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THREE MORE YEARS FOR THE LDV VANS TROPHY

The Football League has agreed a new three-year sponsorship extension with LDV for the **LDV Vans Trophy**. The new agreement will run until the end of the 2006/07 season, with the Final moving to the new Wembley Stadium once completed.

This extension represents the biggest financial investment in the 22-year history of the competition for clubs from League 1, League 2 and the Football Conference.

In announcing the continuation of The Football League's partnership with LDV Richard Masters, The League's Commercial Director said:

"This agreement underlines the progress that this competition continues to make. Each season its stature grows, as do crowds - by more than thirty per cent during last season alone.

"As a competition it gives clubs from the lower Divisions of domestic professional football the opportunity to play in a Cup competition they can realistically win. Leading to financial rewards for clubs and a chance for supporters to experience Cup glory.

"I am delighted that LDV share our faith in this competition and I would like to thank them for their continued support. I look forward to the next three seasons of our partnership."

Allan Amey, Chief Executive of LDV added:

"The LDV Vans Trophy is a superb platform for smaller clubs to compete for national silverware and gives the teams and their supporters the chance of a showpiece final.

“There’s a fantastic spirit about the LDV Vans Trophy and we’re pleased to be supporting clubs who play an important role in football, the community and the development of players of the future.”

The draw for Round One of the 2004/05 LDV Vans Trophy can be seen on Sky Sports’ Soccer AM show this morning.

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Editor’s Notes:

- This new agreement will take LDV Vans’ sponsorship of this competition to seven consecutive seasons. The longest sponsorship arrangement in the history of the competition.
- 12 Football Conference clubs will join League 1 & 2 clubs this season’s competition. They are:

Northern Section: Accrington Stanley, Carlisle United, Hereford United, Morecambe, Scarborough and York City.

Southern Section: Aldershot Town, Barnet, Dagenham & Redbridge, Exeter City, Stevenage Borough and Woking.

- This season’s final will be played at the Millennium Stadium, Cardiff on April 10.

- 2003/04 LDV Vans Trophy attendances

Total	245,894 (188,132)
Average	4,031 (3,084)
%change	+30.7%