

## Press Release:

### “Couchman Harrington Helps Jonny in French Move”

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Couchman Harrington Associates ("CHA") acted for Jonny Wilkinson in his headline-making move from Newcastle to Toulon last week. The deal is the latest in a long line of major rugby player contracts worked on by the firm in the last 12 months, a year which started with CHA advising Martin Johnson on his contract with the RFU to become England Team Manager.

Fraser Reid, CHA's Head of Athlete Representation said, "Jonny has been with Newcastle for a long time and this was obviously a hugely important move for him at this stage in his career. Any deal with an international, multi-language aspect can be tricky, especially when it's of such a high profile, but we have worked closely with Jonny, his father and Tim Buttimore at WMG, who has headed up Jonny's management team for a long time and things went pretty smoothly in the end. It's always great to be involved with such a high calibre player and individual and being associated with one of the world's greats only enhances our reputation in this area. We see rugby as a major growth sport for our business and I think we are really well positioned to take advantage of the growing need for specialist legal representation amongst its players, clubs and stakeholders."

Jonny Wilkinson commented, "Fraser did a great job in making things go smoothly with Toulon and with Newcastle. CHA are an important and valuable member of the great team of people I have around me which enables me to concentrate on what I can achieve on the field".

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**Couchman Harrington Associates is a commercial law firm offering specialist legal advice to the sports industry. The leading independent legal directories say the following about the firm:-**

*“Remarkably successful at a time when other firms have been looking to exit the sports market...winning business model” (Legal 500)*

*“The achievement of this firm is incredible...it has made a huge impression in the market...the country's number one sports law boutique” (Chambers Directory)*

*“A phenomenal sports practice...there is clear blue water between CHA and rival boutique sports firms” (Legal 500)*

*“A very substantial outfit, such is the firm's strength across the board that every partner wins solid market approval” (Chambers Directory)*

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