



The final stages

of pre-season training end in another victory for IBB Polonia

On Saturday 23rd September, IBB Polonia was invited to take part in a pre-season tournament at the University of Essex. Piotr Graban's charges did not lose a single match and as a result ensured victory at last pre-season event.

There were four teams taking part; of which three (IBB Polonia London, Richmond Docklands, London Lynx) play in the Super 8 division. The fourth team - Essex VB - were the organisers. The matches were played to the best of three sets.

- "I am delighted with the way we played. We tried a number of ideas that we have been working on for over a month, and we can say that they worked! We still have a number of issues that require some work, but we are heading in the right direction. We are not looking at immediate results, but at longer term gains based on very strong foundations. Our team is very young and ambitious, and

RESULTS

IBB Polonia London - Essex VB
2:0 (25:19; 25:21)

IBB Polonia London - London Lynx
2:0 (25:20; 25:22)

IBB Polonia London - Richmond Docklands
2:1 (22:25; 25:22; 15:13)

so we must be patient working for the whole season." - commented Piotr Graban; Head Coach IBB Polonia London.

IBB Polonia London remain undefeated in the pre-season phase; a good place to be as the team enter the start of the league. The first match of the season is an away game. On Saturday 30th September 2017, IBB Polonia London make the short journey to Kingston College Arena where the opponents will be Richmond Docklands. The match starts at 5pm (London time). The next match, also

an away fixture, is against Sussex United in the Cup. The first home game is 14th October where the opponents will be Sheffield Hallam - the runners up in the 2016-17 season.

The 2017-18 season will see new challenges for the Champions of England. This season the goal is the NEVZA Club Championships. This edition of the event is for the champions of counties in the North European zone: England, Denmark, Iceland, Norway. The first phase is a group phase (nine teams, three groups and three teams in each group) where three teams will face each other. The matches take place between 3-5th November 2017. IBB Polonia London take on Ishj Volley from Denmark and Ballklubb Troms from Norway. The finals weekend will be at the end of January 2018.

- "We are not thinking about NEVZA yet. We know we have some very demanding matches to come this season and hope that volleyball fans overseas come to realise the ability of the players and teams from England" - added Piotr Graban. The entire fixture list can be seen on the IBB Polonia London website.

The London Cup finds its way to the IBB Polonia London trophy cabinet

On Sunday 10th September 2017, Team IBB Polonia London took part in the 2017 edition of the London Cup. The current Champions of England were undefeated throughout the event over all four matches. This signifies the beginnings of good form and the first trophy of the season.

The London Trophy was organised, for the second time, by Ashley Trodden with the support of the London Volleyball Association and took place

in Tooting in the Ernest Bevin Sports Hall. There were five teams in the competition, all but one were from the 2018 version of the Super 8 division: IBB Polonia London, Essex Blaze, London Lynx and Malory Eagles. One team was from lower down in the national rankings (New Forest). The one day event had some high level action throughout all of the teams; and the action was relentless, with each game being the best of three sets. During the first edition of this tournament, London Lynx were the victors, and were very keen to keep hold of their title: but unhappily for them, IBB Polonia London were too dominant throughout.

- "The first pre-season event ended up with us as victors. We won the London Cup without losing

a single match. The tournament showed us the current level of a few teams that we will come up against this season. We made many errors, but it is still early in the season for us, and this is to be expected; however this also indicates which areas we need to focus on in training. We have a lot of new young players in the squad, without too much experience at this level, however despite this we won. The key to our success was a good atmosphere in the squad and the development of on-court relationships." - said Patrik Selepe, assistant coach for IBB Polonia London.

The next event will be on the 23rd September and will take place in Essex at the home venue of the newly promoted Essex Blaze.



IBB Polonia London fixtures in 2017/18 season

The volleyball season starts in England later this month. IBB Polonia London starts by playing the first ever match against Richmond Docklands. The game is an away fixture and takes place on 30th September 2017 at 5.30pm (London time) in Kingston College Arena, a new venue for the Champions.

- We are feeling impatient, and looking forward to defending our titles this season. The first match takes place in September and is away against a new team: Richmond Docklands - a merger between London Docklands and Richmond VB. Despite it being played "away" it is still close to our home venue in London. For that reason, we would like to invite our fans to take part in the event and to support us in an interesting match. - said Club Chairman, Bartek Luszcz.

The current National Champions return to their

home venue (Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre) on the 7th October 2017. This will be against Malory Eagles. All of the home matches in the Super 8 division, will take place on Saturdays at 3pm (London time).

Apart from the formation of the new team mentioned earlier, there is one more change in the Super 8 division. Solent were demoted following the 2016/17 season and their place was taken by Essex Blaze. IBB Polonia London will have to wait until February 2018 to play the newly promoted team

from Essex. The regular season lasts until the end of March 2018 and will see which teams will battle it out to take the coveted National Champions title.

Following on from the successful CEV Challenge Cup season, IBB Polonia London will take on a new challenge this season: the NEVZA Club Championships. This is a very prestigious event that will probably start at the beginning of November 2017. The schedule will be confirmed soon. The full calendar of events can be found on the Club website.



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“Niepodległa”

on the IBB Polonia London match shirts

As in the last two seasons, IBB Polonia London will commemorate a historic event on the match shirts for the whole season. Previously the Champions of England showed the remembrance for the Polish fighter pilots of the Battle of Britain as well as the “unseen” soldiers from the second world war. This season, the logo will feature “Niepodległa”; this indicates the 100 years since Poland gained its independence in 1918.

The shirt design will be visible during league matches as well as cup matches in England. In addition it will be on show during the club NEVZA championships during the 2017-2018 season. This was a joint initiative between The Club and the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

– Poland celebrates its 100 years of independence in the coming year. A century ago saw the

beginnings of contemporary Poland; and thanks to the generations brought up since then, our patriotic values have remained in place. They saw very tough times when Poland was occupied during the second world war and afterwards during the entire communist regime. We are pleased that the sports club of Polonia want to take part in marking this important anniversary and will have the logo of “Niepodległa” proudly displayed on their chests. Through this, modern generations can feel as though they are part of this commemoration despite living overseas in the UK. – said Robert Szaniawski, the Director of the Polish Cultural Institute in London.

The logo of independence will take the form of a rosette surrounding the number of the player on their shirt. The red and white ribbon is the symbol of Poland used during the most important events in Poland.

– The regaining of Polish independence is the latest in the continuation of three years of symbols worn by IBB Polonia London players that show the union between the UK and Poland. Being able to represent these historic events is a very important privilege for The Club. We hope to show the respect and memory that we have for those who gave their lives fighting for our independence. The logo will re-

mind us of the values held by our predecessors and will motivate us to work hard with pride. – said Club Chairman, Bartek Luszcz.

The start of the new season is awaiting the players. The squad has now been finalised. IBB Polonia London will be made up of players from many European countries as well as the USA and Brazil. The most numerous country represented is Poland. The Club is looking rejuvenated and made up of young ambitious players and hopes that the core will be the future of volleyball talent in this country. This season’s team can be seen here.

November 11th is a public holiday in Poland commemorating independence. In 1795, after the third partition, Poland vanished from the map and for 123 years (until 1918) found itself divided up by Russia, Prussia and Austria. In 1914, the First World War began and one of the results was the rebirth of a nation and Poland became a country in its own right once again. In 2018 the anniversary of the regaining of independence will be marked.

The club holds 2017 England Super 8 Championships and English National Cup titles. IBB Polonia will be representing English Volleyball in European tournaments – NEVZA Club Championships. Last year the team was ninth in CEV Challenge Cup.

