

A great win for IBB Polonia London to wrap up 2017

The end of 2017 finished on another successful result. On 16th December, the current Champions of England, visited Malory Eagles and took the result and all three league table points. IBB Polonia London dictated the majority of the match with a solid victory 1:3 (23:25; 23:25; 25:22; 22:25). Thanks to this the players and staff have lots to celebrate over the festive period.

"We approached the match with the recent 2-3 loss still fresh in our minds. Malory Eagles previously had played a simple strategy, throwing the majority of balls to ex- IBB Polonia London VC player Mihail Stoev, who was on spectacular form and was unstoppable for the majority of that game. This time we had a much more effective block defence arranged working off a specific serving strategy to eliminate this issue. Malory Eagles, as a result add to utilise both outside hitters and their opposite more evenly. The victory was led by the recent return to the squad of talisman and triple League winner Bartosz Kisielwicz who set almost faultlessly all match. We have the entire squad to thank who trained at a level higher recently under the watchful eyes of Piotr Graban and Patrik Selepe who together constructed a solid game plan. I would like to thank everyone for their focus to attention in the last two weeks and also to our faithful fans who banged their drums relentlessly." – said Chris Hykiel, IBB Polonia London Director of Volleyball.

The victory was celebrated by the Champions and their fans who dined together following the match. It was a great opportunity to exchange Christmas wishes and to look forward to a well-earned rest over

the festive period. Together everybody watched the semi-finals of the Club World Championships that featured PGE Skra Belchatow – partners of IBB Polonia London.

"2017 ended in a very joyful manner with a victory and a gathering of the squad and their fans. I hope that the good form will stay with us into 2018, and that the wishes sent in our direction by our fans will come true. We would also like to wish all of our supporters a very happy and peaceful Christmas and ourselves lots of energy to realise our own dreams. We would like to congratulate our friends at PGE Skra Belchatow for being one of the top four clubs in the World once again!" – commented Bartek Luszcz, IBB Polonia London Chairman.

Apart from the Christmas wishes, IBB Polonia London would like to suggest a unique present for sports fans. The suggestion is to buy shares in The

Club as Christmas presents. This is a first in British volleyball and will delight all followers of the sport! Becoming a shareholder brings with it a wealth of benefits as well as a real link with The Club. More information about this offer is available here.

In the meantime, the players from the London club will enjoy the Christmas break. They will return to squad training in 2018 and continue the Super 8 on January 13th at Brentford Fountain Leisure Centre with Wessex Volleyball Club. More information about the match will appear on The Club's website and Facebook pages.

"The new year starts with a home game; which we are already excited about. We are expecting many volleyball moments of glory in 2018 and so I would like to invite everybody in joining our Fan Club" – commented the President of the Official IBB Polonia London VC FanClub Jan Ploszaj.



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IBB Polonia London on the path to success

Sport is a tough world where you don't always win. The end result comes from a number of factors that IBB Polonia London are becoming experts at. The team from the capital of England had an outstanding season in 2016/17 defending the National title and the Cup title as well as a historical result in the CEV Challenge Cup. The cherry on the cake was the signing of current World Volleyball Champion – Krzysztof Ignaczak. Following on from that a very ambitious plan was developed: the Champions made a plan to play the next season with a crop of young, talented players. A lack of experience has resulted in a baptism of fire at the start of the new season. The president of the club Bartek Luszcz and the co-owner Jacek Ambrozy discuss the future.

On Saturday, IBB Polonia London played against the joint leaders of the table – Malory Eagles. Only one point was taken from the match. How can you sum it up?

BL: This was a tough match. We fought to the end, and the result was never certain. The tension was unbelievable, and the fans seemed to enjoy it.

JA: From a sporting perspective, we watched a

close fought match, the very essence of sport.

The young squad is gathering experience, but the results are not showing. Is the current squad aiming for the title of England?

BL: We are optimistic. We have a young team. If we include some more experienced players, we have the chance of returning to the top of the table. We know how sport works and it is not always possible to be at the top, especially when you are trying to give young players a chance. Our current situation shows that the journey to the top isn't easy, but we look for the positive in everything. Our position isn't great at the moment and we find ourselves in a tough situation, but we aim to become a powerhouse in the future. We are learning a difficult lesson which will strengthen us before we enter the fully professional world of international volleyball. We certainly will not surrender. We will fight until the very end to realise



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the short and long term goals. We are aiming to be a complete team that can deal with life in every given situation.

JA: For the fourth time this season we have to accept defeat. We find ourselves in the bottom half of the table, and despite the fact we still have the chance to win the title, it seems only possible with total commitment from everyone concerned. As a co-owner of the club, and the head sponsor I prefer a deeper analysis and to make concrete decisions to support my colleagues. The team needs strengthening in a number of positions. We are looking to make some transfers immediately to improve our roster.

Currently the young squad is chasing the other teams; but in terms of business and marketing, IBB Polonia London has no rivals in Great Britain.

BL: Our sporting performance is slowly gathering momentum. Business and marketing is where we are firing on all cylinders at the moment. We have implemented a number of advertising/market-ing investments; and this is just the start. There are

many surprises to be announced in the future! We want to involve sports fans and business people to join us in the development of professional volleyball in England.

JA: Amidst the poor sports results, the future of the club looks very bright indeed. We are involving new partners all the time and some of these have huge financial potential. Our aim is to popularise volleyball in the UK and to support IBB Polonia via investments and the purchase of shares.

So there is a lot of work for the entire club, not only on the court of play, but in other areas too?

BL: Having the whole group involved is certainly the way forward. We are all working hard with passion, because we want the best for the club. If we work as a unit, we can move mountains. We have very faithful fans and partners, who are totally involved in order for the club to develop and gain even more success. We think optimistically and this spurs us on to working even harder.

JA: Hard work and self-reflection carried out by

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passionate people will bring results. I am an optimist. We are destined for success.

IBB Builders Merchants – IBB Polonia London strategic sponsor, which owner is Jacek Ambrozy – have been trading since 2005 in British markets. The company has significant experience in construction in many European countries such as Poland, Sweden, Germany and the UK and has built its foundations on importing construction materials mainly from Poland. More information is available here.

Victory gives IBB Polonia London three points

On Saturday, 9th December 2017, IBB Polonia London played against London Lynx in the Super 8 league. Playing away from home, the team under the leadership of Piotr Graban, won 1:3 (22:25; 18:25; 25:22; 21:25) and enjoyed the flavour of success. The three points help the team to start climbing the table towards the top.

The Saturday encounter was an east meets west of London volleyball and the first two sets went the way of the current Champions of England thanks to some good play by their main squad members. In the third set, an ongoing injury caused outside hitter Roman Mizerak discomfort and as a result he was substituted allowing London Lynx the chance of winning a set. In the fourth set, IBB Polonia London came out with determination and maintained this form until the final whistle giving them the badly needed win.

"Saturday's game was not the easiest for us. It was vital we took all three points. I'm pleased we managed to do this, despite finding the challenge very hard. I want to mention three of our players who played well today: Vitor de Oliveira and

Michal Bartoszak who played solidly but also one of our most experienced players Roman Mizerak. We are working hard for all squad members to play to the same level as those mentioned and also so they keep a high level of performance until the last point of the season. We still have many elements of our game to improve upon. Recently I have been enjoying the philosophy: "if you can't run, then walk, if you can't walk then crawl, but make sure it is in the right direction". With this in mind we will aim to make progress every single day." - commented IBB Polonia Head Coach, Piotr Graban.



The Team presented not only good volleyball level, but also unique away shirts. The Club would like to encourage its fans to buy some memorabilia, such as the replica match shirts that are available in three colour variations. This season, as usual IBB Polonia commemorate a historical event: the design of "Niepodlegla" is to be found on the sleeves of our shirts and this commemorates one hundred years of Polish Independence gained in 1918. Orders can be made online up until 13th December 2017. After this the official personalised match shirts will not be available.

The shirts are not the only current offer from IBB Polonia London. Shares in The Club are currently available. Becoming involved like this helps The Club to realise its plans of becoming a fully professional team, the first in Great Britain. For all of the benefits associated with the purchase of shares of The Club visit the website.

The next match, and final encounter of 2017, will be played on Saturday, 16th December 2017. The opponents will be Malory Eagles and the match will take place at Ernest Bevin College, in Tooting South London. This is everybody's last chance in 2017 to watch some top level volleyball. IBB Polonia London returns to competitive matches on the 13th January 2018 at Brentford fountain Leisure Centre against Team Wessex.