

## PRESS RELEASE

### OL GROUPE

#### Gratifying first-half results

#### Sixth consecutive Ligue 1 title

The Board of Directors of OL Groupe met on 24 April 2007 to examine the financial statements for the six months to 31 December 2006. The Board also examined the various aspects of the club's strategy and of the medium-term OL Land investment plan.

#### **1 – First-half results**

OL Groupe's business grew very significantly in the first half of the year.

For the six months ended 31 December 2006, turnover totalled €127.9m, a rise of 18% compared with the year-earlier period. The increase derived from expanded sponsoring (up 20%), gate receipts (up 19%) and derivative products (up 46%), in particular merchandising and OL Images.

Profit from ordinary activities totalled €26.3m, vs. €37.2m in the first half of the 2005/06 financial year, during which the transfer of Michael Essien to Chelsea F.C was recognised.

In the current year, the number of players and coaches increased significantly and as a result, so did the payroll. Nevertheless, at 38.50% of turnover, the payroll remained well below the average of major European clubs, whose payroll in many cases exceeds 50% of the top line.

After a tax charge of €9.5m, attributable net profit totalled €16.7m, reflecting OL Groupe's robust economic performance in the first half of the year.

Traditionally, the Group's business is highly seasonal. During the first half, the initial player transfers of the year are recognised in the financial statements, as are the receipts from the first stage of the Champions League.

After accounting for OL's round-of-16 elimination from the Champions League and a higher volume of player transfers than initially expected, net profit for the full financial year should be in line with estimates.

#### **2 – Successful flotation**

The Board of Directors was very pleased with OL Groupe's highly successful flotation on the stock exchange. The offer was oversubscribed 6.5 times. The Group raised €94.3m, after partial exercise of the over-allotment option.

#### **3 – Decines site for OL Land now official**

In early 2007, the Lyon suburb of Decines was officially chosen as the site of the future "OL Land" complex, which will include the club's new 60,000 seat stadium, the team's training grounds, a leisure centre, hotels, restaurants and a shopping centre.

Within OL Groupe, this project will be managed by a dedicated team of employees. It will be overseen by a Steering Committee composed of the French government, chambers of commerce and related agencies, local municipalities – in particular the offices of "Grand Lyon", the Greater Lyon community – and specialised firms.

The Steering Committee has set the 2010/11 season as its target for the opening of the new stadium.

#### **4 – Sixth consecutive Ligue 1 title**

The Board of Directors of OL Groupe praised the club's exceptional performance in the 2006/07 football season.

The team has claimed an historic sixth consecutive title in the French Ligue 1, a first among the five large European domestic leagues, namely Germany, England, Spain, France and Italy.

This new title is the 12th the club has won since 2001: 1 League Cup, 5 *Trophées des Champions* and now 6 Ligue 1 championships.

Olympique Lyonnais participated in the Champions League for the seventh consecutive season, before being eliminated by Roma during the round of 16. During the 32-team group stage, OL finished in second place in its group.

Also this season, the club played the French League Cup final, bringing more than 30,000 Lyon fans to the Stade de France.

Lastly, to promote the OL brand and finish preparations for the 2007/08 season, the team will do another Asian tour in July 2007.

In addition, the Board of Directors was pleased to note that ground had been broken on the new training centre, where 30 trainees will benefit from an ultramodern complex of nearly 2,000 sq. m. using the latest sports technology. Investment will total around €4m, and the project is scheduled to be completed by May 2008.