

New historic theme of IBB Polonia London Volleyball Club shirts

For the second consecutive season, the IBB Polonia London kit will include a commemorative design symbolising the shared Polish and British history. Last year, a white-and-red checkerboard on the back marked the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, where Polish pilots formed the second largest contingent after the British. In 2016/17, Polonia's shirt will feature the diving eagle emblem of the Polish paratrooper unit the Silent Unseen. History of Polish-British cooperation will be visible throughout the league, cup and CEV Challenge Cup matches. We are very grateful to the Polish Embassy in London for supporting this project.

"We are very proud to be one of Polonia London's partners and look forward to continuing our cooperation in season 2016/17. Sport is one of the key areas of public diplomacy, through which the Embassy hopes to showcase Poland in Britain, engage with the community, promote inclusion and mutual respect. By developing a loyal and committed fan base, Polonia London have significantly contributed to the promotion of Polish culture and sport in the United Kingdom. Therefore, we are very happy that the emblem of the Silent Unseen will be displayed on the players' new shirts as a continuation of the initiative started last year with the commemoration of the Polish contribution to the Battle of Britain. Cichociemni's legacy is a brilliant example of Polish-British cooperation, and this project allows us to build a bridge



between our shared past and present. We wish the team every success in the English League and the European championships. Go Polonia!". commented Ambassador Arkady Rzegocki.

"Representing the Polish/British alliance is an honour for us. Playing with the paratroopers badge on our shirts ensures that the combined work between the two countries will not be forgotten. We want to show respect for both nations, shared history and sport are important issues for the society, and strengthening ties between the two areas is key for us. We are really honoured that we will be able to commemorate the Silent and Unseen when we play. They are an inspiration for us and allow us to strengthen international relations. We know that the soldiers used to play volleyball in their down-time for exercise and for relaxation. Our volleyball is more intense, but we are motivated knowing that we have that in common with them. Now the time has come for us to continue our combined history". said Bartek Luszcz IBB Polonia London Chairman

The Silent Unseen (in Polish Cichociemni) were an elite paratrooper unit of the Polish Army, who trained with the support of the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) in bases across the United Kingdom. The brave volunteers were parachuted into German-occupied Poland under the cover of darkness to support the secret operations and partisan warfare of the Home Army. Out of 316 Cichociemni who attempted to reach Poland, 103 perished in the war and further nine were murdered by the communist regime of post-war Poland. In December 2015, the Polish Parliament declared 2016 the Year of the Silent Unseen, to mark the 75th anniversary of the first jump. The diving eagle emblem was designed by Marian Walentynowicz in June 1941, and is currently used by "GROM" - the elite special forces unit of the Polish Army continuing Cichociemni's legacy.

IBB Polonia London is a current English Champion and English Cup holder and in 2016 the club will participate in the CEV Challenge Cup as a first club in English League.



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IBB Polonia London at the Warsaw tournament

On the weekend 9-11 September IBB Polonia London took part in the City Volley Cup tournament organised by the volleyball section of the sports club Legia Warsaw. It was a three day opportunity to test some players and ideas before the start of the domestic Super 8 League which begins 24th September.

The teams taking part, apart from IBB Polonia London, were Legia Warsaw, Lesan Halinow and VK Ostrava. In the end the tournament winners were from the Czech Republic who didn't lose a single match.

– I'm really pleased we could take part in this event – said IBB Polonia London Coach Piotr Graban. – It was a great opportunity to play lots of sets and experiment before the advent of the 2016/17 season. It was the first time to get the squad together. It was a chance to assess our current level. It allowed us to certainly raise our level and also to figure out which elements we are good at and where we must focus our attention in training. I'd like to thank the organisers of the tournament for our invitation and I hope that in a year we will travel to Warsaw again.

– The tournament is a great opportunity for the whole club to gain some Polish know-how – said Chairman Bartek Łuszcz. – Thanks to initiatives such as this we continue to learn from the best and can transfer the ideas to England. As a result the league will continue to develop and attract more players, spectators and media. The trip to Poland allowed us to develop our working relationships with the Polish Volleyball Federation, which will have a direct influence on the sport's popularity in the UK.



Grzegorz Samoraj

– Visit in Warsaw enabled me to learn more about the team. I have seen their engagement, optimism and sacrifice. – said the representative The Polish Bakery (Wembley), one of the sponsors who joined the team in Warsaw – Tournament proved that the decision about starting the cooperation was good. We share the same values and aims - team work, fair competition and perfectionism. I hope the effects of our co-work will turn out positive for both of us.

This was the second time the tournament had invited the current English champions. MVP of IBB Polonia London was voted as the captain – Marius Ciorte.

IBB Polonia - VK Ostrava 0:3

IBB Polonia - Legia Warsaw 2:3

IBB Polonia - Lesan Halinow 1:3

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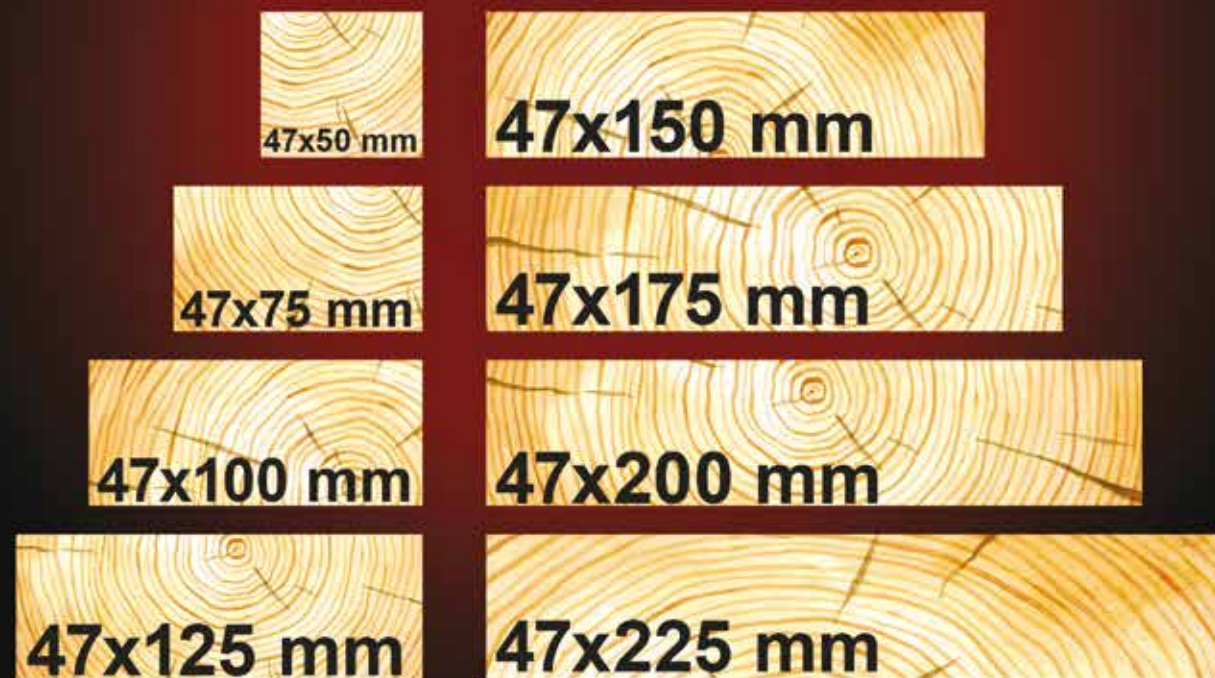
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IBB POLONIA FC

To inspire and develop Young Footballing boys or girls.

IBB Polonia London FC began its first ever training session in September 2016. This is a new club under the umbrella of the champions of English volleyball - IBB Polonia London VC. The volleyball club will support its football division using its sporting experience and knowledge. Gregory Niski, the Director of Sport of the football section is optimistically approaching the new season.

How can you sum up the first sessions of the new sporting section of IBB Polonia London?

Niski replied, that the start has looked very promising. There are lots of children coming training each week. We currently have two training squads, but we are aiming for four in total. Under 7,8,9 and 10 age groups. We anticipate that the interest in our new initiative will continue to grow.

Are you receiving many enquiries about the club at this stage?

In response Niski said that all of the promotional work being done is bearing fruit. We are constantly seeing new faces. We have received emails, phone calls and a constant steady stream of enquiries about registering of new children. You can see lots of interest in our section. The biggest draw is being part of IBB Polonia London Volleyball Club. we want to

continue the successes of the volleyball team on our football pitches. We are able to say that everything is being organised in a very professional way, with everything planned out very carefully. my aim is for the football section to be playing at a very high level and eventually for our players to play under professional contracts either in the UK or abroad.

So who will be coaching these sessions?

G.N.: We have two very gifted coaches, who have many years of experience. The younger children will work with Marcin Wanota and the older with Pawel Jurgielewicz. The coaches are dedicated to their work and their passion is infectious! For them, the most important assets are the players, their progress and the fun that they have.

Are the groups mixed?

G.N.: Trainings are for girls as much as boys where the divisional rules allow for mixed competitions. The first trainings were totally male, but we are aiming to encourage girls to join us.

When will recruiting start for the new children?

G.N.: Recruitment is a continual process. Anyone interested is able to join at any point and start training. The only date on the calendar is the 26th of September by which time we must have registered with the Harrow Youth Football League. There is no issue about players joining us later being able to play in the league (provided that they are good enough).

Where will the trainings take place?

G.N.: The training and matches will be held in Shepherd's Bush. It doesn't matter where the players live, they can join us if they can get to West London. We are trying to be flexible with our approach



**New t-shirts
for 2016/2017 season**