

Universities Pool Council

PRESS RELEASE

BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships 2011-12

Excitement in the university pool scene reaches fever pitch in anticipation of the forthcoming BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Championships to be held at Vauxhall Holiday Park in Great Yarmouth from 23rd to 26th February 2012. With more than 460 students entering, the level of competition on the 36 tournament standard Supreme pool tables is expected to be fierce.

In accordance with BUCS guidelines, the format of the Championships splits the discipline into Shield and Championship/Trophy competitions.

As with all university events in the calendar, it will be very difficult to pick a winner in the BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Team Championship. Defending champions University of Nottingham will arrive, vehemently trying to retain the title they emphatically won in 2010-11. After licking their wounds, last year's finalists, University of Warwick, return hoping to go one better this year. Edge Hill University have the taste for silverware after their impressive outing at the first event in the University pool calendar, the UPC Nine-ball Pool Championships, and travel to Great Yarmouth as a team with strong expectations of still being involved at the business end on Sunday.

Other teams expected to do well include Queens University, Belfast and University of Ulster, who travel across the Irish Sea 'match-fit' with the intention of building on their recent participation in the HESPC Irish Intervarsities. Furthermore, the title hopes of the likes of York, Durham and Manchester should also not be dismissed considering their previous pedigree in this discipline.

The BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Team Shield provides a platform for new teams to compete alongside current teams that are not of Championship/Trophy status. Subsequently, the draw is wide open and it is hard to predict a winner from the largely unknown and unproven field. The format of the event sees the eight quarter-finalists promoted to the Championship/Trophy in 2012-13. Plymouth and Bangor, who were both surprisingly relegated from the Championship/Trophy in 2010-11, will be keen to make amends this year with Ulster and Keele also hopeful of doing well. We also welcome University of Cumbria who are competing at this level for the first time, and will harbour high hopes of performing on the university pool stage.

The BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Individual Championship has always been hotly-contested and this year is unlikely to be the exception with one of the highest quality field of entrants that have ever competed. Will Jerram (Edge Hill), who played some virtuoso pool under the cameras to take the title last year, will return to defend his crown. Leading the long queue of almost 450 students hoping to be troubling the inscriber will be UPC Nine-ball Pool Individual Champion Nick Clayton (Manchester), former finalist Raymond Todd (Ulster) and university stalwart Michael Walsh from York, all names which immediately catch the eye as ones to watch.

We will be holding a Team Speed Pool Contest on the evening of Friday 24th February. The heats will see university teams race to clear five consecutive pool tables using a relay format. With one team progressing from each heat, the eventual winners can proclaim their physical stamina as well as their superior potting ability!

Our partner Cuesport TV (www.cuesport.tv) will be in attendance at the weekend, streaming a selection of matches to a global audience on their website.

We are delighted to again welcome pool merchandise specialists 8ballstore.com to the event. They will have a full range of pool/snooker cues and accessories for sale, with experienced specialists on hand to offer a number of cue maintenance services onsite.

Play commences with the individual preliminary round, around 2.30pm on 23rd February 2012.

For a guide to the event and Great Yarmouth itself, plus a full schedule for the event, please visit the UPC website (www.upc-pool.org.uk).

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For further information:

Oliver Dark
Executive Chair
Email: oliver.dark@upc-pool.org.uk
www.upc-pool.org.uk

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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.