MINNESOTA Kicks

MEDIA RELEASE

May 3, 1978

KICKS ACQUIRE CHARLEY GEORGE, ENGLAND'S PREMIERE STRIKER . . . . .

Charley George, regarded as England's premiere striker and nationally known for his flamboyant character both on and off the field, has agreed to join the Minnesota Kicks as a loan player from Derby County of the English First Division. President and Coach Freddie Goodwin, who negotiated the agreement, is hoping that George will join the Kicks in time for Sunday's home opener against Dallas.

The 27-year-old world class performer has one of the highest market values in soccer today. Derby's team manager Tom Docherty recently put a value of one million dollars for his contract.

George, 5-9, 160 lbs., led Derby in scoring this year with 16 goals. Kicks' defender Ron Webster, who was a teammate of George at Derby, felt, "Charley would have scored more goals but Derby did not have another forward to complement him." Webster also added, "George is equal to any of the top strikers in the world today. He is very skillful and also a great team player." George was selected to England's National Team this year but left the club in a dispute with England's manager Ron Greenwood.

Before joining Derby in 1975, George played for Arsenal and was a teammate of Geoff Barnett. He led Arsenal to two League championships and one FA Cup title. "There is no other player in soccer that has the scoring capabilities like Charley," said Barnett. "He is a tremendous passer and has one of the hardest shots in the game."

When soccer people talk about Charley George they will always refer to his incredible sense of vision. An English paper had recently reported, "George's vision on the field is classical and his ball control is eyecatching. When he hits the ball right, there is not a deadlier dispatcher of a goal chance in a European game." Also referring to George's vision, Webster said, "Charley sees things before others even think of what to look for."

Because of his popularity in Europe, George was hired in the late '60's to make a record along with English rock star Gary Glitter. In the Derby area he has become such a local legend that a schoolteacher has written a song about him that has now become one of the top records among the youth of that area.

MINNESOTA SOCCER, INC. 7200 France Avenue South Minneapolis, Minnesota 55435 (612) 831-8871