

# EURO BARGAINS - 20% OFF SALE ON ENGLISH LEAGUE PLAYERS IN WINTER TRANSFER WINDOW

Submitted by: Four Countries Communications

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The winter transfer window which opens on 1 January 2008 may see some bargain bids from European football clubs looking to take advantage of the strength of the euro against sterling according to First Rate Exchange Services.

The mid season winter transfer window is traditionally far quieter than the summer window when the majority of big name transfers are made. However, with the euro over 20%\* stronger against the pound compared to last year, this year's winter transfer window presents European clubs with the opportunity to make some hard to resist offers to any UK clubs starting to feel the bite of the credit crunch on attendance figures.

Gordon Gourlay, Managing Director, First Rate Exchange Services commented: "The strength of the euro against the pound means we can expect to see an increase in bargain hunters from the continent visiting the UK to take advantage of great deals in the January sales – but this might not be limited to the high street. With the euro now at an all time high against the pound there's never been a better time for European clubs to place their bids for UK based players."

A comparison of euro prices for the top ten most expensive players purchased by English clubs during 2008, when the majority of purchases took place during the summer's transfer window and the pound was already experiencing a ten per cent slump, confirms that bargains may exist for euro based clubs. For example, the most expensive transfer out of the English league to a European club during 2008 was Sulley Muntari at a fee of £12.7 million from Portsmouth to FC Internazionale in July. When converted into euros the transfer fee came to over €16 million only five months ago, but this would currently equate to almost €2 million less at €14.1 million.

Euro comparisons\*\* for the top ten most expensive English league purchases during 2008 are as follows:

1. Robinho (£32.5m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 1/9/09 = €40,049. Current euro equivalent €36,231
2. Dimitar Berbatov (£30.75m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 1/9/09 = €37,893. Current euro equivalent €34,280
3. Robbie Keane (£19.5m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 28/07/08= €24,029. Current euro equivalent €21,181
4. Luka Modri (£16.5m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 29/04/08 = €20,997. Current euro equivalent €18,394
5. José Bosingwa (£16.2m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 12/05/08 = €20,491. Current euro equivalent €18,059
6. David Bentley (£15m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 30/07/08 = €19,038. Current euro equivalent €16,722
7. Marouane Fellani (£15m) - euro cost as at transfer 01/09/08 =€18,484. Current euro equivalent €16,722
8. Roman Pavlyuchenko (£14m) - euro cost as at transfer date of 01/09/08 =€17,252. Current euro

equivalent €15,607

9. James Milner (£12.7m) - euro cost as at transfer date 29/08/08 = €14,870. Current euro equivalent €13,377

10. Peter Crouch (£9m) - euro cost as at transfer date 08/07/08 = €11,304. Current euro equivalent €10,033

Ends

Notes to Editors:

1 Market Rate for the 16th December 2007 was 1.3258. Rate for 16th Dec 2008 is 1.0528.

2 All calculations based on FRES Market Rates.

Euro fee at transfer based on exchange rate for day of purchase. Current euro costs based on rates as at 16th December 2008

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Four Countries Communications

Ruth Barker

Tel: 0207 7499219

Mobile: 07814 571128

Email: ruth@fourcountries.co.uk

Bank of Ireland UK Financial Services

Sandra Grandison

Tel: 0203 201 6509

Mobile: 0791 229 8013

Email: sandra.grandison@boiuk.com

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