

Victory for IBB Polonia London in the match preceding the 1/8 CEV Challenge Cup

Following a short break, the players of IBB Polonia London returned to the domestic league. The first match of the new year turned out very successfully. On Saturday 14th January 2017 in the second meeting between the two teams this season with Wessex, the team from London won 0:3 (20:25; 23:25; 15:25). This added another 3 points to their tally for the season.

– The game with Wessex wasn't one of the easiest, especially in their sportshall. I was concerned about the match as the first one of the year after the festive break. The game started with poor rhythm and we made errors. However after a short while, we gained the momentum we had been looking for. This is the third consecutive game that we have played with some emphatic phases of each et and with huge smiles on our faces. – said Coach Piotr Graban

This was the final preparation before the next round of the CEV Challenge Cup. On Tuesday 17th January 2017, IBB Polonia London heads to Apeldoorn Holland to take on Draisma Dynamo the following day. The match will be televised at 7pm and will be available on <http://www.laola1.tv/>.

– Holland is a well established country on the volleyball map of Europe. Regular competition in a professional league against Dutch and Belgian teams is a great advantage for them. We are the underdogs of this encounter, but that was also the case in the last round against the Hungarians. We have a tough period, in which time we will play five matches that are all critical. Of course we are doing everything possible to win each encounter. For that reason, I would like to encourage all fans to come and support us. You are our seventh player on court, and we need you. – added Graban.

– We now have a tough game in Holland, but we will depart for Apeldoorn very optimistically. Competing in Europe gives us strength and motivation. We are working at a very high level. – commented Chairman of IBB Polonia London Bartek Luszcz.



Steve Smith

Tickets for there match in Apeldoorn are available on draismadynamo.nl/onlineticketscev



Steve Smith

IBB Polonia London fall short at the next hurdle in the 1/8 CEV Challenge Cup

The European dreams of IBB Polonia London are still big. On Wednesday 18th January 2017, the team from the capital of England took on Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn. The venue turned out to be unlucky; the result of the first leg of the next round of the CEV Challenge Cup was a defeat: 3:1 (25:20; 25:16; 27:29; 25:17).

– For some, it will have come as a surprise that we won a set against a top quality Dutch side. I feel disappointed, on the other hand. I don't feel as though we were fully prepared for the match. Due to the lengthy break we had too few trainings. The first two sets seemed to fly by,

and it was only in the third and fourth sets that we started to fight. We really left everything on court, and of that I'm pleased. It was amazing to hear the support from our supporters from the Official Polonia Fan club; they made the journey over the water to help us. There were also a number of Polish residents living locally in Holland who were very vocal throughout. At the end of the match they gave us a standing ovation. – said IBB Polonia London Head Coach, Piotr Graban.

– The opponents were very demanding of us, and we didn't play to our full potential which resulted in the defeat. On the other hand, we are pleased with our set that we won, where we were able to show that we have spirit. It will also help us stay optimistic for the second leg. – said Bartosz Kisielewicz, IBB Polonia London setter.

It isn't the end of the fight to progress to the quarter finals of the CEV Challenge Cup. The sec-

ond leg will take place on Wednesday 1st February 2017 at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre in London. Last time that IBB Polonia London lost 3:0 away in Hungary they won the second match in Belchatow, Poland in a remarkable match. To top that the golden set also was won by the Champions of England. From this it is evident that the next match is not a foregone conclusion.

– I think it will be no ordinary match in Crystal Palace; we will bring fire. We know that we have a chance to win with this team. There level isn't too dissimilar to ours. We have a good chance in this game. In the next two weeks we will sacrifice everything for the match. History can repeat itself. A massive part of there match will be the supporters, of which we expect huge numbers. – added Piotr Graban

Before the big match, the team returns to the domestic league of the Super 8.



Steve Smith

IBB Polonia London gains another three points

Once again IBB Polonia London proved too strong for Solent. Sunday 22nd January 2017 the team from London travelled to Southampton and won 0:3 (22:25, 17:25, 18:25) and returned to the capital with another three points.

– We had total control of the game today. We had the luxury of allowing each player to play and played with confidence, which is pleasing leading up to the next European Challenge event and Cup

match in England. The festive break caused some changes to the league table with every club in the top section losing points except us. This is obviously a positive sign for us, that we managed to maintain our form. – commented Piotr Graban Head Coach for IBB Polonia London.

In the coming weekend the matches for IBB Polonia London are taking place in the capital city. On Saturday 28th January the match is against Lynx in the English Knockout Cup. The match will take place in University of East London Sportshall. Following on from that every volleyball fan in the country will be interested in the match taking place on 1st February at 7pm in Crystal Palace: the tra-

ditional home of volleyball in this country. The return match of the CEV Challenge Cup against the team from Holland: Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn; the match takes the victors through to the quarter finals of the competition.

– We are excited about the home leg of the match. We know what to expect and the way that the opponent plays. The coaches will have done their homework and will prepare us fully for the encounter. We are counting on a strong home support to ensure that the atmosphere is even louder than in Apeldoorn; the fans will help lift us to perform even better than we did in the Netherlands. – said Bartosz Kisielewicz, setter for IBB Polonia London.



Pawel Piotrowski

IBB Polonia London

advance to the semi finals of the Knock Out Cup

On Saturday 28th January, IBB Polonia London faced London Lynx in the quarter finals of the Knockout Cup of England. In the end it was the players under the guidance of Piotr Graban who proved the stronger. The result 0:3 (18:25, 19:25, 21:25) takes them through to the semi finals; the opposition will be Wessex.

- The match started nervously. Both teams knew that there is only one chance and some-

body will be knocked out at the end of the game. The first set started quite equally until the second technical time-out. After this point we managed to fine tune a couple of issues and we pushed ahead strongly. In the second set we were in control and stayed that way for the rest of the match. The fine result was due to our strong and accurate serving. - commented Patryk Selepe; assistant coach of IBB Polonia London.

The team from West London returns to defend their title at the end of February. Before that there will be a series of very tough games. This Wednesday 1st February at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre (Ledington rd, London SE19 2BB) the 1/8 round of the CEV Challenge Cup match takes place at 7pm. The opposition will be from Holland: Dra-

isma Dynamo Alepdolrn. The visitors won the first leg 3-1 (25:20; 25:16; 27:29; 25:17).

- The home leg will be different. The mere fact that we will be playing in front of our own fans will be a massive help. In Holland we did our best, but we have gained a lot of information about how our opponents play. We have been working hard in trainings to ensure we are fully prepared for the match. - added Patryk Selepe.

- The match this Wednesday looks to be a very interesting one. We know the opposition is very demanding, and this will ensure a great spectacle. We are motivated and have a positive outlook for the game. We hope that the fans will join in and help us to achieve the "next miracle". - said Marius Ciortea captain of IBB Polonia London.



Steve Smith

IBB Polonia London

invites everyone to their 1/8 CEV Challenge Cup match

We are striding towards a historical moment in London's history. On Wednesday 1st February 2017 at 7pm in Crystal Palace National Sports Centre, a confrontation of epic proportions will take place. IBB Polonia London will take on Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn from Holland in the next round of the CEV Challenge Cup. The reward for the victory will be progressing to the quarter final stages. Fans can expect a match of huge proportions as well as a number of exciting surprises along the way. It is all panning out to be a very memorable match.

– It is going to be the next very important day in the history of our Club as well as English volleyball. I would like to encourage all fans to come to the match and to support us in this critical time.– said IBB Po-

lonia London Chairman, Bartek Luszcz. – I am sure the match is going to be tough, the level played in Europe is very high. Together with our official partners we have organised a number of attractions to coincide with the game itself. It will be worth coming to the game to support the players and the Team as a whole.

– As Head sponsor of IBB Polonia London we invite all the supporters, our clients and Business Partners to the volleyball match in the 1/8 CEV Challenge Cup. After a very emotional encounter in Belchatow Poland, we come up against the second best team from Holland: Draisma Dynamo. Taking into account that such a game has never been played before in London, we are confident that playing in front of a

home crowd it will be possible to win the match and then the "Golden Set". Please come and support. See you in the sportshall! – was the comment from Team IBB Polish Building Wholesale.

There is an air of confidence within the team and the players are optimistic about the upcoming game. They are happy to be able to play in front of a huge home crowd and are counting on a vocal support that may carry them into the next round of the event.

– There is a great atmosphere. I believe we can win in front of our usually fervent supporters. The encouragement from the stands really helps us when things get tough. We are waiting for You! – commented Tomasz Iasocki, middle blocker for IBB Polonia London.

The game will take place at 7pm, GMT at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre; Iedrington rd, London, SE19 2BB.
Tickets are available via polonia.eventbrite.co.uk