

PRESS RELEASE

Team England seeking to defend Student Home Internationals title in Glasgow

The weekend of 19-20 April 2013 sees the culmination of the university pool season as the Student Eight-ball Pool Home Internationals descends on Glasgow. England Students, under the guidance of new manager Will Jerram, will be the team to beat as they attempt to retain their title in the face of fierce competition from their British Isles counterparts.

Although arguably this is the most open competition of recent seasons with all teams holding hopes of contention at the business end, England are likely to again start as pre-tournament favourites. Their squad includes former BUCS-UPC Individual Champion Rhys Williams and this year's runner-up Lewis Ronaldson alongside some familiar faces from last year's panel in the shape of Thomas Gaughan, Thomas Barrett and Mike Logan.

Northern Ireland Students will travel across the Irish Sea full of belief after their narrow final defeat in 2011/12. Under the guidance of Team Manager Pearse Sharratt, Northern Ireland will be represented with a split of players from University of Ulster and Queens University, Belfast. With the SHI experience of players such as Ryan Birt (albeit with different colours in his multi-nation academic path) and former BUCS-UPC Individual finalist Raymond Todd, Northern Ireland will fancy their chances of going one better this time around.

Ireland Students always arrive at this competition with high aspirations. Attention is first drawn on their squad sheet to Brendan Traynor who has won the HESPC Irish Pool Intervarsities Individual Championship before. When coupled with experience of the likes of Conor Brady, who has played on the mainstream Irish pool tour, they will certainly be keen to make a tangible impact on the baize.

Scotland Students, who so often feel their chances are written off before the play commences, will not be intending on making up the numbers on home soil. The team is managed by former Scotland Student international Gary Ferguson and captained for the first time by Daniel Pycock. They are represented by a good split of players between the three current strong Scottish pool playing universities of Abertay, St Andrews and Strathclyde.

With Huw Stapleton returning after a one year sabbatical as team manager due to attendance at his honeymoon, Wales Students side head north of the border determined to be involved in the latter stages, boasting a line-up including current BUCS-UPC Individual Champion Alex Thomson. With the bulk of the players coming from Cardiff University and bolstered by players from Glamorgan, team spirit could be pivotal in their quest to embellish some positive performances in this competition in prior years.

The event also features the Student International Masters. There will be no easy games in this individual event and it is interestingly the only occasion where players from Ireland Students meet their British counterparts. The eventual champion will certainly have earned their title battling through the elite field.

The action gets underway with the Student International Masters at 12h30 on Friday 19 April culminating in the final, expected to take place around 14h00 on Saturday 20 April. Team matches will start at 15h30 on Friday and the final will take place at 15h00 on Saturday.

9th April 2013

For further information and full results:

Dr. Iorwerth Griffiths
Tournament Director
www.upc-pool.org.uk

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.
