



Media Release

Hellenic Festival of Tennis a Smashing Success

The 2005 Hellenic Australian Tennis Championship presented by Thomas Hotels proved to be a great success with in excess of 430 players both locally and internationally taking part.

With 17 different events, making participation in this tournament open to all ages and standards, the number of participants was an outstanding result and almost double the amount of players who contested the inaugural event in 2004.

The feature event for players with Hellenic heritage, The Mark Phillippoussis Cup was taken out by Michael Hayes defeating Evan Angelopoulos after a slow start 4-6, 6-0, 6-0. For this Michael was rewarded with a return trip to Greece courtesy of Gulf Air.

Last years runner up in the Open Mens Singles, Jurek Stasiak went one better this year taking out a hard fought final against Niko Trkulja with Stasiak leading 6-4, 3-2, Trkulja had to unfortunately withdraw due to injury.

In a showcase of the future of Australian womens tennis, rising stars, 15 year old Holly Cao and 14 year old Tyra Calderwood, fought out a high quality final with Cao winning 7-5, 6-3.

President of the Hellenic Tennis Association, John Giavis was delighted with the success of the event and looked forward to an even bigger event in 2006. He stated that "without the support and assistance of our sponsors as well as continued involvement of the tennis community none of this would be possible. On behalf of the Hellenic Tennis Association we thank all participants and look forward to seeing you all again next year".

A wonderful presentation night was held following the finals events as a celebration of the great tournament. To highlight the significance of the event, Tennis NSW president, John Whittaker made an appearance at the presentation evening and was impressed with both the organisation and participation numbers of the event.

The tournament sanctioned by Tennis NSW is supported by the great Pete Sampras and Australia's best-known player of Greek origin, Mark Philippoussis.

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