



Citywest to make €10m this month

by **Richard Curran**

The Citywest golf and hotel complex will take in €10 million in September on the back of several events, including the official Ryder Cup gala dinner.

Phil Jones, the general manager of the Citywest group, said the Ryder Cup event would contribute to the hotel's busiest month on record.

Turnover at Citywest's three golf clubs, conference centre and hotel, shot up by €21 million to €53 million in the five months from April 2006 to August 2006, compared to the same period last year.

A further €10 million in September will give it a half-

year turnover of €63 million.

Citywest will host the Ryder Cup gala dinner on 20 September for 1,400 guests.

"The hotel is completely full and has been booked out for the last 18 months," said Jones.

During the month of September, Citywest's revenues will also be boosted by the hurling final dinner for Kilkenny, the People of the Year Awards, the Property Expo, the Entrepreneur of the Year Awards and the dinner to celebrate the winners of today's All-Ireland football Final. Citywest, which is hosting the Mayo team, has already sold 2,200 tickets for

tonight's event.

By the end of September the company expects to have had 100,000 people pass through the hotel, golf courses, conference facility and Weston Airport.

Jones said the Ryder Cup event, including the dinner, was the biggest thing to happen in the area, but he criticised the county council for not making more of an effort to give a face-lift to Saggart. "We feel this is a wasted opportunity for Saggart. There is no bunting, no flags, nothing in the town of Saggart, even though you may have three ex-presidents of the US passing through it for the

Ryder Cup," he said.

The Citywest Hotel complex has been built up from a small 40-bedroom hotel to the largest hotel in Ireland, with over 1,000 rooms. "We employ 1,000 people here, and for the 1,400 Ryder Cup guests we will have 700 staff on that night," Jones said.

Citywest owner Jim Mansfield is providing the Weston Airport as a park-and-ride facility for the golf event, and should also benefit from the private charter planes due to land at the airport while the event is on.



Jim Mansfield