

CCHB

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Mr Mark Addison
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MBTA

22 August 1985

Dear Mark,

NEW UEFA RULES

I attended a meeting of UEFA's Executive meeting on Tuesday, on behalf of Council of Europe Governments. You should see my minute for Mr Macfarlane summarising the outcome. The attachments are available should you wish to see them.

I am copying this and the minute to David Belfall (Home Office), Timothy Gee and Christopher Munro (FCO), Mike Crompton (DTp), David Campbell (SED), Brian Millwood (WO) and Tom Johnston (NI).

yours
D V Teasdale

D V TEASDALE
SPORT AND RECREATION DIVISION

PS/MR MACFARLANE

NEW UEFA RULES

I should report on the outcome of the UEFA Executive Committee meeting in Paris on Tuesday, which I attended (as an observer) representing Council of Europe Member Governments.

I attach for Mr Macfarlane to see the new UEFA rules for "high risk" matches, with manuscript amendments agreed at the meeting and a copy of the form that will accompany these rules when they are circulated to qualifying clubs each season.

I believe that we have got what we wanted from UEFA, in the main. In summary -

- UEFA fully recognise the need for a partnership with European Governments to combat hooliganism. They see their new rules are complementary to the Convention (a number of our phrases are reproduced in their text). But their rules are, rightly, more detailed;
- they have accepted the need to identify high risk matches and to plan accordingly. For these, special mandatory rules will apply; this is the copy attached. The criteria for deciding what are high risk matches are comprehensive and convincing. There is a second set of rules - part mandatory and part recommendation - covering ordinary matches;
- the new rules covering high risk matches are tougher and more detailed than those they replace. They don't leave too much room for manoeuvre;
- clubs, national associations and Governments will be sent the rules each season and be required to sign a form, by which national associations and qualifying clubs must commit themselves to adopt the rules "without reserve" (see the copy attached);
- regarding the selection of stadia for major matches, UEFA's existing rules governing competitions already specify that "the stadiums must conform to the security prescriptions of the competent civil authorities".

In future the Executive Committee are very keen that public authorities should be consulted on the security of particular stadiums to be selected;

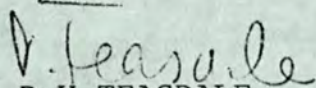
- UEFA has accepted that they must "monitor the new rules to ensure that they are implemented by national associations and clubs".

These are all positive points and helpful to the partnership between Governments and football on the European scale. Together with our Convention, they demonstrate that the responsible authorities in Europe have taken very seriously the lessons of Brussels. We now have two new documents containing mandatory requirements from both Government and football; these are consistent and complimentary.

On the debit side, I lost in argument about ticket sales, especially on the day of matches. I gained only that this should not be precluded by UEFA's new rules. But the opinion has prevailed that this is such accepted practice throughout Europe that UEFA could not make it a condition for any national association to ban ticket sales on the day. Behind their objection lies of course the financial concern, particularly for small associations like Luxembourg, with which we are all too familiar.

There will also remain some fuzzy areas of responsibility. UEFA will continue to leave much to national associations. This is inevitable, given their federal structure. It means therefore that in taking these two documents forward there is a need for national Governments to get together with their football associations to agree on new practical procedures and roles. This is a recommendation which could be agreed within the Council of Europe.

The Minister may wish to discuss these new rules on his return; he may well feel that some press statement, or other kind of public comment, is appropriate. In the meantime I will be discussing with George Walker the next steps within the Council of Europe.



D V TEASDALE
SPORT AND RECREATION DIVISION

21 August 1985