



Media Release

TENNIS GREAT LENDS SUPPORT TO 2005 THOMAS HOTELS HELLENIC AUSTRALIAN TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Arguably the greatest tennis player of all time, Pete Sampras, has thrown his support behind the 2005 Thomas Hotels Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships to be held at Cintra Park Tennis Centre in Sydney from the 23rd to the 25th April.

14 time Grand Slam winner, Sampras, a player with Hellenic heritage, has sent a message of good luck to all competitors of the tournament.

The official statement sent to the Hellenic Tennis Association from Pete Sampras is as follows "Good luck to all the participants in the Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships."

Sampras joins Australian tennis professional Mark Philippoussis, with his support of the event. Philippoussis, the patron of the event who enthusiastically supports the Hellenic Tennis Association and the tournament, once again lends his name to the feature event, the Mark Philippoussis Cup.

Hellenic Tennis Association president, John Giavis, said that he was "thrilled and excited that two icons of tennis like Mark Philippoussis and the greatest player of all time, Pete Sampras would lend their support to our event"

Following the outstanding success of the inaugural tournament held in January 2004 with over 200 players from interstate and overseas competing in the various events the 2005 Thomas Hotels Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships offers a range of events open to players of all ages and standards (not just players from a Hellenic background) with in excess of \$12 000 in prizes to be won. Entries are still being accepted and entry forms can be downloaded from the Hellenic Tennis Association web site at www.hellenictennis.org.au

As well as some of the best competition tennis in Australia, there will be other activities conducted to contribute to this Hellenic Festival of Tennis. Traditional Greek food stalls, Wilson tennis racquet testing and free tennis coaching clinics for kids will be provided to add to this festival. Kids who wish to participate in these free clinics need to register with the Hellenic Tennis Association before the 13th April.

Event: 2005 Thomas Hotels Hellenic Australian Tennis Championships
Venue: Cintra Park Tennis Centre, Gipps St, Concord
Date: 23 - 25 April 2005
Entry Forms: www.hellenictennis.org.au
Entries Close: 6 April 2005

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