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## CONFIDENTIAL: BLATTER DISCUSSES RE-RUNNING WORLD CUP VOTES FOR 2018 AND 2022

**IHT has been passed the minutes of a secret meeting in the FIFA President's office earlier this week.**

**Present:** Sepp Blatter, President; Jerome Valcke, General Secretary; Markus Kattner, Deputy; Philippe Blatter, Nephew & Infront; Jaime Byrom, Tickets and Hotels.

Walter Gagg swept the room for bugs, closed the curtains and withdrew.

**Sepp Blatter:** None of this must leak out before the Congress and I am re-elected. Today's decisions can be announced in the summer when the journalists are on vacation.

**First:** What are we going to do about Russia?

**Philippe Blatter:** What's the problem? I've already sold the TV rights, thanks uncle.

**Jerome Valcke:** Be quiet boy. Bloody Crimea. Putin's fucked this for all of us. Sanctions are killing this World Cup. Budgets chopped, stadiums axed, new hotels cancelled. The Oligarchs were promised that if they paid the bribes they could repeat the Sochi rip-offs.

Now the money pot is empty, they cannot import essential equipment. It is going to be a disaster.

**Jaime Byrom:** The fans are only booking for Moscow and St Petersburg. They won't risk Russian airlines flying east. So that's our

MATCH packages fucked. We won't be needing Ray Whelan in the hotel lobbies because there won't be any deals - or hotels.

**Markus Kattner:** And then there's Borbely's abject failure.

**Jaime Byrom:** What's that?

**Jerome Valcke:** Sometime Scala is going to have to publish at least a few pages of Garcia's report. He will have to reveal that while everybody else in the world backs up their computers, the Russian 2018 bid insist they did not. All their computers have been destroyed, so no possible evidence of corruption exists. Every other bidder gave us their emails and documents.

**Markus Kattner:** That's outrageous and it's our escape route. Borbely should have told us to take 2018 away from Russia. We would be doing Putin a favour. He won't have to admit that Russia cannot deliver.

**Sepp Blatter:** Who is going to tell him?

**All chorus:** Not me!

**Philippe Blatter:** We could send him a text, post it on his FaceBook page and change our phone numbers.

**Jerome Valcke:** Shut up.

**Jaime Byrom:** Who will get 2018? I have got to get my monopoly

of hotel rooms fixed fast.

**Markus Kattner:** It has to be England or Holland and Belgium.

**Jerome Valcke:** England doesn't have to build new stadiums but Belgium has the best beer. Let's decide after the Congress.

**Sepp Blatter:** Next item. How do we escape from Qatar? We can blame Warner, Leoz, Teixeira, Makudi, Blazer and Bin Hammam. We all know why they voted for a World Cup in impossible, boiling summer heat.

**Jerome Valcke:** Too late. That was four years ago. They are gone. It will have to be the dead workers.

**Markus Kattner:** That's our best hope. Qatar is never going to change the kafala system.

**Jerome Valcke:** We have to walk. Every TV network in the world is going to be there for the next six years, filming the coffins going home. The sponsors are already telling us they won't stand for much more of it.

**Philippe Blatter:** Sponsors and the broadcasters are telling my company Infront that they don't want to go to Russia or Qatar.

**Jaime Byrom:** [putting head in hands] Another disaster for MATCH.

**Sepp Blatter:** I'll talk to Abramovich, the Glazers and Murdoch. They told me they will not accept a Winter break. Now they have to stand up for the clubs



Sepp Blatter chaired the secret meeting in his office

and the fans and their profits. If they lead, we will follow. Most western Europe leagues will refuse to release players in the winter.

**Jerome Valcke:** So that's it. Goodbye Qatar. They won't sue. That's one box they'll never want to open in public. Think what a Court would discover.

**Sepp Blatter:** Urgh. You are giving me cold shivers.

**Markus Kattner:** You've all forgotten the Sheikh from Kuwait. He's now on the ExCo and he won't allow the World Cup to be

removed from Qatar.

**Jerome Valcke:** The Sheikh is not the problem, it's his sidekick Gafur Rakhimov, vice president of the Asian Olympic Council.

**Sepp Blatter:** I don't believe that he's the world's biggest heroin trafficker.

**Markus Kattner:** The FBI think he is.

**Sepp Blatter:** STOP IT! I will not have the FBI mentioned in my office.

**Markus Kattner:** Sorry. But google Rakhimov, and realise,

he is only one step away from the Sheikh.

**Sepp Blatter:** Enough! Fuck the slave workers, fuck the fans, fuck Murdoch. It stays in Qatar.

•••••

The meeting ended. Philippe Blatter and Jaime Byrom were heard sobbing. On the way out Jerome Valcke is heard whispering to Markus Kattner. "The old fool is past his sell-by date, he'll have to go. Warn the Americans to be ready for 2022."

## FIFA PARTNERS MAKE SHOCK THREAT TO QUIT 'UNLESS THERE IS RADICAL REFORM'

By Wally D Gregory

AN influential alliance of three of FIFA's most significant commercial partners, each among the world's most recognisable and powerful brands, last night made a shock call for "radical, urgent surgery at the top of FIFA" --- with a threat they will dump football's world governing body if their demands

are not met.

A joint statement issued on behalf of adidas, Coca-Cola and VISA called for a list of specific constitutional reforms, for a "new era of honesty and fair play", and for a re-vote on the 2018 and 2022 World Cup hosts.

"There comes a time when the only moral course of action is to say 'Enough is enough,'" the joint

statement said. "Now is that time."

It continued: "Each of us are cherished global household names, trusted by our loyal customers. We would be doing a disservice to them to pretend that our respective commercial associations with FIFA have not been good for business.

"But that disservice would be magnified a thousandfold if we

continued to stay silent, effectively propping up a rotten, discredited system. Some things are more important than money, and our message to FIFA is clear.

"You change or we leave. You put pressure on Qatar to change its kafala system by the end of this year, or we'll go. It's for the good of the game."

For such heavyweight voices to deliver such an ultimatum is nothing short of astonishing, although sources say the association in many people's minds between FIFA and corruption is now 'sickeningly routine'.

One insider said: "It's untenable for any partner to live with that too long and not suffer."

Over the past year, FIFA has lost two major partners in Sony and Emirates both declining to renew

deals that ended in December 2014 after another year of corruption allegations engulfed FIFA.

Last November VISA said it was "troubled" by FIFA's image.

"Greater transparency and more open, forthright communications is not only paramount, but the only way in which public trust in FIFA, and all that it represents, will be restored," the company said.

Last night a source close to VISA, said CEO Charlie Scharf's publicly stated commitment to his firm's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics was a driving force behind the new stance. That commitment includes a message on VISA's website, declaring: "If you see something that isn't right, say something."

Coca-Cola's own code of business conduct compels

employees to "use good judgment and avoid even the appearance of improper behavior."

It adds: "Is your conduct ethical? Is it legal? Will it reflect well on me and the company? Would I want to read about it in the newspaper? If the answer is 'No' to any of these questions, don't do it."

A company source said: "It's time to walk the walk."

adidas insiders point to CEO Herbert Hainer's past admission that "ethical hurdles" are part of business but stressed the company's guiding principles are "fairness, ethics, respect."

FIFA are actively working on new partnerships, with either Qatar Airways or Aeroflot hot favourites to replace Emirates.

Neither airline could be reached for comment.





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Thanks to our friends, The Yes Men, for the inspiration. You rock!

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**WEATHER WATCH**



**Amsterdam:**  
14-20  
Cloudy



**Brussels:**  
12-23  
Partly Sunny



**Canberra:**  
2-8  
Cold & Cloudy



**Doha:**  
27-40  
Hot



**Lisbon:**  
13-25  
Sunny



**London:**  
13-22  
Occasional Sunny patches



**Madrid:**  
10-26  
Mostly Sunny



**Moscow:**  
13-22  
Showers



**Seoul:**  
16-26  
Cloudy



**Tokyo:**  
17-25  
Cloudy



**Washington DC:**  
17-27  
Sunny



**Zurich:**  
11-23  
Showers & Thunderstorms



# BLATTER - FIRST AMONGST EQUALS

As Sepp Blatter prepares to be re-elected for a fifth term as FIFA president, the IHT has spoken to some of his longest-serving colleagues to measure the respect in which he is held, and what he has done for them.

by Wally D Gregory

Additional reporting by Dominic Lurvie

**JACK WARNER:**  
Fifa ExCo 1983-2011

"Without Sepp Blatter's support and inspiration, I could never have achieved what I did in football. Some people, including investigators, say I stole around \$100m, abused my position to commit fraud, gained TV and land deals by corrupt patronage, took bribes, and violated tax laws and ethics codes, and did so in an environment established by Sepp and supported by him. But it was much more than that.

"Perhaps my fondest memories surround my first love: World Cup ticket touting. I relish those days at Simpson Travel on Saint Vincent Street with my boys, knocking out \$35 seats at \$1,400 each. And traveling to tournaments with Chuck, where we'd address the needs of football fans, in the lobbies, for cash. And getting away with it, never punished despite a new-fangled 'ethics' conviction. I owe Sepp so much.

"Perhaps fondest of all I recall the Trinidad & Tobago FF centenary celebrations in 2008, sitting next to Sepp as he told a packed

room: 'You cannot find a better ambassador around the world than Jack Austin Warner. What he has done for this country, this region and for football, you cannot put it into figures. His energy and his belief in the good of the game is remarkable. That comes from my heart.'

"And this from mine, Sepp: Nobody should forget what you created and fostered."

**JOAO HAVELANGE:**  
FIFA president 1974-98

"Like Jack, I was there in 2008, at the facility in Trinidad that Jack named after me, owned by Jack, paid for with FIFA money signed off by Sepp – and helped along more recently by those generous and funny Aussies. If there is a tiny sliver of sadness that my time at FIFA was marred by ignorant judgments of my proven bribe-taking and embezzlement in the ISL scandal, it is more than compensated for by my pride in Sepp. I put him into office. He is my protégé. He has not only always helped me, but presided in my spirit.

"Together, we made FIFA what it is today."

**ANGEL MARIA VILLAR LLONA:** FIFA ExCo

"We shouldn't forget that Sepp Blatter is not just a hero to the 'old guard' of FIFA but the relative pups like myself. In life, like in football, sometimes you win and sometimes you lose. And sometimes you illegally collude over a World Cup bid, don't win, won't co-operate with an inquiry, and keep your job. That's ultimately down to Sepp.

"So, Sepp, mi amigo, muchas gracias."

**MICHEL PLATINI:**  
FIFA ExCo, UEFA president

"I can only echo Angel Maria, aside from the bit about colluding. I would never do that.

"Like Sepp, I make football decisions for football reasons, always. Congratulations on your next years in the presidency, Sepp."

**MOHAMMED BIN HAMMAM:**  
FIFA ExCo 1996-2011

"I love football. I love my country. I love that the World Cup will be played in my country, and that is thanks ultimately to the vision of Sepp Blatter, who put in place a dual voting process that was custom-made to be used as a platform to buy the World Cup, as Sepp's friend Jerome Valcke so astutely said in that famous email.



"I cannot say, hand on heart, that I love Sepp as much as I once did. The way he figuratively dismembered me in 2011 and has since systematically destroyed my life and reputation was not really, in my view, a fitting way to repay decades of support.

"But the past is the past. The future is Qatar 2022. And I will always cherish the special nights in pre-election days, so many of them ahead of FIFA presidential ballots, handing out huge bundles of 'gifts' for my many close associates to vote for Sepp.

"As he was so fond of saying when anyone suggested investigating himself: 'The game is over. The whistle has blown. The players have returned to the dressing room'.

"Fare well, my friend. I will never forget."

**VITALY MUTKO:**  
FIFA ExCo

"On behalf of Vladimir Putin, I would sincerely echo the first

paragraph of Mr Bin Hammam's sentiment. And on behalf of Mr Putin, I can only add this: Mr Blatter, you are our kind of people."

**FRANZ BECKENBAUER:**  
FIFA ExCo 2007-2011

"I don't need Sepp to show me how to be a winner. I'm German. I'm Bayern Munich. We already know all about winning. I certainly know all about winning.

"But Sepp .... what can I say? He knows how to play the game. Without his masterful handling of the vote for the 2006 World Cup, helped of course by my friend Fedor and the New Zealand gentleman – what was his name again? – we may not have won the right to host it. Sepp knew. Just as he knew that putting two World Cups together for 2018 and 2022 was a wonderful way to ensure we all kept winning.

"I mean, I couldn't lose. Everyone thinks I voted for them. The Russians. The Australians. The Americans. The Qataris.

"Just the way it should be. Well played Sepp."

**ISSA HAYATOU:** FIFA ExCo; FIFA senior VP

"We shall always be grateful for Sepp Blatter and the funding he has overseen to many of us – for the good of our gain.

"Sometimes we win in life. Sometimes we lose, as I did in 2002. Sometimes you are fortunate to receive a massive kick-back.

"But as I said last month .... Dear Sepp. Africa is comfortable having you. Africa stays with you."

**OTHERS:** A group of former and current ExCo members - Chuck Blazer, Worawi Makudi, Ricardo Teixeira, Nicolas Leoz, Reynald Temarii, Amos Adamu, Jacques Anouma, Marios Lefkaritis - also put their names to a statement praising Blatter, saying: "Cheers, Sepp. We couldn't have done it without you."

## EXCLUSIVE: SPONSORS' SHORTLIST TO HEAD REFORM



### FIFA sponsors have met to consider possible eminent persons to head-up a FIFA Reform Commission.

by Dominic Lurvie

Seven of FIFA's major sponsors have met secretly in Brussels, en route to Zurich for the FIFA Congress, and agreed to unilaterally move to establish a FIFA Reform Commission.

A reform commission has been a central plank of the #NewFIFANow advocacy group, with an eminent person to head-up an interim administration to develop and implement systemic reform of FIFA and to conduct fresh elections.

Sources close to the major sponsors have told IHT that they have "heard the anger of the global community loud and clear" that people want change.

"No commercial company can afford to ignore so many voices," one senior executive said.

"We have been concerned about FIFA for some time now. We did our best to ignore the ISL scandal, but no-one can ignore their decisions about 2018 and 2022, and what they've done since has gone from bad to worse.

The executive said the most

recent campaign around the 'Hypocrisy World Cup' was "the last straw".

"It's one thing to hear the words 'shocking conditions'. It's quite another to see them as we did last week in that film," the source said.

The source was referring to the collaborative campaign between Playfair Qatar, the International Trade Union Congress, SKINS and #NewFIFANow.

"We've all dealt with Blatter, other Executive Committee members and some of the people who work at FIFA.

"They're not interested in engaging in these issues. They keep telling us it's under control. But it's not.

"We want to assure the international fan community and players – and the migrant workers in Qatar – that we have their back."

Another sponsor told IHT that "enough is enough".

"The way FIFA conducts its business is totally inconsistent with our strong core values and principles and our code of business ethics.

"We totally get that our brand

is being tarnished because we support an organization that makes decisions which people don't trust, and that allows things like this to keep happening."

The executive said that when the 'Hypocrisy World Cup' campaign became known, their Board called an emergency meeting the next day, with instructions to press ahead with a FIFA Reform Commission.

Another executive told IHT that the sponsors' action was not "anti-Qatar".

"On the contrary, the best possible outcome for the migrant workers is that Qatar does the right thing by them and introduces modern labour laws and working conditions in keeping with global community expectations. It's not as if they can't afford it.

"This is one of the things we will be asking the FIFA Reform Commission to do. To tell Qatar in no uncertain terms that they have to do this within a set timeframe – like yesterday – or face the consequences.

"This is about FIFA and our brand. Anything that detracts

from the mission and ideals of the World Cup is a concern to us."

But, the executive said, the sponsors know they have to take matters into their own hands.

"We know that FIFA is not capable of reforming itself, so we're doing it for them."

The seven sponsor CEOs have drawn-up a short list of possible candidates to head the FIFA Reform Commission advocated by #NewFIFANow, and have begun approaching them through personal contacts.

IHT can exclusively reveal that the names include:

- Mohamed Sameh Ahr, Chairman of the Executive Board of UNESCO;
- Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary-General;
- Helen Clark, former New Zealand Prime Minister and now head of the United Nations Development Program;
- Mari Kiviniemi, former Finnish Prime Minister and now deputy-head of the OECD; and
- Mitt Romney of the USA who headed up the IOC Reform Commission.

IHT understands that Gazprom was unable to attend the sponsors' meeting as they were looking for computers that had gone missing from their Moscow headquarters.





# EXCLUSIVE: BLATTER TO INTRODUCE SWEEPING REFORMS

## Sepp Blatter to spend the next 12 months focussed on his legacy before stepping-down at 80

By Dominic Lurvie

The FIFA Congress is set to adopt sweeping changes to its make-up and that of the FIFA Executive Committee at its meeting in Zurich this week.

The shake-up is part of FIFA President Sepp Blatter's planned farewell year in the top job.

Sources close to Blatter say there is no doubt he will be elected again for a record fifth term but he plans to use his latest mandate as his last and introduce the changes that reform-minded groups, such as #NewFIFANow, have been advocating.

"He realizes he's had a good, long run at FIFA," a close friend told IHT on condition of strict anonymity.

"He's been President for 17 years now and he thinks 80 years of age is a good time to go. He only intends to stay until Congress next year. In that time, he will introduce greater democracy, transparency and accountability into FIFA and oversee new elections.

"He knows where the world is

heading, what world fans want and, importantly, some of the sponsors."

IHT understands that marquee partners such as Coca-Cola, Visa, Budweiser and even Blatter's old employer, adidas, have been placing immense pressure on him and FIFA to modernize the organization's structures and policies and to put pressure on 2018 and 2022 hosts, Russia and Qatar, about their human rights record and, in Qatar's case, their system of kafala.

"Look, he knows it's time to get into the 21st century on these things. He's just an ordinary man in an extraordinary position and he's hurt by how much people dislike him.

"He says to those closest to him, 'Why are people so unkind?'

"He wants to make it better. He wants to go out with his head held high and his legacy intact."

The radical reforms Blatter intends introducing include:

- Executive Committee members be limited to two terms of four years each.
- Elected members on the

Executive Committee include a minimum representation from former professional players and women.

- Fans to have a vote for members of the Executive Committee.
- Executive Committee also include non-elected appointed members with expertise in finance, law, marketing, medicine or allied health and social policy.
- All Executive Committee members and senior executives in decision-making positions to complete a pecuniary interests declaration that is published on the FIFA website.
- The salary and all other forms of compensation awarded to the Executive Committee, chairpersons and members of all committees, the Chief Executive, other key personnel be disclosed in the published annual financial report.
- The minutes of the FIFA Congress, Executive Committee and all FIFA committees be published on the FIFA website.
- FIFA's international development program operate on an annual basis to a published timetable with published guidelines, selection criteria, funding parameters, reporting requirements and performance criteria, with a fully searchable

database of all past grants and all future grants.

Insiders also told IHT that Blatter intends "cleaning out" much of the FIFA top management team and committee members.

"For example, he's grown impatient with Domenico Scala. Very impatient.

"Scala has now had the Garcia Report to edit for redactions for five months and he's not produced anything, other than a couple of stray emails.

"Poor Sepp is very disappointed. He appointed Scala because he's Swiss, he's close-by, thought he would get the job done. But Scala is not as efficient as a Swiss watch, and more like a box of Swiss chocolate. You're not sure what you're going to get till you taste it," the source said.

IHT understands from sources that Blatter has also "reached out" to the two women who were all-but-identified in the Garcia report as whistleblowers from the Qatar and Australian bid teams.

"He realises as a father, grandfather and a leading male feminist that they were disgracefully treated. Very disgracefully.

Blatter has met privately with the two women in Washington DC and Sydney respectively, and offered an apology.

"He will apologise publicly at Congress too as he is personally very upset about how they were abused by the system. Very upset.

"Sepp just doesn't understand why and how Michael Garcia, Hans-Joachim Eckert, Cornel Borbely, Walter De Gregorio and Scala could be so personally vindictive towards two people who were asked to contribute to the inquiry."

Neither whistleblower could be reached for comment.

Not only does Blatter intend publishing the Garcia Report but he has already secretly brought in forensic auditors, who have never worked with FIFA before, to conduct an independent audit of FIFA's development programs around the world.

"There will be some people very nervous about this for sure," the source said. "Very nervous.

"But Sepp knows this has to be done. It may hurt some people he's grown close to over the years but it's personal now. It's not just about the football family, but actual family."

Blatter's landmark reforms will also guarantee a re-vote for the 2018 and 2022 World Cup tournaments.

"It's the only way," IHT's source says.

"If there are no criminal charges against them and if Qatar gets rid of kafala, both Russia and Qatar can be in the running again.

"But the only way that people are going to accept that these two countries got there on their merits is to re-run the vote once there are new, clean structures and new, clean voters in place.

"If they win then, that's good. If not, they have to deal with it."

IHT's sources confirmed that daughter Corinne Blatter is now the FIFA President's chief strategy advisor.

"The fact is the people of Visp (Blatter's home town) have made it clear that he can't be buried there unless he cleans up FIFA and clears up his legacy as they feel as if he has embarrassed them over so many years.

"In Switzerland, this is a very big thing. Very big. Corinne has made it clear to her father that he also has to care about the impact on her and his grandchild."

The source also confirmed that advisors such as Jerome Valcke, Peter Hargitay and De Gregorio will be shown the door.

"No-one will miss them. No-one."

IHT has confirmed that they have not found anyone who will miss the trio.

## Psst. Want a pearl?

At just \$1400, we realise this is merely "incidental" to the wives or girlfriends of FIFA Executive Committee members.

Made from finest Australian South Sea pearl, this beautiful drop pearl pendant is set in yellow gold (the gold chain costs extra) and is available exclusively from our friends Down Under.

(And if you miss out the first time, no matter. Just keep pestering them and they'll give you another).





# SEPP BLATTER WINS NOBEL PEACE PRIZE IN GLITTERING OSLO CEREMONY

**'Football Family' forms honour guard**

By our correspondent in Martinique, Lazar Urgay

October 9, 2015

The 2015 Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded to FIFA President Joseph "Sepp" Blatter in a glittering ceremony held in Oslo, Norway.

The event featured Doha-style dancing girls, a Rio-inspired tea ceremony and confetti falling from the roof of the Oslo City Hall.

Celebrating administrators from the "football family" formed a guard of honour as Blatter ascended to the stage.

"Let the women play in more feminine clothes like they do in volleyball," said Blatter as he accepted the award from last year's winner, Pakistani teenager Malala Yousafzai, a child education activist who came to the world's attention after being shot in the face by Taliban.

"Female players are pretty, if you excuse me for saying so," Blatter told Malala who looked at the new recipient in amazement. "They could, for example, have tighter shorts."

In a move from tradition, the Oslo ceremony was hosted by FIFA General-Secretary Jerome Valcke,

rather than the Chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee.

FIFA also took over logistics for the event, flying in waitresses from Germany and hostesses from Russia for the event.

"Norway had to be ready for this ceremony, they had no other choice," said Valcke. "There was no Plan B."

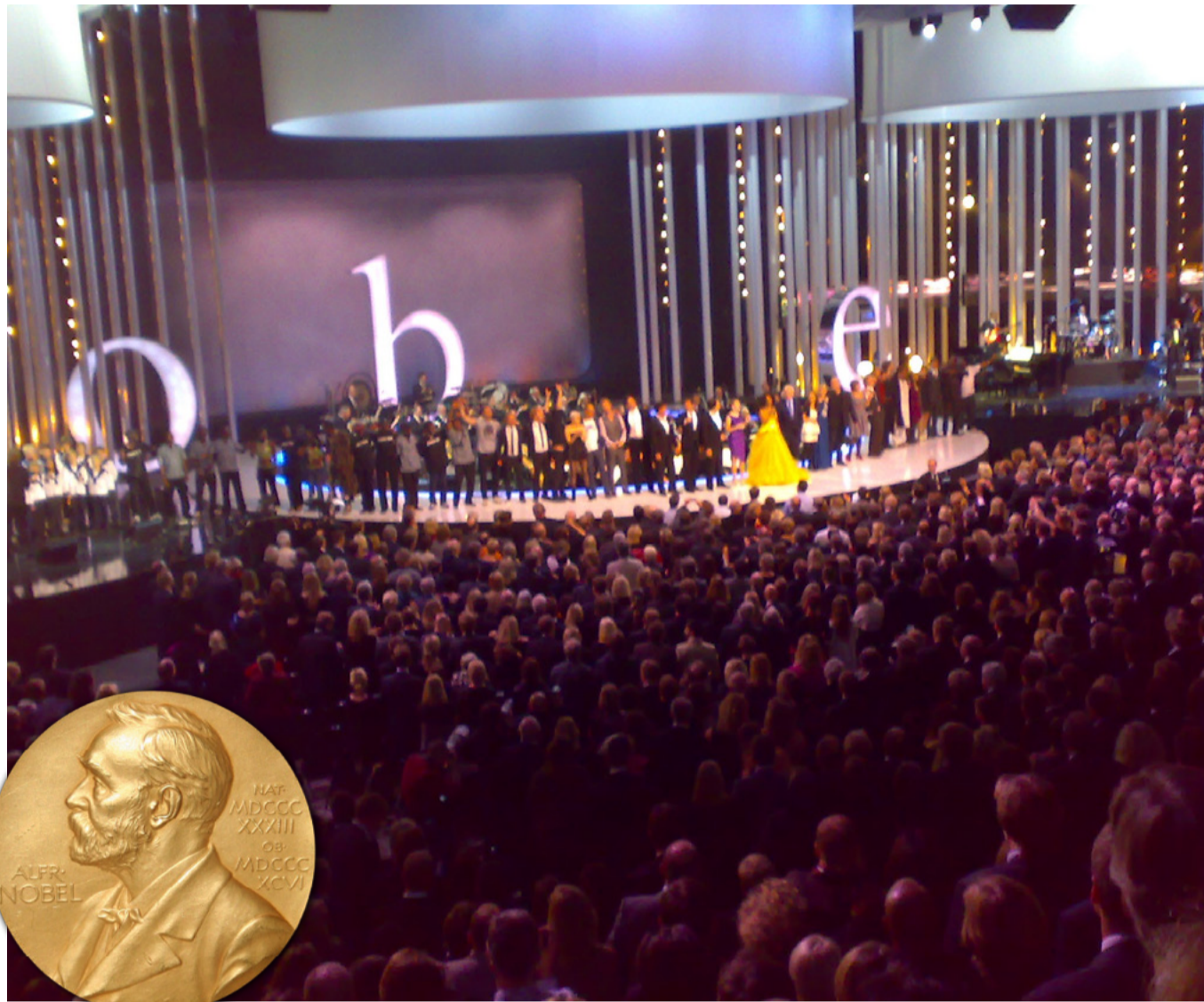
Blatter was recognized for his attempt to bring peace to the Israel-Palestine conflict, campaigning to let Kosovo join FIFA and assisting his nephew Philippe's career in the sports marketing industry.

Shouting from row ZZZ at the grand Oslo City Hall, the president of the Dominican Republic federation, Osiris Guzman, compared the 79-year-old Swiss with Moses, Abraham Lincoln, Winston Churchill and Martin Luther King, as well as Jesus and Mandela and Zinedine Zidane (but not Michel Platini).

Guzman, suspended by FIFA in 2011 and fined following an ethics committee investigation, said past events had been "for the good of the game - FIFA media guy Walter De Gregorio said it was not important."

The Nobel committee initially considered making this year a joint award - as it had in 2014 with Malala Yousafzai and Kailash Satyarthi, an Indian child rights campaigner.

A joint award could have been shared by all 27 members of FIFA's Executive Committee but the Nobel



jury decided after reading every page of a technical report on the ExCo that it was impossible to actually figure out what the committee did.

Peter Hargitay, long-time 'Special Adviser' to the FIFA President, said Blatter's Nobel Peace Prize was his greatest achievement, outranking

work for Union Carbide in the aftermath of the Bhopal disaster and other employers including fugitive Marc Rich, corrupt former AFC President Mohamed Bin Hamman, and as a producer on the fantasy science-fiction film, Goal!"

Hargitay confirmed in an

encrypted email message that he will be invoicing Blatter for a bonus - that will help make-up for the one he didn't receive from Australia.

Crowning a glittering administrative career for Blatter, the International Astronomical

Union Committee on Small Bodies Nomenclature said it now planned to name an asteroid after the FIFA President.

"I would say they should refrain from any sexual activities," added a triumphant Blatter, possibly referring to asteroids.

# UNITED NATIONS INTERVENE TO MAKE FIFA FINANCES 'TRANSPARENT'

By Wally D Gregory

The United Nations will take a lead role in "ending the omerta" on FIFA's financial dealings by overseeing the establishment of a new 'FIFA Unit for Complete Transparency', it will be confirmed today.

The special unit will operate from the Geneva headquarters of the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace (UNOSDP) under the personal supervision of Wilfried Lemke, special advisor on sport to the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon since March 2008.

Its stated remit is to put in place a system that "allows public scrutiny of every financial transaction made by FIFA". This will include an "open access" internet portal for anyone, anywhere to scrutinise FIFA income and spending.

There will be full disclosure of the salaries and expenses of all FIFA executives, as well as full transparency on every dollar of funding handed out by FIFA, and what it was spent on.

In the four-year financial cycle

ending in 2014, FIFA spent \$1,052 million on 'development projects', including \$538m on 'financial assistance', \$123m on its 'GOAL' programme and \$391m on 'other development projects'.

It also spent \$2.2bn in the same period on the 2014 World Cup in Brazil, including \$453m to the Local Organising Committee, \$370m on 'TV production', \$358m on prize money and \$369m on 'other expenses'.

The development funding alone was equivalent to more than 2,000 separate payments of \$500,000 each over the four years. Some critics have suggested that not every cent necessarily ends up being used for good causes when handed to some associations.

The new unit will aim to end such suggestions, and Mr Lemke, a 68-year-old former German senator, said he was delighted the UN was involved.

"There are some good people inside FIFA who are not afraid to admit that the organisation has made mistakes and been too secretive," Lemke told IHT. "But

we can fix that. I am proud to be involved with the FIFA Unit for Complete Transparency.

"In the past, many ordinary fans around the world may have felt a little screwed by FIFA. But now I hope they can all feel ownership of this unit, and that together we can be F.U.C.T."

A more detailed statement is expected today from Mr Lemke on the UNOSDP website, which describes sport as having "a unique power to attract, mobilize and inspire."

The UNOSDP site adds: "By its very nature, sport is about participation. It is about inclusion and citizenship. It stands for human values such as respect for the opponent, acceptance of binding rules, teamwork and fairness, all of which are principles which are also contained in the Charter of the UN."

Senior UN sources deny the UN is acting now as a result of Sepp Blatter's repeated assertion that "FIFA is more important and certainly more influential than the UN".

One veteran, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the idea was the brainchild of the long-serving FIFA general secretary Jerome Valcke following a 'Damascene conversion'.

The source said: "Valcke was in his office browsing internal audit files when the penny dropped. He loves football. He especially loved the Brazil World Cup. He has some great friends in Brazilian football. And in Qatar. In fact he loves Qatar so much he's thinking he might continue his career there one day."

"But he realized maybe some people don't love football as much as he does, because they don't trust it any more. He feels sad about that. He suggested getting F.U.C.T."

Mr Lemke will now liaise with past and present FIFA officials, including Valcke.

Sources say many senior FIFA officials, out of admiration for Britain's Parliament and media, hope F.U.C.T will adopt the kind of public access system now in place around UK MPs' expenses, put in place after the famed British media exposed malpractice.





# THE TWO OF US

## Joao Havelange talks old times with Sepp Blatter at his home in Rio

**JH: Welcome dear boy. What brings you to my humble home here at Ipanema Beach? My reward for a lifetime's service to football.**

**JSB: – Humble? This must be the most expensive apartment in Rio. Football has been good to me. How long do you have?**

– I told the pilot to wait. FIFA can afford it. I have been at the CONMEBOL Congress in Asuncion, counting votes, checking everybody got their World Cup tickets and reassuring Nicolas Leoz that we will never ask him to give back the ISL bribes. Rio is on my direct flight home to Europe and I absolutely had to stop over and ask you, in private, one vital question. What can that be?

– Have the FBI been to see you? **They would find that at my age, I think I am around 99, my hearing and memory are very poor. How are you?**

– It has not been easy for the last ten years. You got out in time before the scandals broke over us.

**You did well enough, you have nothing to complain about.**

– True. Fortunately I wasn't named

on any of the bribes lists the cops found. You know where the money went. But I had to spend millions of FIFA's money on these clowns Pieth, Garcia and Borbely. And then spend even more making sure the investigations were buried.

**But you did it! You kept control. Congratulations. You survived and you are about to win one more term.**

– Only one more? My mission will never be completed.

**What is your mission?**  
– I don't know. I'll ask Walter de Gregorio to think of something confusing. But he won't be round for long. I hear that he and his blood brother Peter Hargitay are trying to get jobs with Qatar or Russia before everything collapses at FIFA.

**Why should it all collapse?**  
– You can't fool all of the people all of the time.

**But you still have the un-audited development grants to distribute? And all those bundles of World Cup tickets?**

– We are going to take a bath on Russia and Qatar. The fans aren't going; we will be giving away tickets



to schoolkids to fill the stadiums, the sponsors won't go, the money isn't going to be there.

**Maybe you should get out early and get Valcke in place before that Sheikh from Kuwait pushes you out.**

– We are ready for that. I have told Jerome that when he succeeds me, shred everything, do what the Russians did and wipe the hard drives. If the cops ever come, there will be no evidence. I have also told him, as you said to me in 1998, that I will keep my mouth shut as long as I get the pension, the unlimited expense account and first class travel.

**A man of my importance needs to be able to order \$600 bottles of wines.**

– What advice would you give to Valcke, when he succeeds me? Who influenced you most?

**No doubt, Castor Andrade.**



– Andrade! But he was Brazil's top gangster, he worked with the Italian and Israeli mobsters and his fishing fleet bought the white powder from Colombia.

**All true! His friendship, guidance and patronage was perfect preparation for running**

**an international syndicate like FIFA. That photo of me with him at his daughter's wedding says it all.**

**It was his idea to set up the kickbacks from the ISL marketing company. I gave them the entire World Cup TV**

**and marketing contracts and I must have made around \$50 million from ISL. Everybody got a slice. Remind me, what did you get?**

– No comment. That's history. Gotta go. Don't answer the door to strangers.

# The official Jack Warner Mulberry Handbag

**Concealed compartment for hiding money due for Haiti Earthquake victims**

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Unleash a tsunami of your favourite Warnerisms when your enemies attack! Phrases include:

- 'What is this discredited nonsense?'
- 'Zionism is the most important reason why this acrid attack was mounted.'
- 'Your mother!'
- 'This smacks of racism of the worst kind!'
- 'My brother Mohamed, can I have some money please?'

**Customised Qatari Rial Pocket**

Ideal for all those payments from your dear brothers in Doha!

**Panic button**

In case you feel 'derided, betrayed and embarrassed' in the handbag's presence. Connects directly to spin doctor Peter Hargitay, so he can brief patsy journalists about your torment.

**Monogram**

So that the special woman in your life feels truly part of the FIFA Family! [Manufacturers' note: personalise any name that you like, so long as it is Maureen]





# JACK WARNER'S "TSUNAMI."

## 'I could reveal how much Blatter pays himself'

*Former FIFA vice-president Jack Warner granted the IHT an exclusive interview last week at his concrete and barbed-wire hideaway in the Joao Havelange Centre of Excellence in Trinidad, paid for by FIFA.*

**IHT: Mr Warner, why did you resign from FIFA in 2011?**

**JW:** There was no more money to steal. Our great Leader Mr Havelange had taught me and Sepp Blatter to steal until the FIFA bank account was empty. He learned that from his gangster associates in the Rio mafia. You must have seen the photo of him at that "Godfather" wedding in the 1980s.

**IHT: I have never seen a press release about this.**

**JW:** Now I have retired I can tell you. A handful of us – some gone, some still there – have taken every bribe or kickback that can be extracted from the global game. Our expenses claims were vast. But there are no more World Cup bidding bribes, no new marketing contracts to skim, they will not supply me with thousands of World Cup tickets to sell into the Black Market. It was time to retire.

**IHT: You were deputy chair of FIFA's finance committee. What is the state of FIFA finances now?**

**JW:** Blatter is concealing a financial crisis. FIFA is living on borrowed money. The Brazil profits have already been spent servicing the rolling loans.

**IHT: What are they?**

**JW:** We did this in 2001 when Blatter needed money for bogus development grants to buy him enough votes to be re-elected. Finance Director Urs Linsi raised nearly \$500 million by mortgaging future profits from the 2002 and 2006 World Cups. Blatter did it again three years ago. It is easy to hide in the Finance Report. Delegates never read it. Once Blatter is re-elected the development grants will dry up. The Goal Program will become the Offside - No Goal program.

**IHT: What did you learn from Sepp Blatter?**

**JW:** We both taught each other about laundering the money. He has his offshore accounts and I have mine. But never at the same bank.

**IHT: Why?**

**JW:** That FBI investigation is never

going to end until somebody from FIFA goes to jail. The Feds have traced a lot of bank accounts and we can't risk losing everything.

**IHT: There is no FIFA press release about an FBI investigation. Are you sure?**

**JW:** Why do you think I never, ever travel out of Trinidad any more? I might get arrested. When they detained my son Daryan at Kennedy Airport and took him to the FBI Field Office in Miami they told him they could indict me for tax evasion, theft, bribery and financial and electoral fraud.

**IHT: What has Daryan told the FBI?**

**JW:** Daryan was my money manager, he knows who was bribed to get the World Cup to Russia and to Qatar. In return for no jail time Daryan told the FBI who paid, who got the money and the banks where it is hidden now.

**IHT: Are the FBI going to indict you and Blatter?**

**JW:** It's worrying that a Grand Jury is still sitting in New York, reviewing the evidence they seized when they arrested my dear friend Chuck Blazer in 2011.

**IHT: Mr Blazer is co-operating with the FBI?**

**JW:** Yes, but maybe not for long. You know I am a deeply religious man and any death saddens me enormously so I am cast down by the rumours that cancer has brought Chuck close to death's door and he may not be testifying.

**IHT: Apparently there is another crucial, co-operating witness.**

**JW:** WHAAAT! NOBODY TOLD ME!

**IHT: What do you miss?**

**JW:** I miss the good old days at Concacaf HQ in Trump Tower. The office staff were such fun. When I arrived in town I would throw open the door and they would echo my cry, "Where's the pusssee?"

**IHT: What about Jeff Webb, the man who replaced you at Concacaf and is now a FIFA vice-president?**

**JW:** I created Jeff - he would be



nothing without me.

**IHT: What about Sunil Gulati?**

**JW:** Who? Is this one of Blatter's house trained women on the ExCo? With Moya and Lydia? I can never remember their names. Neither could Sepp.

**IHT: No, he is president of US Soccer.**

**JW:** Oh, him, the silent one. Before he was allowed to join the ExCo Blatter arranged a surgical procedure to have his tongue cut out. He is an economics professor and might ask questions about how much Blatter siphons out of FIFA every year.

**IHT: How much is that?**

**JW:** No way! There's never going to be a press release on that either.

**IHT: Who does know?**

**JW:** Grondona was chairman of Finance and he has taken that secret to his grave. I was his deputy. Issa Hayatou who replaced him will never talk. Not after the bribes scandal at the IOC.

**IHT: What about Domenico Scala, the new independent audit chairman? He knows.**

**JW:** Who appointed him?

**IHT: Sepp Blatter.**

**JW:** There's your answer.

**IHT: Will football ever find out?**

**JW:** Revealing what Sepp earns is my threatened tsunami, my last line of defence. Chuck and I stole about \$90 million from FIFA – and I have this wonderfully profitable sports centre.

We have a deal. I keep what I stole and I never reveal how much Blatter steals every year.

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# AGONY AUNT

IHT's own Agony Aunt Peta answers your most pressing questions.

**Q Dear Peta**  
**There's a girl who I thought I might like, but she knows me and my family and turned on us. What do I do?**

*Walter, Zurich*

**A** Knowledge is power, but, some knowledge is particularly powerful. You need to know everything about this woman. Emails, phone records, bank accounts, diary events. Only then can you discern her weaknesses.

Have you considered assistance from an external consultancy? We collect information. We invade a system of injustice and operate from within the eye of a cyclone. Our shared knowledge can be your power. Women are funny characters and prone to acting beyond the realms of rationality. We can help fight back. Fake websites, disinformation, smears, even fake bank accounts. We are not choosy in our means. We publish, rattle and unveil. We don't just stand by and cry.

**Q Dear Peta**  
**I lost my job with a blue chip employer after I suggested they bribed some Africans. I know it's wrong, but everyone else is doing it. How do I get my own back?**

*Stevie, London*

**A** Revenge is nine-tenths of the law. I suggest you find someone stupid or vulnerable - look for a woman, always a good starting point when searching for these qualities - who is close to your old boss. Next, mike her up, get a camera with a long distance lens, and follow her when she meets the target. You will have briefed her on leading questions - such as some mad Spanish plot to bribe World Cup referees - and watch her reel him in. This will be tomorrow's front page news.

As well as all this you'll have done a bit of web design and used your finest creative writing skills to produce a blog that suggests your informant is simultaneously having an affair with the target, whilst also suffering from a mental illness. Thus when the story hits the front pages, everybody is discredited and accusations about your own role are ignored!

**Q Dear Peta**  
**My country is very keen to host the 2026 World Cup. What is the key factor for a successful bid?**

*Kim, Pyongyang*

**A** My friend, I give you two factors for the price of one.

Firstly, you hire me. Secondly, I give you Usain Bolt. He is a close family friend of ours. He will do anything I ask him to. He owes me big time anyway. He can be our number one ambassador. Wouldn't that be fantastic? That would blow their minds out on the ExCo. 'The fastest man on the world, the most famous sportsman in the world, supporting North Korea's bid.'

**Q Dear Peta**  
**It's my dream to see the World Cup hosted in my home country. I'd like to sell the virtues of our nation - sporting prowess, hospitality, great weather, fantastic food, amazing sights - and engage with the global football community, but in an honest and transparent way. How do I go about doing this?**

*Bonita, Sydney*

Are you an idiot? Are. You. An. Idiot? You never do that. Do you understand? Never. Are you crazy? You're an idiot.



## Real Estate Insider

# THE HOTTEST DEALS IN THE HOTTEST PLACES

## Qatar! Cyprus! Trinidad! Russia!

BY PROPERTY REPORTER HANS J. GARCIA

### The Hot Deal!

Searching for that perfect summer home? Look no further than LUSAIL - a future city planned for 28 square miles of Qatari desert waterfront on the Persian Gulf.

What do you mean it hasn't even been built yet? Don't worry about that - look at the plans. The city will feature a commercial district, a lagoon, four islands, two marinas, an upscale shopping mall, a hospital, a zoo, two golf courses and housing for 250,000 people although it has yet to be revealed just what those people will do but, as the saying goes, build it and they will come (for four weeks).

Also planned: an 86,000-seat soccer stadium, surrounded by a moat, that will host the 2022 FIFA World Cup final.

The city will be fitted with a network of surveillance cameras, monitored around the clock, to keep streets safe, although who knew there was any crime in Qatar?

The metropolis will be built by migrant workers flown in from South East Asia. They won't be allowed to go home until their job is finished. Construction is guaranteed!

They may, of course, die on the job if previous experience is anything to go by. This is not your concern. It is somebody else's concern.

"We are extremely concerned about any allegations about labour exploitation," said a Lusail Real Estate Development Company spokesperson, conveniently.

For more details, please see the 2022 Qatar World Cup Technical



Report (you will be the first person to ever read it).

### For Sale

Cyprus. Part Greek! Part Turkish! Mediterranean paradise! What's not to love about this sunny island? Empty and unused land ready for development and for sale at bargain prices. Just \$100. Cash only. Unless you're calling from Qatar. In which case \$35 million. No sale declined. No questions asked. Or answered. Efaristo. Ask for Marios.

### For Rent

Manhattan. Two luxury prestige apartments in Trump Tower overlooking Central Park. Plenty of room for pet cats and a talking parrot. Storage space available for a fleet of motorized mobility scooters. Now vacant because of unexpected retirement. Call 1-800-FBI-CASE. Ask for Chuck (request that he does not secretly record your conversation).

### Finance Available

Your personal financial future

can be secured with our one-time non-refundable loan offer. Just tell our representative of your wish to build a football stadium on an island paradise, forward your personal bank account details with your application form, and a trusted government will send payment of up to USD\$500,000 direct to you! For legal reasons, Trinidad location preferred. Never to be repeated (or spoken about) offer! No questions asked - our local media is 99.7% compliant. Email: Frank@aussiesoccer.gov.au, peter@unioncarbide.com, or fedor@beckenbauer.com.de.

### For Lease

Gas fields, Yamal Peninsula, Russia. We are seeking joint venture partners to develop sought after natural resources located in isolated Arctic regions. Previous experience required (preferably in desert environment or Middle East region). Bonus to be paid on signing: hosting rights for 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups. Email igor@sechin.gov.ru or hamad@qatar.qa







# TRAVELLER'S TALES

**We talk to a world traveller who gives his top three tips for travelling in style.**



**Name:** Michael J Garcia  
**Occupation:** Attorney  
**Lives:** New York City

**IHT: How often do you travel?**

**MJG:** It depends on my client list at any particular time.

**You recently had an interesting experience spending more than 18 months and US\$10 million doing some work for FIFA?**

Yes! It was an experience of a lifetime.

**What sort of travel did you do?**

Well that's the thing. It was all First Class. That's just what these people do – that is, those who don't have their own private jet.

**So you experienced First Class in just one airline or many?**

Oh my! I mean I had to go to some out-of-the-way places all around the world.

**Oh. So do you mean Aeroflot?**

(Laughs) No, no, no. They wouldn't let me in! What a hoot. I sent my colleagues Cornel (Borbely) and Tim (Flynn) there instead.

**That must have been an eye-opening experience for them.**

Not really. They didn't find a thing. Nyet. They were in-and-out in a matter of hours – after they got a personal tour of The Hermitage. They didn't even bother seeing everyone involved in the Russian World Cup bid once they realized they poor Ruskys didn't keep their computers.

**Oh yes, that is a hoot. They can send a man to space but they don't know how to back-up their computers. So where did you go exactly?**

Let me see. London. Madrid. Brussels. Amsterdam. Lisbon. Tokyo. Seoul. Sydney. And Oman.

**O-Man?**

Here's the thing. The Qataris didn't want to me to go to Doha so we met in neighbouring Oman instead.

**I think it's Oman and it's not really neighbouring.**

Close enough.

**OK. So what were your impressions?**

Look, there's no doubt that the hotel room with the best view was Sydney. Man, that harbour, that bridge and that opera house are really special. And the weather was fantastic. Not that we experienced it of course – oh, except when this really neat luxury boat turned up for a private tour.

**You had time for that?**

Australia is very friendly, and we needed a bit of R&R. It's not as if we were given any gifts anything.

**So what else took your fancy?**

We loved the personal tour of Bernabeu.

**But I thought the Spain/Portugal bid team didn't talk to you?**

No, they didn't talk to us about their bid. But they showed us around the Bernabeu, gave us VVIP tickets to El Clasico and took us to dinner at El Bulli.

**It's closed.**

What?

**El Bulli – the restaurant.**

**It's closed.**

(Winks) Not to those in the know!

We were the only ones there, that's true, but it was magnificent and Angel di Maria Villar Llona certainly knows his wines.

**So the best hotel was in Sydney. The best experience was in Madrid. What about the best airline?**

It has to be Qatar Airways.

**But I thought you didn't go to Qatar.**

We didn't. But we thought it only 'right' to fly the different national airlines so we took a Qatar Airways flight to Doha and then went on to O-Man.

**Oman. Right. So tell us about Qatar Airways?**

What can I say? I ate like Chuck Blazer, I drank like .... oh well, most of the FIFA Executive Committee ... and I slept like Nicolas Leoz in a meeting. It was wonderful. And then they gave us some Giorgio Armani amenities with a special gift inside.

**Oh. What was that?**

It was incredible. The amenities bag included a his-and-hers Armani watch.

**You didn't think you should give them back?**

No! It's not as if they were Parmigiani watches worth 25,000 bucks. Just one-tenth of that. I mean, in Qatar terms, they really were of 'incidental' value which comes within FIFA's policy.

**And were you happy with the work that you did for FIFA?**

Oh sure. Like any good attorney, I fulfilled the brief.

**But you left.**

I went around the world. I had a wonderful time. I did exactly what my client wanted. What more was there to do? Sometimes you just know when it's time to move on.

**So after all those experiences and all those air miles, what are your three top tips for people who want to travel in style?**

Easy.

1. Get a client like FIFA who knows what travel is all about.
2. Go with an open mind when you're talking to people from a different culture. If they tell you they can't help you, they can't help you.
3. Remember you're a visitor in another country – so don't ask any embarrassing questions.



**CLOCKWISE FROM TOP:**

**Outside the Bernabeu before kick-off in El Clasico**

**Qatar Airways First class**

**Picturesque Sydney Harbour**

**Outside El Bulli restaurant**

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# MESSI HAT-TRICK HELPS SINK MALDIVES

## Qatar's stellar start to Russia 2018 qualifying

Male, June 12, 2015

by Jeremy Lambrusco,  
Sports Correspondent

Qatar has begun its World Cup qualifying campaign for Russia 2018 with a commanding 6-0 win over Asian minnows, the Maldives, with new acquisition Leo Messi helping himself to a hat-trick.

Fellow new signings, Cristiano Ronaldo, Wayne Rooney and Zlatan Ibrahimovic were also on target as 'al-Ghaniyy' (the rich) dominated from first whistle to last.

Messi, whose citizenship application was approved in record time (two seconds), first attracted the attention of the Qatari's when they saw him play for Barcelona, whose shirt sponsors are Qatar Airways. Messi's charitable foundation is also supported by the Aspire Academy, based in Doha.

A quick check of the FIFA eligibility rules confirmed that was enough for him to claim a passport. Messi himself pointed out that he'd already represented Argentina, but ex Argentine FA President, Julio Grondona - the former FIFA Vice-President, who sided with Qatar in the 2022 World Cup voting, on the basis that "a vote for the US would be like a vote for England" - reportedly left instructions in his will approving the transfer.

The Qatari's paid an \$885 million transfer fee to seal the switch, subsequently approved by Sepp Blatter, who referred to Grondona as his "right-hand man."

Ronaldo's move was equally straightforward. As part of the collusion pact between Spain/Portugal and Qatar, Ronaldo is eligible for all three countries.

Rooney and Ibrahimovic meantime, are currently representing Qatar on loan. Rooney in part down payment from the UK for funding the building of The Shard in London; while Ibrahimovic's deal has been generously bankrolled by Paris St Germain's owners, the Qatar Investment Authority.

Qatar is keen to prove itself on the world stage ahead of its World Cup hosting, and so qualification for 2018 is vital. After a decade of pumping money into the Aspire Academy, the results just aren't coming quickly enough.

The shift in policy came about thanks to conversations between the QFA and the Director of the Aspire Academy, Josep Colomer.

Colomer was formerly with Barcelona, and is the man responsible for traversing the globe to find the next Messi. Promising young talents - normally from the poorest nations - end up on three-

year scholarships in Doha, with the best ending up in the Qatar national team.

Colomer himself discovered Messi as a 13-year-old in Rosario, Argentina. So, technically he was a promising young talent when Colomer found him - and why wait for a new Messi to come along, when you can simply buy the real thing?

When pulling on the maroon jersey of their new employers, there is no need for Messi, Ronaldo, Rooney and Ibrahimovic to feel like outsiders - they are in good company. Out of the 46 players selected by Qatar to compete at the last two Asian Cups, no fewer than 20 have been born overseas - almost half.

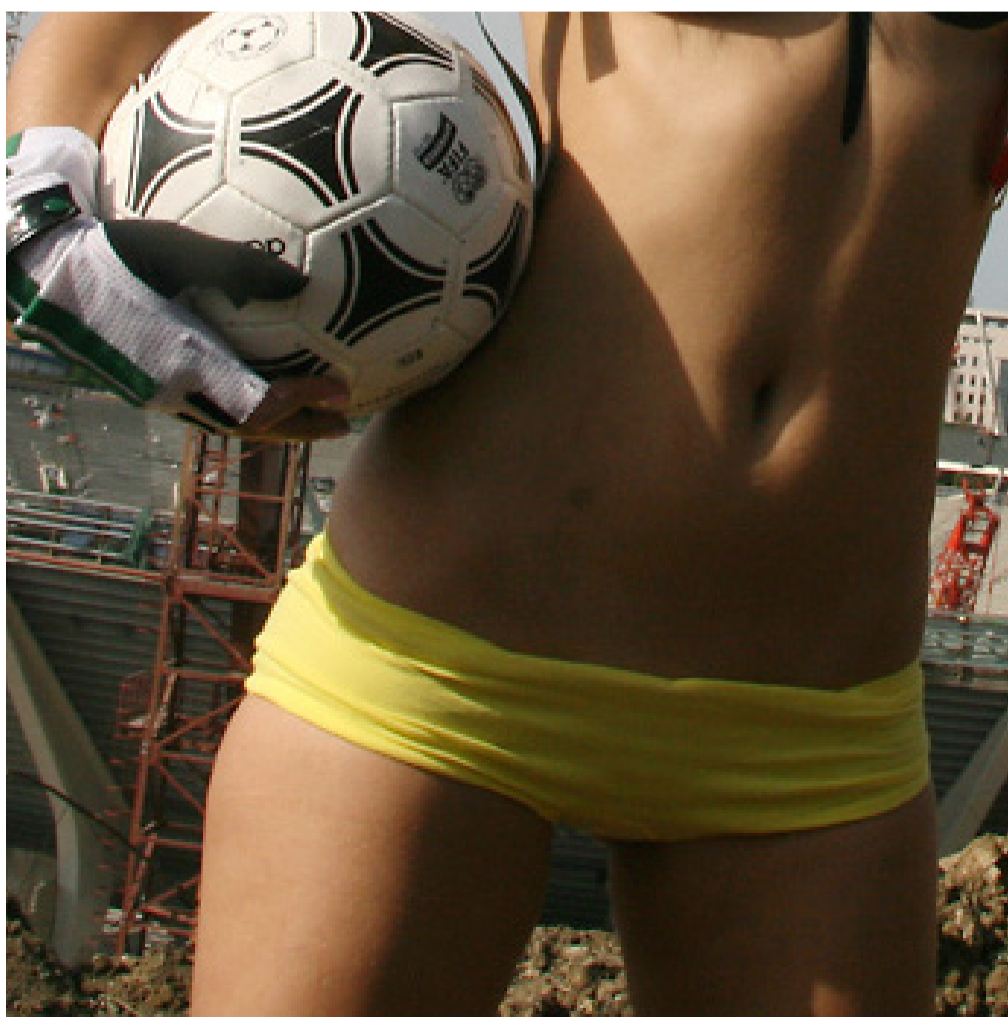
This is the future of football. With the forces of globalisation impacting on every part of the world's economy and national borders now opening up like never before, Qatar is merely blazing a trail for others (with money) to follow. Eventually, the richest nations will simply import their national team talent.

And the rest? Like Qatar's World Cup opponents, the Maldives, they are powerless to resist the tide, and will slowly sink. Only the international community can save them.



### QATAR'S 20 TOP IMPORTS BEFORE MESSI, RONALDO, ROONEY AND ZLATAN

- Wesam Rizk (born Kuwait)
- Luiz Jr (Brazil)
- Mohamed Kasola (Ghana)
- Lawrence Quaye (Ghana)
- Bilal Mohamed (Sudan)
- Mesaad Al-Hamad (Yemen)
- Hussein Yasser (Egypt)
- Fabio Cesar (Brazil)
- Yusuf Ahmed (Saudi Arabia)
- Talal Al-Bloushi (Kuwait)
- Sebastian Soria (Uruguay)
- Qasem Burhan (Senegal)
- Ibrahim Majid (Kuwait)
- Ali Assadalla (Bahrain)
- Magid Mohamed (Sudan)
- Boualem Khoukhi (Algeria)
- Mohammed Muntari (Ghana)
- Karim Boudiaf (France)
- Ahmed Abdul Maqsoud (Egypt)
- Mohammed Tresor Abdullah (DR Congo)



## Blatter Reveals Manifesto 'Record speak for itself'

Zurich  
by Jeremy Lambrusco,  
Sports Correspondent

With less than four days to go before the vote for FIFA President, Sepp Blatter has belatedly gone on the campaign trail, promising to answer any questions posed by the media for one day only - at least, after he has taken his eight-hour sabbatical nap. Media chief, Walter D. Gregorio, says that leaves plenty of time for the world's press to get their questions in via the official FIFA Press Office.

In a further surprise move, Blatter has distributed a one-page manifesto for the Presidential campaign in which he makes clear that he has embraced goal-line technology and it is to be implemented at all levels of the game, right around the world. Immediately.

While this presents a huge challenge in terms of cost, Blatter has found the solution with new sponsor, the Qatar Investment

Authority, to take over the manufacturing of the microchips to be implanted in millions of footballs around the globe.

The QIA are promising heavy investment into the project, with thousands more jobs to be provided at an expanded Doha base once its built. Already, Qatar is processing applications from many Indians, Nepalese, Pakistanis, Bengalis, Filipinos and Sri Lankans, who will be offered rolling contracts.

Blatter's commitment to the new technology represents another U-turn by the FIFA President who has been famously flip-flopping on the issue for ten years.

In 2005 he said:

"We will definitely use the technology in Germany next year if the experiment works in Peru."

In 2009, he said:

"Please do not insist on the technology. The day the referee takes two captains aside to study monitors...is the day the spectators say no, we are not

coming to the game."

In 2012, after Ukraine were denied a certain goal against England in the European Championships, he responded with this:

"Goal-line technology is no longer an alternative, but a necessity."

The only other part of Blatter's manifesto surrounds women's football.

Describing himself as the "godfather" of the women's game, Blatter says the female game still limps behind the men's and that there is still plenty of work to do.

As a start, Blatter, once President of the World Society of Friends of Suspenders, is considering revisiting his 2004 idea for women to wear tighter shorts - an idea he returned to when he received his Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo recently.

The manifesto ends with Blatter's campaign slogan, which reads:

"17 years as President is my manifesto."

His record, clearly, speaks for itself.



# SKINS RENEW OFFICIAL NON- SPONSORSHIP OF FIFA.

It is with deep regret that SKINS are proud to announce our continued flagship non-sponsorship of FIFA. The complete misalignment of values makes this non-partnership as relevant today as it was the day we became FIFA's first official non-sponsor. The decision to renew our global anti-association of FIFA will allow SKINS to champion real sporting values.

We have, and always will love sport played with fairness, flair and sportsmanship. It is still at the heart of everything we do. As long as these values remain unmatched we will stay proud and true to our non-sponsorship commitment. The perfect un-matching of FIFA values allow us to continue our mission to promote sport free from corruption and lies (and you can't put a price on that).

**We still gladly welcome other non-sponsors to join us in our goal to get FIFA's goals disallowed.**

**Join us at** [officialnonsponsor.com](http://officialnonsponsor.com)



OFFICIAL **NON-SPONSOR**

**#NewFIFANow**



# *Be on the right side of history.*

You know this 'newspaper' isn't true, don't you? It's a fantasy and a parody.

But with a serious message for the FIFA Congress and for FIFA's partners and sponsors on behalf of many fans, players and media around the world.

We thought about the important things people like us would *like* to see happen at FIFA and we put it into this publication.

- A re-vote for the 2018 and 2022 tournaments.
- FIFA's partners and sponsors being consistent with their own corporate values and demanding change.
- Opening up FIFA's accounts to proper scrutiny and accountability.
- Using football as a force for good by demanding reform of Qatar's kafala system.
- Major meetings being streamed live and minutes placed online.
- Sepp Blatter realising that his legacy is shot to pieces unless he does something to make good all that is wrong with FIFA.
- The United Nations overseeing reform.
- A restructure of the Executive Committee which gives fans and players some input into its management.

We also had a bit of fun with other stories showing up some of the absurdity, excesses, greed and behavior of those who are well known – like Sepp Blatter, Joao Havelange and Jack Warner – and those who are the faceless men behind FIFA's 'colorful characters'.

The point is if it wasn't actually true, you couldn't make this up.

Who would believe that the world governing body of the most popular sport in the world could be so morally bankrupt? Who would believe that the culture of the organization is so entrenched that it is impossible to change while the current leadership is in place? Who

would believe that, in an international organization that claims it is 'for the game, for the world', dissent is silenced so effectively that decent men and women are too afraid to speak out for fear of losing their valued position?

So this is our serious message for the FIFA Congress and for FIFA sponsors: we love football, but we abhor, and are embarrassed by, FIFA.

The serial allegations of corruption and mismanagement that have plagued FIFA for years do not reflect the way we think the game should be run.

The people who run football are custodians of the game, yet they almost effortlessly and constantly bring the game's management – not the game itself – into disrepute.

FIFA does not own football. The 209 Presidents of national football federations who form the FIFA Congress do not own football. In fact, no-one owns football.

Because football belongs to all of us.

And if FIFA Congress or FIFA's partners and sponsors are not willing or able to take a stand, then they will one day find themselves condemned:

for inaction when they could have taken action; for being feeble when they could have shown some leadership; for remaining silent instead of speaking-up.

To the members of the FIFA Congress: this Congress is an opportunity to be on the right side of history. Show fans, players and the children of the world that you love the game more than you love your role in it.

To the partners and sponsors: it is time for you to live up to your respective corporate values. It's time to show your moral compass and to hold an organization to which you contribute so much financially, to account.

People want change. It's our game.

Help us reclaim football and achieve a new FIFA. Now.

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