

**INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD**

2003

**MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**



The Irish Football Association

MINUTES

of the

2003 Annual General Meeting

of the

International Football Association Board

held in

The Culloden Hotel, Craigavad, Northern Ireland

on

Saturday 15 March 2003

at

09.30 hours

20 Windsor Avenue
BELFAST
BT9 6EE

David I Bowen
General Secretary
The Irish Football Association

AGENDA

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

II. MINUTES

To confirm the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Hotel Mont Cervin, Zermatt, Switzerland on Saturday 16 March 2002.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

To consider the following proposals and amendments under the International Football Association Board's regulations.

1. Law 4 - The Players Equipment
(Submitted by FIFA)
2. Law 6 - The Assistant Referee / Fourth Official
(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)
3. The Fourth Official
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)
4. Procedures to determine the winner of a match - Kicks from the Penalty Mark
(Submitted by FIFA and the Scottish Football Association)
5. Rules of the International Football Association Board
(Submitted by the Irish Football Association)
6. Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Experiments to the Laws of the Game
(Submitted by FIFA)
2. 9.15 Metre Experiment
(Submitted by the Football Association)
3. Questions and Answers Book
(Submitted by FIFA)
4. Temporary Expulsions
(Submitted by FIFA)

5. Video Evidence
(Submitted by the Irish Football Association)

V. Any Other business

Presentation - Injuries in Football - Reduction by adaption of the Laws of the Game
- a Doctor's Perspective
by Professor Jiri Dvorak, the Chairman of the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research
Centre

VI. 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board

Venue and date

PRESENT

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Jim Boyce
Mr David J Martin
Mr David I Bowen

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Joseph S Blatter
Mr Angel Maria Villar Llona
General Farouk Bouzo
Dr Urs Linsi

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Geoffrey Thompson
Mr David Richards
Mr David Davies
Mr John Baker

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Jack McGinn
Mr John McBeth
Mr George Peat
Mr David Taylor

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Mr Tegwyn Evans
Mr Peter Rees
Mr Idwal Williams
Mr David Collins

Also Present

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr William Campbell
Mr Stuart McMurray (Translation)

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr George Cumming
Mr Jose-Maria Garcia Aranda
Professor Jiri Dvorak

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Donald McVicar

I. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

The President of the Irish Football Association, Mr Jim Boyce, welcomed the delegates to the 117th Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board in Belfast.

He stated it was a privilege for him to chair the Board and for the Irish Football Association to host such an important meeting given the importance of the International Football Association Board and its role as the guardian of the Laws of the Game.

Mr Boyce particularly welcomed those members attending their first meeting of the International Football Association Board:- Mr Angel Maria Villar Llona, Dr Urs Linsi, Mr Jose-Maria Garcia Aranda and Professor Jiri Dvorak and trusted that they would enjoy the experience and contribute to the discussion.

The members then stood in silence in respect of former members of the Board who had passed away in the last year - Sir Bert Millichip (The Football Association), Mr Ivan Marshall and Mr Billy Drennan (Irish Football Association), Mr Trevor Morris (Football Association of Wales) and Mr Yule Craig (Scottish Football Association).

Mr David Collins presented an apology on behalf of the President of the Football Association of Wales, Mr Des Shanklin, who was indisposed and the members expressed their best wishes to Mr Shanklin.

II. MINUTES

The Board unanimously approved the Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting held in Hotel Mont Cervin in Zermatt on 16 March 2002.

III. LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

1. Law 4 – The Players Equipment (Submitted by FIFA)

International FA Board Decision 1

Delete the following text:

- Advertising is permitted only on the players' jerseys. It may not be worn on shorts, stockings or footwear.
- Jerseys must have sleeves.

Reason:

These points are unnecessary since they are not essential parts of the Laws of the Game and are best dealt with by the rules of the competition.

Decision:

The proposal of FIFA was adopted having been amended to delete only the first bullet point.

2. **Law 6 – The Assistant Referee / Fourth Official**
(Submitted by the Football Association of Wales)

Present Text

This would remain with the exception of the heading “Duties” - which would be amended to:

“Duties - Assistant Referee”

Proposed New Text

Following on from the Duties of the Assistant Referee the new text for Fourth Official to be included.

Duties - Fourth Official

A fourth official when appointed whose duties, subject to the decision of the referee, are as follows:-

- The fourth official may be appointed under competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue.
- Prior to the start of the competition, the organiser states clearly whether, if the referee is unable to continue, the fourth official takes over as the match referee or whether the senior assistant referee takes over as referee with the fourth official becoming an assistant referee.
- The fourth official assists with any administrative duties, before, during and after the match as required by the referee.
- He is responsible for assisting with substitution procedures during the match.
- He supervises the replacement footballs, where required. If the match ball has to be replaced during a match, he provides another ball, on the instruction of the referee, thus keeping the delay to a minimum.
- He has the authority to check the equipment of substitutes before they enter the field of play. If their

Present Text

Proposed New Text

equipment does not comply with the Laws of the Game, he must instruct the player to correct his equipment.

- He has the authority to inform the referee of irresponsible behaviour by any occupant of the technical area.
- The fourth official assists the referee at all times. He must indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned because of mistaken identity or when a player is not sent off having been seen to be given a second caution or when violent conduct occurs out of the view of the referee and assistant referee. The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play.
- The fourth official must ensure that any player bleeding, who has had to leave the field of play, can only return to the field of play if the bleeding has stopped and following a signal from the referee.
- After the match the fourth official must submit a report to the appropriate authorities on any misconduct or other incident which has occurred out of the view of the referee and the assistant referees. The fourth official must advise the referee and his assistants of any report being made.

Reason:

The fourth official plays a very important part in assisting the referee to officiate the match. His role should be recognised and like the assistant referee be included within the seventeen Laws of the Game.

Decision:

The proposal of the Football Association of Wales was withdrawn.

3. **The Fourth Official**
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

Bullet Point 1

Present Text

The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue.

Proposed New Text

The fourth official may be appointed under the competition rules and officiates if any of the three match officials is unable to continue. **He assists the referee at all times.**

Bullet Point 7

Present Text

The fourth official assists the referee at all times. He must indicate to the referee when the wrong player is cautioned because of mistaken identity or when a player is not sent-off having been seen to be given a second caution or when violent conduct occurs out of the view of the referee and assistant referees. The referee, however, retains the authority to decide on all points connected with play.

Proposed New Text

Delete

“The fourth official assists the referee at all times.”

Reason:

By stating in bullet point 7 that “the fourth official assists the referee at all times,” there is an inference that this could be in respect of matters of misconduct, the topic of the remainder of the paragraph. It is not expected or desired that the fourth official should be extending his role to include reporting of cautionable offences and therefore the reasons of clarity and interpretation it is more appropriate to have the phrase in bullet point 1.

Decision:

The proposal of the Scottish Football Association was adopted.

4. **Procedures to determine the winner of a match - Kicks from the Penalty Mark**
(Submitted by FIFA and the Scottish Football Association)

Procedure - Bullet Point 4

Present Text

The Referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss takes the first kick.

Proposed New Text

The referee tosses a coin and the team whose captain wins the toss decides whether to take the first **or the second kick**.

Reason:

To give the team which wins the toss a fair choice and not to insist that they take the first kick, which can be perceived as an advantage to the team which loses the toss.

Decision:

The proposal of FIFA and the Scottish Football Association was adopted.

5. **Rules of the International Football Association Board**
(Submitted by the Irish Football Association)

Meeting of the Board

Present Text

The Board shall meet bi-annually. The Annual General Meeting shall take place on a date between 14 February and 14 March. The Annual Business Meeting shall take place in the month of September or October, as agreed.

Proposed New Text

The Board shall meet bi-annually. The Annual General Meeting shall take place **in the month of February or March, as agreed**. The Annual Business Meeting shall take place in the month of September or October, as agreed.

Reason:

This will give the Associations greater ease in arranging suitable dates for International Football Association Board Meetings.

Decision:

The proposal of the Irish Football Association was adopted.

6. Additional Instructions for Referees, Assistant Referees and Fourth Officials
(Submitted by the Scottish Football Association)

Present Text

Proposed New Text

The Penalty Kick

It is an infringement to enter the penalty area before the kick has been taken. The goalkeeper also infringes the Laws if he moves from his goal line before the ball has been kicked. Referees must ensure that when players infringe this Law appropriate action is taken.

Reason:

Law 14 was amended in 1997, taking away the necessity for referees to caution when player(s) entered the penalty area prior to a penalty kick being taken. The amendment also allowed the goalkeeper to move along his goal line. Seldom is a penalty kick now taken without an infringement taking place and no action being taken by the referee.

Decision:

The proposal of the Scottish Football Association was adopted.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Experiments to the Laws of the Game (Submitted by FIFA)

- a. **Goal-line Assistants**
The request for experimentation with goal-line assistants was withdrawn.
- b. **Radio Communication**
The Board unanimously agreed to FIFA conducting an experiment on the use of two-way high frequency radio communication between the match officials at a future FIFA Tournament.

2. 9.15 Metre Experiment (Submitted by the Football Association)

Mr Baker presented the meeting with a comprehensive report on the 9.15 Metre Experiment, and it was noted that this experiment had not yet been extended to a major national league in another confederation.

After a comprehensive discussion on the nature of experimentation it was agreed that The Football Association should continue with their experiment for a further year and that it would then bring a proposal to the 2004 International Football Association Board Annual General Meeting.

It was also agreed that any future experiments would only last in normal circumstances for a 2-year period prior to a proposal being placed before the International Football Association Board.

3. Questions and Answers Book (Submitted by FIFA)

The representatives of FIFA updated the members with the progress of a new Questions and Answers Book, and it was noted that with additional questions and answers to be added, a draft of the book would be brought to the Annual Business Meeting in October.

4. Temporary Expulsions (Submitted by FIFA)

The Board re-affirmed the decision taken at its last meeting that temporary expulsion of players is not permitted at any level of football.

5. **Video Evidence**
(Submitted by the Irish Football Association)

The Irish Football Association raised the issue of referees changing their decisions after having viewed the game on video. After a constructive discussion it was unanimously agreed that the Board should re-affirm the status of Law 5 which states that "decisions of the referee regarding facts of play are final."

The Board also reiterated that under no circumstances could the result of a match be changed following the viewing of video evidence.

V. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

1. Artificial Surfaces.

On behalf of FIFA, the President raised the issue of Artificial Surfaces and the Board recognised the advances in artificial surface technology and the major benefits of using artificial surfaces in areas with climatic problems. It also recognised that artificial surfaces allowed multiple and extended use of facilities in urban environments. The Board mandated FIFA to create clear procedures for the use of artificial surfaces, to unify the quality system and apply it worldwide, taking into consideration the best resources and knowledge available.

2. Procedures to determine the winner of a match.

Mr Blatter reminded the members of the current procedures to determine the winner of a game which included Kicks from the Penalty Mark and the Golden Goal.

In view of the possibility of alternative further procedures being introduced and the need for uniformity with the game it was agreed that the Sub-Committee should look at the procedures with a view to bring a unifying recommendation to the Annual Business Meeting of the International Football Association Board in October.

Presentation by Professor Jiri Dvorak, FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre

Prof Dvorak made a detailed presentation of the work and findings of the FIFA Medical Assessment and Research Centre (F-MARC) entitled "Injuries in football - reduction by adaption of Laws of the Game - a Doctors perspective", and the members noted with interest the progress being made by FIFA in this area and thanked Prof Dvorak for taking the time to update them on this important and innovative work.

VI. 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board.

Mr Blatter, on behalf of FIFA, stated that they wished to host the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board in Great Britain as part of the FIFA Centenary Celebrations in recognition of the historically important role played by the Four British Associations in the development of the game.

VOTE OF THANKS

Mr Blatter, on behalf of the Board, expressed his thanks to Mr Boyce for his exemplary handling of the meeting, and to the Irish Football Association for the superb arrangements they had made. He also thanked the Board for the interest they had shown in the work of Prof Dvorak and the Medical Assessment and Research Centre.

He then referred to the updating of the FIFA Statutes which would take place at a special Congress in October at which time it was envisaged that the position of the International Football Association Board would be made secure along with the independence of the Four British Associations.

Mr Blatter paid tribute to the work of the Four British Associations and the International Football Association Board in developing and safeguarding the game of football worldwide, and reflected that as he, on behalf of FIFA, had recently been awarded the Global American Award for Peace in New York, that football should play a valuable role in promoting peace in the world and in bringing people together with a shared objective.

This being all the business the meeting was closed.

NOTES

2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board

The Chair, on behalf of IFA, stated that the Board had taken the 2004 Annual General Meeting of the International Football Association Board in London as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebrations in recognition of the historically important role played by the first football associations in the development of the game.

VOTE ON THANKS

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, expressed his thanks to Mr Boyer for his exemplary handling of the meeting and to the staff of the International Football Association Board for the support and assistance they had made available throughout the Board for the meeting. They had shown in the work of the Board and the Medical Assessment and Research Centre.

The Chair referred to the important role of the Board which would be played at a special meeting in London at which it was expected that the position of the International Football Association Board would be made more clear with the independence of the International Association.

Mr Blatter paid tribute to the work of the International Association and the International Football Association Board in developing and strengthening the game of football worldwide and referred to the fact that the IFA had recently been awarded the title of World Football Association. He stated that football should play a vital role in promoting peace in the world and in bringing people together with a shared objective.

The meeting of the Board, the meeting was closed.

Presented at
Centre

Prof David
Medical
reduction
members
thanks
meeting



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INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 15 MARCH 2003

IN ATTENDANCE

FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Sepp Blatter

Blatter

Mr Angel Maria Villar Llona

Angel M Villar Llona

General Farouk Bouzo

Farouk Bouzo

Mr Urs Linsi

Linsi

Mr George Cumming

George D. Cumming

Mr Jose-Maria Garcia Aranda

José María García Aranda

Professor Jiri Dvorak

Jiří Dvůrak

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Geoffrey Thompson

G. Thompson

Mr David Richards

D Richards

Mr John Baker

John S. Baker

Mr David Davies

DD

THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Jack McGinn

Jack McGinn

Mr John McBeth

John McBeth

Mr George Peat

George Peat

Mr David Taylor

David Taylor

Mr Donald McVicar

Donald McVicar

THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Mr Tegwyn Evans

Tegwyn M. Evans

Mr Peter Rees

Peter Rees

Mr David Collins

David Collins

Mr Idwal Williams

Idwal Williams

THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr Jim Boyce

Jim Boyce

Mr David Martin

David Martin

Mr David I Bowen

David I Bowen

Mr William Campbell

William Campbell