Robinson is the moderator for the Referees Coaches Forum.

There are four forums:

- Referee advice
- Referee coaches advice
- Referee resources
- Referee coaches resources.

I encourage NAWIRA officials, especially those in the Caribbean, and other locations where there is not ready access to officiating expertise, to visit the

site, and start the ball rolling with your questions, and exchange of expertise and experiences.

**2 Eastern Canada Rugby Coaching Development Conference  
12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> March 2005, Toronto**

Martin Gallagher, Rugby Canada's Director of Development, has forwarded to me the schedule and details for an excellent-looking Development Conference being arranged by Rugby Canada and the Ontario Rugby Union in cooperation with the Rugby Football Union. I email it herewith.

**3 More honours for the Guyana Rugby Football Union**

The GRFU is pleased to announce that our U18 National Team was voted Runner-up National Sports Team of the year 2004, by the National Sports Commission panel of judges.

Also, Youth Development Officer and Coach of the U18 Team, Laurie Adonis, was voted Runner-up National Coach of the Year.

In 2003, the GRFU were awarded Sports Association of the Year, the U18 Team, Sports Team of the Year and Union President, Kit Nascimento, Sports Personality of the Year.

Each year the National Sports Commission invites a panel of judges, including representatives of the Guyana Olympic Association, sports personalities and sports writers, to vote on the award of national sports honours.

**4 Tobago duo bound for England**

Following up on their volunteer work in Tobago in May and June 2004, James Haskell and Phil Greening have managed to get two Community Development Officers (CDO) of Wasps Rugby Football Club of London to host and work one on one with two Tobago players to study coaching and community development. The target is for the Tobago players to achieve an England Rugby Football Union Level One Coaching classification.

The Wasps RFU has kindly agreed to the use its facilities and to allow their CDOs, Chris Ricketts and Dave Larham the time to facilitate this intense coaching course over two weeks.

The two Tobago players selected are Flemming Glace (Vice President and Inside Centre) and Anderson Roberts (Scrum Captain and Hooker). They will depart Tobago on Saturday, February 12, 2005. Both Flemming and Anderson have been key players in the success of the Tobago Rugby Football Club (TRFC) third season in the Trinidad & Tobago Rugby Football Union (TTRFU) league. The TRFC was able to place fourth in the 2004

season. Both are solid club members and ever present during fund raising events.

Best wishes to all,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Jones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T' and 'J'.

Tom Jones  
Regional Development Manager