

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



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to allow as many people to take part as possible. If there are enough interested players from another part of London, we are able to relocate to help accommodate more people. Once we have made our final selections, the players must be able to access Shepherd's Bush twice each week for training.

Where can people find out further information about the club?

G.N.: We have a new website: www.poloniafc.com. We also have a Facebook profile on IBB Polonia Football Club. All important information will appear on both places. I'd also encourage people to browse the internet. To this date, potsatsport.pl, TVP Halo Polonia have also featured us. I'm hoping that, step by step, there will be lots of publicity about the new section of IBB Polonia London.

I imagine there is a lot of competition between football academies in London.

G.N.: Yes, you are correct. There is a lot of competition. There are many Polish football clubs, and there are countless English ones. Our coaches, however, have lots of experience and success in various competitions. So long as our players are better than the opposition, then that means things are going in the right direction.

So is IBB Polonia FC a unique club?

G.N.: I think the coaches experiences and successes are a good indicator that they have been working well. And also that their charges are making good progress. An experienced coach with the appropriate approach is the key to club results. It is exactly this sort of coach that IBB Polonia FC is proud to have. It's also a legendary name that

everyone should be proud to be part of. A name that for the last 40 years has proudly represented Poland in the UK.

Are the trainings just playing about, or are you developing professionalism? Do the children learn qualities other than football?

G.N.: We have a professional approach and are aiming to develop each individual for the future. The players have a specific goal. The majority want to be the next Ronaldo or Messi! They are very active and focussed, they often arrive early to start kicking the ball, to start training. These players don't need external motivation. They know what they want. We are developing their skills. the coaches transfer their knowledge to the players and model a healthy lifestyle. The players are reminded about healthy diets and that rest and sleep are also important. Training camps are great ways to teach these ideas. There will be a variety of trips arranged for the children. We are aiming for 3 trips each year where skills can be practiced and healthy living will be taught. This is an integral part of the lifestyle of any elite sportsperson.

Where will these trips be to?

G.N.: We are currently thinking of trips to Poland, but nowhere is out of the question. We will aim for locations that fulfil all of our requirements and will benefit the children as much as possible. There will be friendly games with local opponents.

Will parents be reassured that sending their children to a club like this is a good investment?

G.N.: Definitely. The coaches are well prepared and qualified and the Academy is of a high standard. I am a good example of this myself. When my son didn't make much progress training in an English club, I decided to make a change and met Pawel Jurgelewicz, one of the current IBB Polonia London coaches. After two years under his guidance, I can see a huge improvement in my son's ability and level of play. That's why I am so happy IBB Polonia FC will have his knowledge.

What are the specific aims of the season?

G.N.: The main thing is for the children to be happy and to improve their level. For them to develop and mature and to win games. It's obvious that in sport that defeats can be expected from time to time. We want to attract new children and to develop new age groups to promote the good name of IBB Polonia London. We want to assure everyone of total professionalism at all raining sessions, tournaments and training camps. These are the most important goals for us; for the children to also feel happy and part of a team.



Ewa Laskowska