



## **Rugby Expo, World's First Ever Rugby Convention To Be Held in London in 2008**

**London, 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.** A premier global business-to-business rugby convention, Rugby Expo, is announced today.

What is set to be the largest ever gathering of business people involved and interested in the world of rugby, the convention will take place at the Queen Elizabeth Conference Centre in London, from 17<sup>th</sup> - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2008.

Supported by the most senior figures in the rugby world; Roger Lewis (Chief Executive, Welsh Rugby Union), Brian O'Driscoll (Ireland and British Lions), Dean Richards (Director of Rugby, Harlequin FC) and Peter Wheeler (Chief Executive, Leicester Tigers), Rugby Expo is the brainchild of businessmen Andy Evans, Justin Paige, and Charles Mountifield, who have been involved in the sport for over 10 years.

Says Rugby Expo Director, Justin Paige; "We have spent over a year researching and developing the concept and feasibility of Rugby Expo. What has been re-assuring is the enthusiastic response and support it has received from the rugby community world-wide."

Supporting the convention, Jon Varney, Commercial Director, Premier Rugby said; "The Guinness Premiership clubs have a combined turnover of circa £100m. Professional rugby is a big business and growing fast. This is the right time in our evolution for an event of this kind."

Rugby Expo will be a convention supporting the development of rugby as a truly global sport, offering wide-ranging and exciting business opportunities for clubs, administrators, sponsors and suppliers in the rugby community.

Warren Gatland, stated; "A global annual rugby industry event is a great new way to continue the development of the game post Rugby World Cup."

John Steele, Chief Executive, UK Sport also welcomed the initiative adding; "Rugby Expo is an innovative and potentially highly significant project. The concept is well timed as British Sport, in particular rugby union, continues its exciting journey of development. I am very much looking forward to attending next November."

To find out more about the event and how you can become involved, visit the website on [www.rugbyexpo.com](http://www.rugbyexpo.com).

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