



# IBB Polonia London

reach the finals of the Volleyball England Cup



**After the match on 25th February in the Semi-Final of the Volleyball England Cup, the IBB Polonia London players have good reason to be happy. They returned to their winning ways and beat Wessex 3:1 (25:22, 19:25, 25:22, 25:21) giving them a place in the Final of the competition. This season their opponents in the Final will be Sheffield, who managed to get past Team Northumbria, winning 3:1.**

– Yesterday's game was very important for us. Following a few weeks with an incomplete squad, we lost two matches unexpectedly and we seemed to be struggling. We managed to train with everyone back on court and this resulted in our victory. – said Head Coach Piotr Graban – The whole squad was important; when things became tough, we stuck together and supported each other. When somebody came on court from the bench, they brought something positive with them. It's important for me as a

coach and gives comfort that I can count on each member of the team.

Last season, IBB Polonia London won the Volleyball England Cup beating Team Northumbria. We will have to wait until 1st April to see if the success can be repeated. More information about this match will appear shortly on <https://www.facebook.com/IBBPoloniaVC/>. There will be more opportunities for volleyball fans to see the team in action as there are still league matches to fin-

ish this season. On Sunday 5th March IBB Polonia London play London Docklands at home for the first time this season.

– There are now two league matches against London Docklands; one home and one away and then we have the final of the Volleyball England Cup. I hope that over this time all of the injuries have time to heal and we can iron out a few small issues with how we are playing and we will return to the powerful form we had recently. I would like to invite all fans to come and support us; it is amazing how inspiring it is when the crowd is singing and cheering. – added Piotr Graban.

***The upcoming match will take place in the home venue: Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre: TW8 0HJ. The game starts at 3pm. Tickets are available on the website: [polonia.eventbrite.co.uk](http://polonia.eventbrite.co.uk)***

# The sequence of IBB Polonia London victories is broken by Sheffield

**The sequence of matches for the start of 2017 is unrelenting as far as IBB Polonia London are concerned. A large number of demanding matches greeted the team after the festive period; the 1/8 final of the CEV Challenge Cup being the pinnacle, followed by a league match against Sheffield on the 11th February. Sadly this match didn't go the way of the current Champions of England 3:0 (25:22, 25:23, 25:16) and the run of victories since 23rd October was broken.**

- It often goes this way. I warned the players and Club in general, that after the toughest confrontations, such as the CEV Challenge Cup and National Cup, motivation and physical form often falls away. We certainly can't call Saturday's result a success. We had some squad issues and

as a result lost 3-0 away. Luckily we managed to gain a good advantage over the rest of the league in the build up to this match and so we can confidently focus on the Cup match and the play offs that are on the horizon. - said Piotr Graban, Head Coach of IBB Polonia London.

The tough phase for the London team has not finished yet: this coming Saturday (18th February) is the home leg of the match against Team Northumbria

- We approach the match as usual, confidently. They played well in the away match and so we know what we need to do when we play them at home. We want to show that the loss against Sheffield was just a blip. I am sure the match will be very emotional with lots of great action. I invite everyone to come and support us. It is really important to us that you are there. We promise that we will do everything possible to win the home game. - added Graban.

The match is to take place at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre. The game starts at 3pm



**Tickets are available on [polonia.eventbrite.co.uk](https://polonia.eventbrite.co.uk)**



Monika Jakubowska

# IBB Polonia London

## gain one point from the match

**On 18th February 2017, Team Northumbria played IBB Polonia London in the return leg of the line up. After an epic five set encounter, the hosts were beaten by the visitors from the north. The result was 2:3 (25:16, 25:13, 18:25, 27:29, 15:17).**

- I am pleased with the high level of play of our team, but clearly not the result we were hoping for. It's a real shame we didn't put the game to bed in three sets. After the third set Team Northumberland suddenly woke up and started to play. In the following sets both teams played very attractive volleyball. We had match point, but an amazing piece of luck saved the opposition. We showed that we could play at a top level without one of our setters and the two

middle blockers who have dominated the team from the start of the season. Much of the game we played at a higher level than the opposition who really played well. The match generated a lot of emotions from the supporters who gathered in their hoards in our sports-hall. We thank you for being there. - commented Piotr Graban; Head Coach of IBB Polonia London.

- Following our CEV Challenge Cup adventures we had some changes in the squad; we have not been able to train nor play with a full roster of players. The result of the match came down to tiny details. We had match point and we were not able to finish the attack and to win 3-1; as a result we lost 2-3. The match was on a decent level and I am sure the fans were entertained. - said IBB Polonia London setter, Bartosz Kisielewicz.

The next match for Graban's boys is the Semi Final of the National Cup against Wessex. The week will see some very intensive training to prepare for this on Saturday 25th February 2017 at Brentford

Fountain Leisure Centre. The prize for winning the match will be a place in the final of the National Cup.

- Now we must focus on the match against Wessex. We have three important training sessions before then. We will be back to full strength this week, and so I'm counting on an improvement from our players, and I predict a place in the final. I invited all of our loyal fans back to Brentford to help us reach one of our goals for the season. We will need the support. - added Piotr Graban.

- This week will be vital for us. We only have one chance to reach the finals again. We will approach this match as though it was the final itself. We will give everything of ourselves, and I am sure we will succeed in defending our title. - concluded Bartosz Kieselweicz

The match will take place in the home venue: Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre: TW8 OHJ. The game starts at 3pm. Tickets are available on the website: <http://polonia.eventbrite.co.uk>

# A historical win

## was not sufficient for IBB Polonia London to progress to the quarter finals of the CEV Challenge Cup

**Wednesday 1st February will enter the history books, not only for IBB Polonia and also not only for volleyball in England, but for sport in the British isles. In Crystal Palace national Sports Centre, a volleyball festival took place where IBB Polonia London squared up against Draisma Dynamo from Holland.**

After a titanic battle, the players from London beat the Dutch team 3-2. (22:25; 25:23; 18:25; 25:20; 15:9). Despite the victory, it was not enough to progress to the quarter finals of the prestigious CEV Challenge Cup. The arena was a total sell out with close to 1200 spectators creating an unforgettable atmosphere.

The highest scoring player was captain Marius Ciortea who individually won 14 points. The second highest scoring player was from Apeldoorn: Max Staples amassed 13 individual points. Bontrop Dustin was the best receiver of the match from the Dutch side.

- I have nothing negative to say about any of my players, we won the match, but the team from the Netherlands showed a very professional side to the game. We were not able to stop their opposite hitter despite trying a variety of strategies during the five sets. It was just like looking at World Champion Mariusz Wlazly playing his best against us. The atmosphere was unbelievable and the difference between winning and losing was a handful of points. We were close to making it through to the next round, but the opposition who train three times as much as we are able to, deserved the aggregate

victory today. I wish them lots of luck in the next round. - commented Head Coach of IBB Polonia London Piotr Graban.

- It was a really nice night. A lot of people were watching the match. I think our opponents - IBB Polonia London showed a lot of spirit. I strongly believe that in the first three sets we were a better team. That's why we won two sets which we needed. So this was a close match. I think that both teams wanted to win but mentally we played equal but technically we were a better team. - said the coach of Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn, Bas Hellinga.

Now that the European dream has ended, the IBB Polonia Players and coaching staff will focus their attention to the Super 8 league and national Cup. On 11th February, the next match will be against Sheffield.

IBB Polonia Londyn - Draisma Dynamo Apeldoorn 3:2 (22:25; 25:23; 18:25; 25:20; 15:9).

