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**PACKED GROUNDS FOR START OF NEW SEASON**  
**AND NEW-LOOK FOOTBALL LEAGUE**

The *Coca-Cola* Football League kicked off in style this weekend with the highest opening weekend attendances since the 1965/66 season.

More than 380,000 people attended games in The Championship, League One and League Two at an average of more than 10,600 people per game – an increase of 9% on last season's opening weekend.

This weekend's figures were boosted by bumper Championship crowds with Leeds United recording the biggest attendance of the day with 30,459, closely followed by the 30,231 at the Walkers Stadium to watch Leicester City play West Ham United. While in League 1, Sheffield Wednesday attracted almost 25,000 and Hull City almost 18,000.

Football League Head of Communications John Nagle said:

**"These figures are a tremendous way to start the new season. It is very encouraging to see that the public's appetite for live football is still on the increase at all levels of the professional game."**

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Editor's Notes:

Opening Weekend Attendances (aggregate figures)

<b>1965/66</b>	388,002
<b>1966/67</b>	295,022
<b>1967/68</b>	380,472
<b>1968/69</b>	364,384
<b>1969/70</b>	346,013
<b>1970/71</b>	362,978
<b>1971/72</b>	300,862
<b>1972/73</b>	297,824
<b>1973/74</b>	295,117
<b>1974/75</b>	285,697
<b>1975/76</b>	240,424
<b>1976/77</b>	246,783
<b>1977/78</b>	259,893
<b>1978/79</b>	242,893
<b>1979/80</b>	278,522
<b>1980/81</b>	231,672
<b>1981/82</b>	240,851
<b>1982/83</b>	236,214
<b>1983/84</b>	220,499
<b>1984/85</b>	173,590
<b>1985/86</b>	179,067
<b>1986/87</b>	192,423
<b>1987/88</b>	215,163
<b>1988/89</b>	218,618
<b>1989/90</b>	260,100
<b>1990/91</b>	271,247
<b>1991/92</b>	241,349
<b>1992/93</b>	256,375
<b>1993/94</b>	265,532
<b>1994/95</b>	261,845
<b>1995/96</b>	262,846
<b>1996/97</b>	276,932
<b>1997/98</b>	329,236
<b>1998/99</b>	347,741
<b>1999/00</b>	335,974
<b>2000/01</b>	314,493
<b>2001/02</b>	338,098
<b>2002/03</b>	354,892
<b>2003/04</b>	341,065
<b>2004/05</b>	383,265 Average – 10,646

**Season 2003/04** saw The Football League record its highest aggregate attendance for 40 years with more than 15.4 million people passing through the turnstiles. The Football League Play Offs recorded an aggregate attendance of 388,665 – the biggest in Play Off history.

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