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LEAGUE CROWDS REACH 47-YEAR HIGH

- Championship crowds break 10m barrier -

The Football League has recorded its highest set of attendance figures in the modern era. In total, more than 16.4m supporters attended matches during the 2006/07 season – a rise of 1.6% and 250,000 admissions on last season.

Crowds are now at their highest levels since the 1959/60 season (18.1m) and have more than doubled in the last two decades, confirming The Football League's position as the best-attended sporting competition in Europe.

Additionally, total gates in the *Coca-Cola* Championship have broken the 10m barrier for the first time since 1950/51. Crowds in The League's top division averaged 18,221 fans per match, a rise of 3.5% on 2005/06. The *Coca-Cola* Championship is the 4th most watched League in Europe with its total audience only bettered by the Premiership, Germany's Bundesliga and Spain's La Liga.

In *Coca-Cola* Leagues 1 and 2 more than 4.1m and 2.2m supporters, respectively, attended matches. Crowds now average 7,492 in League 1 and 4,131 in League 2.

In welcoming these figures Football League Chairman Lord Mawhinney said:

"It is very encouraging to be able to report that crowds at League matches have risen for the fifth time in six seasons and are now at their highest levels for 47 years.

"These figures underline the tremendous commitment shown by supporters towards their clubs. On behalf of the clubs, I offer my thanks to everyone that has attended matches.

"I am particularly pleased to report that more than 300,000 young supporters took advantage of ticket offers provided under The League's Fans of the Future initiative, which aims to get the next

generation of young fans watching live football at their local League club.

“Our challenge now is to find ways to move The League’s attendance figures past the 17 million mark.”

The League’s two showpiece cup competitions also prospered during 2006/07. A 2.6% rise in attendance levels took the Carling Cup’s total crowds past the 1.1m mark, whilst the Johnstone’s Paint Trophy enjoyed a bumper first year - following a re-launch designed to raise the profile of the competition - with crowds up by 48%.

Once again, The Football League’s attendance figures compare favourably with Europe’s other major footballing nations. Crowds in the *Coca-Cola* Championship are more than twice the size of the equivalent competitions in France, Italy and Spain and still comfortably ahead of the 15,957 average gates being recorded in Germany.

Similarly, *Coca-Cola* League 1 matches are watched by more than three times their Italian and French equivalents and almost twice the number watching the same level of football in Germany, whilst *Coca-Cola* League 2 games are watched by almost three and a half times as many people as those at the same level of Italian football.

Notes to Editors:

- **2006/07 Football League Attendance Figures**

Figures for 2005/06 in brackets

Coca-Cola Football League:

Total: **16,473,930** (16,216,672)

Average: **9,948** (9,793)

% Change: **+1.6%**

Coca-Cola Championship:

Total: **10,058,018** (9,719,264)

Average: **18,221** (17,607)

% Change: **+3.5%**

Coca-Cola League 1:

Total: **4,135,690** (4,182,180)

Average: **7,492** (7,576)

% Change: **-1.1%**

Coca-Cola League 2:

Total: **2,280,222** (2,315,228)

Average: **4,131** (4,194)

% Change: **-1.5%**

Carling Cup:

Total: **1,100,403** (1,072,362)

Average: **11,832** (11,531)

% Change: **+2.6%**

Johnstone's Paint Trophy

Total: **211,047** (176,942)

Average: **4,307** (2,901)

% Change: **+48.5%**

- Figures are based on unofficial figures issued by clubs to the media. There may be a small variance with the final official figures, which only become a matter of record once all gate statements have been received and processed by The Football League.

- Historical analysis based on the transcription of The Football League ledgers by Brian Tabner. Figures for seasons prior to 1992/93 are based on Divisions 2, 3 and 4 of The Football League.

- **European Comparisons**

Source: www.european-football-statistics.co.uk

France

Level 2 (Championship equivalent) - 6,429

Level 3 (LG1 equivalent) – 2,094

Germany

Level 2 (Championship equivalent) – 15,957

Level 3 (LG1 equivalent) – 3,774

Italy

Level 2 (Championship equivalent) – 8,258

Level 3 (LG1 equivalent) – 2,448

Level 4 (LG 2 equivalent) – 1,187

Netherlands

Level 2 (Championship equivalent) – 3,283

Level 3 (LG1 equivalent) – 813

Spain

Level 2 (Championship equivalent) – 7,924

- **Historical Attendance Growth**

Season	Aggregate Attendance
1985/86	7,450,652
1992/93	10,888,901
1997/98	13,600,502
2001/02	14,803,081

2002/03	14,871,981
2003/04	15,889,750
2004/05	16,364,419
2005/06	16,216,672
2006/07	16,473,930