



STATISTICAL REVIEW AND MATCH ANALYSIS

RBS 6 NATIONS 2009

IRB GAME ANALYSIS



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This year, **IRELAND** won the Grand Slam for the first time in over 60 years and they achieved it by bringing a distinctive approach to this year's championship. Gone was the high passing team, low kicking team that characterised Ireland's play in recent years and in came a far more controlled pattern of play that exerted constant pressure on the opposition. The following extracts from the following report illustrates the extent of this approach:



- ◆ Far from being the highest passing team as in the recent past, Ireland were the lowest both in number of passes and rate of passing
- ◆ In one match they made just 82 passes
- ◆ Very few Irish passing movements contained more than 3 passes. Only 1 passing movement in every 38 contained 3 or more passes, this compared to 1 in 15 for the other 5 teams.

The Irish effort was far more concentrated on tight play as the following illustrations show

- ◆ They were among the highest rucking team and kicking team with the most successful ruck retention rate
- ◆ They were turned over only 7 times in almost 500 rucks and mauls, a ratio far better than any other team
- ◆ In a tournament of few mauls, Ireland mauled far more than any other team
- ◆ Of 7 maul turnovers, 6 were achieved by Ireland
- ◆ They conceded only 3 tries none of which started inside their own half
- ◆ Their forwards were the least likely to pass the ball – and often significantly less likely. Their back row, for example, passed the ball on only 13% of occasions while the back rows of the other 5 teams passed on no less than 35% of occasions.
- ◆ They kicked almost all restarts short thereby maintaining constant physical pressure on their opponents
- ◆ They were the most successful team in gaining possession on opposition lineouts and 75% of their tries came from lineout possession

This approach was complemented by other major factors

- ◆ 11 of their 12 tries were converted, making tries worth an invaluable 7 points
- ◆ They were the least penalised team
- ◆ They obtained more possession than their opponents in 4 of their 5 matches.

Their distinctive and clearly defined approach to the game – and its successful implementation - brought Ireland a reward last seen over 60 years ago.

What of the other teams?



When **ENGLAND** entered last year's 6 Nations, they did so as RWC runners-up. Their results in the tournament were very disappointing however. They scored just 8 tries in 5 matches which served to continue their declining try count over the years since 2001. The records show that England's try count went down every single year since then, with the following table showing the extent of the year by year reduction:

England 6 Nations Try Count

Year	Total Number of Tries Scored
2001	28
2002	23
2003	18
2004	17
2005	16
2006	12
2007	10
2008	8
2009	16



This all changed in 6Nations 2009 however. They were the top try scoring team with 16 tries, comfortably exceeding the number of tries scored by Ireland, the champions. There was also another major difference. Last year, England obtained less possession than any other team in the championship: this year the position was totally reversed, despite England exceeding their opponent's possession in only one game. The reason for this was the very high ball in play times that were produced in England's matches. While the average ball in play percentage for the tournament was 49%, in England's matches the ball in play figures were 53%, 53%, 52%, 52% and 49%. The four highest ball in play matches all involved England.

Not surprisingly, with more possession, England made more passes than any other team and passed at the second highest rate. What was also different was the source of England's tries. In 2008, two thirds came from the set piece possessions of lineout and scrum, but, this year, the largest proportion of their tries came from turnovers. England's total of 6, exceeded the total of all the remaining 5 teams. England's tries also continued to be scored by backs. This year the backs scored 15 tries, the forwards 1. This is similar to last year's ratio where all 8 tries were scored by backs, making the total for the last two 6 Nations tournaments, 23 tries by backs, 1 by the forwards.

England were by far the highest penalised team in the championship. Their opponents received some 40% more penalties and free kicks while England also suffered 6 yellow cards – one more than the remaining 5 teams received between them. Despite this, England's defence remained strong – only 5 tries were conceded compared to last year's four.



In 2008, **FRANCE** picked well over 30 players for the 5 matches. This could have explained why no clear and consistent pattern of play emerged during the tournament. The conclusion last year therefore was that it would be premature to draw too many conclusions. The suggestion was made that matters would become somewhat clearer in this year's tournament.

This was not to be however – a statistical analysis of France's matches this year did not associate France with any particular style of play. They did not excel in any of the core

elements of the game but neither did they fail. It was also difficult, if not impossible, to extract any recurring characteristics of French play.

The statistical breakdown showed that their percentage possession was around average; they were not the leading try scoring team, and they kicked an average number of penalty goals. In the lineout and scrum, their success rate was around the average and their penalties awarded/conceded ratio was close to 50/50. Their rucks, passes and rates of rucking and passing were neither exceptionally high nor low, the percentage of passes made by their forwards was similar to almost all the other teams - and at the end of the tournament they ended up in third position.

They did however have the lowest kicking rate as well as having the least successful percentage kick rate. Again, the difference from the other teams was not significant. They did however remain free of yellow cards – giving them a record of one yellow card in the 5 years, a record not matched by any of the other teams. Nevertheless, this year's commentary is similar to last years – namely that few, if any conclusions can be drawn from 6 Nations 2009 – and that perhaps next year, patterns will begin to emerge.



When **WALES** won the Grand Slam in 2008, they showed a number of characteristics that were different from other teams. What was interesting this year was to see if those characteristics still applied. Some did

- they put the ball into touch noticeably less than any other team. While Wales' opponents had 48 throw ins, for example, England's had 81 and Ireland's 79.
- they kicked long at almost every restart – 25 out of 27 last year, 24 out of 33 this year.

There were, on the other hand, a number of substantial differences

- they no longer scored a large proportion of tries from opponents' handling errors and opponents kicks. In fact, only Italy scored fewer tries than Wales from this possession source
- whereas last year, Wales scored more tries from inside their own half than England, Scotland, Ireland and Italy combined, this year they scored just one, the least of all six teams.

One of the results of these differences was that Wales scored just 8 tries this year compared with 13 last year while conceding 7 to last year's two. Eight tries to seven is a major turnaround from 13 tries to two. Wales did not therefore manage to replicate two of last year's defining features – ie a huge defensive success combined with an ability to score tries from broken play and from play starting inside their own half, a feature frequently found in successful teams.

Another difference was that Wales were also less successful this year in obtaining possession of the ball. In not one of their 5 matches did they obtain more possession than their opponents. Their second half performances were also noticeably different. Last year, there was a far greater intensity of performance in the second half of their matches. In 2008, they did not concede a try in the second half – and 11 of their 13 tries were scored in that period. This was not replicated this year however, with only 4 of their 8 tries being scored in the second half. In addition, from a 100% conversion success rate in 2008 that made every try worth 7 points, this year's success was just 3 out of 8 or 38%. The Wales of 2009 was, therefore every different from the Wales that won the Grand Slam in 2008



SCOTLAND's performance in 6 Nations 2009 showed very little difference from their performances in 2008 and 2007. In each of the last 3 years they have won just one game. They remained one of the least effective teams in turning possession into points, as well as being one of the least effective team in preventing their opponents from scoring tries. There was little change in 6 Nations 2009.

Last year, 3 tries were scored – this year 4 – and even after taking the 7 tries scored in 2007 into account, the result is that over the last 3 years Scotland have averaged less than one try per game. The result this year was that of all Scotland's points, just 25% were accounted for by tries – last year's figure was 22%. The lack of tries is also unfortunate in view of Scotland's continuing and outstanding place kicking record. In 2008, all three tries were converted and 15 of 16 penalty attempts were successful. In 2009, there was also a 100% conversion success with a penalty goal success of 17 out of 20.

Possession was also low. Overall, Scotland had less possession than any of the other 5 teams, gaining more possession than their opponents in just one of their 5 matches despite kicking less than any other team and at a lower rate. They did however pass at a higher rate than any other team – and while their front row was the front row least likely to pass the ball, their second row – just as in previous years - continued to be the most likely. Scotland's lineout remained robust but their retained possession at the scrum was less than any other team. Paradoxically, however, they were the most successful team on their opponents' put-in, being awarded 9 penalties and free kicks or three times more than the next team.



Over the years, **ITALY** have consistently conceded a considerable number of tries and this characteristic emerged again in 2009 with Italy conceding 21 in their 5 matches, thereby reversing the slight improvement seen in recent seasons. They conceded at least 2 tries in every game, and, over the tournament, their opponents required just 4 min 33 seconds possession to score a try. This can be contrasted with Ireland's opponents who needed over 34 minutes possession to score a try. This was compounded by the fact that they only managed to score just two themselves. This was a disappointment for a team which, last year, had scored at least 1 try in each of their 5 matches.

Italy did not suffer however from lack of possession despite being the highest kicking team. They did however experience difficulties in the lineout. Their overall success rate was 75% compared with an overall success rate of 86% - with their lineout opponents managing 15 'steals' in the 5 matches, a very high figure compared with their opponents. Nevertheless, they obtained more possession than their opponents in 3 of their 5 games and their forwards were more liable to pass the ball than in the past with their back row being the most likely of all teams back rows to distribute the ball. They also had the highest passing rate but found it extremely difficult to transfer possession into points. This remains a continuing challenge.



FINAL STANDINGS & RESULTS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PD	PTS
Ireland	5	5	0	0	121	73	48	10
England	5	3	0	2	124	70	54	6
France	5	3	0	2	124	101	23	6
Wales	5	3	0	2	100	81	19	6
Scotland	5	1	0	4	79	102	-23	2
Italy	5	0	0	5	49	170	-121	0

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

	England	36		Italy	11
	Ireland	30		France	21
	Scotland	13		Wales	26
	France	22		Scotland	13
	Wales	23		England	15
	Italy	9		Ireland	38
	France	21		Wales	16
	Scotland	26		Italy	6
	Ireland	14		England	13
	Italy	15		Wales	20
	Scotland	15		Ireland	22
	England	34		France	10
	Italy	8		France	50
	England	26		Scotland	12
	Wales	15		Ireland	17



SUMMARY

This Report is divided into 2 sections.

- Section 1 takes a brief look at constituent game elements in 6 Nations 2009 and compares them to 6 Nations 2008. It also includes a summary of each team's activities and performance in certain critical areas of the game
- Section 2 comprises a detailed statistical analysis of all matches played in the tournament, together with all the match results.



THE 6 NATIONS 2009

In a number of the core elements, 6 Nations 2009 showed little change from 6 Nations 2008 as shown in the following comparisons. There were however certain areas that showed some differences from previous years – lineouts continued to fall as did scrums while penalties and free kicks increased by five. These changes are considered in further detail in the more comprehensive analyses which follow in a later section.

Averages per game (2005 – 2009)

	6NATIONS 2009	6 NATIONS 2008	6 NATIONS 2007	6 NATIONS 2006	6 NATIONS 2005
POINTS	40	40	46	42	45
TRIES	3.7	3.3	4.3	4.1	4.7
PENALTY GOALS	4.9	5.5	5.7	4.9	4.4
DROP GOALS	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5
BALL IN PLAY	49%	50%	46%	46%	44%
PASSES	273	259	261	276	264
RUCK/MAULS	174	179	167	149	149
KICKS	65	57	53	63	62
LINEOUTS	26	28	31	37	34
SCRUMS	15	16	17	19	20
PENALTIES	23	18	21	21	20



SECTION 1 – SUMMARY OF CONSTITUENT GAME ELEMENTS

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

	6NATIONS 2009	6 NATIONS 2008
% of points from TRIES	47%	42%
% of points from PENALTY GOALS	37%	42%
% of points from CONVERSIONS	11%	14%
% of points from DROP GOALS	5%	2%
TRIES per game	3.7	3.3
PENALTY GOALS per game	4.9	5.5
DROP GOALS per game	0.6	0.4
TRIES SCORED BY BACKS	77%	78%
TRIES SCORED BY FORWARDS	23%	18%
PENALTY TRIES	-	4%
MATCHES with point margin of 19 or less	11 of 15	11 of 15
CONVERSION SUCCESS RATE	61%	84%
PENALTY GOAL SUCCESS RATE	71%	80%
DROP GOAL SUCCESS RATE	47%	31%
matches won by TEAM SCORING MOST TRIES	12 of 15	12 of 15
matches won by TEAM SCORING LEAST TRIES	1 of 15	0 of 15
% of TRIES FROM LINEOUT POSSESSION	39%	20%
% of TRIES FROM SCRUM POSSESSION	14%	26%
% of TRIES FROM PENALTY/FREE KICKS	2%	6%
% of TRIES FROM TURNOVER/ERROR	18%	22%
% of TRIES FROM OPPONENTS KICKS	25%	20%
OTHER	2%	6%
BALL IN PLAY TIME	49% or 39m 32s	50% or 40m 15s
% of all PASSES MADE BY BACKS	36%	38%
% of all PASSES MADE BY SCRUM HALF	46%	47%
% of all PASSES MADE BY FORWARDS	18%	15%
% of LINEOUT POSSESSION RETAINED	83%	83%
% of SCRUM POSSESSION RETAINED	90%	92%
% of RUCK/MAUL POSSESSION RETAINED	93%	94%
YELLOW AND RED CARDS	11 and none	7 and none
REFERENCES TO TMO	17	11

THE TEAMS PERFORMANCES

This section summarises each team’s activities and performances in certain critical areas of the game.

The number of tries scored by each team, the number conceded by each team and the number of penalty goals kicked is shown in the following table

	TRIES SCORED 2009	TRIES SCORED 2008	TRIES CONCEDED 2009	TRIES CONCEDED 2008	PENALTY GOALS 2009	PENALTY GOALS 2008	DROP GOALS 2009
ENGLAND	16	8	5	5	6	16	2
FRANCE	14	11	11	7	12	10	2
IRELAND	12	9	3	10	10	12	3
WALES	8	13	7	2	17	19	1
SCOTLAND	4	3	9	13	17	15	0
ITALY	2	6	21	13	12	11	1







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

	% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks
ENGLAND	65%	35%
FRANCE	56%	44%
IRELAND	50%	50%
WALES	40%	60%
SCOTLAND	25%	75%
ITALY	20%	80%







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

	6N 2009	6N 2008
ENGLAND	1 try scored every 6min 37secs	1 try scored every 11min 31secs
FRANCE	7min 29secs	10min 03secs
IRELAND	8min 41secs	10min 53secs
WALES	11min 34secs	8min 17secs
SCOTLAND	22min 34secs	33min 31secs
ITALY	47min 51secs	16min 01secs







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

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	IRELAND	1 try conceded every 34min 44secs	1 try conceded every 10min 46secs
	ENGLAND	21min 09secs	20min 20secs
	WALES	13min 13secs	49min 50secs
	SCOTLAND	10min 02secs	8min 00secs
	FRANCE	9min 32secs	13min 15secs
	ITALY	4min 33secs	7min 33secs

Each teams overall kicking success rate was as follows:

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	SCOTLAND	88%	95%
	IRELAND	72%	78%
	WALES	65%	89%
	ITALY	63%	71%
	ENGLAND	59%	79%
	FRANCE	58%	73%

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

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	ENGLAND	21min 09secs	18min 14secs
	FRANCE	20min 58secs	22min 6secs
	IRELAND	20min 50secs	19min 35secs
	ITALY	19min 08secs	19min 12secs
	WALES	18min 30secs	21min 31secs
	SCOTLAND	18min 03secs	20min 07secs

SCORING

There were **597** points scored in the 15 matches played, giving an average of **40** points per game. They were made up as follows:

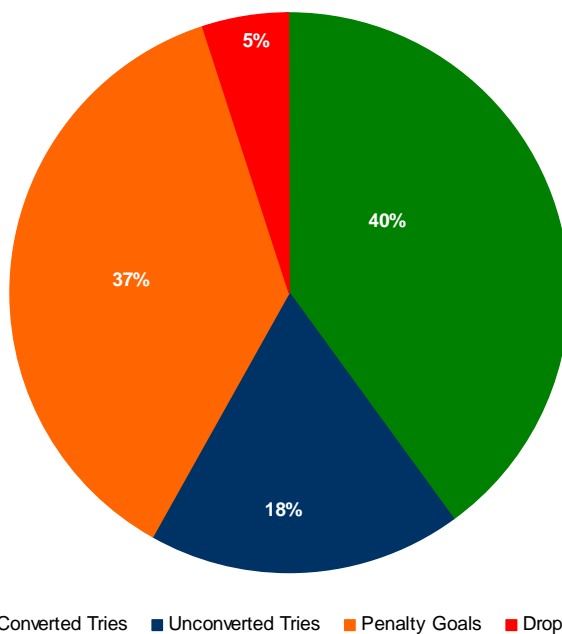
	Type of Score			% of points scored by Tries
	Total	Points		%
Converted Tries	34	238	6N 2009	47%
Unconverted Tries	22	110	6N 2008	42%
Penalty Goals	74	222	6N 2007	47%
Drop Goals	9	27	6N 2006	48%
			6N 2005	53%
			6N 2004	53%

Of the total points scored:

- 47% came from **TRIES**
- 37% came from **PENALTY GOALS**
- 11% came from **CONVERSIONS**
- 5% came from **DROP GOALS**



Points Makeup



There were more drop goals kicked than in any of the previous 6 years.

Scoring Details in 6 Nations

	Av points per game	Av tries per game	Conversion success rate	Av pen goals per game	Try: penalty ratio	Av drop per game
6N 2009	40	3.7	61%	4.9	1 to 1.3	0.6
6N 2008	40	3.3	84%	5.5	1 to 1.7	0.4
6N 2007	46	4.3	77%	5.7	1 to 1.3	0.3
6N 2006	42	4.1	74%	4.9	1 to 1.2	0.3
6N 2005	45	4.7	66%	4.4	1 to 0.9	0.5
6N 2004	43	4.5	63%	4.6	1 to 1.02	0.2

SCORING PROFILES of the modern game

The following table shows the comparative figures for the 5 Nations championships played in 1959, 1969, 1979, 1989, 1999 – and compares them with 6 Nations 2009

	Converted Tries	Unconverted Tries	Total Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals	Conversion Success
6N 2009	2.2	1.5	3.7	4.9	0.6	61%
5N 1999	3.4	1.1	4.5	5.7	0.3	76%
5N 1989	2.0	1.3	3.3	4.2	0.3	61%
5N 1979	1.1	2.1	3.2	3.3	0.3	34%
5N 1969	1.8	1.4	3.2	2.9	0.5	56%
5N 1959	0.6	0.6	1.2	1.2	0.3	50%

WINNING MARGINS







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

Points Difference in 6 Nations 2009

Points Difference	No of matches	Cumulative	6N 2008
1 – 5	4	4 with 4 points or less	3
6 – 10	4	8 with 10 points or less	4
11 – 20	3	11 with 20 points or less	4
21 – 30	3	14 with 30 points or less	3
31 – 40	-	14 with 30 points or less	1
41 - 50	1	15 with 50 points or less	-

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

Points for/against per Team







	Points For		Points Against	
	TOTAL	AVERAGE	TOTAL	AVERAGE
 ENGLAND	124	25	70	14
 FRANCE	124	25	101	20
 IRELAND	121	24	73	15
 WALES	100	20	81	16
 SCOTLAND	79	16	102	20
 ITALY	49	10	170	34

PENALTY GOALS

There were 74 penalty goals kicked in 2009 – this is 9 fewer than 2008.

	Penalty Goals kicked
6N 2009	74
6N 2008	86
6N 2007	73
6N 2006	66
6N 2005	69
6N 2004	89

A further breakdown shows that the top two teams – Ireland and England – scored 28 tries and 16 penalties. The bottom two teams, on the other hand, scored just 6 tries but kicked 29 penalties.

		Tries Scored	Penalties Goals Kicked	Ratio Tries : PGs
	ENGLAND	16	6	1 : 2.7
	FRANCE	14	12	1 0.9
	IRELAND	12	10	1 : 0.8
	WALES	8	17	1 : 2.1
	SCOTLAND	4	17	1 : 4.3
	ITALY	2	12	1 : 6.0

IMPACT OF THE PENALTY GOAL ON MATCH RESULTS

It still remains true that it is tries that win matches. In 6 Nations 2009, just as in 2008, the winning team scored the most tries in 12 of the 15 matches or 80% of matches. It has always been at around this percentage.

Only one team scored fewer tries than their opponents and won the game. (Wales' win v England)









TRY SCORING

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

Total tries/Penalty Goals/Drop goals per Team

		Tries	Penalty Goals	Drop Goals
	ENGLAND	16	6	2
	FRANCE	14	12	2
	IRELAND	12	10	3
	WALES	8	17	1
	SCOTLAND	4	17	0
	ITALY	2	12	1

Scoring % per Team







		% of points from Tries	% of points from Kicks
	ENGLAND	65%	35%
	FRANCE	56%	44%
	IRELAND	50%	50%
	WALES	40%	60%
	SCOTLAND	25%	75%
	ITALY	20%	80%

RATE OF TRY SCORING

The table immediately above shows the number of tries scored by each country. The table does not show however how effective each team was in scoring tries in relation to the possession that it obtained. A team may obtain little possession but still manage to score a significant number of tries. The following paragraphs consider this and attempt to show how successful each team was in converting possession into tries.

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







Rate of try scoring per Team

		Total Tries Scored	6N 2009	6N 2008
	ENGLAND	1-2-3-5-5=16	1 try scored every 6min 37secs	1 try scored every 11min 31secs
	FRANCE	1-2-2-2-7=14	7min 29secs	10min 03secs
	IRELAND	1-1-2-3-5=12	8min 41secs	10min 53secs
	WALES	0-1-1-2-4=8	11min 34secs	8min 17secs
	SCOTLAND	0-0-1-1-2=4	22min 34secs	33min 31secs
	ITALY	0-0-0-1-1= 2	47min 51secs	16min 01secs

RATE OF TRY CONCEDED

Following the above exercise, the converse was looked at ie. how effective was each team in restricting tries in relation to the possession that their opponents obtained. The following paragraph tries to measure this by illustrating how successful each team was in preventing their opposition from converting possession into tries. This was done by adding together the total time the team's opponents were in possession of the ball - and then dividing it by the number of tries conceded. The result then gave a rate of try scoring by the opposition.

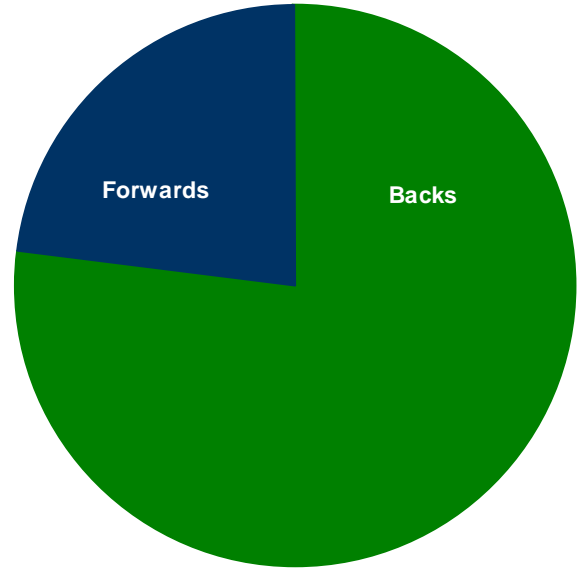
Rate of try conceding per Team

		Total Tries Conceded	6N 2009	6N 2008
	IRELAND	0-0-0-1-2=3	1 try conceded every 34min 44secs	1 try conceded every 10min 46secs
	ENGLAND	0-1-1-1-2=5	21min 09secs	20min 20secs
	WALES	0-1-2-2-2=7	13min 13secs	49min 50secs
	SCOTLAND	0-1-1-3-4=9	10min 02secs	8min 00secs
	FRANCE	1-1-1-3-5=11	9min 32secs	13min 15secs
	ITALY	2-2-5-5-7=21	4min 33secs	7min 33secs

PLAYERS AND TRIES

It has been noted above that there were 56 tries scored in the 15 matches:

43 tries were scored by Backs = 77%
 (2008 – 39 = 78%)
 13 tries were scored by Forwards = 23%
 (2008 – 9 = 18%)
 0 penalty tries
 (2008 – 2 = 4%)



The breakdown between the 6 competing teams is shown below:

Tries scored by Backs and Forward per Team

	Tries by Backs 6N 2009	Tries by Forwards 6N 2009	Tries by Backs 6N 2008	Tries by Forwards 6N 2008	Penalty Tries 6N 2008
ENGLAND	15	1	8	0	0
FRANCE	8	6	10	1	0
IRELAND	9	3	5	3	1
WALES	7	1	12	1	0
SCOTLAND	3	1	2	1	0
ITALY	1	1	2	3	1
TOTAL	43	13	39	9	2

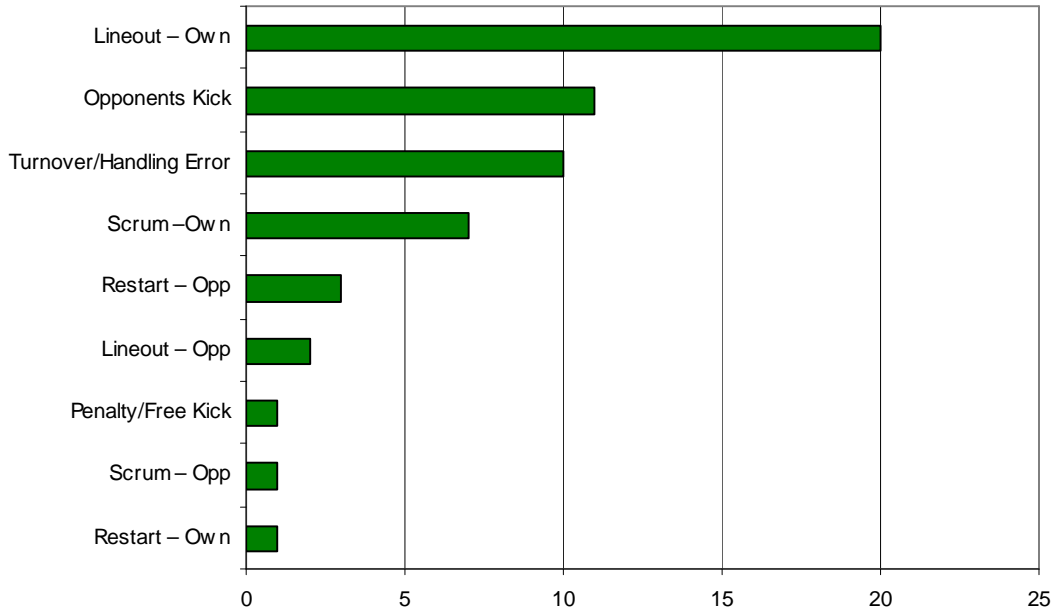
Of the 24 tries scored by England in the last 2 years only 1 has been scored by a forward.

TRIES

1. SOURCE OF TRIES

There were 56 tries scored in 6 Nations 2009.

The teams scoring the tries obtained possession of the ball prior to the scoring of the try from a variety of sources. This is shown in the following chart and table:









Analyses of matches played at international level, over several years, have shown that – apart from last year’s exception - the most fruitful source of possession has consistently and clearly been the lineout. This was maintained in 2009.

	6N 2009	6N 2008
Lineout – Own	20	10
Opponents Kick	11	10
Turnover/Handling Error	10	11
Scrum – Own	7	13
Restart – Opp	3	0
Lineout – Opp	2	2
Restart – Own	1	1
Scrum – Opp	1	0
Penalty/Free Kick	1	3
	56	50







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

Source of Tries Scored per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Opp Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Scored
 ENGLAND	4	2	-	4	6	-	16
 FRANCE	5	3	-	3	1	2	14
 IRELAND	8	1	1	-	2	-	12
 WALES	3	2	-	1	1	1	8
 SCOTLAND	2	-	-	2	-	-	4
 ITALY	-	-	-	1	-	1	2

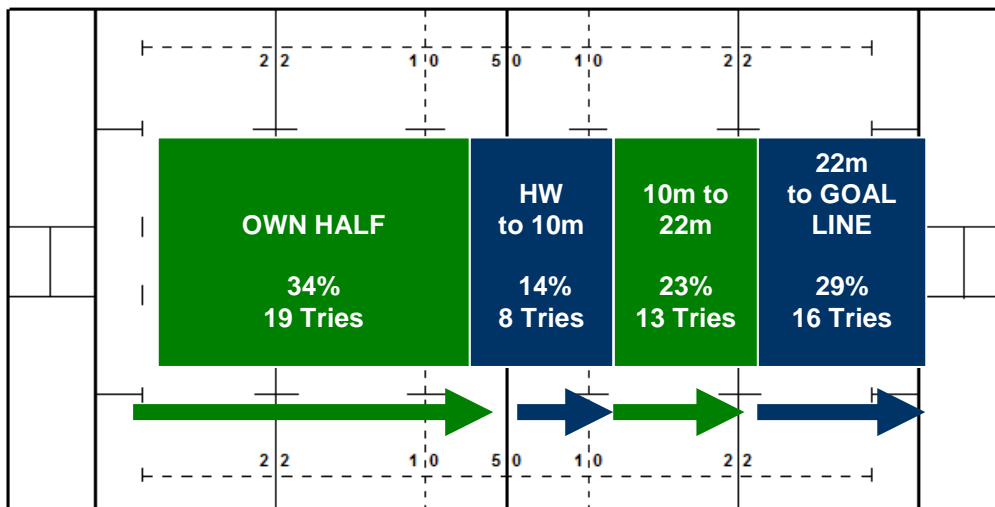
The next table shows the source from which their opponent's tries came:

Source of Tries Conceded per Team

	Lineout	Scrum	Pen/Fk	Kick	Turnover	Restart	Total Conceded
 IRELAND	1	-	-	2	-	-	3
 ENGLAND	1	1	1	1	1	-	5
 WALES	2	3	-	2	-	-	7
 SCOTLAND	4	3	-	1	-	1	9
 FRANCE	5	-	-	2	3	1	11
 ITALY	9	1	-	3	6	2	21

2. ORIGIN OF TRIES

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



In 2009, 1 in 3 tries originated from within the scoring teams own half. This is a high percentage – double that seen in 2003 and 2004 for example. The high percentage this year was largely down to England and France as seen below who accounted for 11 of the 19 tries starting over 50metres out.

Origin of Tries scored per team

		Own Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Goal line	Total Scored
	ENGLAND	6	2	2	6	16
	FRANCE	5	2	3	4	14
	IRELAND	3	1	4	4	12
	WALES	1	3	3	1	8
	SCOTLAND	2	0	1	1	4
	ITALY	2	0	0	0	2

The following table provides the converse to the above ie. It shows – for each team – the origin of all tries conceded

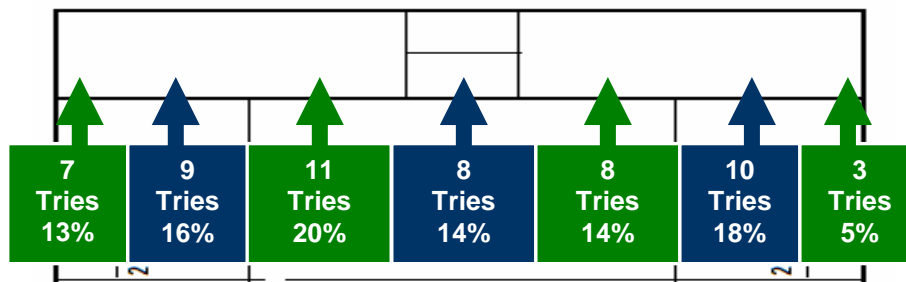
Origin of Tries conceded per team

		Opp Half	Halfway to 10m	10m to 22m	22m to Goal line	Total Conceded
	IRELAND	3				3
	ENGLAND	2			3	5
	WALES	2	1	1	3	7
	SCOTLAND	1	2	3	3	9
	FRANCE	5	2	1	3	11
	ITALY	6	3	8	4	21

3. TRY LOCATIONS

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

14% were scored under the posts 2008 30%
48% the left side of the posts, and 2008 28%
38% on the right side of the posts. 2008 42%



4. BUILD-UP TO TRIES

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

The first table below shows the number of rucks and mauls (2nd phase) that preceded each of the 56 tries scored in 6 Nations 2009

Build Up to Tries - Ruck/Mauls

	Number	%	Cumulative %	6N 2008
0 R/Ms	17	30%	30%	14
1 R/Ms	8	14	44	10
2 R/Ms	2	4	48	6
3 R/Ms	5	9	57	4
4 R/Ms	9	16	73	2
5 R/Ms	3	5	78	2
6 R/Ms	4	7	85	3
7 R/Ms	2	4	89	1
8 R/Ms	2	4	93	3
9 R/Ms	1	2	95	1
10+ R/Ms	3	5	100%	4
Total	56	100%		50

The table shows that 57% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer second phases (2008 – 68%)

The next table below shows the number of passes that preceded each of the 56 tries scored in 6 Nations 2009

Build Up to Tries - Passes

	Number	%	Cumulative %	6N 2008
0 pass	5	9%	9%	11
1 pass	8	14	23	5
2 passes	7	13	36	7
3 passes	5	9	45	3
4 passes	6	11	56	5
5 passes	3	5	61	3
6 passes	4	7	68	3
7 passes	3	5	73	0
8 passes	4	7	80	2
9 passes	3	5	85	2
10 passes	2	4	89	3
11+ passes	6	11	100%	6
Total	56	100%		50

The table shows that 45% of tries were preceded by 3 or fewer passes (2008 – 52%). This was not a figure that was seen consistently throughout all teams. In **Ireland's** case, for example, 75% of their 12 tries contained 3 or fewer passes. By contrast, in England's case only 25% contained 3 or fewer passes.

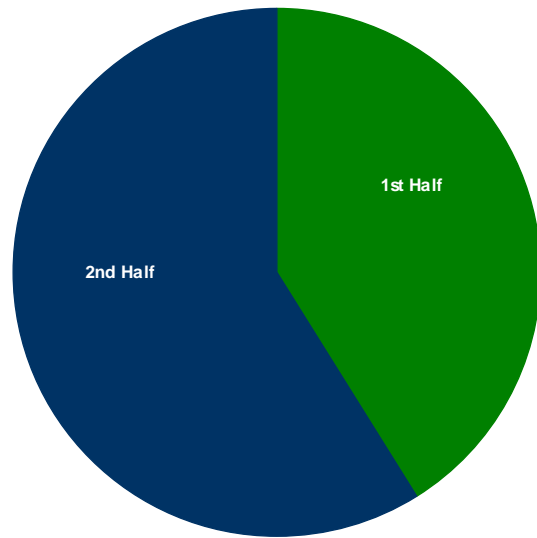
TIMING OF SCORES - TRIES

23 or 41% of tries were scored in the first half – 33 or 59% in the second half. (2008- 44% and 56%)

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



Timing of Tries



Timing of Tries Scored and Conceded per Team

	Tries scored 1 st half	Tries scored 2 nd half	Tries conceded 1 st half	Tries conceded 2 nd half
ENGLAND	10	6	-	5
FRANCE	5	9	6	5
IRELAND	3	9	1	2
WALES	4	4	2	5
SCOTLAND	1	3	4	5
ITALY	-	2	10	11

One figure to note is that England conceded all of their 5 tries in the second half.

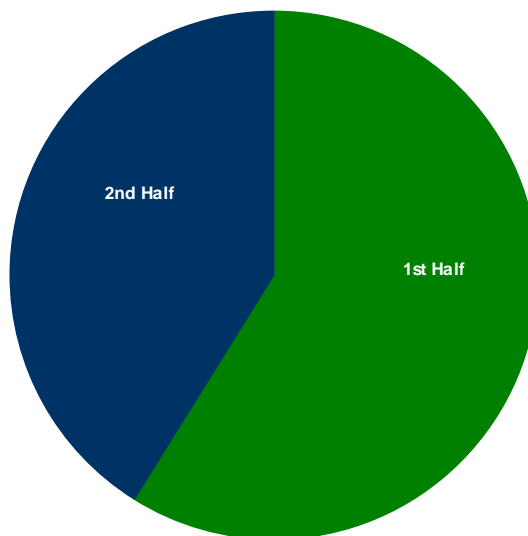
TIMING OF SCORES - PENALTY GOALS

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







In 6 Nations 2009, 23 tries were scored in the first half – 33 in the second. Penalty goals however showed a different profile – 44 (or 59%) of penalties were kicked in the first half – 30 (or 41%) in the second.

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

Timing of Penalty Goals



Timings of Penalty Goals kicked and Conceded per Team

	PGs scored 1st half	PGs scored 2 nd half	PGs conceded 1st half	PGs conceded 2 nd half
 SCOTLAND	10	7	8	6
 WALES	9	8	6	4
 ITALY	9	3	6	5
 FRANCE	6	6	7	3
 IRELAND	6	4	10	5
 ENGLAND	4	2	7	7

KICKS AT GOAL

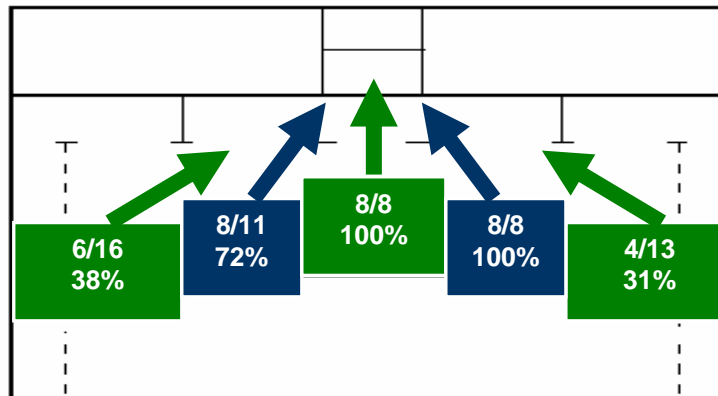
It has been noted many times in earlier reports that the success rates of kicks at goal have improved noticeably since the game went professional. In the decades since 1946, conversion rates were reflected a running average of 52/53%. These figures are now exceeded comfortably in all major rugby competitions. This level of success was maintained this year when 61% was achieved, a relatively low figure in the modern game.



Kicking success rates were as follows:







	Kicking success
Conversions	61%
Penalty goals	71%
Drop goals	47%

Map of Conversion Success



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

Kicks at Goal Success

	Penalty Success	Conversion Success	Overall Success %	Drop goal Success
 SCOTLAND	17 of 20 = 85%	4 of 4 = 100%	88%	0 of 1
 IRELAND	10 of 17 = 59%	11 of 12 = 92%	72%	3 of 6
 WALES	17 of 23 = 74%	3 of 8 = 38%	65%	1 of 1
 ITALY	12 of 17 = 71%	0 of 2 = 0%	63%	1 of 3
 ENGLAND	6 of 11 = 55%	10 of 16 = 63%	59%	2 of 5
 FRANCE	12 of 17 = 71%	6 of 14 = 43%	58%	2 of 3

Scotland had the most successful percentage as in 2009. **Ireland** were also successful in converting 11 of their 12 tries which made all but one try worth 7 points.

BALL IN PLAY

In percentage terms, 6 Nations 2009 matches produced an average ball in play time of **39min 32secs – or 49%** (2008 50% or 40 mins 15 secs)

Almost half the matches had ball in play of 50% or more.

The highest Ball in Play in any game was **57%** or 42 mins 20 secs (**England v France**) – the lowest was **44%** or 35 mins 30 secs (**France v Scotland**)

The following table shows the ball in play times for each match and how much possession was obtained by each team in the 15 matches. There are some noticeable differences.

MATCH	BALL IN PLAY	WAL 	ENG 	FRA 	IRE 	SCO 	ITA
ENGLAND v FRANCE	42m 20s 53%		21m12s 50%	21m08s 50%			
WALES v ENGLAND	42m 04s 53%	21m04s 50%	21m00s 50%				
ENGLAND v SCOTLAND	41m 43s 52%		25m57s 62%			15m 46s 38%	
ENGLAND v ITALY	41m 40s 52%		19m31s 47%				22m09s 53%
SCOTLAND v ITALY	41m 08s 51%					20m17s 49%	20m51s 51%
IRELAND v FRANCE	40m 49s 51%			23m14s 57%	17m35s 43%		
ITALY v WALES	39m 57s 50%	18m10s 45%					21m47s 55%
SCOTLAND v IRELAND	39m 31s 49%				22m49s 58%	16m42s 42%	
FRANCE v SCOTLAND	35m 30s 44%			17m51s 50%		17m 39s 50%	
WALES v IRELAND	39m 19s 49%	18m43s 48%			20m36s 52%		
ITALY v FRANCE	39m 05s 49%			21m38s 55%			17m27s 45%
IRELAND v ENGLAND	39m 00s 49%		18m07s 46%		20m53s 54%		
SCOTLAND v WALES	38m 56s 49%	19m01s 49%				19m 55s 51%	
FRANCE v WALES	36m 35s 46%	15m35s 43%		21m00s 57%			
ITALY v IRELAND	35m 49s 45%				22m20s 62%		13m29s 38%
TOTAL		92m33s	105m47s	104m51s	104m13s	90m19s	95m43s

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

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	FRANCE	20min 58secs	22min 06secs
	ENGLAND	21min 09secs	18min 14secs
	IRELAND	20min 50secs	19min 35secs
	ITALY	19min 08secs	19min 12secs
	WALES	18min 30secs	21min 31secs
	SCOTLAND	18min 03secs	20min 07secs

As a formula for winning, having the most possession is no guarantee of success. In 6 Nations 2009, the winning team had the most possession in only 7 games of the 15.

ACTIVITY CYCLES

Activity cycles comprises - ruck/mauls, passes, and kicks.

The following paragraphs show the number of rucks/mauls, passes and kicks made in 6 Nations 2009 compared with 6 Nations 2008.







	6N 2009	6N 2008
Rucks/Mauls	174	179
Passes	273	259
Kicks	65	57

PASSING

Games, on average, contained **273** passes (2008 - 259)







The most in any game was **370 (Scotland v Wales)** – the fewest was **212 (Italy v Wales)**. The most by any team in a game was **228** – the fewest, **82**.

The following table shows the average passes per game per team

	6N 2009	6N 2008
 ENGLAND	161	107
 SCOTLAND	143	133
 FRANCE	140	150
 WALES	130	144
 ITALY	127	118
 IRELAND	118	127







Again, there were noticeable differences between the 6 teams with England making 36% more passes than Ireland. Such differences are often accounted for however by one team having more possession than the other. When an adjustment is made to take account of this, for all teams, then the above table can change. This next table now shows the average number of passes per minute's possession ie the rate of passing.

Rate of Passing per Team – ie passes per minutes possession

	6N 2009	6N 2008
 SCOTLAND	7.9	6.6
 ENGLAND	7.6	5.9
 WALES	7.0	6.7
 FRANCE	6.7	6.8
 ITALY	6.6	6.1
 IRELAND	5.7	6.5

Under this method of calculation, it shows that Scotland, who made almost 100 fewer passes than England, passed at a higher rate.

The number of passes made by a team can also vary considerably from match to match. The following table shows the average number of passes per country per game as shown above together with the most in a game and the least in a game

		Average 6N 2009	Average 6N 2008	Most 6N 2009	Most 6N 2008	Least 6N 2009	Least 6N 2008
	ENGLAND	161	107	228	131	128	83
	SCOTLAND	143	133	195	187	99	84
	FRANCE	140	150	165	201	109	121
	WALES	130	144	175	188	94	97
	ITALY	127	118	162	157	89	86
	IRELAND	118	127	157	167	82	82

It can be seen from the above that there were noticeable contrasts between the highs and lows of certain teams. Scotland for example, made almost 100 more passes in their game against Wales than they did in their game against England – and England showed a far different passing profile in 2009 than they did in 2008. They averaged 50% more passes per game this year and their lowest passing game equalled their highest passing game last year.

PLAYER PASSING

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

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







When the 4000+ passes made in 6 Nations 2009 were allocated into these 3 groups, the results were as follows:

Passing % by forwards
Passing % by scrum half
Passing % by backs

	6N 2009	6N 2008
Passing % by forwards	18%	15%
Passing % by scrum half	46%	47%
Passing % by backs	36%	38%
	100%	100%

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







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

		Passes Forwards	Passes Scrum half	Passes Backs
	ENGLAND	148	360	299
	SCOTLAND	130	307	279
	ITALY	129	269	238
	FRANCE	126	320	253
	WALES	117	318	216
	IRELAND	85	312	194

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







The following table takes this further. It shows the proportion of a teams passes made by each group. Where certain teams use forwards more as suppliers of the ball for onward transmission by the backs, other teams involve the forwards themselves in the distribution process. This is what the table shows:

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

		% by Forwards	% by Scrum Half	% by Backs
	ITALY	20%	42%	38%
	WALES	18%	49%	33%
	SCOTLAND	18%	43%	39%
	ENGLAND	18%	45%	37%
	FRANCE	18%	46%	36%
	IRELAND	14%	53%	33%







The next tables show what each rank of forwards of each team did with the ball when they were in possession of it. The first table shows the number of times each countries' forwards had the ball in their hands and then notes the number of times they passed it. This is then expressed as a ratio so that if a team's forwards passed the ball 20 times having received it 100 times, the ratio would be expressed as 1 to 5 – ie 1 pass for every 5 possessions. Again, the table shows major differences between the countries. In Ireland's case, for example, their forwards were the least likely to pass the ball – and the least likely by some distance.

Ratio of Passes to Possession – by Forwards per Team

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	ITALY	1 in 2.7	1 in 3.8
	ENGLAND	1 in 2.9	1 in 3.4
	SCOTLAND	1 in 3.0	1 in 3.6
	WALES	1 in 3.1	1 in 3.7
	FRANCE	1 in 3.4	1 in 4.1
	IRELAND	1 in 4.7	1 in 5.5







This difference between the forwards of each country is even more graphically illustrated when the forwards are broken down into the 3 groups of (a) front row, (b) second row and (c) back row. This time the relationship between passes and possession is expressed in percentage terms, so that if a group of forwards received the ball 20 times and passed it 6 times, it means they passed it on 30% of occasions.

% of times ball passed by Front Row

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	IRELAND	35%	23%
	WALES	30%	21%
	ENGLAND	27%	21%
	ITALY	24%	14%
	FRANCE	21%	22%
	SCOTLAND	20%	14%







These percentages were however not the same as far as the second rows were concerned. While Ireland's front row were the most likely front row to pass the ball, Ireland's second row were the least likely to pass the ball.

% of times ball passed by 2nd row

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	SCOTLAND	36%	41%
	ITALY	32%	16%
	ENGLAND	31%	38%
	WALES	27%	18%
	FRANCE	22%	22%
	IRELAND	20%	11%

Ireland’s back row also distributed the ball very little. In fact, the back rows of other 5 countries were 3 times more likely to pass the ball.

Percentage of times ball passed by Back Row

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	ITALY	42%	39%
	ENGLAND	39%	32%
	FRANCE	39%	27%
	SCOTLAND	38%	29%
	WALES	35%	33%
	IRELAND	13%	20%

PASSING MOVEMENTS







Passes are grouped into passing movements – i.e. one pass movement, two pass movements and so on. The data shows that some 83% of all passing movements contained two passes or less. This now appears to be a constant and varies little from year to year. It also varies little between teams. All 6 countries fell within 78% and 86%.



RUCKS/MAULS (2ND PHASE)

The average number per game was **174**. (2008 – 179)
 The most in any game was **203** – the fewest was **143**.
 The most by any team in a game was **122** – the least, **55**.







The average for all countries is shown below:

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	IRELAND	95	88
	ENGLAND	93	81
	FRANCE	92	92
	WALES	87	106
	SCOTLAND	79	92
	ITALY	75	78

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

However, the number of rucks and mauls made by one team may be constrained because it obtained only limited possession of the ball. In order to address this, an alternative calculation has been made which relates the number of rucks/mauls to the share of ball in play time won by each team. This is expressed in the number of rucks created for every minutes' possession obtained by a team and shows, for example, that Wales' rate of rucking exceeded that of the other teams.

Rate of Rucks/Mauls per Team







		6N 2009	6N 2008
	WALES	4.7	4.9
	IRELAND	4.5	4.5
	FRANCE	4.4	4.2
	SCOTLAND	4.4	4.6
	ENGLAND	4.4	4.5
	ITALY	3.9	4.1

BREAKDOWN RETENTION

At the breakdown the team taking in the ball retained possession by either winning the ball or being awarded a penalty on 93% of occasions.

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

Rate of Rucks/Mauls per Team – retention rate

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	IRELAND	96%	95%
	ITALY	93%	95%
	ENGLAND	93%	92%
	FRANCE	93%	94%
	WALES	92%	95%
	SCOTLAND	91%	93%

Of penalties awarded at the ruck, 49% were in favour of the team in possession: 51% were in favour of the defending team.

KICKING







The average number per game was **65** (2008 – 57)

The most open play kicks in a game was **97** - the fewest **36**

The most by a team was **52** – the least **17**







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

Average Kicks per Team per Game

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	ITALY	36	29
	IRELAND	36	29
	ENGLAND	35	29
	WALES	31	31
	FRANCE	29	25
	SCOTLAND	27	29

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







Rate of Kicking per Team – ie kicks per minutes possession

		6N 2009	6N 2008
	ITALY	1.9	1.5
	IRELAND	1.7	1.5
	WALES	1.7	1.5
	ENGLAND	1.7	1.6
	SCOTLAND	1.5	1.4
	FRANCE	1.4	1.1

ACTIVITY CYCLES - SUMMARY

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

Average per game and Rate per minute possession







	Rucks/Mauls		Passes		Kicks	
	Average	Rate	Average	Rate	Average	Rate
 IRELAND	95	4.5	118	5.7	36	1.7
 ENGLAND	93	4.4	161	7.6	35	1.7
 FRANCE	92	4.4	140	6.7	29	1.4
 WALES	87	4.7	130	7.0	31	1.7
 SCOTLAND	79	4.4	143	7.9	27	1.5
 ITALY	75	3.9	127	6.6	36	1.9

RESTARTS

Of 50m restarts, 48% were not contestable kicks – 52% were contestable kicks.

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

Success rate and restart type varied between the 6 teams. The most effective teams in retaining contestable restarts are shown below. The table shows the type of restart kicked by each team at 50m and retention rates of short 50m restarts.

	50m Restarts		22m Restarts		Retention rate
	Contestable	Not Contestable	Contestable	Not Contestable	Contestable
 IRELAND	20 or 80%	5 or 20%	1	-	6 of 21
 ITALY	19 or 53%	17 or 47%	-	7	6 of 19
 FRANCE	17 or 68%	8 or 32%	2	8	6 of 19
 ENGLAND	15 or 60%	10 or 40%	-	9	3 of 15
 SCOTLAND	8 or 28%	21 or 72%	-	10	2 of 8
 WALES	6 or 26%	17 or 74%	3	7	4 of 9

It can be seen that there was a major contrast between Ireland and Scotland. While Scotland kicked long 31 times out of 38, Ireland kicked long just 5 times out of 26.

LINEOUTS







The average number of lineouts per game was 26 (2008 – 28)

The most line outs in a game was 33 – the least 17.

	6N 2009	6N 2008	6N 2007	6N 2006
Av per game	26	28	31	37
% Competed	65%	60%	59%	64%
Av Penalties/Free Kicks	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.5
Possession retained	83%	83%	85%	84%

A further breakdown shows that England had relatively few lineouts. In the 5 matches, the total came to 54. This contrasts with 4 of the other 5 teams who had 33% more lineouts than England.

Lineout Success (Own Throw and Opposition Throw)

		Success %		Lineout Steals		Not straight / Pen/FK / Knock-on	
		Own Throw	Opp Throw	Lost on Own Throw	Won on Opp Throw	Own Throw	Opp Throw
	ENGLAND	94%	15%	2	10	1	2
	IRELAND	86%	24%	6	14	4	5
	FRANCE	84%	12%	7	5	2	2
	SCOTLAND	83%	18%	6	8	6	2
	WALES	81%	10%	10	4	3	1
	ITALY	75%	17%	15	5	2	6

All teams had high success rates on their own throw - except perhaps Italy. Ireland were the most successful on opposition throw in winning 14 in comparison to Wales' 4. Lineout success on own throw and opposition throw are shown below. It also highlights lineout steals won and lost



SCRUMS







The average number of scrums per game was 15 (2008 – 16). This amounts to just under 8 scrums per team per game.

The most scrums in a game was 23 – the least 10

	6N 2009	6N 2008	6N 2007	6N 2006
Av per game	15	16	17	19
Penalties/Free Kicks	4.6	3.1	3.5	2.7
Possession retained	90%	92%	92%	95%

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

Scrum Success (Own feed and Opposition feed)

		Scrum Success %		Heels against the head	
		Own Feed	Opposition Feed	Won	Lost
	WALES	97%	13%	1	-
	FRANCE	96%	10%	-	-
	IRELAND	90%	8%	-	-
	ITALY	90%	6%	-	-
	ENGLAND	82%	3%	-	-
	SCOTLAND	79%	17%	-	1







Again, ball retention was relatively high for all teams with the exception of Scotland lost 7 of their 33 scrums. They were, however, the most successful on their opponents put in gaining 9 penalties and free kicks. With such high percentage of possession retained, it is no surprise that heels against the head were few and far between. In total there was just 1 in 230 scrums (2008 – 5 in 239 scrums).

PENALTIES

In 6 Nations 2009, the average number of penalties and free kicks awarded in a game was **23**. This is 5 more than the 18 in 2008.

There was a wide spread between the matches. The most awarded in a single game was 30 – the least, 14. The most conceded by a team in a game was 18 (Italy) – the least 4 (Ireland)

The following table comprises the total penalties awarded to and conceded by each team. However, because the number of penalties can vary from match to match, a better measure is the **proportion** of penalties conceded by a team in all their matches compared with their opponents. This shows that England's opponents were awarded some 40% more penalties than England.

	Pen/FK For	Pen/FK Against	% Pen/FK For	% Pen/FK Against
 IRELAND	62	52	54%	46%
 WALES	57	50	53%	47%
 SCOTLAND	58	55	51%	49%
 ITALY	56	53	51%	49%
 FRANCE	54	57	49%	51%
 ENGLAND	52	72	42%	58%

CATEGORIES OF OFFENCES PENALISED

The following table groups the penalties awarded into 10 categories – these are as follows.

% of Offences Penalised

	%
Ruck/tackle on ground	46%
Offside	16%
Scrum	19%
Dangerous tackle	7%
Other	4%
Obstruction	4%
Lineout	3%
Foul play	1%
Maul	-%
	100%

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

NORTHERN AND SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE REFEREES

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

	Northern Hemisphere	Southern Hemisphere
Av no of penalties/free kicks	21 (2008 – 16)	25 (2008 – 20)

CARDS – YELLOW & RED

The following paragraphs examine the circumstances and effects of the issue of red and yellow cards during 6 Nations 2009

RED CARDS

There were **no** red cards issued during 6 Nations 2009 (2008 – none)

YELLOW CARDS

There were **11** yellow cards issued during the championship.

Of the 15 matches, there were 5 which contained at least one yellow card as shown in the following table, meaning 10 (or 67%) of all matches did not contain a single yellow card. The most yellow cards in one match was 3 – (Italy v Ireland)


Match	Referee	No of cards
Italy (2) v Ireland (1)	C. White	3
Ireland (0) v England (2)	C. Joubert	2
Wales (0) v England (2)	J. Kaplan	2
Scotland (1) v Wales (1)	A. Rolland	2
England (2) v Italy (0)	M. Lawrence	2
	TOTAL	11
	2008	7

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

	6N 2008
Ruck/Tackle – Hands in Ruck	2
Tackle in the Air	2
Tackle in the Air (Lineout)	1
Dangerous Charging	1
Dangerous Tackle	1
Ruck/Tackle – Preventing Release	1
Deliberate Knock on	1
Tripping	1
Playing opp without ball	1
	11

The following table shows the breakdown of yellow and red cards per team with comparatives for previous years. It shows that France have conceded only 1 card in 5 years while Wales and France have each conceded 9. England have conceded 10 albeit 6 were in this year's championship:

Yellow cards conceded

	6N 2009	6N 2008	6N 2007	6N 2006	6N 2005
 ENGLAND	6	0	1	2	1
 ITALY	2	2	2	2	1
 SCOTLAND	1	1	3	0	1
 IRELAND	1	1	0	2	0
 WALES	1	3	1	2	2
 FRANCE	0	0	0	1	0

TELEVISION MATCH OFFICIAL (TMO)

In 6 Nations 2009, there were 17 references to the TMO (2008 – 11)

As a result of the 17 references, 10 tries were awarded (2008 – 7 awarded)

The shortest reference took 34 secs – the longest 1 mins 50 secs.