



Union des associations européennes de football



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UEFA Cup Handover in Manchester

Sevilla FC to return the trophy at ceremony in Town Hall on Monday 17 March

The UEFA Cup trophy will be returned to UEFA by the defending champions, Sevilla FC, at a special Cup Handover Ceremony to be staged at the Town Hall in Albert Square, Manchester, starting at 12:00 local time (13:00 CET) on Monday 17 March. On the day of the ceremony, media who have been accredited to the event will have access to the Media Centre at the Town Hall from 10:00 to 15:00 local time.

The event will also signify a premiere for a film about the UEFA Cup, especially commissioned by UEFA's president, Michel Platini. The movie will track the history of the competition since its birth 37 years ago.

During the ceremony, representatives of Sevilla FC will return the trophy to UEFA's president, Michel Platini. He will then hand it to the Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Glynn Evans, for the city to keep and to display to the public until the final, to be played at the City of Manchester Stadium on Wednesday 14 May 2008.

The Sevilla FC delegation bringing the trophy to Manchester will be headed by the club president, José María del Nido and vice-president José Castro Carmona. If everything goes to plan they will be accompanied by goalkeeper Andrés Palop, Man of the Match at last season's UEFA Cup Final at Hampden Park in Glasgow, and Italian midfielder Enzo Maresca, Man of the Match when the Spanish club recorded the first of its two successive victories by beating Middlesbrough FC 4-0 at the PSV Stadion in Eindhoven in 2006.

Other distinguished guests at the Cup Handover Ceremony will include Sir Richard Leese, Leader of Manchester City Council, the FA Chairman Lord (David) Triesman, UEFA Executive Committee Vice-President Geoffrey Thompson, UEFA General Secretary David Taylor, the former Manchester City FC and Manchester United FC star, Denis Law, who is currently acting as official 'ambassador' for this season's UEFA Cup Final, the current Manchester City FC manager, Sven-Göran Eriksson, the former managers Malcolm Allison, Peter Reid and Howard Kendall as well as the former Manchester City FC stars Mike Summerbee and Colin Bell.

Media representatives wishing to attend the Cup Handover Ceremony in Manchester should send their requests by fax (+44 161 274 0034 or, from within the UK, 0161 274 0034) to Natalie Varley at the Manchester City Council Press Office. The deadline for accreditation requests is Tuesday 11 March.

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