



Zinzan Brooke (left) gives the thumbs up after hearing he's made another A to Z list

**League.** As in rugby league, a one-dimensional tackle marathon played by cavemen with spring-loaded thighs. If you're reading this looking for "footie" and can't do up your shoes unaided, you're in the wrong place.

**M Mark.** Panic-stricken cry made by a fullback as 800 kilos of forward thunder towards him.  
Play stops. Sometimes too late.

**N No. 8.** The bloke at the back of the scrum who starts fights, drinks the most, and goes on suicide runs up blind alleys.

**Neck.** The part of the body prop forwards are born without.

**Niggle.** Polite term for the illegal acts forwards are doing to each other in the scrum.

**O One-metre gap.** Mythic space between opposing players in a line out.  
**Offside.** Complex, ever-changing series of laws ignored by the players, if not by the crowd.

**Old.** Adjective for any play the TV commentator has managed to learn over the years. Hence, "That's the old reverse pass, there."

**P Punt.** What flyhalves like to do to each other all afternoon, while everyone else gets sore necks.

**Quantity.** What a prop forward has to make up for lack of quality.

**Quickie.** Either an instant throw in, or something offered to a barmaid by a flanker.

**R Rucking/stomping.** A hideous raking stamp, that if made off the pitch would involve 30 days inside and strong words from the judge.

**Rolling maul.** An old cornerstone of northern hemisphere Rugby. Audiences-past could look forward to many a winter afternoon watching England and Scotland trundling up and down the pitch like a giant crab. Often compared to...

**Running Rugby.** Risky, passing-style entertainment, used in the southern hemisphere so those watching wouldn't nod off.

**Reverse pass.** Tricky where's-it-gone-fatty manoeuvre attempted in first 10 minutes by scrumhalf, who spends the next 70 being battered all over the paddock by aggrieved forwards.

**Rugger.** Phrase used by a bugger.

**S Sidestep.** In pros, a clever tackle-avoiding move; in amateurs, a short-cut to multiple hernias and a groin like old string.

**Sin-bin.** A holding pen where sidelined psychopaths headbutt hard surfaces.

**Shoe-pie.** The unexpected connection of a size-15 lace-up to the face. Hence, "He had an express delivery of shoe-pie."

**Springboks.** The South African team. Known for its friendly, easy-going nature and widespread popularity. Possibly.

**Slaughter.** What happens to Japan in World Cup pool matches.

**Spear tackle.** Dangerous challenge, where a player is grabbed by the balls and his head rammed into the ground.

**T Tackle.** What All Black Wayne Shelford lost part of during a match against France in 1986. Although his scrotum was ripped and a testicle dropped out, Shelford continued playing until forced off after 70 minutes - with a separate injury. The French won.

**Terriers.** Fond nickname for scrumhalves, because they are short, yappy and leave their owners in the shit.

**Terrible.** Players somewhat short of international standard. Examples include Wallaby Jack Young in the '30s, who was known to make lightning breaks without the ball; and everyone from Canada.

**Touch judge.** Tell-tale and killjoy, desperate to inform the ref about the horrible things he's just witnessed in the ruck.

**U Urban myth.** Players bravely attempt to "pop back" a colleague's dislocated leg, but snag his testicle. Exactly where and when did this happen, again? Claptrap.

**V Video replay.** Opportunity for TV directors to repeat violent on-pitch abuses in remorseless slow motion, causing parents to cover their children's eyes.

**W Word.** What the referee has with a hulking forward after he's battered an opposing fly-half to death.

**X X-rated.** Description of a challenge designed to put a player in the mortuary.

**Y Yakka.** Hard work. What forwards put in to gain yardage the backs immediately lose again.

**Z Zinzan Brooke.** All Black great, and big help to journos compiling A to Z lists.

They don't call him Mighty Mouse for nothing - he was about the smallest guy out there. He hit Wilson hard enough, though. Young Jeff collected a pass, beat three and dived for the line, only for Gregan to meet him in mid-air, like a, er, clap of doom, jolting the ball free. Celebrating Kiwi fans had to stop celebrating and sit back down. Five minutes

later it was all over, the Wallabies winning 20-16. That tackle.

♥♥ The best try ever!

Yeah, says who?

Says old people who still think the best Rugby