

Universities Pool Council

PRESS RELEASE

University of Keele Take Home BUSA-UPC Shield in Impressive Debut

McCluskeys, Derby was treated to a weekend of competitive University pool, as Keele University won the inaugural BUSA-UPC Shield defeating University of St Andrews 1st in a one-sided final. Following an undefeated weekend, Keele 1st will be looking to make an impression on the bigger stage at the BUSA-UPC Team Championship in 2007-08.

Season 2006-2007 sees a new format to the Universities Pool Council Eight-Ball Tournaments. The discipline has been split into the Shield and Championship/Trophy with the *Shield* competition an independent event as well as a promotion chance to the *Championship* and *Trophy* the following season. Subsequently, the Shield provided a platform for new teams to compete against those who have found Championship/Trophy level challenging in past seasons.

With a group format being used to whittle the teams down to the Last 16, there proved to be a variety of strengths in a largely untested field. There were strong performances from Keele 1st, Kent 1st, St Andrews 1st and Cambridge 2nd who all harboured title ambitions as they progressed with ease through the group stages.

At the last 16 stage, a defeat would see the end of the weekend! Surprise package Aston 1st put an end to the hopes of pre-tournament favourites Kent 1st with a nail biting 7-6 victory however, Cambridge 2nds continued their strong Group form against Reading 1st. Keele 1st cruised through against debutants Loughborough 1st but their 2nd team came unstuck against St Andrews 2nd. Trinity Carmarthen 1st, St Andrews 1st and Abertay 1st progressed at the expense of Manchester 1st, Birmingham 2nd Central Lancashire 1st respectively to keep the hopes alive of a non-English victory. Edge Hill 1st, building on a good performance at the UPC 9-ball Championships, were the last team to make the quarterfinals with a whitewash of Loughborough 2nds.

At the business end of the tournament, there was a noticeable increase in the intensity. Keele 1st continued their march at the expense of Aston 1st and Abertay 1st (captained by former Team Championship winner Dave Magill) put an end to the hopes of Cambridge 2nd. St Andrews 1st proved too tough a test for Edge Hill 1st and Trinity Carmarthen 1st made up the quartet by removing the last 2nd team involved, St Andrews.

In the first semi, Keele 1st demonstrated their class with a 6-3 victory over Trinity Carmarthen 1st. The other semi proved to be a lot closer as St Andrews 1st putting an

end to the hopes of Abertay 1st 7-5 in an all-Scottish affair. Abertay 1st and Trinity Carmarthen 1st share the BUSA bronze medals for their efforts.

The final was predicted to be a keenly contested event as both had been the form teams of the weekend. Keele 1st went in as slight favourites but St Andrews 1st had a point to prove. Unfortunately for the spectator, the match proved to be a one-sided affair with the dominant Keele 1st triumphant 6-1 and taking home the title. Despite this one blot on their copybook, St Andrews 1st will be proud of their efforts and their BUSA silver medals.

Attention now switches to the BUSA-UPC Eight-Ball Championship and Trophy that will be contested on the weekend of 23-25 February 2007 in McCluskeys, Spondon, Derbyshire.

RESULTS

Last 16 Round

Keele 2nd	3 v 6	St Andrews 2nd
Manchester 1st	2 v 6	Trinity Carmarthen 1st
Keele 1st	6 v 3	Loughborough 1st
Kent 1st	6 v 7	Aston 1st
Cambridge 2nd	6 v 3	Reading 1st
Abertay 1st	6 v 4	Central Lancashire 1st
St Andrews 1st	6 v 2	Birmingham 2nd
Edge Hill 1st	6 v 0	Loughborough 2nd

Quarter Finals

St Andrews 2nd	4 v 6	Trinity Carmarthen 1st
Keele 1st	6 v 3	Aston 1st
Cambridge 2nd	4 v 6	Abertay 1st
St Andrews 1st	6 v 4	Edge Hill 1st

Semi Finals

Trinity Carmarthen 1st	3 v 6	Keele 1st
Abertay 1st	5 v 7	St Andrews 1st

Final

Keele 1 st	6 v 1	St Andrews 1st
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For further information contact:

Dr. Iorwerth Griffiths

Email: universitiespoolcouncil@yahoo.co.uk