

## **Playsport Scotland Raises Bar With World Class New Tennis Centre**

### **SCOTLAND RAISES BAR WITH WORLD CLASS NEW TENNIS CENTRE**

27 November 2007 -

Scottish tennis talent will no longer need to train abroad when a new public tennis centre opening in East Kilbride next autumn will serve up the most advanced public tennis centre in Scotland.

The centre's eight indoor courts will boost the country's provision of public indoor courts by a staggering 25%. And the scale of the centre means it will attract national events as well as create a new national focus for Scottish tennis achievement.

As part of Playsport, a huge indoor/outdoor sporting and leisure facility, the brand new centre will be the UK's largest indoor tennis courts facility. The surfaces will be of international standards allowing coaches to nurture home grown talent in Scotland. For players like Andy Murray who trained in Barcelona, the centre provides the chance for training on home turf. The centre will also hold four dedicated mini tennis courts together with a hand eye coordination development zone providing the perfect opportunity to nurture future champions.

Judy Murray, LTA Talent and Performance Manager Scotland said:

"There is a big drive by the LTA to identify talent across Britain but in order to develop that talent we need more indoor courts. There has never been a better time to attract kids into tennis in Scotland and the scale of the Playsport facility will provide a huge opportunity not just for training but for major competitions too."

The developers are working closely with Sports Scotland and Tennis Scotland, together with the Lawn Tennis Association to deliver a revolutionary opportunity for the governing body. The centre will become a platform for the delivery of Tennis Scotland's community programmes and will be first time the governing body has had total control over its own destiny.

David Marshall, CEO of Tennis Scotland, said:

'Scotland as a whole and this area in particular is very poorly served with indoor courts. Playsport represents a massive opportunity for tennis in Scotland. The success of the Murrays has given our sport its highest ever profile and it is very important that this moment is seized with both hands. Although it will be great for our elite players the tennis centre at Playsport will be focused primarily on community use and developing grass roots participation. The wider the base of the pyramid, the greater the chance of unearthing the next Andy or Jamie.'

Playgolf CEO, David Piggins, said 'We are making very good progress on site. The whole development is very exciting and there is no doubt that Playsport raises the bar dramatically for public tennis facilities within the UK. The overall range and scope of the facilities at Playsport means that people will be able to enjoy playing their sport, or watching others, in a very friendly, sociable environment. This is not something which has previously been available other than to the fortunate few and I believe will make for a much more encouraging environment in which to participate in sport.'

This new venture for East Kilbride will cater for sports enthusiasts, beginners and communities across Scotland. It is a partnership development by Playgolf, Kilmartin Property Group and South Lanarkshire Council.

### **NOTES TO EDITORS**

Playsport Scotland will provide:

### TENNIS

- The UK's largest indoor tennis centre, with 8 courts, in association with the Lawn Tennis Association and Tennis Scotland
- Four dedicated mini tennis courts

### GOLF

- 9 Hole PowerPlay Golf course, featuring full-scale tributes to some of the UK's most famous and dramatic links holes
- 60 bay golf driving range
- Golf Academy

### FOOTBALL

- Eight 5-a-side football pitches
- Two 7-a-side football pitches
- Separate football bar and changing

### OTHER SPORTS, HEALTH & FITNESS

- Four badminton courts
- Baseball/Softball range
- Climbing wall
- Aerial Adventure
- 25,000 sq ft health and fitness centre with 20 metre swimming pool

### OTHER AMENITIES

- 36,600 sq ft 'family centre' including indoor adventure golf, children's gym and soft play area
- 6,000 sq ft of conferencing and events space
- 12,000 sq ft of restaurant space
- 15,000 sq ft of sports and sportswear retail space
- 450 car parking spaces

## **Playgolf East Kilbride will be world's first PowerPlay Golf course**

June 11th, 2007

### **WORLD'S FIRST POWERPLAY GOLF COURSE TO BE UNVEILED IN SCOTLAND**

*East Kilbride wins prized accolade after worldwide approaches*

The site of the world's first purpose-built PowerPlay Golf course has been announced – and Scotland, the home of golf, has secured yet another first. PowerPlay Golf Limited has revealed that the first bespoke PowerPlay Golf layout ever devised will be built at East Kilbride as part of Playgolf Holdings Plc's mammoth new public sports complex in the town.

It is expected that each of the new course's 9 holes will be an actual-size replica of some of the UK's finest and most famous Links holes. Speculation has been mounting that the world-famous Road Hole at St Andrews will be included at East Kilbride, but course designer Peter McEvoy is keeping quiet – at least for now – on this.

McEvoy, Great Britain and Ireland's most successful Walker Cup Captain and the founder of PowerPlay Golf, said: "We are really excited to be able to announce the world's first specific PowerPlay Golf course. We have received a number of approaches from venues around the world wishing to become PowerPlay Golf courses, but it is fitting that the first should be in Scotland, where golf itself was born. We have chosen majestic holes where the greens can offer the variety of both black and white pin positions that PowerPlay Golf demands?"

Billed as golf's answer to Twenty20 cricket, and launched to massive plaudits from elite golfers and top golf writers at Playgolf Northwick Park earlier this year, PowerPlay Golf is a simple, shortened, yet highly competitive and strategic version of the game. Played over 9 holes, each green houses two flags, one white in a relatively 'easy' position and one black skull 'n' crossbones or 'PowerPlay' flag in a much trickier position on the putting surface. Before teeing off on each hole, each player must nominate the black or white flag. They must choose the black on three holes. If they achieve a net birdie or better on the black flag, their points score for the hole is doubled. This means that a bad round can turn into a great one in an instant.

PowerPlay Golf is running a nationwide roadshow in June with the aim of giving several hundred golf clubs the opportunity to host a PowerPlay Golf day for their members and visitors at their home courses later in the Summer. Further exciting announcements on the progress this revolutionary and much talked-about version of the game is making are also expected soon.

David Piggins, CEO of Playgolf, said: "We are always trying to offer our customers the best in modern sport and PowerPlay Golf fits the bill exactly. We believe that together with the rest of the facilities on offer at Playgolf East Kilbride we will be offering the local community something really special and a genuinely different experience."

## **Playgolf JVs with Kilmartin at East Kilbride**

January 19th, 2007

### **PLAYGOLF AND KILMARTIN JOIN FORCES TO CREATE PLAYGOLF EAST KILBRIDE**

Playgolf has signed a joint venture agreement with Scottish property developer Kilmartin to develop its East Kilbride site. Kilmartin are subscribing for a 50% stake in the development and Playgolf will receive an initial £2m. The development, which follows on from the award winning Playgolf Northwick Park, promises to establish a new level for public sports facilities in the UK.

The joint venture brings together Kilmartin, which has £1.5 billion of projects in its portfolio, with Playgolf which is at the forefront of a revolution in the creation and development of public sports projects.

David Piggins, Chief Executive of Playgolf, gave his reaction, ' We expect East Kilbride to be the first of a number of developments which we will undertake together. Kilmartin's expertise and land bank give us the resources that we have lacked to develop more quickly. The paucity of good quality public sports infrastructure in the UK has become a major issue and the appetite to change this, particularly within government and local authorities, has never been stronger. This partnership with one of the UK's fastest growing property companies gives us the opportunity to ensure that we take full advantage of the position we have created in this field over the last few years.'

Iain Wotherspoon, Chairman and Chief Executive of Kilmartin, hailed the deal as 'an exciting step for both companies. We have identified the sports/leisure market as one of the key growth areas in UK property and Playgolf are the innovators in the field. It has been the cornerstone of our rapid growth to work in joint ventures with experts in the fields that most interest us. Having HBoS behind us has allowed us to act as a catalyst for growth for companies with potential. We intend this to be a major focus for us over the next few years.'

Work will start on the East Kilbride scheme in the Spring.