

3 May 2002

FA CUP FINAL - EXCLUSIVE VIEWING FOR KIT CUSTOMERS

Football fans tuning in to the FA Cup Final match between Arsenal and Chelsea tomorrow can take their viewing to a new dimension with BBCi and KIT.

BBCi is showcasing a special interactive version of The FA Cup Final on the broadband interactive television service being pioneered by Kingston Communications. FA Cup Final Interactive will allow viewers to switch between the live game and running highlights, select an alternative commentary and replay goals from previous rounds or entire matches.

Following successful trials of two quarter-final matches and the Fulham vs Chelsea semi-final match, viewers can now use the colour keys on their remote controls to select alternative video streams of either live action or highlights, together with an alternative commentary on each match as it takes place.

Using KIT's unique Video-On-Demand service, fans will have access to selected on-demand interviews, which they will be able to view throughout the match. They can select the clip of the interview they want to watch and fast forward, pause and rewind just as if they were watching a video.

BBCi has designed and developed a presence on the KIT service to trial the delivery of both local and nationally focused enhanced content, based on BBC programming, to around 10,000 KIT homes across Hull and East Yorkshire.

Since its launch in October 2001 the BBCi trial on KIT has featured enhanced content from a number of popular programmes including Blue Planet, Walking with Beasts, EastEnders, Video Nation and The Trench. Education content linked to the national curriculum is also available in conjunction with local schools as well as regularly updated local, regional and national news, sport and weather on demand.

From the BBC's standpoint the KIT trial is helping to shape its understanding of viewers behaviour and preferences for locally focused enhanced interactive TV delivery.

David Murphy, FA Cup Interactive Producer at BBCi said: "This cutting edge technology has enabled us to deliver an even greater choice of interactive services to the quality expected by viewers of BBC Sport, plus the on demand content is not available anywhere else within the UK."

Kevin Walsh, Managing Director at Kingston interactive added: "We've now taken the BBCi trial on KIT onto the next level and are delighted with our viewers response. Early usage figures indicate that they find these enhanced and on demand programming features of great value. Looking ahead to the summer we have

many more exciting and innovative developments planned with the BBC including The World Cup and Wimbledon."

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Notes to editors

A photo has been sent to your picture desk. For further information please contact:

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About KIT

Commercially launched in September 2000, KIT is an ADSL-based service, which uses spare capacity on ordinary copper telephone lines to deliver 60 digital television channels, Video-On -Demand, TV Internet & Email, BBCi, Home Shopping and the KIT Channel - providing news/community information, including a weekday, award-winning news service from the Yorkshire Television. Since its launch the KIT service has acquired around 10,000 customers.

About Kingston Communications

Kingston Communications is a rapidly expanding UK communications company with a strategic focus on three key areas of activity.

The Group's business-to-business solutions division encompasses a broad portfolio of voice, data, Internet, mobile and managed services. This national division is complemented by seven regional metropolitan fibre networks and a long distance broadband network, which was lit in May 2001. Kingston's new media activities include the DSL-based interactive television service Kingston interactive - KIT, and international satellite-centric broadband solutions arm Kingston inmedia. The Group is also expanding its East Yorkshire network operations where it has served business and residential customers since 1904.

For further information please contact:

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