

Universities Pool Council

PRESS RELEASE

UPC Nine-ball Pool Championships 2012-13

The weekend of the 7th-9th December 2012 sees 49 teams and around 170 university nine-ball players arrive in Liverpool to battle it out for the Team and Individual Championships. This event has grown dramatically over the past eight seasons and the event will again be played across two fantastic Riley's venues – Grand Central and Wavertree. With an increase in teams since last season's entry, our event cements its claim to the title of the biggest annual nine-ball pool event in the UK.

The team event will continue to use the Championship/Trophy format with the bonus of a 'second chance' that double elimination offers. The Individual event will feature a random redraw from each round from the Last-32 onwards, to intensify the drama as the competition draws to a conclusion.

Edge Hill University, who were worthy champions in 2011/12 through 'leverage' of their status as one of local favourites, return to defend their silverware with a team including current BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Individual Champion Rhys Williams and stalwart Will Jerram, who will be making his swan song at university pool. Although Edge Hill may return as pre-tournament favourites, there are a number of teams who are fully intending to be making their mark when the event climaxes in the final day's play on Sunday.

Of the expected challengers, last year's finalists York will make the trip across the Pennines with high hopes of going one better this year but will need to gel a new look line-up to achieve this. Eyes will also be on how Manchester, who have an excellent pedigree in this event, perform boasting two of the eight seeded individuals in their team in the form of Mike Dixon and the reigning Individual Champion Nick Clayton. Regulars Cardiff, Nottingham and Warwick send teams hopeful of being in contention with new entrants from Sheffield, Liverpool, Salford, Ulster and Westminster also keen to impress.

Although Clayton is likely to hold high hopes of retaining his Individual crown, it is a near impossible task to pick a favourite for the Individual Championship with such a wide field. Williams (Edge Hill) will be keen to become the first player to hold both main individual titles (eight-ball and nine-ball) concurrently while seasoned GB9 tour player Benji Buckley (Derby) has the mainstream pedigree to place him into contention. Possible dark horses include Mike Dixon (Manchester) and Raymond Todd (Ulster) based on performance in prior UPC events. The entry of several new and restructured teams means that there could well be a few unknown quantities in the draw, with the 'winner breaks' format meaning that momentum can play a significant role.

The action gets underway with the Individual Championship at 09h30 on Friday 7th December. The Team Championship/Trophy begins at 14h30 on the same day with the Individual Championship Semi-finals and Final from 20h00 on Saturday 8th December.

The final phases of the Team Championship resume at 9h30 on Sunday 9th December. Both the Championship and Trophy will culminate in the afternoon with the Championship Semi-finals and Final and Trophy Final from around 15h30.

3rd December 2012

For further information and full results / pictures of this event and all other UPC events:

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Notes to editors:

The Universities Pool Council (UPC) is the governing body for pool at higher education level in the United Kingdom. It is recognised by the British Universities and Colleges Sport (BUCS), Scottish University Sport (SUS) and the English Pool Association (EPA).

The UPC organises national nine-ball, eight-ball and women's eight-ball championships for teams and individuals. The UPC also organises the Student Home Internationals representative event.