



media release

CITY AND UNITED VICTORS ON FIRST NIGHT OF THE PREMIER LEAGUE ALL STARS

Premier League All Stars, the charity football element of the Premier League's Creating Chances community initiative, kicked off last night at the All Stars Arena. Legends, celebrities and fans united to play as the first four teams to take to the pitch launching the week-long, knock-out competition that will see the ultimate champions winning £100,000 for their Club's nominated charity. The other Clubs charities will all benefit from the remaining pot of £200,000. All of the action is live on Sky One every night from 8pm.

First up was Manchester United versus Blackburn Rovers. Angus Deayton, Darren Campbell and Radio One's Chappers lined up for Manchester United alongside legends Lee Sharpe, Clayton Blackmore, Ray Wilkins and Fraser Digby in goal. Angus Deayton said he'd wanted to play for the Red Devils "since I was about seven...which is about 150 years ago!" These famous faces were joined by three fans fulfilling their dreams on the pitch. Blackburn fielded a side that included celebrity fans Steven Pinder from Brookside, Neil Arthur of 80s band Blancmange and fashion designer Wayne Hemingway. And Wayne's son Jack Hemingway played alongside his dad having won one of the ordinary fans spots in the squad. Legends returning to wear the Blackburn strip again were Simon Garner, Matt Jansen and goalkeeper, Alan Fettis. Wayne Hemingway was talking tough ahead of kick off saying, "We're Lancashire, they're Greater Manchester – we kicked them out of Lancashire a long time, now we'll kick them out of the Premier League All Stars."

The first goal came from Simon Garner for Blackburn and Rovers held the lead for much of the first half with Alan Fettis proving he's still a force to be reckoned with in goal at the other end. It was in the penultimate minute that Clayton Blackmore managed to equalise for Man U. Shortly into the second half Lee Sharpe came on replacing Ray Wilkins and immediately claimed the Reds second goal – the last touch in fact went to Blackburn's Steven Pinder. The third and final goal came from Manchester United's Darren Campbell leading the Red's to a 3-1 victory and putting Blackburn out.

Next up were Everton and Manchester City. Punk wildman Donny Tourette, Lee Latchford Evans of Steps and Brookside's Simon O'Brien were the celebrity players for Everton. They were joined by legends Neville Southall, Dave Watson and Adrian Heath and, of course, three lucky fans stepping out of the stands and onto the pitch. Representing Man City were legends Rodney Marsh, Nicky Summerbee, Keith Curle

and Andy Dibble. Snooker player Nigel Bond, rogue trader Nick Leeson and former Pulp guitarist Ant Genn. And, of course, the fans. Donny Tourette was greeted by boos from the crowd every time he got a touch on the ball. Not sure if it was the lack of support that affected him but he was certainly off his game and the Toffeemen ultimately crumbled and went out of the contest with a 3-0 defeat. The goalscorers for Manchester City were Nicky Summerbee with a goal scored in the powerplay minute thereby counting as two and college tutor and lifelong Everton supporter Tom Beddard.

Donny Tourette bade farewell to the Arena, convinced that the crowd had been right behind him. He said, "Who's booing me?! All I can hear is cheers. I'm obviously their favourite tonight...I'm looking forward to a pint more. Everyone had a good go, I think we're alright, we'll get over it"