

## Press Release

### 2003 World Pool Championship

**MATCHROOM SPORT** is delighted to announce that the 2003 World Pool Championship will be taking place at the Cardiff International Arena for the fifth consecutive year as 128 players from around 40 countries go head-to-head for the \$300,000 prize-fund in the world's biggest televised pool tournament.

In one of the strongest fields ever assembled, players from countries as diverse as Puerto Rico, India, and the Czech Republic will all be competing against the stars from pool's major league nations such as the USA, Germany, Philippines and Taiwan.

The Championship runs from 12<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> July and global names like 2001 champion Mika 'Iceman' Immonen of Finland, Filipino legend and 1999 champ Efren Reyes of the Philippines, Germany's Ralf 'the Kaiser' Souquet and defending champion Earl 'the Pearl' Strickland will all be cuing up for action.

On the home front 2000 quarter finalist Steve 'Romford Slim' Davis will lead the British challenge that includes reigning World Snooker Champion Mark Williams, 1999 quarter finalist Steve Knight and UK's No.1 ranked player Imran Majid.

The Championship breaks off at 11am on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> July as the opening group games get underway and culminates on the evening of Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> when the final will be played out and the destination of the magnificent trophy and the winners cheque of \$65,000 will be decided.

The World Pool Championship is live in its entirety on Sky Sports in the UK, adding up to more than 60 hours of live coverage over the nine days. The Championship is also live to over 60 countries across Asia on the ESPN Star network where pool is one of the top-rated sports.

In addition, the event is live throughout Holland via terrestrial broadcaster RTL5 and in Hungary on Sport 1. As well as its live coverage, the World Pool Championship is broadcast in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Japan, the Middle East and various European countries in highlights form.

The tournament is sanctioned by the World Pool Association, the sport's governing body, who administer pool across the world. For players who have not made it through to the main draw via international ranking lists, there is a series of open qualifying events at the Cardiff International Arena starting on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July. Eleven places are available and it is a chance for aspirational club players to rub shoulders with the greats of the game.

Pool is one of the fastest growing sports in the world and the 2003 World Pool Championship is its international show case.

**World Pool Championship 2003 – Prize Fund**

<b>Winner</b>	\$65,000	x 1	\$65,000
<b>Runner-Up</b>	\$30,000	x 1	\$30,000
<b>Semi-Finalists</b>	\$17,500	x 2	\$35,000
<b>Qtr Finalists</b>	\$ 8,500	x 4	\$34,000
<b>Last 16</b>	\$ 4,000	x 8	\$32,000
<b>Last 32</b>	\$ 2,000	x 16	\$32,000
<b>Last 64</b>	\$ 1,500	x 32	\$48,000
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Place in Group</b>	\$ 1,000	x 16	\$16,000
<b>6<sup>th</sup> Place in Group</b>	\$ 500	x 16	\$ 8,000
<b>Total Prize Fund</b>			<u><b>\$300,000</b></u>

## **2003 World Pool Championship – Format & Schedule**

**Days 1 – 4** Sat, Sun, Mon, Tues 12,13,14,15 July ( 448 matches )

First Round Group Play - Race to 5 - Alternate breaks

**Day 5** Weds 16 July ( 32 matches )

Second Round (last 64) - Race to 9 - Winner breaks

**Day 6** Thurs 17 July ( 16 matches )

Third Round (last 32) - Race to 9 - Winner breaks

**Day 7** Fri 18 July ( 8 matches )

Fourth Round (last 16) - Race to 11 - Winner breaks

**Day 8** Sat 19 July ( 6 matches )

Quarter Finals - Race to 11 - Winner breaks

Semi Finals - Race to 11 - Winner breaks

**Day 9** Sun 20 July ( 1 match )

Final - Race to 17 - Winner breaks

## The Groups – Seeded players in bold

### Group 1

**Earl Strickland**  
**Jorge Llanos**  
Ying-chieh Chen  
Vilmos Foldes  
Paul Potier  
Marko Lohtander  
Anton Klanfar  
Mark Williams

**USA**  
**Argentina**  
Chinese Taipei  
Hungary  
Canada  
Finland  
South Africa  
Wales

### Group 2

**Francisco Bustamante**  
**Raymond Cruz**  
Po-cheng Kuo  
Ivica Putnik  
Phil Reilly  
Thomas Engert  
Shaun Putnam  
Cardiff Qualifier 6

**Philippines**  
**Canada**  
Chinese Taipei  
Croatia  
Australia  
Germany  
USA  
Tues 8<sup>th</sup> July

### Group 3

**Ralf Souquet**  
**Imran Majid**  
Siaw Wieto  
Fabio Petroni  
Emile Reira  
Alex Lely  
Max Eberle  
Cardiff Qualifier 11

**Germany**  
**England**  
Indonesia  
Italy  
Australia  
Holland  
USA  
Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July

### Group 4

**Efren Reyes**  
**Radoslaw Babica**  
Sin-young Park  
Alexander Markut  
John Horsfall  
Janne Kaipainen  
Jeremy Jones  
Cardiff Qualifier 9

**Philippines**  
**Poland**  
Korea  
Austria  
Canada  
Finland  
USA  
Weds 9<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 5**

**Mika Immonen**  
**Charlie Williams**  
Hinokiyama Haruyoshi  
Pascal Budo  
Jeff Kennedy  
Marlon Manolo  
Alan Rolon  
Rob McKenna

**Finland**  
**USA**  
Japan  
Belgium  
Canada  
Philippines  
Puerto Rico  
Wales

### **Group 6**

**Ching-shun Yang**  
**Akikumo Toshikawa**  
Mukesh Rehani  
Sandor Tot  
David Reljic  
Anand Manurat  
Tony Robles  
Cardiff Qualifier 5

**Chinese Taipei**  
**Japan**  
India  
Hungary  
Australia  
Holland  
USA  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 7**

**Johnny Archer**  
**Rico Diks**  
Pei-wei Chang  
Roman Hybler  
Andre Pelletier  
Sten Jarledal  
David Anderson  
Cardiff Qualifier 4

**USA**  
**Holland**  
Chinese Taipei  
Czech Republic  
Canada  
Sweden  
South Africa  
Mon 7<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 8**

**Fong-pang Chao**  
**Niels Feijen**  
Satoshi Kawabata  
Peter F Nielsen  
Steve Knight  
Erik Weiselius  
Ernesto Dominguez  
Cardiff Qualifier 2

**Chinese Taipei**  
**Holland**  
Japan  
Denmark  
England  
Sweden  
Mexico  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 9**

**Warren Kiamco**  
**Steve Davis**  
Ang-boon Lay  
Konstantin Stepanov  
Tony Drago  
Christian Reimering  
Richard Wolff  
Cardiff Qualifier 7

**Philippines**  
**England**  
Singapore  
Russia  
Malta  
Germany  
Aruba  
Tues 8<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 10**

**Cory Deuel**  
**Young-hwa Jeong**  
Choon-kiat Tey  
Anastasias Vrakas  
Kevin Smith  
Lee Van Corteza  
Mauro Ibarra  
Cardiff Qualifier 1

**USA**  
**Korea**  
Singapore  
Greece  
England  
Philippines  
Mexico  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 11**

**Alex Pagulayan**  
**Danny Harriman**  
Shintaro Sugaya  
Stephane Cohen  
Ceri Worts  
Gilliano Smit  
Ditto Acosta  
Pro 9 Ball Qualifier 1

**Canada**  
**USA**  
Japan  
France  
New Zealand  
Holland  
Aruba  
Sat 14<sup>th</sup> June

### **Group 12**

**Oliver Ortmann**  
**Che-wei Fu**  
Hiroshi Takenaka  
Raymond Hauge  
Brent Wells  
Buddy Hall  
Niklas Bergendorff  
Junior Qualifier

**Germany**  
**Chinese Taipei**  
Japan  
Norway  
New Zealand  
USA  
Sweden  
Tues 8<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 13**

**Nick Van Den Berg**  
**Kunihiko Takahashi**  
Hui-chan Lu  
Juan Antonio Fernandez  
Luc Salvas  
Thorsten Schober  
Jimmy Wetch  
Cardiff Qualifier 8

**Holland**  
**Japan**  
Chinese Taipei  
Spain  
Canada  
Germany  
USA  
Weds 9<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 14**

**Marcus Chamat**  
**Rodney Morris**  
Tiong-boon Tan  
Carmine Nanula  
Daryl Peach  
Ralph Eckert  
Ryan Rampersaud  
Cardiff Qualifier 3

**Sweden**  
**USA**  
Singapore  
Italy  
England  
Germany  
Aruba  
Sun 6<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 15**

**Kun-fang Lee**  
**Tom Storm**  
Jang-su Lee  
Sascha Spechia  
Michael Valentine  
Michael Schmidt  
Shannon Daulton  
Cardiff Qualifier 10

**Chinese Taipei**  
**Sweden**  
Korea  
Switzerland  
Scotland  
Germany  
USA  
Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> July

### **Group 16**

**Nick Varner**  
**Antonio Lining**  
Hong-jo Jung  
Marc Holtz  
Louis Condo  
Thorsten Hohmann  
Miguel Jerez  
Pro 9 Ball Qualifier 2

**USA**  
**Philippines**  
Korea  
Luxembourg  
Australia  
Germany  
Argentina  
Sat 28<sup>th</sup> June

## **Countries Represented**

1. Argentina
2. Aruba
3. Australia
4. Austria
5. Belgium
6. Canada
7. Chinese Taipei
8. Croatia
9. Czech Republic
10. Denmark
11. England
12. Finland
13. France
14. Germany
15. Greece
16. Holland
17. Hungary
18. India
19. Indonesia
20. Italy
21. Japan
22. Korea
23. Luxembourg
24. Malta
25. Mexico
26. New Zealand
27. Norway
28. Philippines
29. Poland
30. Puerto Rico
31. Russia
32. Scotland
33. Singapore
34. South Africa
35. Spain
36. Sweden
37. Switzerland
38. USA
39. Wales

## **2003 World Pool Championship – Co-Sponsors**

### **Simonis ( Cloth )**

Matchroom Sport and Simonis already enjoy a long-standing relationship that dates back over a decade and the prestigious Belgian company are suppliers to Matchroom Sport's entire roster of pool events. Simonis 860 cloth covers the tables at the World Pool Championship, the Mosconi Cup, the World Pool Masters and the World Pool League. Founded over 300 years ago in the city of Verviers, Simonis cloth stands today as the benchmark to which all billiard cloths aspire. Suppliers to major tournaments all over the world, Simonis technicians are constantly improving the quality of their cloth to maintain its position as the world's finest .

Contact: [iwansimonis@iwansimonis.com](mailto:iwansimonis@iwansimonis.com)

### **Brunswick Billiards ( Tables )**

Brunswick Billiards are the official table suppliers to all Matchroom Sport pool events, a relationship which began at the 1998 Mosconi Cup. The Gold Crown IV table, in use at the World Championship, is the choice of professionals the world over. With a tradition of quality that spans over a century and a half, Brunswick Billiards is a legendary name in the billiard industry. A division of the Brunswick Corporation, Brunswick Billiards is headquartered in Bristol, Wisconsin and is a marketer and manufacturer of a complete line of premier billiard tables, table lights, cues, cue racks, and accessories.

Contact: [info@brunblrds.com](mailto:info@brunblrds.com)

### **Aramith ( Balls )**

For several decades, Belgian Aramith Billiard Balls have had a legendary reputation for outstanding endurance, performance and uncompromising quality. That is why they are the balls used at the World Pool Championship. Made by Saluc, Aramith's excellence is the result of a high-tech process that combines the unmatched characteristics of phenolic resin with fine Belgian craftsmanship. Their consistently reliable performance guarantees razor-sharp precision and their exceptionally long product life offers the table owner the lowest ball cost on an annual basis. That is how Aramith for almost half a century gained its legendary reputation as signature for true and unrivalled quality

Contact: [info@aramith.com](mailto:info@aramith.com)

### **Predator ( High-Performance Cues and Shafts )**

Predator is the Official Cue of the World Pool Championship for the second year running after a successful 2002. In addition, they will also be acting as Official Cue to the full roster of Matchroom Sport pool events this year. Since its creation in 1992 and thanks to the constant research effort put into the understanding of Pool Cue performance dynamics, Predator strives to stimulate the sport and help pool players improve their game by being at the cutting edge of pool cue performance. Currently over 50% of the top 40 US male professionals use Predator technology (Source: UPA rankings - June 03).

Contact: [info@predatorcues.com](mailto:info@predatorcues.com)

## **2003 World Pool Championship – Qualifying Events**

The Qualifying Events are being held in the same venue as the Final Stages of the World Championship – the Cardiff International Arena. From Saturday 5th July until Thursday 10th July, there will be TEN tournaments through which players can qualify in to the Main 128 Man Field:

<b>Saturday 5th</b>	Registration + Tournament 1 @ 12pm	
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	Tournament 2 @ 10am	Tournament 3 @ 1pm
<b>Monday 7th</b>	Tournament 4 @ 10am	Tournament 5 @ 1pm
<b>Tuesday 8th</b>	Tournament 6 @ 10am	Tournament 7 @ 1pm
<b>Wednesday 9th</b>	Tournament 8 @ 10am	Tournament 9 @ 1pm
<b>Thursday 10th</b>	Tournament 10 @ 10am plus The One Rack Shoot Out	

Players may play only once a day, so if you are entered in Tournament 2, you will not be able to play in Tournament 3 etc. Tournaments 1 and 10 are linked and you may choose which one of these that you wish to play.

Entry to Tournament 11 (the One Rack Shoot Out) is restricted to players who have played in a minimum of three tournaments.

Players signing up for the full five tournament package will be given their full itinerary for the week and will be given priority over casual players in the daily draws. There will be a maximum of 64 players in the 10am tournaments,

There will be 14 grade A tables (12 for play and 2 for practice) all fully equipped and in first class condition.

The Entry Fee to cover five tournaments plus free entry to the ORSO will be £350. You may enter individual events £80 each but places may be restricted in favour of players taking the five tournament option.

### **Contacts**

Tournament Information Doug Gordon +44 7939 235716 or pro9wc2k3@yahoo.com

Hotel and General enquiries Brenda Smith+44 208 693 8311 / pro9bs@hotmail.com

## 2003 World Pool Championship – Television

### 63 Hours Live Coverage

#### Broadcaster - BSKYB

#### Territory - UK

BSKYB is a satellite and cable station reaching 6.75 million subscribers across the UK.

#### Broadcaster – ESPN Star Sports TV

#### Territory - Asia

Satellite channel broadcasting across the whole of Asia to 220 million viewers in 63 countries.

#### Broadcaster – Sport 1 (UPC)

#### Territory – Hungary

UPC is a Satellite & Cable TV station broadcasting across Eastern Europe to 1.3 million households

#### Broadcaster – RTL5

#### Territory – Holland

RTL5 is a terrestrial broadcaster to 6.7 million TV homes in the Netherlands

### 18 Hours Delayed Coverage

#### Broadcaster – Sportsnet

#### Territory - Canada

Sportsnet broadcasts to 8,260,000 homes in Canada.

#### Broadcaster – Sports- i

#### Territory – Japan

Sports-i is a cable and satellite TV station broadcasting to over 3,250,000 Japanese homes

#### Broadcaster – KSA TV

#### Territory – Middle East

KSA TV is a cable and satellite station broadcasting to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia

#### Broadcaster - Supersport

#### Territory – S. Africa

Supersport is a cable and satellite Pay TV station in South Africa covering 1.5 million subscribers.

**Broadcaster - Fox Sports**

**Territory - Australia**

FOX Sports is a cable and satellite broadcaster to over 1,000,000 households.

**Broadcaster – Fox World**

**Territory – United States**

Fox World is a cable pay TV station broadcasting to over 19 million households

**Broadcaster – Stream**

**Territory – Italy**

Stream is a Pay TV station with almost one million subscribers

**Broadcaster – NTV Plus**

**Territory – Russia**

Cable and satellite to over 40 million homes in Russia

**Broadcaster – ESPN International**

**Territory – Latin America**

Cable and satellite to over 15 million subscribers

**Broadcaster – Viasat**

**Territory – Scandinavia**

Cable and satellite across Denmark, Norway and Sweden