



14 March 2008

**PATRON CAPITAL PARTNERS ("PATRON")  
INVESTS £23.1 MILLION IN  
THE UK'S LEADING COMMERCIAL 5-A-SIDE FOOTBALL OPERATOR**

Powerleague Group plc ('Powerleague' or 'the Company'), the leading commercial operator of 5-a-side football centres in the UK, and Patron Capital Partners ('Patron') a leading private equity and property investment fund announce that Patron has acquired a 29% stake in the Company.

The strategic partnership with Patron will enable the Company to take advantage of Patron's experience in the property sector and wide network of global relationships to achieve a step change in growth of the business across the UK and anticipated expansion to Europe. It is expected that the partnership will also significantly enhance the Company's ability to identify and unlock value from the Company's current and future real estate portfolio.

Powerleague currently operates from 43 sites across the UK, with more than 120,000 customers each week using its 455 indoor and outdoor pitches. Powerleague recently acquired the JJB Soccer Domes business for £17.4m, including the 22 pitch Old Trafford dome, the largest 5-a-side football centre in the World. The business has achieved consistent growth, reporting an EBITDA of £8.4 million on revenues of £23 million for the year ended 30 June 2007, a year on year EBITDA growth of 18%.

Patron is a highly respected and successful investment fund with strong private equity and real estate expertise. It has an established track record of investing in asset-backed growth businesses and property portfolios, principally backing strong management teams and local partners in the UK and across Europe. Patron represents approximately €1.6 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments.

The Company has welcomed on board two new non executive directors with immediate effect to assist the Company in its strategic development; Paul Orchard-Lisle and Keith M. Breslauer.

Paul was previously Senior Partner of Healey & Baker, President of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, and Chairman of Slough Estates plc. He is currently the Chairman of Falcon Property Trust, a Director of Standard Life Property Income Trust, Director of Trinity Capital PLC and the Chairman of Bennelong UK, the property arm of Crown Golf, the largest operator of golf clubs in Europe.

Keith is the founder and managing director of Patron Capital Limited and related Patron entities. He has over 20 years experience in Corporate and Property Finance and held senior positions at Lehman Brothers in both New York and London.

Powerleague Executive Chairman Claude Littner and Chief Executive Sean Tracey acquired the Company in 2003 from 3i plc. Following a successful IPO on London's AIM in May 2005, and under their continued stewardship, the Company has expanded and retained its position as the market-leading UK operator of premium quality, purpose-built 5-a-side football centres, offering customers the option of competitive league matches, corporate tournaments or social play, within an environment of excellent service and first class facilities.

In addition to pitch and bar revenue, Powerleague has successfully extended its relationships with a growing number of blue-chip sponsors including (Microsoft) X-Box, Nike, Lucozade, Budweiser and JJB Sports. The company also announced today it had added two new major brands 'Nivea for Men' and 'Carling Lager' as sponsors. Both are keen to align themselves with grass-roots football and Powerleague's customer base, as 5-a-side now represents the fastest growing leisure activity in the UK.

Keith M. Breslauer, Managing Director of Patron Capital Limited (investment advisor to Patron) commented: "Powerleague has established itself as the market leader in UK commercial 5-a-side. We were attracted by the strength of the management team, the commercial proposition and growth potential, supported by strong asset backing and stable cash flows. Patron benefits from a wide network of global relationships within the leisure and sports industries as well as a wide reaching support team and partner network in the UK and across Europe. We firmly believe that these assets can be applied successfully to Powerleague, in order to help facilitate further UK and European expansion."

Claude Littner, Executive Chairman of Powerleague added: "This strategic partnership with Patron is most welcome and will enable Powerleague to accelerate the next phase of its development. By partnering with Patron we are accessing their significant property, retail and leisure experience, as well as extensive land holdings. In Keith and Paul we are adding significant strength to our Board and the combination of these factors will bring greater opportunities for organic and site pipeline growth to the benefit of all Powerleague shareholders."

Patron has acquired its stake by purchasing shares from Executive Chairman Claude Littner and Chief Executive Sean Tracey who continue their commitment to the Company, together representing just under 7% of the Company shareholding - the fourth largest block of company shareholding, and who will continue in their present roles.

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## **About Patron Capital Partners**

Patron Capital Partners (“Patron”) represents approximately €1.6 billion of capital across several funds and related co-investments, investing in property, corporate operating entities whose value is primarily supported by property assets and distressed debt and credit related businesses. Since 1999, its Funds have made more than 36 investments involving approximately 18 million square feet in 12 countries. Investors represent a variety of prominent universities, major institutions, private foundations, and high net worth individuals located throughout North America and Europe.

Patron prides itself on its institutional approach to fund management and reporting, as well as its entrepreneurial culture and ability to conduct thorough due diligence and to expedite decisions. The Patron team has many years of collective experience in private equity and real estate, and all staff have made personal financial commitments to the success of the investments. Central to Patron’s strategy is the practice of investing with a pan-European network of local partners, who are familiar with the local market and co-invest alongside the funds, and backing management teams.

The investment adviser to the Funds is Patron Capital Limited, established in 1999. Headquartered in London with associated offices in Barcelona, Milan, Luxembourg and Warsaw, the group includes 26 investment professionals. The Founder and Managing Director of Patron Capital Limited is Keith M. Breslauer, who has 20 years experience in property and corporate finance.

Further information can be found at [www.patroncapital.com](http://www.patroncapital.com)