

IBB Polonia London win a

# Spectacular Match

in Poland







**The date of the 18th December 2016 will go down in history as a day of epic proportion for IBB Polonia London. The team from London had to overturn a seemingly insurmountable deficit of 0:3 from the first leg against FINO Kaposvar SE. In Belchatow IBB Polonia London achieved a momentous result of beating the top team from Hungary 3:1. The match then went into a deciding “golden set”. With the huge support of spectators and volleyball players from the top Polish team of SKRA Belchatow, IBB Polonia won 15:10.**

The game against Hungarian team was a spectacular match with a lot of turnovers and emotions. After the game, many experts appreciated the performance of Marius Ciortea who was nominated as the MVP of the match. The best in the Hungarian team was Vajda. Once the emotions had died down, Coach Piotr Graban managed to sum up the match as “the culmination of a match plan that we established soon after the first match in Hungary. I am so proud of the achievement today and we really made a massive step forward in English volleyball. I also think that seeing as we represent players from a variety of world nations, those countries should be equally proud of what their players have achieved today. I am very grateful for all of the individuals and organisations that have supported us this season and in previous seasons.”

The players have a short break over the festive period when they can relax, but soon we will start preparations for the next match in our domestic league and also in the next round of the CEV Challenge Cup.

A representative from the Hungarian FINO Kaposvar team, was understandably disappointed with the defeat, but was philosophical saying “ we wanted, very much to win, but so did the home team that won the first two sets. We made mistakes that we could not comprehend. We don’t really know yet what went wrong, I congratulate the team from London”

3:1 (25:17, 25:22, 19:25, 25:19)

15:10 (golden Set)



# IBB Polonia London

**matches in the CEV Challenge Cup have an extra significance**

– I've been waiting for a long time for our team to play European matches and finally the dream has come true. Our opponents are Fino Kaposvar from Hungary. The matches will be a good indicator for us, as they have some very good players in their squad. Having said that, we also have an excellent team, with very strong players, and for this reason we are optimistic about the future. – commented Chris Hykiel, Director of Volleyball at IBB Polonia London.

– Taking part in the CEV Challenge Cup, is for our players, coaching staff and all the members of The Club a huge step forward towards World volleyball. We are doing everything to make pro-

gress. Our aim is to write a new page in English-Polish volleyball history. – said Head Coach of IBB Polonia London, Piotr Graban

– I've been an IBB Polonia London player for many years, and in that time the changes have been immense. To take part in the CEV Challenge Cup is a natural step forward for The Team that is making continual improvements in every aspect. I'm hoping, as one of the more experienced players of the squad, that we will fulfil our dreams in European competitions. – added opposite hitter IBB Polonia London, Tomasz Lasocki.

On court were two generations of players from English volleyball. Marek Banasiewicz,

who thirty years ago won his first title with IBB Polonia London will step onto court alongside Joaquin Bello, a sixteen year old player who already has beach volleyball experience and a gold medal in a NEVZA event.

– The return to IBB Polonia London, after all this time, will be very emotional. I will do everything possible to help the team, particularly as the possibility of me rejoining was the initiative of The Club. I don't know too much about the opposition; that job of analysing them falls on the shoulders of Piotr Graban and Patrik Selep. – revealed the returning Mark Banasiewicz.



# CEV Challenge Cup:

## Fino Kaposvar beats IBB Polonia London



**During the first match of the historic CEV Challenge Cup, where IBB Polonia London has two generations of players in the squad, the result did not go the way for the team for London. The home team of FINO Kaposvar SE won 3:0 (25:21, 25:18, 25:20). The Hungarian team set up an excellent venue and had superb support throughout the match.**

*– The rest did not represent the actual on-court situation. I think we played very good volleyball. We should not be ashamed of anything; of how we played and what we achieved. We can certainly re-*

*turn home with our heads held high. – said Coach Piotr Graban. – Personally I'm pleased with how we played. We really showed some positive attitudes. It is our first attempt in the European competition, and so of course there are pressures associated with an increase of standards of this degree. As a result we made errors that we would not have made in our domestic league, but that is the nature of dealing with a higher standard. We are very motivated for the next game. I believe in our team, in every player and I can see the eagerness to fight. We have two weeks of hard work ahead of us to display a great showcase of volleyball from England in Poland.*

*– We played well. Sadly the opposition was better and we couldn't get the better of them. We return to London with new ideas and experiences. The Hungarian team gave everything of themselves. I strongly believe this will motivate us to work harder*

*at our training sessions and will reinforce the team spirit. In two weeks we have the return fixture in Belchatow. We are optimistic and will fight to the very end – commented IBB Polonia London captain Marius Ciorte.*

*– We didn't play as badly as the result implies. The opponent was a lot more demanding than our usual opponents in the English Leagues. We made a few uncharacteristic errors, which we have to cope with in the next match. Then I am sure the result will be different – added IBB Polonia London setter, Bartosz Kisielewicz. – Now we have to focus our attention to the domestic league. We have a match against our local rivals Malory Eagles. They will be keen for revenge against us and we will use the match as the starting point for our preparation against FINO Kaposvar. I'm hoping the supporters in Belchatow will come to Hala Energia and support us there in two weeks.*

# Yet another league victory for IBB Polonia London

**On Saturday 10th December 2016 IBB Polonia London continued their run of good form in the domestic league with a win over local rivals Malory London. The reigning Champions of England took the game 1:3 (17:25, 18:25, 25:18, 17:25) and added three more points to their tally for the season so far.**

*– I warned the team, that our opponents had made progress since the start of the season. For this*

*reason, we approached the task with concentration and took a strong lead in the match by winning the first two sets comfortably. In the third set, they gained some psychological momentum and we lost focus. The final set was a confirmation of the start of the match. – said Head Coach Piotr Graban.*

The match against Malory Eagles was the final game for IBB Polonia London in England this year. They return to the domestic challenges on 14th January 2017 with an away fixture against Wessex. Currently for the players from West London, the next challenge is vitally important. On Sunday 18th December 2016 we play the return leg of the CEV Challenge Cup against FINO Kaposvar SE.

*– I'm pleased we played the game in Hungary and*

*have worked out their game and strategies. The players from FINO Kaposvar play a fast game at a high standard. We struggled with this at their venue. Now we are working hard to take revenge on "our" court. It is probable that some new players will join and bring something extra. I'm optimistic that we will play some amazing volleyball. We are expecting countless fans to be supporting us in Belchatow, Poland. I think this will come as a surprise to them! – added Piotr Graban.*

The team from London play the Hungarians in the "Hala Energia" in Belchatow land. The game starts at 6pm local time. Tickets are available for 3zł and 5zł and are available from the merchandise store belonging to SKRA Belchatow; at the Olympia Shopping Centre and also online at [www.ticketik.pl](http://www.ticketik.pl)

