

Onside Law plays above par to secure Ryder Cup mandate

SPORT

By Gavriel Hollander

SPORTS boutique Onside Law has landed a major mandate after advising Ryder Cup Europe on the bidding process to decide the host for the 2018 staging of the biennial golf tournament.

It is the first time that the Ryder Cup host has been decided in this way, with five courses from different European countries vying for the honour.

Founding partner Oliver Hunt is leading the deal for Onside Law, with co-founding partner Simon Thorp on matters involving guarantees from potential host governments.

"I think it's one of the most important pieces of sports law work this year as it's the first time [this has been done] in golf," said Hunt. "We were dealing with five countries and five bidders so

DEAL OF THE WEEK

it's a fantastic mandate for us to win. Very few private practice lawyers tend to advise the rights holders, as often these things are handled in-house."

Each bidder turned to local counsel for advice. Garrigues is acting for the Madrid bid, with sports law partner Félix Plaza Romero leading. In Paris, Illouz Partners IP partner François Illouz and sports law partner Alexis Gramblat are advising the French bid, along with IMG Legal.

Clifford Chance's Amsterdam office is acting for the Dutch bid, with local dispute resolution partner Alvin Khodabaks leading. In Germany, Honert & Partners Munich M&A



Ryder Cup: first time tournament host has been decided via a bidding process

ALAMY

partner Sven Fritsche is advising the bid, while Lisbon's AAA Advogados corporate partner Dulce Franco is acting for the Portuguese bid.

The winning bidder will be named tomorrow (17 May). Hunt added that he hoped Onside Law would

be involved with the implementation process following the selection of the host, as well as the 2014 tournament to be held at Gleneagles in Scotland.

Onside Law won the bidding process mandate after getting the nod to act for the PGA European Tour

on an Asian joint venture 18 months ago.

The firm is also advising the tour on its intervention in the Premier League's appeal to Ofcom's Sky Sports ruling, after the watchdog ruled that the channel must cut its subscription prices.

Mishcon, DLA Piper seal London Gate deal

REAL ESTATE

By James Swift

DLA PIPER and Mishcon de Reya both landed roles on PPP developer Cathedral Group and property developer Development Securities's joint acquisition of London Gate business park in Hayes, Middlesex.

Mishcon advised Cathedral Group and Development Securities as purchasers. Consultant Ronald Hooberman led on the deal for the firm, assisted by tax partner Jonathan Legg and construction partner Simon Hunter.

DLA Piper advised the vendors, with real estate

partner Joanne Owen leading.

The developers created a joint venture vehicle to buy the business park from JER Partners, the Blackstone Group and resolution, for an undisclosed cash sum.

The site has 700,000sq ft of office space and was once the headquarters and manufacturing site for record label EMI, and included a plant that pressed records for artists including The Beatles and Jimi Hendrix.

Cathedral Group and Development Securities are set to pump £250m into the business park, which contains many empty and derelict buildings, as part of a redevelopment plan. The

CC teams with German partners on €300m high-yield debt issue

FINANCE

By Gavriel Hollander

CLIFFORD Chance has fielded an Anglo-German team on a mandate advising German printing press manufacturer Heidelberg Druckmaschinen Aktiengesellschaft on its inaugural high-yield debt issue as part of an €800m (£700m) refinancing package.

The company, a long-standing client for Clifford Chance, was on the receiving end of one of the biggest bailouts in German corporate history in 2009 when the government put together an €850m deal.

German banking partner Markus Pfüller led the



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We're going to see a lot more of this coming out of Germany”

Michael Dakin,
Clifford Chance

while fellow banking partner Dietrich Stiller acted separately on arranging a new bank facility.

Cravath Swaine & Moore and Hengeler Mueller advised the banks, which were led by Deutsche Bank, on the bond issue. London

on the refinancing of the remaining €500m facility.

"What's interesting is the move towards German law-governed high-yield," said Dakin. "These guys relied on banks for their financing before, but now they need to find other sources of