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News



THE CHAMPIONS OF ENGLAND

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IBB Polonia London VC Team





Looking forward to the next challenge

Congratulations! It was a great season. Did you anticipate such a great sequence of results in order to win the Cup and Championship?

Thanks for your congratulations. We always go on court with the aim of winning of course. We always wanted to defeat the opponents and take the maximum number of points.

And you only lost one match all season?

Yes. It was with our eternal rival Team Northumbria up in Newcastle. There was a moment, when we lost focus and we allowed the opposition to get away from us and it resulted in us losing the set. We lost our rhythm and even though we didn't give up; it was too much to do to catch them up before they closed out the set. It was a costly error for us and gave us our only defeat.

And after that, you won every match; right up until the finals of the Cup and the League. Those titles ended up with you in London and not in the north.

These wins were some of the most important in my career. IBB Polonia gathered an outstanding group of players who became a great team and we really earned those titles. They were amazing feelings; being in the best group of players in England. I'm really looking forward to the next challenge that will be in the European Challenge Cup

A conversation with

Bartek Kisielewicz
Team Captain



And could you always rely on your fans?

Indeed. Our fans were the "extra player" that often gets mentioned. They supported us at every single match, home and away. Other teams are extremely jealous of them, that there is a group of people who support us during matches. I really want to thank them on behalf of all of the team.

Apart from the fans, does anyone else get an honourable mention?

As I said earlier, we played like a team, so the honourable mention goes to everyone, the players, the coaches, the club Directors and the sponsors.

Thanks for your time and good luck in the European competitions.



A conversation with
Bartek Łuszcz
President of IBB Polonia London

IBB Polonia is a long-term project

So IBB Polonia London is currently the best team in the country?

When I became involved with volleyball three years ago, I didn't do it just for the one season. I decided to treat it like a long-term project, developed with patience by a group of people who have a similar approach. Through the last three years, the club has evolved and gone through many changes; not only in terms of the players, but also Club organizational changes. We have a number of goals that we are trying to achieve for the benefit of the club.

The fans are desperate to know if you will play in the European Challenge Cup: do you have any news for them?

We are working hard to ensure that IBB Polonia London will take part in this tournament organized by CEV; it is not a straightforward process! There are countless rules and regulations to follow. I'm optimistic that the news will be positive in terms of our participation in the CEV Challenge Cup.

Will participation in the CEV Challenge Cup result in some squad changes?

Of course there will be some new faces in the squad; but it's a little too soon for specific details! The last day of the previous season has automatically become the first day of the next season. The players are resting and recovering at the moment, but the management of the club are working hard to make the next steps materialize. We need to, not only, compete in the CEV Challenge Cup, but of course the super8. We constantly have new ideas and are considering new players; sponsorship deals and plans for the fans. we are constantly working on the idea that IBB Polonia London remains the best in every respect.

I heard lots of mentions, not only of the team, but also of the IBB Polonia fans.

Our fans are famous across Europe, not only in the UK. we have introduced a high quality of volleyball to England and they were keen to watch us home and away. It's great to have a group of loyal supporters who are behind the team through thick and thin. Other teams are very envious of our relationship with them.

The team also consists of the sponsors. You've got a great partnership with IBB.

The boss of the company IBB Polish Building Wholesale is Jacek Ambrozy, a Patron of volleyball in England. His influence develops the club and also the sport in general in England. We are grateful for his faith in us and are delighted in his vision of the future.

IBB Polonia London also have a number of other Patrons I hear.

In 2015/16 we have had support from Maja Polish deli; CBL; Manualmed, Polka PR. We have excellent relationships with Witold Sobkow, the Polish Ambassador in the UK and also with the Foreign Office in Warsaw and Mr Bogdan Beclaa, the Director of Polish Tourism Office in London. a very special partnership links us with Mr Konrad Piechocki, the President of PGE SKRA Belchatow and also of course with the actual club from Belchatow - our official partners. I am so grateful for all of those whom I have mentioned on behalf of the club and also from a personal perspective.

I will keep my fingers crossed for you, and thanks for the conversation



Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in London



Congratulations from Polish Embassy in London

Winning the English National Volleyball League Championship by Polonia London Volleyball is a brilliant achievement for the players, coaches, all members of the athletic and administrative support staff, and the club's sponsors. It is a culmination of months of hard work and commitment throughout the club's most successful season, which included winning the Super 8 League and claiming the 2016 National Cup. IBB Polonia's success promotes the Polish spirit and determination, as well as demonstrates another valid contribution of Poles to the British society.

Established by the Polish community in 1973, today IBB Polonia London is one of the most popular volleyball teams in England, composed of players of various nationalities

and backgrounds. As part of the men's English National Volleyball League, Polonia has won the Championship three times before (in 1986, 2011, 2013), and has significantly contributed to the promotion of Polish culture and sport in the United Kingdom.

Sport is one of the key areas of public diplomacy, through which the Embassy hopes to showcase Poland abroad, engage with the community, and spread the values of fair play, inclusion and co-operation. Our initiatives in volleyball, football, and sailing receive a very positive response from both Polish and British communities. Volleyball is a national sport in Poland and we are delighted that it is gaining popularity also in the UK. By gathering record audiences at their matches

and developing a loyal and committed fan base, Polonia London are true ambassadors of Polish sport in the UK. The club's junior section inspires the next generation of champions and motivates the children to exercise and socialise. We are hoping to develop similar partnerships in other areas of public diplomacy, by supporting the growing network of Polish Saturday schools, football academies, and educational as well as cultural societies.

We are very proud to be one of Polonia's sponsors, look forward to our co-operation in the future, and wish the team many successes in the upcoming competitions. Go Polonia!

Witold Sobków

The Polish Ambassador



IBB Polonia London became The Champions of England



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Embassy
of the Republic of Poland
in London



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Polish National Tourist Office

joins in to celebrate the success of IBB Polonia Volleyball Team

The Polish National Tourist Office (PNT0) has been a loyal supporter of IBB Polonia London volleyball team for many years. The phenomenal success scored by the team during the 2015/2016 season was a great inspiration for everybody and a particular reason for us to rejoice. Since 2013 we have been watching the team going from strength to strength, finally to achieve a hat trick victory: winning the National Cup Finals, Super 8 League and England Championship.

We have special reasons to congratulate the IBB Polonia team because we have worked with them hand in hand to create added value to their sporting success - promoting Poland as a fascinating country, a mecca for volleyball supporters and a place full of great tourist attractions, which in 2015 was the destination of choice for more than two million UK visitors, over 16 per cent more than a year before.

After a successful beginning of our co-operation, when for the first time the team displayed the "Polska" logo on their shirts, in 2014 we jointly

promoted tourism to Poland and also enlisted the support of Volleyball England. We arranged a visit to Poland for Lisa Wainwright and Rohan West, chief executives of VE, to watch the Hubert Wagner Memorial games played in Krakow two weeks before the start of the Volleyball World Cup. On returning, they both said they were amazed how enthusiastic Polish supporters were about the game, and how much popularity volleyball enjoys in Poland.

On the wave of the earlier successes, in 2015 the Polish National Tourist Office launched another promotional campaign together with IBB Polonia London team. We supported them during the prestigious international event, Legacy Volleyball Cup. The tournament was an opportunity for us to advertise travel to volleyball events in Poland to the scores of UK fans attending the games in the Copper Box Arena in London's Olympic Village.

To enjoy together the recent hat trick victory and the three years of our successful co-operation, on May 16, 2016 we invited members of the team,

their coach and club officials, to a party organised in our office at Westgate House. A commemorative plaque was presented to the team captain, Bartosz Kisielawicz, by Mr. Bogdan Becla, Director of PNT0. While addressing those present, Mr. Becla said: "Our cooperation with the most successful Polish sports team in the UK gives me not only the pleasure to enjoy together their victories and to support them in achieving even more, but also satisfaction that together we can encourage the British volleyball fans to learn more about Poland - the country that we all have the ambition to represent and promote as best as we can".

The Chairman of the IBB Polonia London, Bartłomiej Łuszcz, offered his assurances on behalf of the Club that the excellent cooperation with PNT0 will be continued. He remarked that the support offered by PNT0 helped to achieve greater interest in travel to Poland, which will result in many more UK fans visiting our country during the European Volleyball Championship, to be played in Poland in 2017.