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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Philosophy Football Tour Madrid

Philosophy Football FC announce 13th International Football Friendly tour

London's most unusual football club is embarking on a cultural-football tour to Madrid. From 3-6 November, Philosophy Football FC will play an international football tournament against a team of Spanish journalists at Real Madrid's training ground. The tour aims to celebrate football, food and culture whilst also promoting international friendship, peace and co-operation.

Philosophy Football FC believes that football can promote peace and friendship across both pitches and cultural boundaries. This year saw the 70th anniversary of the Spanish Civil War and the Hungarian Revolution broke out on this weekend fifty years ago. As the club visit Madrid they will commemorate the people who died in these struggles for freedom as well as those who lost their lives in the Madrid bombings of March 2004. In addition they will see Picasso's masterpiece *Guernica*, inspired by the horrific bombing of that city, take part in recital of football-inspired poetry, watch Real Madrid vs Celta Vigo and eat in some of Madrid's best restaurants.

History and vision

The club was founded in 1995 as the playing arm of the shirt company, Philosophy Football, those "sporting outfitters of intellectual distinction" (www.philosophyfootball.com) and play in the London Football League Division 1 (www.londonersfc.com). The team also organises a range of cultural and political events aimed at celebrating the beautiful game, as well as campaigns tackling racism and violence in football, and opposing the corporate dominance of the game.

“All that I know most surely about morality and obligations I owe to football”

Albert Camus

PFFC teams have always sought to promote friendship and internationalism across cultural boundaries. PFFC's Madrid touring party is composed of two teams - current players and legends - who will be travelling from 6 different cities (Rome, Cardiff, Paris, Zurich, London and Madrid) and include 9 different nationalities (USA, England, Italy, Wales, Scotland, Switzerland, New Zealand, France, Ireland). Even the PWAGS (Philosophy Wives and Girlfriends) span the globe originating from US, Australia, Thailand, Italy, and Norway.

This is the thirteenth International Football Friendly tour organised by the club. Other tours have been made to Rome, Paris, Zurich, Amsterdam, Prague, Brussels, and Catania. Here the team has variously celebrated some of the philosophers whose words adorn their shirts – the film director Pier Paolo Pasolini, Jean Paul Sartre and Albert Camus, among them – and taken part in progressive international tournaments, visited the opera, played on volcanic ash and taken part in football poetry competitions.

PFFC manager, Geoff Andrews:

"Football has its own unique international language and community and this tour will show how football can be a force for friendship and unity across national boundaries. But the tour will also celebrate the beautiful game for the simple pleasures it brings, freed from the constraints and coercions of corporate money"

Food

Food plays an important part in the life of the club. Next year Philosophy Football will organise a "Slow Football" tournament in Bra, the home of the movement (www.slowfood.com), applying Slow Food's "good, clean and fair" principles to the contemporary world of football. PFFC have already booked some of Madrid's finest restaurants for the trip.

Itinerary

The tour will include a mixture of football, food and cultural events:

- **Friday 3 November**
Dinner, welcome and opening speeches

- **Saturday 4 November**
Depart for Reina Sofia Museum (Museo Nacional Centro de Arte) to see Picasso's *Guernica* in formal recognition of the anniversary of the Spanish Civil War.

International Football Friendly Tournament: Ciudad Deportiva Real Madrid, Valdebas
Match 1: PFFC v PFFC Legends
Match 2: Real Madrid Journalists v loser Match 1
Match 3: Real Madrid Journalists v winner Match 2

Aperitivo, dinner and football-poetry

- **Sunday 5 November**
Visit to Atocha Station to commemorate those who died in the terrorist bombing of March 2004 and stroll through city to the flea market of Rastro

Bernabeu Stadium to watch Real Madrid vs Celta Vigo, followed by dinner

- **Monday 6 November**
More sightseeing and departure

PFFC online

The team's blog, launched this year, includes a range of opinions on the football world as well as film reviews, poetry and match reports. It can be found at: www.philosophyfootball.blogspot.com.
The club website is here: www.philosophyfootballfc.org.uk.