

## Press Release:

### Couchmans Acts in Leaders Deal

Date of Release: 24 March 2011

Couchmans LLP, the market leading specialist sports law firm, have advised the shareholders of Executive Sport Limited, owners of the “Leaders in...” sports conference business, on their sale of a majority stake in the company to Convers Sports Initiatives (CSI), the investment group run by Russian entrepreneurs Vladimir Antonov and Roman Dubov as well as former Leeds United Chairman Chris Akers. The ‘Leaders in Football’ conference in particular has been a huge success following its launch 3 years ago and CSI adds the company to its other investments in the sports, media and entertainment industries including the recently purchased North One Sport, promoters of the World Rally Championship.

Satish Khandke, Head of Couchmans’ Sports Ventures Group, said “We have been close to Leaders since their inception and so felt we were well placed in terms of our understanding of the business to help the shareholders move to the next step. There is an enormous amount of corporate activity in the sports marketplace right now and this is one of many deals we have been involved with recently where shareholders and investors are choosing specialist industry legal expertise rather than more traditional, vanilla corporate advice. Our Sports Ventures Group is as a result expanding faster than any other part of our business right now.”

James Worrall, Founder of Leaders in Football said, “This was a hugely important deal for the shareholders and it was great to have lawyers who we know and trust and who understand our business and what we are trying to achieve. There is never any nonsense with Couchmans and Sat and his team were a great sounding board for us”.

For further information contact:

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### **Note to Editors**

**Couchmans LLP is a commercial law firm based in London offering specialist legal advice to the sports, sponsorship and media industries internationally. The leading independent legal directories say the following about the firm:**

*"The UK's leading sports boutique"* (Legal 500)

*"If you want someone who knows the sports business inside out, these are the guys to call"* (Chambers & Partners)

*"Formidably strong line-up ... the firm dominates the commercial side of the sector"* (Legal 500)

*"A phenomenal sports practice ... there is clear, blue water between Couchmans and rival boutique sports firms ... the firm acts for some of the best known names in the sports industry"* (Legal 500)

*"The premier sporting boutique ... extremely commercial, increasing the value of every deal with the knowledge it brings"* (Chambers & Partners)

*"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 ... the country's number one sports boutique"* (Chambers & Partners)

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