

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL  
ASSOCIATION BOARD

1891

MINUTES  
of the  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



The International Football  
Assn Board met in the  
Alexandra Hotel, Bath St Glasgow  
on Tuesday the 2<sup>nd</sup> June 1891.  
at 6 pm.

Mr G. Snedden (President of the Scottish Football Assn) was  
called to the chair.

The following delegates were present viz: Messrs  
C. Brumf & R. P. Gregson (England) J. Taylor & A. H. Hunter (Wales)  
J. Reid (Ireland) & A. Shuman & Chairman (Scotland)  
*Mr J. J. Macdonald Sec. S. F. A. acted as Sec. to the meeting*

Before proceeding with the business it was  
decided not to admit the Press.

It was reported that the Minute Book had not been  
forwarded from England and Mr Gregson took in hand  
to see that the book was sent on.

Mr Reid (Ireland) proposed & Mr Brumf (England) seconded  
the following which had been recommended from the last Board  
meeting and which was also proposed by the Football Assn viz:

If any player shall intentionally trip or hold an opposing player, or deliberately handle the ball  
within twelve yards from his own goal-line, the Referee shall, on appeal, award the opposing  
side a penalty kick, to be taken from any point twelve yards from the goal-line, under the  
following conditions:—All players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick  
and the opposing goal-keeper, shall stand behind the ball and at least six yards from it;  
the ball shall be in play when the kick is taken. A goal may be scored from the penalty  
kick.

After considerable discussion it was agreed to make  
the



the following alterations viz: After the word "Goalkeeper" to add in parenthesis ("who shall not advance more than six yards from the goal line") and delete the words "Behind the ball and at least six yards from it" and substitute "at least six yards behind the ball," after which a period to be inserted and make following I. a capital letter & delete the period after the word "taken", making a comma thus introducing the conjunction "and". Following is Law, as amended.

-If any player shall intentionally trip or hold an opposing player, or deliberately handle the ball, within twelve yards from his own goal-line, the referee shall, on appeal, award the opposing side a penalty kick, to be taken from any point twelve yards from the goal-line, under the following conditions:—All players, with the exception of the player taking the penalty kick and the opposing goal-keeper (who shall not advance more than six yards from the goal-line) shall stand at least six yards behind the ball. The ball shall be in play when the kick is taken, and a goal may be scored from the penalty kick.

The following recommendation from the Football Ass<sup>n</sup> was adopted

"That it is desirable that the positions of umpires should be abolished. That linesmen should be appointed whose duties (subject to the referee) should be to decide when the ball is out of play, and which side has the throw-in."

The meeting then proceeded to go over the Laws ad seriatim and made the following changes

Law I. was altered to read as under

—The limits of the ground shall be:—  
Maximum length, 200 yards; minimum length, 100 yards; maximum breadth, 100 yards; minimum breadth, 50 yards. The length and breadth shall be marked off with flags and touch line; and a line defining six yards from the goal posts and twelve yards from the goal lines shall also be marked out. The centre of the ground shall be indicated by a suitable mark, and a circle with a ten yards radius shall be made round it. The goals shall be upright posts, eight yards apart, with a bar across them eight feet from the ground. The average circumference of the Association ball shall be not less than 27 inches, and not more than 28 inches; and in International Matches, at the commencement of the game, the weight of the ball shall be from 13 to 15 ounces.



The words in Law 4. "nearest goalpost" were altered to read "Goalpost nearest to the point where the ball left the field of play."

In Law 9 after the word "Free Kick," it was decided to add in parenthesis ("except as provided in Law 13.")

The wording of Law 10 was altered as under.

—Neither tripping, hacking, nor jumping at a player shall be allowed, and no player shall use his hands to hold or push his adversary. No player may charge an opponent from behind, unless such opponent be not only facing his own goal, but is, in the opinion of the referee, wilfully impeding his adversary while in that position.

In accordance with the recommendation of the Football Assn<sup>n</sup> regarding the abolition of umpires, which had been adopted, the meeting proceeded to remodel Law 12, and, after considerable detail, the following was agreed upon

1. — A referee shall be appointed, whose duties shall be to enforce the rules and decide all disputed points. He shall also keep a record of the game, and act as timekeeper; and, in the event of any ungentlemanly behaviour on the part of any of the contestants, the offender or offenders shall be cautioned, and if the offence is repeated, or, in case of violent conduct, without any previous caution, the referee shall have power to rule the offending player or players out of play, and shall transmit the name or names of such player or players to his or their (National) Association, in whom shall be solely vested the right of accepting an apology. The referee shall have power to terminate the game whenever, by reason of darkness, interference by spectators, or other cause, he shall think fit, and he shall report the same to the Association under whose jurisdiction the match was played, who shall have full power to deal with the matter. Two linesmen shall be appointed, whose duty (SUBJECT TO THE DECISION OF THE REFEREE) shall be to decide when the ball is out of play, and which side is entitled to the corner-flag kick, goal-kick, or throw-in. Any undue interference by a linesman shall be reported by the referee to the National Association to which the linesman belongs, who shall deal with the matter in such a manner as they may deem necessary. The referee shall have power to award a free kick *without any appeal* in any case where he thinks that the conduct of a player is dangerous, or likely to prove dangerous, but not sufficiently so as to justify him in putting in force the greater powers vested in him as above.

The new penalty kick Law which had been passed at



at the beginning of the meeting was placed next in order viz: Law 13.

Laws 13, 14, 15 & 16 then became Laws 14, 15, 16 & 17 and in latter Law it was decided to add after Laws 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, the addition of Law 16.

On the motion of Mr Taylor (Wales) seconded by Mr Reid (Ireland) a vote of thanks was awarded to the Chairman and the business was concluded.