



Press Release

UEFA Champions League **Real Madrid vs Arsenal** **Tuesday 21 February @ 9.30pm**

Both Real Madrid CF and Arsenal FC have a history rich in European tradition and their trophy cabinets pay testament to their success on foreign fields. Yet they have never before crossed swords in UEFA club competition, a factor adding more intrigue to this mouth-watering first round tie.

Although their results so far would suggest that Arsenal approach the fixture as favourites – their opponents lost twice in finishing second in Group F – Madrid's confidence lies in their traditional superiority over English sides in the home-and-away format. Strangely, they have fared less well in one-off games, going down to Liverpool FC in the 1980/81 European Champion Clubs' Cup final and to Chelsea FC both in the 1970/71 UEFA Cup Winners' Cup final, though that game went to a replay, and the 1998 UEFA Super Cup.

Both teams will be eager to erase the memory of defeat at this stage in last season's competition. A 3-1 defeat in Germany left Arsenal with too much to do at home to FC Bayern Munchen and they needed more than Henry's lone strike. Madrid, pursuing a ninth successive quarter-final berth, won their home leg against Juventus through Ivan Helguera's header but succumbed 2-0 away after extra time.

This year, both teams have plenty to prove, as they try to piece together patchy seasons. It's a game for the ages and one you should not miss. It's Beckham and Ronaldo versus Pires and Henry, Tuesday at 9.30pm, live and free, only on eTV

For further information and pictures please contact:

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