

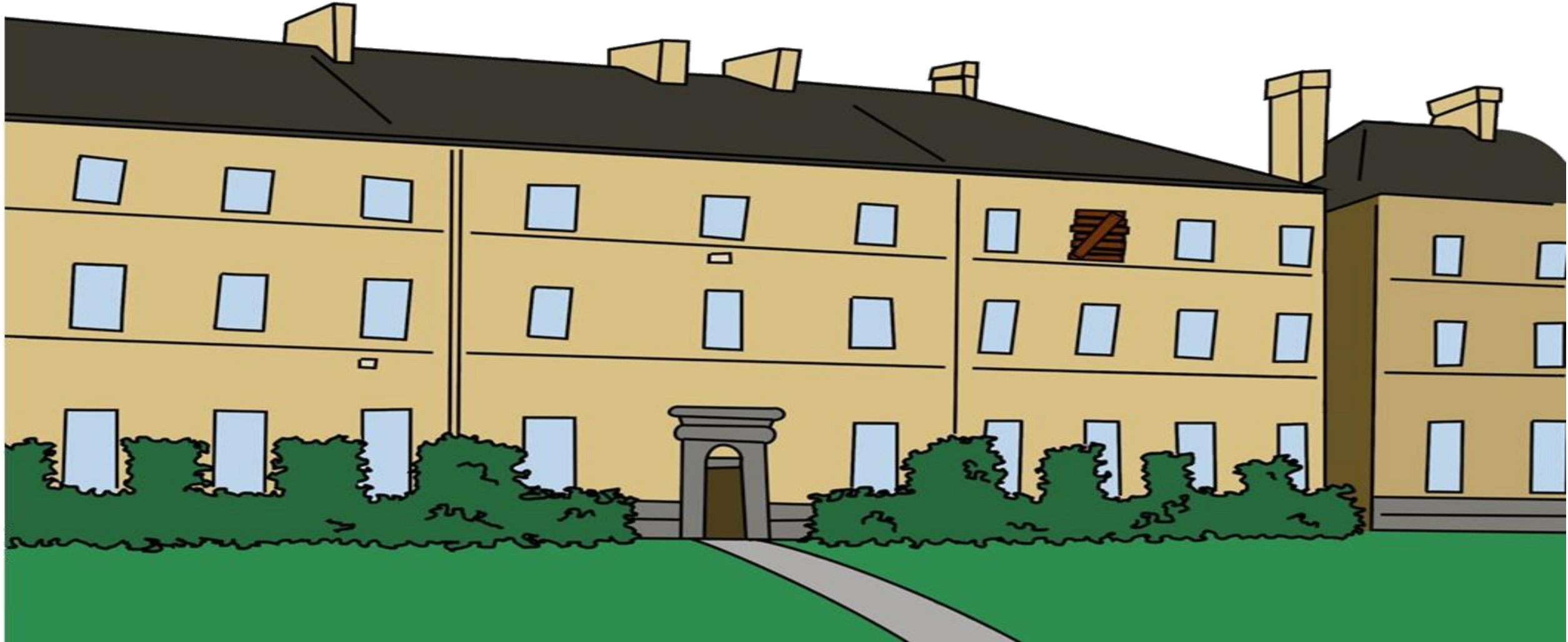
Baker Street *Elementary*

PRESENTS
"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"



Baker Street Elementary

THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON
067 -- A GOAL AND TWO TRIES -- RUGBY -- FEBRUARY, 2022



WELCOME TO TOPIC # 067... TODAY, WATSON AND I WILL DISCUSS THE SPORT OF RUGBY DURING THE VICTORIAN PERIOD.





THE GAME OF RUGBY IS REFERENCED IN THREE DIFFERENT SHERLOCK HOLMES' STORIES: 'THE ADVENTURE OF THE THREE STUDENTS'...





...*'THE ADVENTURE OF THE SUSSEX VAMPIRE,'* AND
'THE ADVENTURE OF THE MISSING THREE-QUARTER.'



WHILE ALL THREE INVOLVED THE GAME PLAYED DURING COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, BY THE MID-1800s, MEN WHO HAD PLAYED IN SCHOOL FORMED CLUBS TO CONTINUE IT AS A REGULAR SPORT.



IT HAS BEEN ARGUED THAT WHILE I MIGHT NOT HAVE RECOGNIZED OR UNDERSTOOD THE IMPORTANCE OF THE DISAPPEARANCE OF GODFREY STAUNTON (CAMBRIDGE'S THREE-QUARTER), YOU MUST HAVE SURELY BEEN AWARE OF CYRIL OVERTON'S REPUTATION, BELYING HIS OWN ASSERTIONS OF HIS EXPLOITS ON THE PITCH.



HOLMES, THE RISE OF RUGBY FROM A SCHOOL-YARD GAME TO A NATIONAL AND THEN INTERNATIONAL SPORT IN ONLY A FEW YEARS INDICATES THE COUNTRY'S ENTHUSIASM FOR THIS COMPETITIVE EVENT.



GAMES INVOLVING SOME SORT OF 'BALL' TRACE
BACK AS FAR AS 5000 BC IN CHINA AND WERE
PLAYED IN ENGLAND FROM AT LEAST 700 AD.



EARLY ENGLISH VERSIONS OF 'FOOTBALL' WERE CONSIDERED SO VIOLENT (OFTEN RESULTING IN DEATH OR INJURY) THEY WERE OUTLAWED FIRST BY EDWARD III IN 1331, AGAIN BY KING JAMES I OF SCOTLAND IN 1424, AND A THIRD TIME BY QUEEN ELIZABETH I IN 1572.



SUCH GAMES, HOWEVER, SURVIVED AND ETON COLLEGE DEVELOPED A SET OF RULES FOR A GAME INVOLVING KICKING A BALL WITH THE FEET IN 1815.



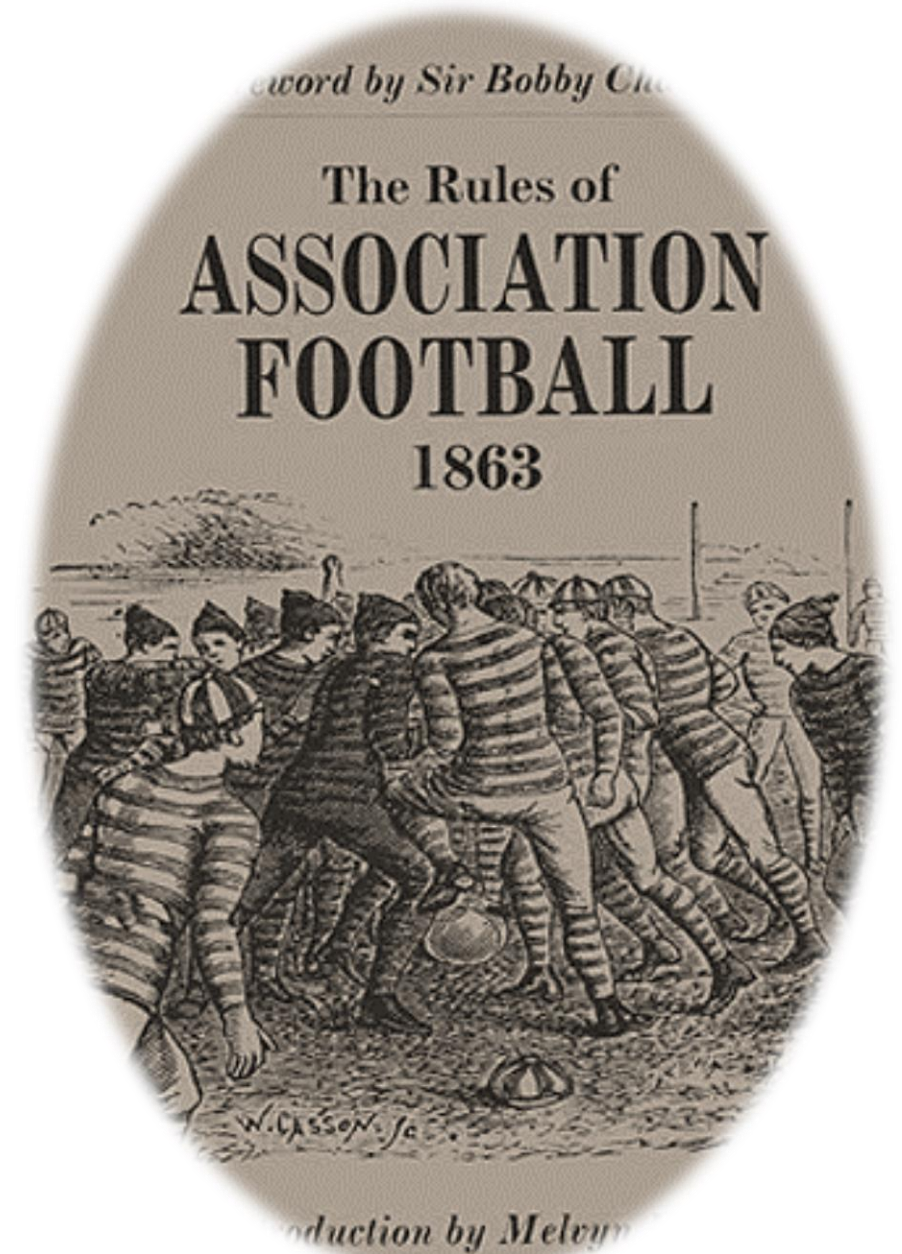
NOT ALL SCHOOLS, HOWEVER, ACCEPTED THE RULE THAT PLAYERS COULD NOT RUN WITH THE BALL IN THEIR HANDS AND BY 1830, RUGBY SCHOOL (A PREPARATORY SCHOOL SIMILAR TO ETON) ALLOWED THEIR TEAMS TO DO JUST THAT.



*AS STUDENTS MOVED ON TO COLLEGE AND WORK,
THEY TOOK THEIR GAME WITH THEM... CAMBRIDGE'S
RUGBY CLUB WAS FORMED IN 1839 AND BY 1848,
CAMBRIDGE RULES GOVERNED THE GAME.*



IN 1863, RUGBY FOOTBALL OFFICIALLY SPLIT FROM FOOTBALL/SOCCER WHEN THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WAS FORMED, ELIMINATING ANY HANDLING OF THE BALL.



THE RUGBY FOOTBALL UNION (RFU) CREATED IN 1871, CODIFIED THE RULES TO PRODUCE A MORE ORGANIZED SPORT WITH PLAYERS SPECIALIZING IN DIFFERENT POSITIONS... THE RFU CONSISTED OF 21 CLUBS, INCLUDING WATSON'S FORMER CLUB OF BLACKHEATH.





IN 1875, THE NUMBER OF PLAYERS WAS REDUCED TO FIFTEEN AND HAS REMAINED CONSTANT SINCE... CURRENTLY, THE INTERNATIONAL RUGBY BOARD (IRB) DEFINES THE NAMES, POSITIONS, AND NUMBERS WORN BY THE PLAYERS WITH EIGHT FORWARDS AND SEVEN BACKS.





THE FORWARDS' OBJECTIVE IS TO GAIN POSSESSION OF THE BALL. FORWARD PASSES ARE NOT ALLOWED IN THE GAME... RATHER, THE BALL IS PASSED BACKWARDS AMONG THE BACKS UNTIL A SPACE OPENS AND THE PLAYER WITH THE BALL IS ABLE TO GET INTO THE OTHER TEAM'S ZONE.



*IN THE 1880s, CAMBRIDGE AND OXFORD WERE
INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE GAME'S
STRATEGY AND PLAYS.*



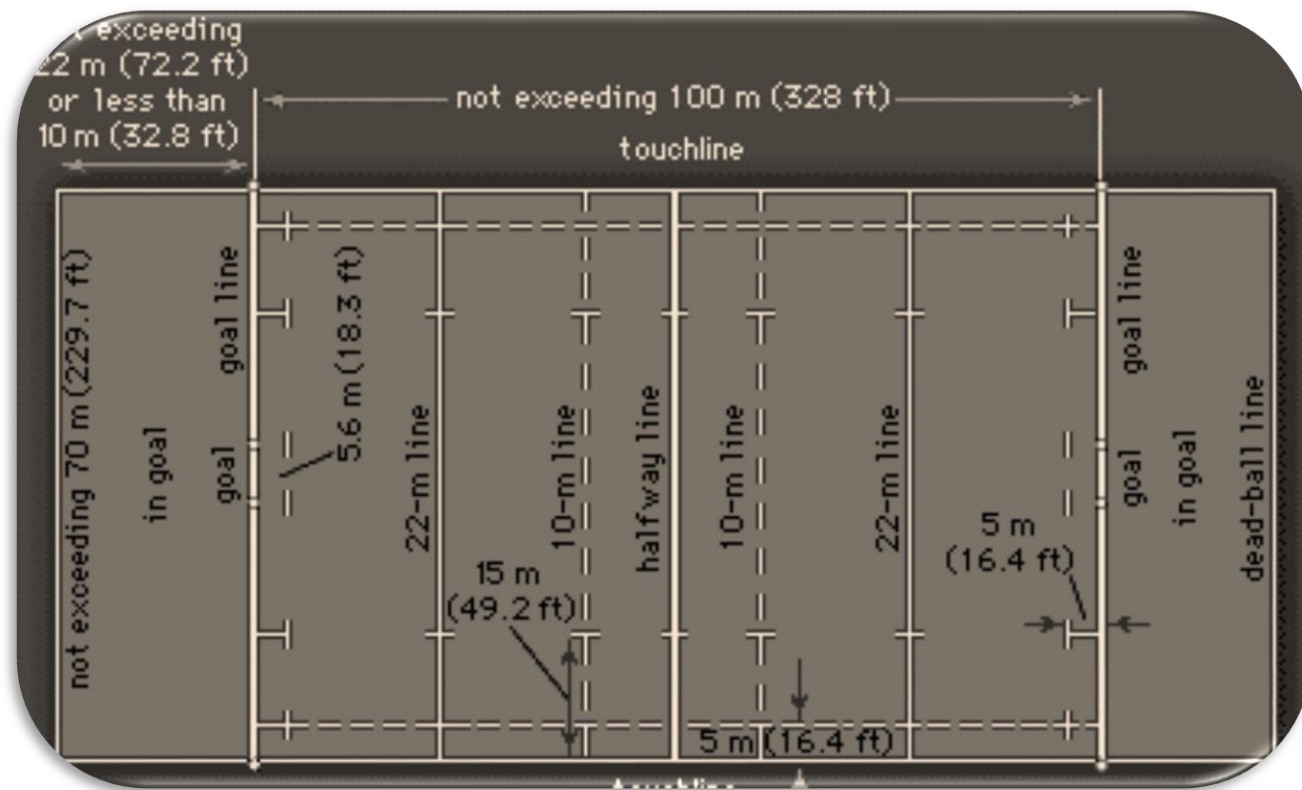
THESE EFFORTS RESULTED IN THE NEED TO
CREATE A POSITION AMONG THE BACKS THAT WAS
BETWEEN THE HALF...



...(FRONT LINE OF THE BACKS) AND THE FULL BACK
(REAR OF THE BACKS) – THE THREE QUARTER.



WHEN CYRIL OVERTON DESCRIBED GODFREY STAUNTON'S ABILITY FOR 'PASSING, TACKLING, ...AND DRIBBLING,' HE WAS IDENTIFYING SOME OF THE VERY SKILLS CAMBRIDGE HAD DEVELOPED IN THEIR PLAYERS AND FOR THAT POSITION.



TEAMS CAN SCORE IN ONE OF FOUR WAYS... A 'TRY,' WORTH 5 POINTS, IS SIMILAR TO AMERICAN FOOTBALL'S TOUCHDOWN AND INVOLVES TOUCHING THE BALL DOWN IN THE OPPONENT'S 'TRY ZONE' (END ZONE).



FOLLOWING A TRY, THE TEAM WILL ATTEMPT A
'CONVERSION' (2 POINTS) WITH A KICK...
FOLLOWING A PENALTY, THE OFFENDED TEAM CAN
'KICK FOR POINTS' FOR 3 POINTS.



THREE POINTS CAN ALSO BE SCORED BY DROPPING THE BALL DURING LIVE PLAY AND KICKING IT THROUGH THE GOAL'S UPRIGHTS WHEN THE BALL BOUNCES... GIVEN THE DIFFICULTY, THESE ARE RARELY ATTEMPTED.



*WHEN OXFORD BEAT CAMBRIDGE AFTER
STAUNTON'S DISAPPEARANCE, THEY WON BY 'A
GOAL AND TWO TRIES,' OR THIRTEEN POINTS.*



WHEN YOU SOUGHT TO FERRET OUT STAUNTON'S LOCATION BY FOLLOWING A CARRIAGE, YOU WERE DEFEATED IN YOUR FIRST TRY BUT ATTAINED YOUR GOAL (WITH THE HELP OF A DOG) IN THE SECOND.





*IN OTHER WORDS, I MADE HIS GOAL IN
TWO TRIES.*



SO, WE HAVE COMPLETED TOPIC # 067 IN OUR SERIES...

IN TOPIC # 067, WE WILL BE LOOKING AT USE OF BRANDY FOR MEDICINAL PURPOSES DURING OUR TIMES.



REFERENCES FOR THIS TOPIC:

- [HTTP://WWW.RUGBYFOOTBALLHISTORY.COM](http://www.rugbyfootballhistory.com)
- BARING-GOULD, ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (NEW YORK: CLARKSON N. POTTER, 1976)
- [HTTPS://WWW.TOPENDSPORTS.COM/SPORT/SOCCER/HISTORY.HTM](https://www.topendsports.com/sport/soccer/history.htm)
- [HTTPS://WWW.ENGLANDRUGBY.COM/ABOUT-THE-RFU/HISTORY-OF-THE-RFU/](https://www.englandrugby.com/about-the-rfu/history-of-the-rfu/)
- [HTTPS://WWW.DUMMIES.COM/SPORTS/RUGBY/RUGBY-POSITIONS-AND-SCORING/](https://www.dummies.com/sports/rugby/rugby-positions-and-scoring/)
- [HTTPS://CHICORUGBY.ORG/RUGBY-101/](https://chicorugby.org/rugby-101/)



Baker Street *Elementary*

"THE LIFE AND TIMES IN VICTORIAN LONDON"

IS CREATED THROUGH THE INGENUITY & HARD WORK OF:

JOE FAY
LIESE SHERWOOD-FABRE
RUSTY MASON
&
STEVE MASON

