

# MOSS BROS GROUP PLC

## PRE-CLOSE STATEMENT

Moss Bros Group Plc, the UK menswear retailer, today reports on trading ahead of entering a close period for the half year ended 30 July 2005.

- Like for like sales for the 26 weeks are up 3% on last year.
- Total gross cash margin for the half is up 4% like for like, gross margin percentage is in excess of 52.5% against 52.1% last year.
- Operating costs for the half are expected to be around 2% up on last year.
- Company profit on ordinary activities, before taxation, for the half is expected to be not less than £1.4m (2004 first half: £0.7m).

Philip Mountford, Chief Executive, commented:

"The Company has reacted well to the challenges faced during the first half and continues to make progress despite difficult trading conditions.

It is encouraging that sales and gross margin have shown steady growth. The last nine weeks of the half are a critical trading period with like for like sales in June up 5% on last year. Sales in July were flat against last year like for like, with a 6% decline in sales in Central London offset by growth across the rest of the country.

The Moss chain is showing good growth in market share, customers have reacted positively to the new stores opened.

The Board expects market conditions to remain difficult but is confident that the Company will continue to perform well."

The announcement of the Company's half year results will be made on 13 October 2005.

*For further information:*

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