

14 March 2017

Air Partner and Smile Group Travel team up to fly county cricket clubs to Barbados

Air Partner, the global aviation services group, has teamed up with Smile Group Travel, a tour operator specialising in sports travel, to organise return flights to Barbados for three county cricket clubs in March. The teams from Hampshire, Nottinghamshire and Northamptonshire are heading to the Caribbean island for their pre-season tour, which will consist of training and a number of friendly matches against local teams.

Smile called upon Air Partner Travel Management Company (Air Partner TMC) to provide a bespoke solution that was tailored to the needs of the clubs: this included competitive ticket fares, an easy booking process and a generous luggage allowance for each of the 63 passengers, which was necessary to transport all the cricket kit. Air Partner TMC was also able to secure the players seats on flights that flew in and out of the clubs' local airports (Manchester for Nottinghamshire and London Gatwick for Hampshire and Northamptonshire) for extra convenience.

Both Air Partner and Smile have extensive experience working with the sports community. Smile offers tours all over the world for all kinds of sports, including cricket, netball, hockey, rugby, swimming and tennis, to name a few. In addition, the tour operator organises trips for supporters to follow major sporting events.

For its part, Air Partner has worked with the sports industry for over 50 years and has a comprehensive understanding of the travel needs of sportspeople, their teams and fans. In 2016 alone, the European team transported a total of over 21,400 passengers on over 350 flights to 130 destinations globally for various sporting events.

Katie Daw, Trading Manager at Air Partner TMC, commented: *"It was a pleasure working with the experienced team at Smile, who share our in-depth knowledge of sports travel. We work with a number of travel operators, who rely on us to provide customised and comprehensive solutions to their clients' flying requirements. Every project is different and our team works around the clock to ensure that specific requests are met – in this case, making sure the clubs have a big enough luggage allowance for all their kit."*

Louise Dupree, Operations Manager at Smile Group Travel, said: *"When arranging travel logistics for our clients, it's of the utmost importance to us that we work with suppliers who share our values in terms of customer service. Arranging flights with Air Partner TMC was a very smooth and easy process, and our clients were extremely happy with the outcome – especially that they are all booked onto the flights they wanted from the airports they wanted."*

ENDS

Enquiries:

Temple Bar Advisory (PR Advisor to Air Partner)

Tom Allison

Alycia MacAskill

020 7002 1080

07789 998 020

07776 253 482

About Air Partner:

Founded in 1961, Air Partner is a global aviation services group that provides worldwide solutions to industry, commerce, governments and private individuals. The Group has two divisions: Broking division, comprising air charter broking and remarketing; and the Consulting & Training division, comprising the aviation safety consultancies, Baines Simmons and Clockwork Research. For reporting purposes, the Group is structured into four divisions: Commercial Jets, Private Jets, Freight (Broking) and Consulting & Training (Baines Simmons and Clockwork Research). The Commercial Jet division charters large airliners to move groups of any size. Aircraft Remarketing, which is formed within the Commercial Jet division, provides comprehensive remarketing programmes for all types of commercial and corporate aircraft to a wide range of international clients. Private Jets offers the Company's unique pre-paid JetCard scheme and on-demand charter. Freight charters aircraft of every size to fly almost any cargo anywhere, at any time. Baines Simmons is a world leader in

14 March 2017

aviation safety consulting specialising in aviation regulation, compliance and safety management. Clockwork Research is a leading fatigue risk management consultancy. Air Partner is headquartered alongside Gatwick airport in the UK. Air Partner operates 24/7 year-round and has 20 offices globally. Air Partner is listed on the London Stock Exchange (AIR) and is ISO 9001:2008 compliant for commercial airline and private jet solutions worldwide. www.airpartner.com