

Allianz SE
Group Communications

Press

Allianz Ambassadors Paul McGinley and Manuel de los Santos to play Alfred Dunhill Links Championship

29 September 2009 – St Andrews, Scotland – The Alfred Dunhill Links Championship 2009 will host two Allianz Golf Ambassadors this year, Paul McGinley, former Ryder Cup winner and Vivendi Trophy captain, and Manuel de los Santos, one of the top five talented disabled golfers in the world.

De los Santos, 25, is representing the global partnership between St Andrews Links Trust and Allianz at the pro-am European Tour event, which starts on Thursday 1 October at three courses in eastern Scotland, including St Andrews Links' world-famous Old Course. The partnership, announced in May 2009, has two main aims – to encourage accessibility to the sport and encourage people all over the world to discover the unique spirit of the Home of Golf.

"It is my first European tour event and I am thrilled to be representing the partnership with Allianz at the Home of Golf," said Dominican Republic-born de los Santos. "The partnership is helping people learn about the origins of the sport - people from Germany, France, Spain, Latin America, people all over the world. That's something I totally support."

De los Santos, like McGinley, is yet to discover who his golfing partner will be, but said he is "looking forward to playing with a top professional and experiencing high-level European Tour competition."

"It is great that the partnership between Allianz and St Andrews Links is honouring Manuel in this way," said McGinley. "He has achieved a high standard very quickly and is already playing with the professionals on the Allianz Golf Tour. I am sure he is going to be around for a long time to come."

A natural athlete with a big future in baseball before a motorbike accident resulted in a leg amputation, de los Santos moved to France where he now plays with the Handigolf team, supported by Allianz France. In just over five years, he has become the number two disabled golfer in Europe, and his handicap has touched 2.9 (now 3.6) – without the aid of prosthetics.



Alan McGregor, CEO, St Andrews Links Trust: “We are pleased that Manuel will be taking part in the Alfred Dunhill Links Championship and wish him all the best for the event. In a short time Manuel has achieved a very high standard in the game becoming the second highest ranked disabled golfer in Europe. Encouraging wider participation in golf and sport in general is important to us at St Andrews Links and to our global partners Allianz.”

Sandra Nulty, Head of Global Sponsorships, Allianz SE: “A key part of the partnership between St Andrews Links Trust and Allianz is increasing accessibility to the sport. Manuel's achievements serve as inspiration to able-bodied and disabled golfers alike.”

NOTE: For further information about the partnership and to download press material and photography please visit www.sponsoring.allianz.com

Links:

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About St Andrews Links Trust

St Andrews Links Trust is a charitable organisation responsible for the management and maintenance of the Links courses at St Andrews, including the famous Old Course, host of the 2010 Open Championship. The Trust was established in 1974. It employs more than 200 permanent staff and seasonal workers during the high season. It manages a number of additional facilities including three clubhouses, a golf practice centre and four shops. More than 200,000 rounds are played over six public courses, which feature two additional championship courses (the New and the Jubilee), two 18-hole courses (the Eden and the Strathtyrum) and a nine-hole course (the Balgove). A seventh course, The Castle Course, has opened on a site to the south-east of St Andrews.

Allianz Group

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