



Press Release

UEFA Champions League **Villarreal vs. Arsenal** **Tuesday 25 April @ 8.30pm**

Arsene Wenger has called on his emerging side to continue to produce "great" performances as they enter the defining stage of their season over the next seven days.

Kolo Toure's first goal of the campaign late in the first half against Villarreal on Wednesday night proved enough to give the Gunners a slender lead to protect in the second leg of their Champions League semi-final next week.

Before the trip to Spain, however, there is the small matter of a crunch Barclays Premiership clash with north-London rivals Tottenham at Highbury, which last night hosted its final European tie.

Wenger declared: "We want a great performance, but we have a big game on Saturday [against Tottenham] before that, and of course we want to deal well with that game too."

The Arsenal boss added: "I always say you always need two good games if you want to go through. We have another one in front of us."

While the Arsenal boss conceded his team could have made their possession count with at least a further goal, he was happy enough with the end result.

"It was a tense game where we could have got one more goal," said Wenger, who witnessed what looked a perfectly good effort from Thierry Henry ruled out for offside during the first half.

"We were in a difficult situation once we were 1-0 up between keeping a clean sheet and going forwards. We did not really find our flow in the second half."

The Arsenal boss added: "I feel we paid a bit the price physically for playing many games.

"We lost a bit of sharpness which made us so dangerous when we won the ball in the other games."

Wenger would have liked to have given the Highbury faithful more to cheer about during their final night of European action at the famous old stadium, home to the Gunners since 1913.

"We could maybe have scored one more," said Wenger, whose side will play at the new 60,000-seater Emirates Stadium in nearby Ashburton Grove next season.

"You want always to give everything to everybody, but it is not always predictable. You cannot do it on command - even us."

To see whether Arsenal can play in their first ever Champions League final on 17 May in France, watch them as they face the Yellow Submarine of Villarreal, live from the el Madrigal Stadium, on e.tv from 8.30pm on Tuesday, 25 April.