

Premier League clubs supporting PFA centenary campaign

FOOTBALLERS across the country will unite this week in a bid to raise money for sick children.

Every player in England has agreed to take part in the '*One Goal, One Million*' Awareness week to promote the 100th anniversary of the Professional Footballers Association.

Footballers at every single Premier League and Football League game around the country will wear T-shirts bearing the '*One Goal, One Million*' logo.

John Terry supports '*One Goal, One Million*' Zola and Shearer head-to-head for the PFA David Beckham, proud to support '*One Goal, One Million*'

The players want to promote a special charity game organised for Sunday December 2nd, 2007, in which an England Legends team will take on the Rest of the World – in aid of the '*One Goal, One Million*' appeal.

The appeal was specifically established to raise £1 million to build a Rehabilitation Unit at a new super Children's Hospital that will serve the whole country – an achievement that would serve as a lasting legacy to the PFA's Centenary Celebrations.

Legends Alan Shearer, Teddy Sheringham, Les Ferdinand, Jamie Redknapp, Robert Lee and Des Walker will pull on an England shirt once again to take on some of the greatest names on the planet.

Gianfranco Zola, Andrey Kanchelskis, Marcel Desailly, Dino Baggio, Denis Irwin, Stefan Freund and Roberto Di Matteo are jetting in for the Rest of the World to take part in this showpiece spectacular.

Liverpool captain Steven Gerrard, said: "It is a fantastic cause and we all want next weekend to be a terrific success. Some of the players involved in the game were heroes of mine, I am looking forward to seeing them in action again."

Chelsea skipper John Terry, said: "The game will be a fantastic occasion and we are proud to support the PFA in their efforts to raising £1 million. "It is for a fantastic cause and we hope everyone gets behind them and helps the 'One Goal, One Million' appeal to achieve its magnificent target."

Former England manager Terry Venables will take full charge of the national team for one final game while Sven Goran Eriksson will swap dug outs to guide the rest of the world.

Venables, said: "After the disappointment of England failing to qualify for the European Championships we hope this magnificent event will give the nation a lift.

"The PFA are trying to do something wonderful in this, their Centenary Year, and I am proud to support them, as are all the lads."

Eriksson, added: “It is an honour to be asked to take charge of the Rest of the World team. It will seem a little strange playing against England but I will be working with some fantastic players. Hopefully I will have an advantage because the game is being played at my home ground!”

The footballing legends will be supported by stars of stage and screen with a special celebrity warm-up match ahead of the main event, including guests from Coronation Street, Hollyoaks and Dream Team.

The two games will be broadcast to a worldwide audience of millions and it is hoped the City of Manchester Stadium will be sold out to capacity – of 46,000. Professionals across the country have already made staggering personal donations totalling more than £400,000 – and Team England – the official charity of the England players - have adopted the ‘One Goal, One Million’ appeal as one of their official partners.

The England squad wore T-shirts bearing the ‘One Goal, One Million’ logo to launch the ‘One Goal, One Million’ awareness week.

PFA Chief Executive Gordon Taylor, said: “It is fantastic that the England players are so keen to help support our appeal, along with their fellow professionals at clubs across the country.

“The Premier League and Football League have kindly agreed to allow us to hold the awareness week which we hope will promote our special game on December 2nd.

“We wanted to make a difference and decided to dedicate our Centenary to a worthwhile cause and there can’t be any better reason than to help improve the lives of young children.

“We decided it would be a fitting tribute to our association if we could try to raise £1 million to build a Rehabilitation Unit at the new Manchester Children’s Hospital.

“The players have already made massive personal contributions and now members of the public can get involved by coming along to watch some of their former favourites in action.”

England Squad: Chris Woods, Warren Barton, Paul Parker, Dave Watson, Gary Mabbutt, Gary Pallister, Des Walker, Nigel Winterburn, Graeme Le Saux, Robert Lee, Ray Parlour, Paul Ince, Dennis Wise, Jamie Redknapp, Steve McManaman, Steve Stone, Darren Anderton, Ray Parlour, Tony Daley, Paul Merson, David Platt, Steve Hodge, Alan Shearer, Les Ferdinand, Paul Walsh, Peter Beardsley, Teddy Sheringham.

Rest of the World: Neville Southall, Eric Thorstvedt, Roland Neilson, Lorenzo Amoroso, Richard Gough, Pietro Vierchowod, Marcel Desailly, Arthur Numan, Denis Irwin, Andrei Kanchelskis, Jay Jay Okocha, Roberto Di Matteo, Ali Bernabia, Neil Lennon, Gary McAllister, Dmitri Alenichev, Anders Limpar, Dino Baggio, Stefan Freund, Gianfranco Zola, Ruud Gullit, Ian Rush, Ally McCoist, Niall Quinn, Shaun Goater, Sergei Yuran, Mark Hughes.

Tickets are priced £10 for adults and £5 for children.
Telephone 0870 062 1894 (Option One – calls cost £1)
For further information contact James Fletcher at Onside Public Relations