

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL
ASSOCIATION BOARD

1920

MINUTES
of the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION BOARD.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

HELD AT TORBAY HOTEL, TORQUAY, 12th-14th JUNE, 1920.

PRESENT :—Messrs. C. Crump (in the Chair), and J. McKenna (The Football Association), T. White and W. Craig (Scottish Football Association), T. E. Thomas and J. R. Stephens (Football Association of Wales), J. MacBride and J. Ferguson (Irish Football Association).

ALSO PRESENT :—Messrs. F. J. Wall (Secretary), The Football Association who acted as Secretary to the Meeting, J. K. McDowell (Secretary), Scottish F.A., T. Bill, M. Sullivan and C. Watson (Secretary), Irish F.A., T. Robbins (Secretary), F.A. of Wales.

It was decided to record an expression of sympathy and regret at the death of Mr. D. B. Woolfall, for many years a Representative of England to the Board.

The Chairman on behalf of the Board welcomed Mr. J. McKenna (England), Mr. W. Craig (Scotland) and Mr. C. Watson (Ireland), who attended the Board for the first time.

Minutes of Meeting held in Paris on 13th June, 1914, were read and confirmed.

Matters arising out of the Minutes—

“Notice given by Mr. C. Crump (England) at the Meeting in Paris on 13th June, 1914, to direct attention at the next Meeting of the Board to the fact that the order of the provisions of the last sentence of Law 6 is not the same in the Handbook of the Irish Association as in the books of other Associations, and to propose that this anomaly be remedied.”

Referred to the Secretaries of The Football Association and the Irish Football Association to adjust.

INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL.—Ireland called attention to Minute 11 of 23rd April, 1920, of the Council of The Football Association, and asked for an explanation. Exception was taken to The Football Association reserving to itself the right to make such arrangements for the playing of matches as may from time to time be desirable. The Secretary explained the attitude of The Football Association, and referred the Board to the remarks of the Chairman of the Council when moving the Resolutions (Minute 11). The Board was satisfied with the explanation.

Rules of the Board.

Letters were read from Mr. C. A. W. Hirschman, Hon. Secretary of the International Federation (F.I.F.A.), and Mr. C. L. Kornerup, a Vice-President of the International Federation (F.I.F.A.); upon the proposals of the Irish Football Association to exclude the International Federation (F.I.F.A.) from the Board.

The following proposals by the Irish F.A. were unanimously adopted:—

RULE 1.—This Board shall be called the International Football Association Board. The Football Association, the Scottish Football Association, the Football Association of Wales, the Irish Football Association and La Fédération Internationale de Football Association, shall each be entitled to send two representatives, who shall constitute the Board.

RULE 4.—The Board shall meet annually on the second Saturday in June. The meetings shall be held in rotation in England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland and Paris, at the invitation of each Association in order of seniority. The invitation for the year 1913 shall be given by Ireland, and for 1914 by the Fédération Internationale de Football Association. One of the representatives of the Association convening the meeting shall preside, and the other shall act as Secretary.

RULE 7.—Alterations in the Laws of the Game shall only be made at the Annual Meeting in June, and no alteration shall be adopted unless agreed to by at least four-fifths of the representatives present and voting. All other resolutions, whether submitted at the Annual Meeting or at a Special Meeting, must be agreed to by at least four-fifths of the representatives present and voting.

Laws of the Game.

The following proposals by the Scottish F.A. and Amendments proposed by The Football Association were, upon a division, declared to be lost.

Proposals by the Scottish F.A.

LAW 1.—The game shall be played by eleven players on each side. The field of play shall be as shown in the plan at the end of these Laws, subject to the following provisions: The dimensions of the field of play shall be—maximum length, 130 yards; minimum length, 100 yards; maximum breadth, 100 yards; minimum breadth, 50 yards. The field of play shall be marked by boundary lines. The lines at each end are the goal-lines, and the lines at the sides are the touch-lines. The touch-lines shall be drawn at right angles with the goal-lines. A flag with a staff not less than 5 feet high shall be placed at each corner. A half-way line shall be marked out across the field of play. The centre of the field of play shall be indicated by a suitable mark, and a circle with a 10 yards radius shall be made round it. The goals shall be upright posts fixed on the goal-lines, equi-distant from the corner flag-staffs, 8 yards apart, with a bar across them 8 feet from the ground. The maximum width of the goal-posts and the maximum depth of the cross-bar shall be

Second sentence. Insert "and" after "Wales."

Delete the words "La Fédération Internationale de Football Association."

Second sentence. Insert "and" after "Wales."
Delete the words "and Paris."

Delete the third sentence.

Substitute the following:—

"No alterations shall be made in the Laws of the Game except at the Annual Meeting in June, and then only on the unanimous vote of the members present. Other resolutions shall not be adopted unless agreed to by three-fourths of those present."

Delete the sentence "A half-way line shall be marked out across the field of play" and substitute "Lines shall be marked 25 yards from each goal-line across the field of play."

5 inches. Lines shall be marked 6 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 6 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the goal area. Lines shall be marked 18 yards from each goal-post at right angles to the goal-lines for a distance of 18 yards, and these shall be connected with each other by a line parallel to the goal-lines; the space within these lines shall be the penalty area. A suitable mark shall be made opposite the centre of each goal, 12 yards from the goal-line; this shall be the penalty kick mark. The circumference of the ball shall not be less than 27 inches nor more than 28 inches. The outer casing of the ball must be of leather, and no material shall be used in the construction of the ball which would constitute a danger to the players. In International matches, the dimensions of the field of play shall be—maximum length, 120 yards; minimum length, 110 yards; maximum breadth, 80 yards; minimum breadth, 70 yards; and at the commencement of the game the weight of the ball shall be from 13 to 15 ounces.

LAW 6.—When a player plays the ball, or throws it in from touch, any player of the same side who at such moment of playing or throwing-in is nearer to his opponents' goal-line is out of play, and may not touch the ball himself, nor in any way whatever interfere with an opponent, or with the play, until the ball has been again played, unless there are at such moment of playing or throwing-in at least three of his opponents nearer their own goal-line. A player is not out of play when the ball is kicked off from goal, when a corner kick is taken, when the ball has been last played by an opponent, or when he himself is within his own half of the field of play at the moment the ball is played or thrown in from touch by a player of the same side.

From the second sentence delete the following words "within his own half of the field of play" and substitute "not within his opponents' 25 yards area."

Amendments proposed by The Football Association to the proposals by the Scottish F.A.

Law 1.—Substitute "Lines shall be marked 40 yards from each goal-line across the field of play."

Law 6.—Substitute "not within his opponents' 40 yards area."

The following proposal by The Football Association was unanimously adopted.

Law 6.—For the last sentence substitute the following:—

"A player is not out of play when the ball is kicked off from goal, when a corner kick, or a throw-in is taken, when the ball has been last played by an opponent, or when he himself is within his own half of the field of play at the moment the ball is played or thrown in from touch by any player of the same side."

Agreements by the Board.

The following proposals by the Irish F.A. and The Football Association were upon a division declared to be lost.

Proposal by the Irish F.A. —

Clubs of any National Association having players registered who are eligible to play for another National Association must release such players to take part in International contests for said Association when selected.

Proposal by The Football Association.

Agreement, 13th June, 1914.

It was agreed between the Representatives of England and Scotland that the home Association shall send the visiting Association 150 tickets for covered stand, seven days before the match.

Substitute 100 tickets for 150 tickets.

Proposal by The Football Association.

Agreement, 18th June, 1894.—Each Association will recognise suspensions of Clubs and individuals by other National Associations, and the registrations of each National Association shall be binding on each other National Association.

Substitute the following :—

Each Association will recognise suspensions of Clubs and individuals by other National Associations and each National Association will recognise the registrations of players by each National Association. Players retained by Clubs under the Rules of each National Association are registered players.

Decisions of the Board.

The following proposal by The Football Association was agreed to :—

Insert as footnote (a) to Law 1 at the end of the first sentence :—

“In the case of a player entering the field of play after the commencement of a game he must first report himself to the Referee.”

The present footnote (a) to become (b).

International Matches.

Payments to Professional Players.—England called the attention of the Board to the Board's decision of June, 1908, fixing payment of a fee of £4 to each player. In the match England v. Scotland at Sheffield on 10th April, 1920, the English players reported that a fee of £6 was being paid by Scotland to each of their professional players and a promise was made by England that £6 should be paid to each of their players if approved by the Board. The Board expressed regret that Scotland had not observed the Agreement of June, 1908, and gave permission for England to pay a fee of £6. The decision to apply retrospectively only to the match England v. Scotland.

The Board unanimously decided to recommend to the National Associations that for the future a fee of £6 be paid to each Professional player taking part in an International Match.

It became known to the Meeting that Mr. J. C. Clegg will be 70 years of age on Tuesday next June 15th, and everyone present wishes to express to Mr. Clegg the heartiest congratulations, and the sincere wish that his present good health may be long sustained so that he may continue his invaluable services to the Game, and generally.

A vote of thanks was unanimously accorded to the Chairman.

Thos. Whit Chairman

International Football Association Board

Torbay Hotel Torquay

12th June 1920

Chas. Gurney
J. McKenna
Wm. Dowell

Wm. Wm.
William Craig

T. E. Thomas
J. R. Stephens.

H. Hobbs.

J. MacLennan

L. Agnew

Chas. Baker

W. Hall

W. B. Lee,

Maurice Sullivan