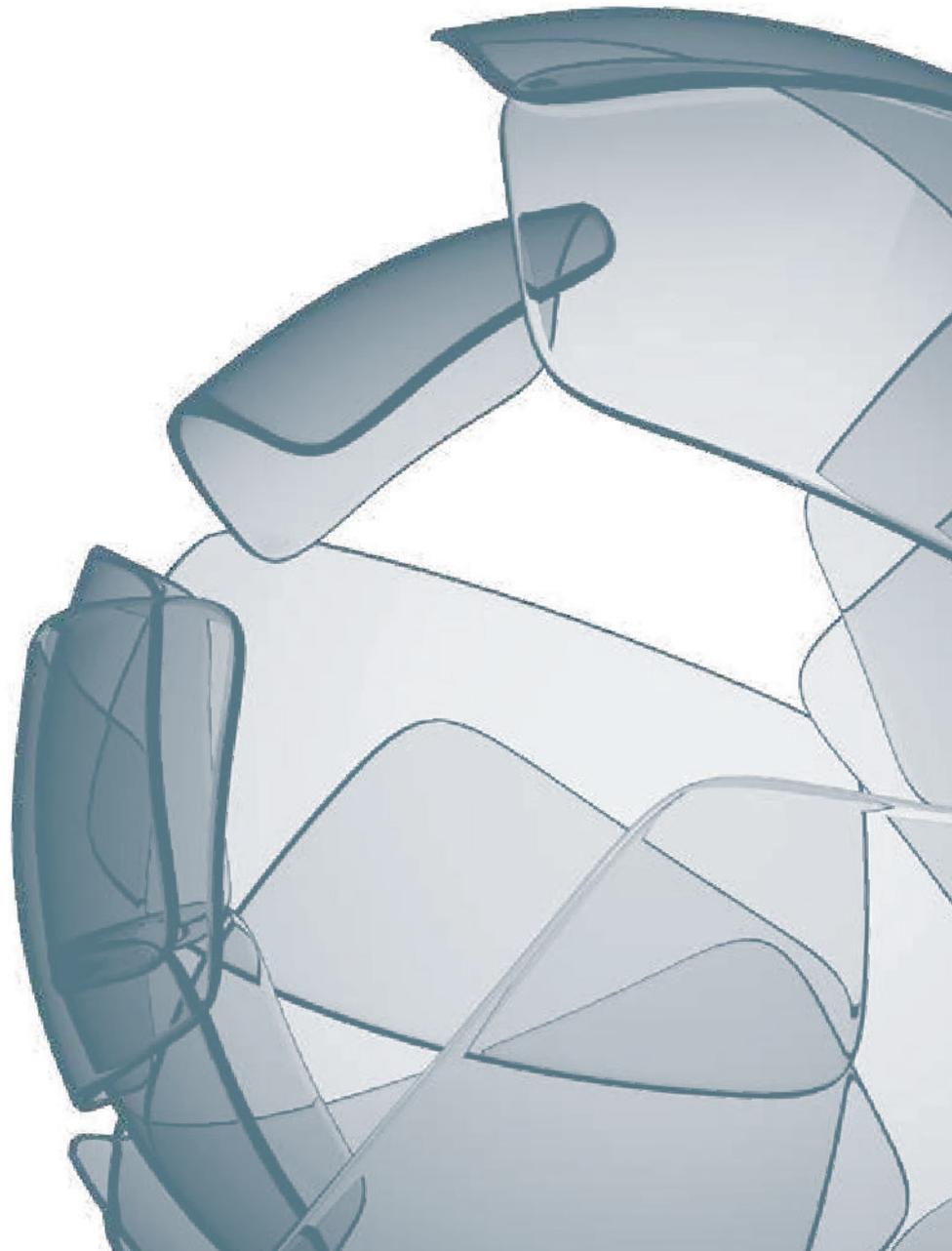


1981

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



THE FOLLOWING CONSTITUTED THE BOARD:-

*Federation Internationale de Football Association:*

Mr. T. Wharton  
Dr. H. Kaser (*Secretary*).

*The Football Association:*

Sir Harold Thompson, C.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.  
Mr. A. D. McMullen, M.B.E.  
Mr. R. A. Wragg  
Mr. E. A. Croker (*Secretary*).

*The Scottish Football Association:*

Mr. W. J. Harkness  
Mr. T. Younger  
Mr. D. Letham  
Mr. D. H. Will  
Mr. E. Walker (*Secretary*).

*The Football Association of Wales:*

Mr. R. Gwynfryn Jones, M.B.E.  
Mr. S. Jenkins, J.P.  
Mr. Trevor Morris, O.B.E., D.F.M. (*Secretary*)  
Mr. E. B. Mumford (*Chief Clerk*)  
Mr. L. Callaghan.

*The Irish Football Association:*

Mr. H. H. Cavan, O.B.E.  
Mr. E. N. Barry, C.B.  
Mr. S. Walker  
Mr. W. J. Drennan, M.B.E., J.P. (*Secretary*).

Mr. R. Gwynfryn Jones, President of The Football Association of Wales, presided, whilst Mr. Trevor Morris acted as Secretary to the meeting.

Apologies for absence were received from Dr. Joao Havelange (President of F.I.F.A.), for personal reasons; also Mr. Fernando Alvarez (F.I.F.A. Referees' Committee) and Mr. D. Hawes (Assistant Secretary of The Football Association) both through illness. Dr. Artemio Franchi (Chairman of F.I.F.A. Referees' Committee) had failed to complete his journey from Italy owing to an industrial dispute at Manchester Airport.

**CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS**

The Chairman welcomed the Members to Wales and to historic Ruthin Castle in this the 95th year of the Board, making special reference to Messrs. T. Wharton, D. Letham and L. Callaghan, all of whom were attending their first Board meeting.

He reported with regret that since the Board last met, two former Members, Mr. F. Seipelt (Austria) and Mr. Koe Ewe Teik (Malaysia) had passed away. Members stood in silence as a mark of respect.

Mr. Jones then congratulated Mr. Drennan on his well deserved M.B.E. and also Mr. Barry honoured in H.M. The Queen's Birthday List by the award of a C.B.

He regretted that Dr. Kaser, after over twenty years' service to the Board, and also Sir Harold Thompson, who was relinquishing the Chairmanship of The Football Association in July, were both attending their last Board Meeting and wished them well in the future.

The Chairman said there was one other item to which he wished to refer this being a letter the Secretary had received from Sir Stanley Rous. Sir Stanley conveyed his best wishes to the Board and then referred to a book entitled "*History of the Laws of Association Football*" published by F.I.F.A. in 1974 which he and Mr. Donald Ford had written and which Sir Stanley now offered to bring up to date.

Mr. McMullen expressed the view that it was an historical document and the Board then accepted a suggestion by Mr. H. Cavan that, as the book was originally authorised by F.I.F.A., the matter be referred to that organisation for attention.

**MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting held at Culloden Hotel, Craigavad, Northern Ireland, were adopted.

**Matters arising:**

The Chairman reported that the invitation of Dr. Havelange for the 1981 Meeting to be held in Brazil was subsequently withdrawn.

## LAWS OF THE GAME AND DECISIONS OF THE BOARD

Proposals submitted under Rule 3 of the Board Rules.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association

### LAW III — NUMBER OF PLAYERS

#### **Punishment Clause (c)**

To decide whether clause (c) ( formerly clause (b) ) should be maintained :

" (c) For any other infringement of this Law, the player concerned shall be cautioned, and if the game is stopped by the Referee to administer the caution, it shall be re-started by an indirect free-kick, to be taken by a player of the opposing team, from the place where the ball was when play was stopped. If the free-kick is awarded to a team within its own goal area, it may be taken from any point within that half of the goal area in which the ball was when play was stopped."

#### **Reason:**

*As in our opinion that last Board Meeting did not clearly decide whether or not the former clause (b) should be maintained as clause (c), a decision should be taken in this respect in view of the possibility of cases not covered by clause (b) decided at the last meeting. This concerns especially cases in which a player enters the field of play with the authority of the Referee but in fact in breach of the existing provisions of the Laws of the Game or the rules of a competition.*

THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED, THE BOARD AGREEING THAT PUNISHMENT CLAUSE (c) BE MAINTAINED.

#### **Decision No. 1**

##### **Present Decision**

1. The minimum number of players in a team is left to the discretion of National Associations.

##### **Proposed Alteration**

1. *The minimum number of players in a team is 7.*

#### **Reason:**

*When applying the present decision, some National Associations consider a team consisting of 1 player even as still valid. FIFA feels that a team reduced to less than 7 players is not a valid or reasonable opposition. Therefore if a team is reduced to 6 or less players, the Referee should abandon the match.*

THE PROPOSAL WAS WITHDRAWN.

The Football Association

LAW XII — FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

**Present Law**

A player shall be sent off the field if:-

(n) in the opinion of the Referee, he is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play;

(o) he uses foul or abusive language;

(p) he persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

**Proposed Alteration**

*A player shall be sent off the field of play if, in the opinion of the Referee, he:-*

*(n) is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play;*

*(o) uses foul or abusive language;*

*(p) persists in misconduct after having received a caution.*

**Reason:**

*The suggested amendment to Law 12 would bring that particular Law into conformity with Law 5.*

THE PROPOSAL WAS ADOPTED.

LAW XII — FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

**Present Law**

A player committing any of the five following offences:-

1. Playing in a manner considered by the Referee to be dangerous, etc. . .

**Proposed Alteration**

*A player committing any of the five following offences:-*

*1. Playing in a manner considered by the Referee to be dangerous to an opponent, etc. . .*

**Reason:**

*"It is considered that the original intention of the Laws of the Game was to punish unfair acts against opponents and not acts against oneself or team-mates. In addition, as the Law stands at present, a Referee could be fully justified in awarding an indirect free-kick against a goalkeeper on every occasion that that particular player makes a save by diving for the ball in front of an advancing attacker. There are also many other instances when a goalkeeper commits acts which could be considered dangerous to himself."*

THE PROPOSAL WAS WITHDRAWN.

LAW XII — FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

**Present Law**

5. When playing as goalkeeper (a) takes more than 4 steps whilst holding, bouncing or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again without releasing it so that it is played by another player.

**Proposed Alteration**

*5. When playing as goalkeeper (a) takes more than 4 steps in any direction after holding the ball, without releasing it so that it is played by another player.*

**Reason:**

*The Law as at present fails in its original intention of avoiding unnecessary delay by goalkeepers releasing the ball. This amendment is intended to make goalkeepers expedite their clearances.*

THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT ADOPTED, BUT IT WAS AGREED, IN PRINCIPLE, THAT THE LAW SHOULD BE ALTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INTENTION OF THE PROPOSAL AND THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE IN ORDER THAT THEY MIGHT SUBMIT SUITABLE WORDING FOR APPROVAL AT THE 1982 MEETING OF THE BOARD.

LAW XII — FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

**Present Text**

A player who intentionally commits any of the following nine offences:-

- (a) Kicks or attempts to kick an opponent;
- (b) Trips an opponent, *i.e.*, throwing or attempting to throw him by the use of the legs or by stooping in front of or behind him;
- (c) Jumps at an opponent;
- (d) Charges an opponent in a violent or dangerous manner.
- (e) Charges an opponent from behind unless the latter be obstructing;
- (f) Strikes or attempts to strike an opponent or spits at him;
- (g) Holds an opponent;
- (h) Pushes an opponent;
- (i) Handles the ball, *i.e.*, carries, strikes or propels the ball with his hand or arm. (This does not apply to the goalkeeper within his own penalty area);

shall be penalised by the award of a direct free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

Should a player of the defending side intentionally commit one of the above nine offences within the penalty-area he shall be penalised by a penalty-kick.

A penalty-kick can be awarded irrespective of the position of the ball, if in play, at the time an offence within the penalty area is committed.

A player committing any of the five following offences:-

1. Playing in a manner considered by the Referee to be dangerous, *e.g.*, attempting to kick the ball while held by the goalkeeper;
2. Charging fairly, *i.e.*, with the shoulder, when the ball is not within playing distance of the players concerned and they are definitely not trying to play it;

**Proposed Alteration**

*A player who intentionally commits any of the following ten offences:-*

*Add Paragraph:-*

- (j) When not playing the ball intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e., running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent.*

*Should a player of the defending side intentionally commit one of the above ten offences within the penalty-area he shall be penalised by a penalty-kick.*

*A player committing any of the four following offences:-*

3. When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, *i.e.*, running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;

4. Charging the goalkeeper except when he —

- (a) is holding the ball;
- (b) is obstructing an opponent;
- (c) has passed outside his goal-area;

5. When playing as goalkeeper

- (a) takes more than 4 steps whilst holding, bouncing, or throwing the ball in the air and catching it again without releasing it so that it is played by another player, or
- (b) indulges in tactics which, in the opinion of the Referee, are designed merely to hold up the game and thus waste time and so give an unfair advantage to his own team

shall be penalised by the award of an indirect free-kick to be taken by the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area, in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

A player shall be cautioned if :-

- (j) he enters or re-enters the field of play to join or re-join his team after the game has commenced, or leaves the field of play during the progress of the game (except through accident) without, in either case, first having received a signal from the Referee showing him that he may do so. If the Referee stops the game to administer the caution the game shall be restarted by an indirect free-kick taken by a player of the opposing team from the place where the ball was when the Referee stopped the game. If the free-kick is awarded to a side within its own goal area it may be taken from any point within the half of the goal area in which the ball was when play was stopped. If, however, the offending player has committed a more serious offence he shall be penalised according to that section of the Law he infringed;
- (k) he persistently infringes the Laws of the Game;
- (l) he shows by word or action, dissent from any decision given by the Referee;
- (m) he is guilty of ungentlemanly conduct;

For any of these three last offences, in addition to the caution, an indirect free-kick shall also be awarded to the opposing side from the place where the offence occurred, unless a more serious infringement of the Laws of the Game was committed. If the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal-area, a free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal-area in which the offence occurred.

*Delete paragraph:-*

3. *When not playing the ball, intentionally obstructing an opponent, i.e., running between the opponent and the ball, or interposing the body so as to form an obstacle to an opponent;*

*Re-number paragraph (4) as (3)*

*Re-number paragraph (5) as (4)*

*Re-letter paragraph (j) as (k)*

*Re-letter paragraph (k) as (l)*

*Re-letter paragraph (l) as (m)*

*Re-letter paragraph (m) as (n)*

A player shall be sent off the field of play if:-

- (n) in the opinion of the Referee, he is guilty of violent conduct or serious foul play;
- (o) he uses foul or abusive language;
- (p) he persists in misconduct after having received a caution.

*Re-letter paragraph (n) as (o)*

*Re-letter paragraph (o) as (p)*

*Re-letter paragraph (p) as (q)*

If play be stopped by reason of a player being ordered from the field for an offence without a separate breach of the Law having been committed, the game shall be resumed by an indirect free-kick awarded to the opposing side from the place where the infringement occurred, unless the offence is committed by a player in his opponents' goal area in which case, the free-kick shall be taken from a point anywhere within that half of the goal area in which the offence occurred.

### **Present Decision 3**

In case of body-contact in the goal area between an attacking player and the opposing goalkeeper not in possession of the ball, the Referee, as sole judge of intention, shall stop the game if, in his opinion, the action of the attacking player was intentional, and award an indirect free-kick.

*Delete 'an indirect' and substitute 'a direct'*

### **Present Decision 8**

If a player intentionally stretches his arms to obstruct an opponent and steps from one side to the other, moving his arms up and down to delay his opponent, forcing him to change course, but does not make 'bodily contact' the Referee shall caution the player for ungentlemanly conduct and award an indirect free-kick.

*Delete 'an indirect' and substitute 'a direct'*

### **Present Decision 9**

If a player intentionally obstructs the opposing goalkeeper, in an attempt to prevent him from putting the ball into play in accordance with Law 12, 5 (a), the Referee shall award an indirect free-kick.

*If a player intentionally obstructs the opposing goalkeeper, in an attempt to prevent him from putting the ball into play in accordance with Law 12, 4 (a), the Referee shall award a direct free-kick.*

### **Reason:**

*In our opinion, based on the result of analysis of a number of matches, it is felt that a player not playing the ball and intentionally obstructing an opponent commits as serious an offence as a player committing one of the other nine listed penal offences for which the punishment is a direct free-kick or, within the penalty area, a penalty-kick.*

THE PROPOSAL WAS NOT ADOPTED.

The Federation Internationale de Football Association

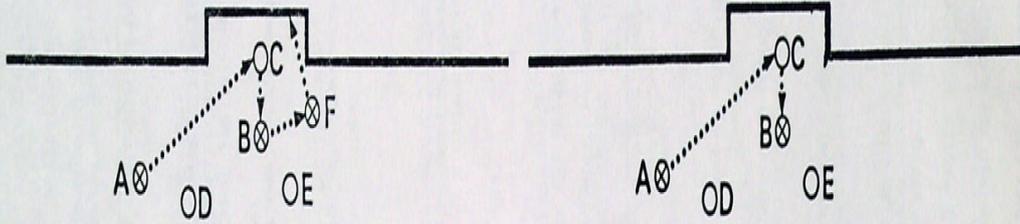
LAW XI — OFF-SIDE

Present Decision

Proposed Alteration

Diagram 6 — OFFSIDE  
(page 41 of FIFA Universal Guide)

Diagram 6.—OFF-SIDE



Shot at goal returned by goalkeeper C

A shoots at goal. The ball is played by C and B obtains possession, but slips and passes the ball to F who scores. F is off-side because he is in front of B, and when the ball was passed by B he had not two opponents between him and the goal-line.

Shot at goal returned by goalkeeper C

A shoots at goal. The ball is played by C and B obtains possession. B is off-side because he was in front of A when the ball was played by A and B did not have 2 opponents between him and the goal-line.

Reason:

To omit the player F. in the diagram and change the text.

THE ABOVE DIAGRAM WAS ADOPTED WHEN CONSIDERED WITH OTHER DIAGRAMS LATER IN THE MEETING.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

The Federation Internationale de Football Association

### LAW XII — FOULS AND MISCONDUCT

- (a) The goalkeeper plays the ball passing it to a field player — without infringing the 4-step rule, the player returns the ball to the goalkeeper, the goalkeeper then passes it again (to the same player or another one) and this tactic is repeated several times until the Referee notices that the object is to waste time.

Should this behaviour be regarded as time-wasting or should the principle be maintained that it is not time-wasting as the players of the opposing team do have the chance to intervene in this manoeuvre?

- (b) A goalkeeper dribbles or guides the ball with his feet within his own penalty area. As there is no opponent in the immediate vicinity he continues to guide the ball in this way for some length of time and wastes considerable time.

Should such tactics be regarded as time-wasting or should the goalkeeper be viewed in the same way as any other player on the field?

**Reason:**

At the 1978 Board Meeting, FIFA submitted a proposal to alter 5 (b) as follows: '(b) indulges in tactics with or without the participation of a team-mate, which are deliberately designed to waste time . . .

After discussion FIFA withdrew the proposal, but based on the experience gained, the behaviour mentioned under (a) and (b) should be considered as time-wasting by the goalkeeper.

THE BOARD WAS OF OPINION THAT NEITHER OF THESE IS AN EXAMPLE OF TIME WASTING AS IN BOTH INSTANCES THE OPPOSING PLAYERS HAVE THE RIGHT TO INTERVENE.

### LAW XIV — PENALTY-KICK

A penalty-kick is about to be taken. The player taking it commits an infraction against the Law (feigning), pretending he is going to kick the ball so that the goalkeeper moves in one direction, but then kicks it in the other direction. This occurs after the Referee whistles, but before the player kicks the ball.

What should the decision be? —

- (a) if he misses?  
(b) if the goalkeeper pushes the ball over the goal-line?  
(c) if the goalkeeper pushes the ball back into the field towards the infringing player or one of his team-mates who entered the penalty area after the ball was played, and a goal is scored?

**Reason:**

*The FIFA Referees' Committee did not agree on the answer to be given as one has to bear in mind that the ball was not in play when the infringement occurred.*

THE BOARD AGREED THAT IF A PLAYER STOPS IN HIS RUN UP TO TAKE A PENALTY-KICK IT IS AN OFFENCE FOR WHICH HE SHALL BE CAUTIONED (FOR UNGENTLEMANLY CONDUCT) BY THE REFEREE AND THE GAME SHALL BE RE-STARTED BY THE PENALTY-KICK BEING CORRECTLY TAKEN.

### The Football Association of Wales

The International Football Association Board is asked to express its opinion regarding the power of a Referee to remove Club officials from the touch-line during a match.

THE BOARD EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR THE REFEREE TO REMOVE CLUB OFFICIALS FROM THE TOUCH-LINE IN A MATCH PLAYED ON A PUBLIC PARK, BUT HAD ABSOLUTE AUTHORITY TO DO SO. IF THE OFFENDERS REFUSED TO COMPLY WITH HIS REQUEST, THE REFEREE COULD ABANDON THE MATCH IF HE THOUGHT SUCH A COURSE DESIRABLE.

**MISCELLANEOUS****The Scottish Football Association**

Do the Board members feel that it would be appropriate for the International Football Association Board to consider the recent dramatic increase in the incidence of indoor football, with a view to promulgating laws to cover the sport on a world-wide basis?

THE FEDERATION INTERNATIONALE DE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION WAS ASKED TO REPORT ON THE POSITION OF INDOOR FOOTBALL AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BOARD.

**The Federation Internationale de Football Association*****For Information***

The Board is informed that the experiments made by the KNVB with the marking outside the goal-line, 10 yards from the corner flag, gave excellent results.

THIS WAS NOTED BY THE BOARD.

## **NEXT MEETING**

Dr. Kaser, on behalf of The Federation Internationale de Football Association, invited the Members of the Board to meet in Spain on Monday, 12th July, 1982, the day following the World Cup Final.

## **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **The Football Association**

As agreed at the last meeting of the Board, The Football Association presented revised Diagrams drawn to scale in respect of Offside Decisions. After careful examination these were suitably adjusted and approved.

It was agreed that such Diagrams be printed in two colours and that the triangles in the Diagrams be replaced by circles.

### **United States Soccer Federation**

Mr. Cavan, in his capacity as F.I.F.A. Senior Vice-President, was granted permission to report on experiments being carried out in the North American Soccer League where a 35 yard offside line was used and the number of substitutes increased to three. Mr. Cavan said that F.I.F.A. has now presented an ultimatum to the United States Soccer Federation insisting that such experiments should cease at the end of the current American season.

The United States Soccer Federation now asks for a technical study of these experiments over the period 25th July to 12th August, 1981 and has intimated its willingness to contribute 55,000 U.S. dollars for this purpose. Mr. Cavan said this request will now be considered by F.I.F.A.

Dr. Kaser expressed concern that the United States Soccer Federation has over the past three years been playing matches contrary to the Laws of the Game as laid down by the International Board. In his opinion they must, as all other countries do, comply with the Laws of the Game.

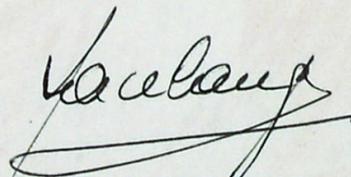
The Board noted the position and agreed to await developments.

### **Multi Studded Boots**

The Board had no objection to a pair of multi studded boots as submitted by F.I.F.A., but declined to give official approval.

### **Vote of Thanks**

Mr. Cavan proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman and the meeting was then concluded.

  
6. 7. 82

International Board, 1981 - RUTHIN, 13TH JUNE, 1981

F.I.F.A.

Dr. A. Franchi  
 Mr. T. Wharton  
 Dr. H. Kaser

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THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Sir Harold Thompson  
 Mr. A. D. McMullen  
 Mr. R. Wragg  
 Mr. E. A. Croker

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THE SCOTTISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr. W. Harkness  
 Mr. D. Letham  
 Mr. D. Will  
 Mr. T. Younger  
 Mr. E. Walker

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THE FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION OF WALES

Mr. R. G. Jones  
 Mr. S. Jenkins  
 Mr. T. Jarman  
 Mr. E. M. Danter  
 Mr. T. Morris  
 Mr. E. B. Mumford  
 Mr. L. Callaghan

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THE IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Mr. H. H. Cavan  
 Mr. E. N. Barry  
 Mr. S. Walker  
 Mr. W. J. Drennan

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