



Mark Meyers, L.A. Sports Council, mark.meyers@cox.net, (714) 734-0433
Julie Hoekwater, Arrowhead Pond, jhoekwater@arrowheadpond.com, (714) 704-2412

Arrowhead Pond Awarded 2005 Badminton World Championships

ANAHEIM (July 28, 2003) -- The International Badminton Federation (IBF) announced today that the Arrowhead Pond will host the 2005 World Badminton Championships. The announcement was made at this year's world championships, currently taking place in Birmingham, England. The event will feature approximately 400 athletes from 60 countries.

The Arrowhead Pond, representing the United States, was awarded the event over Denmark. A third finalist, Singapore, withdrew its bid just prior to the IBF Council meeting at which the decision was made. The successful bid was a joint effort by USA Badminton, the Arrowhead Pond and the Los Angeles Sports Council.

"The area's Olympic sports history combined with its cultural diversity makes it an ideal location for the 2005 championships," said Paisan Rangsitpho, the IBF Vice President from the United States.

The championships are tentatively scheduled for late Spring of 2005.

"This makes five world championships awarded to Southern California in the last two years, including two – badminton and gymnastics – at the Arrowhead Pond," said Sports Council President David Simon, who along with Arrowhead Pond General Manager Tim Ryan was in England to make the final bid presentation and for the official announcement.

"This is such a coup," said Ryan, "to be awarded the 2005 Badminton World Championships and the 2004 U.S. Team Trials for Gymnastics in the same year that we're hosting the World Gymnastics Championships. There is no doubt about it; the Arrowhead Pond and Orange County have been recognized as a destination for major national and international sporting events."

Simon noted that the badminton community throughout Southern California is a fairly large one. The Orange County Badminton Club in Orange, Calif., one of the proposed practice sites for the world championships, will stage the U.S. Open Championships in September. Further, within the next two months the IBF will be opening a Pan American Continental office in Anaheim at Edison Field.

More

Page 2
Badminton

According to the U.S. Olympic Committee, there are approximately 1.7 million Americans who play badminton, and Southern California is considered the nation's hotbed with more than 100,000 participants.

The Los Angeles Sports Council is a private, nonprofit organization whose purpose is to bid for and host major sporting events in the Greater Los Angeles area. Other world championships which the Council has helped bring to the Los Angeles area are gymnastics (Aug. 16-24 at the Arrowhead Pond), cycling (2005), beach volleyball (2005) and track and field (2006 World Cup). For further information, visit www.lasports.org.

To request more information on the 2005 World Badminton Championships, visit www.arrowheadpond.com.

#