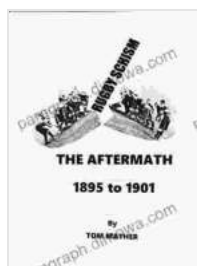


# Rugby Schism: The Aftermath, 1895-1901 - Uncover the Untold Story of the Great Rugby Divide

In 1895, the world of rugby was rocked by a schism that would forever change the landscape of the sport. The formation of the Northern Union, later known as the Rugby Football League, marked the beginning of a new era in rugby, characterized by professionalism and a more open and attacking style of play.



## Rugby Schism - The Aftermath: 1895 to 1901 by Macy Gerig

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 3134 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Print length : 174 pages  
Lending : Enabled



*Rugby Schism: The Aftermath, 1895-1901* is a groundbreaking book that delves into this fascinating and tumultuous period in the history of rugby. With meticulous research and captivating storytelling, the book reveals the untold story of the schism and its far-reaching consequences.

## The Causes of the Schism

The roots of the schism can be traced back to the late 19th century, a time of great social and economic change in England. The industrial revolution

had led to a growing divide between the wealthy elite and the working class, and this divide was reflected in the world of rugby.

The traditional rugby clubs were dominated by the upper classes, who played the game as a gentleman's sport. However, in the north of England, a new breed of rugby player emerged from the working class. These players were more physical and aggressive than their southern counterparts, and they resented the elitism of the traditional clubs.

Another factor that contributed to the schism was the increasing commercialization of rugby. In the 1890s, rugby began to attract large crowds and generate significant revenue. This led to a conflict between the amateur ethos of the traditional clubs and the desire of some players to be compensated for their time and effort.

### **The Formation of the Northern Union**

In August 1895, a group of 22 northern rugby clubs met in Huddersfield to form the Northern Rugby Football Union (NRFU). The NRFU was a breakaway organization from the Rugby Football Union (RFU), which had been the governing body of rugby in England since 1871.

The NRFU's formation was a major turning point in the history of rugby. It marked the beginning of a new era of professionalism in the sport, and it led to the creation of a new code of rugby that was more open and attacking than the traditional game.

### **The Aftermath of the Schism**

The schism had a profound impact on the world of rugby. The RFU and NRFU became bitter rivals, and they competed for players and supporters.

The schism also led to the creation of two distinct codes of rugby: Rugby Union, which was played by the RFU and its affiliates, and Rugby League, which was played by the NRFU and its affiliates.

The schism had a particularly significant impact on the north of England, where Rugby League became the dominant code of rugby. Rugby League's popularity in the north was due in part to its more open and attacking style of play, which appealed to the working-class fans who made up the majority of the population.

### **The Legacy of the Schism**

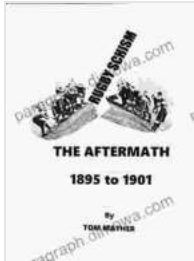
The schism of 1895 is still felt in the world of rugby today. Rugby Union and Rugby League remain distinct codes of rugby, with their own unique rules and traditions. The schism also led to the creation of the International Rugby Football Board (IRFB), which is the governing body of Rugby Union.

*Rugby Schism: The Aftermath, 1895-1901* is a must-read for anyone interested in the history of rugby. The book provides a fascinating and in-depth account of the schism and its far-reaching consequences. It is a valuable resource for scholars, students, and rugby fans alike.

### **About the Author**

Dr. Tony Collins is a senior lecturer in history at the University of Huddersfield. He is a leading expert on the history of rugby, and he has published numerous books and articles on the subject. His book, *Rugby Schism: The Aftermath, 1895-1901*, is the culmination of many years of research, and it is a major contribution to the field of rugby history.

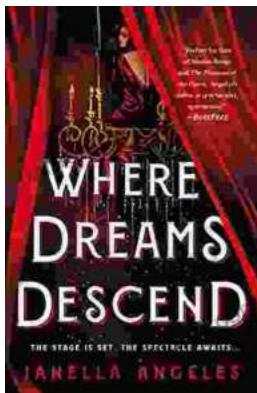
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