



10 DOWNING STREET

John B. De

WG need a
line for Questions

For may wil to me ^{REB} 4.7.

Benech's note, and the
rather anxious PA report of,
I think, the same meeting. It seems
the heagre spent some time
and energy knocking down an
option which the Govt has not
pursued. But the end result is
encouraging.

I will press to DoE to
let us have a proper report quickly.

MEVA 3/7

PRIME MINISTER

have WE.

FOOTBALL IDENTITY CARDS

John Smith, Chairman, Liverpool AFC and of the Sports Council, telephoned me today to say that he had succeeded in persuading the Football League, in association with the Football Trust, to give the issue of membership cards thorough investigation.

He had had to use his weight as chairman of the Sports Council to achieve this but the inquiry would be on the road within a few days and was expected to report in 6-7 weeks' time.

Mr Smith said that no membership/identity card system was likely to be perfect, but cards would introduce discipline into the football scene. He had started a Travel Club at Liverpool, the effect of which would be to prevent any supporter travelling without a travel club membership card.

He said that it was important to explore every aspect of membership cards. There were so many schemes now on offer that the commercial pressure from card companies was getting out of hand.

Mr Smith added that the FA "very foolishly" did not want to know about membership cards. It would have been better had they had FA as well as Football League involvement, but they must go ahead without the FA if, unfortunately that seemed to be necessary.

The team who will examine membership cards as a system of control and discipline are:

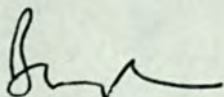
Richard Faulkner, Secretary, Football Trust

Assistant Chief Constable of Birmingham (a member of the Football Trust)

Littlewoods, as the main contributor to the Football Trust

Graham Kelly, Secretary, Football League.

Mr Smith said he laid considerable store by having the police on the inquiry.



BERNARD INGHAM
3 July 1985

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SOCCER: LEAGUE REJECTS THATCHER PLAN

FOOTBALL LEAGUE CLUBS TODAY OFFICIALLY REJECTED THE PRIME MINISTER'S PLAN FOR A NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP CARD SCHEME.

THEY WILL PRESENT THEIR OWN 10-POINT SURVIVAL PACKAGE TO THE GOVERNMENT, WITH LEAGUE SECRETARY GRAHAM KELLY CLAIMING THAT SOCCER 'FACES ITS MOST CRUCIAL SEASON SINCE THE WAR.'

THE CLUBS ARE DEMANDING A 2.5 PER CENT REDUCTION IN THE POOLS BETTING TAX TO HELP MEET THE COST OF GROUND IMPROVEMENTS. 'WE ARE CALLING ON THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE US THE FINANCIAL HELP FOOTBALL DESERVES' ADDED KELLY.

KELLY CONFIRMED A 10-POINT PLAN AFTER A TWO-HOUR MEETING IN LONDON TODAY.

SPEAKING OF THE IDENTITY CARD SYTEM WHICH MRS THATCHER WANTED ENFORCED BY THE START OF THE SEASON, KELLY STRESSED: 'IT CAN'T BE DONE. CLUB CHAIRMEN FELT VERY STRONGLY THAT THE IDEA IS BEING PUT FORWARD BY PEOPLE WHO DO NOT GO TO FOOTBALL MATCHES: HAVE NEVER BEEN ON A REGULAR BASIS, AND DO NOT HAVE THE INCLINATION TO ATTEND FOOTBALL MATCHES AT THE PRESENT TIME.'

THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE, HOWEVER, FELT IT WAS OBLIGED TO DISCUSS THE PLAN FURTHER WITH THE FOOTBALL TRUST AND THE SPORTS COUNCIL.

BUT KELLY IS BACKING CLUB MEMBERSHIP SCHEMES ON AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS.

THE CHAIRMAN REITERATED THAT THEY FEEL EXECUTIVE BOXES AND VIEWING RESTRAURANTS SHOULD BE EXEMPT FROM THE GOVERNMENTS CONTROL, OF ALCOHOL BILL.

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