



PRESS RELEASE

BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships: 2008-09 Event Preview

All eyes will be on Vauxhall Holiday Park in Great Yarmouth from 19-22 February 2009 as it plays host to the BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Championships for the first time. In accordance with BUCS guidelines, the format of the Championships splits the discipline into the Shield and the Championship/Trophy. With 36 tournament standard Supreme tables, this fitting venue has enabled all events to be played on the same weekend for the first time. With record entries, this will be the biggest standalone University pool event ever held in the UK with over 400 students competing.

Another first for the event is that the UPC are delighted to announce a new partnership with [CueSportTV](#) who will be in attendance at the weekend, streaming a selection of matches to a global audience on their website.

As with all university events in the calendar, it will be very difficult to pick a winner in the BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Championship. Defending champions University of Ulster (Coleraine) are represented by a unified University of Ulster team this term and will be determined to win this title for the third year in a row but face the challenge of competing without their talisman Glen Spalling (who now represents University of Leeds). Last year's finalists University of Nottingham will hope to go one better this year but will have a changed line-up following the graduation of Adam Shaw. University of Warwick have the taste for silverware after their impressive domination of the recent UPC Nine-ball Pool Championship / Trophy weekend 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 Queen's University, Belfast who arrive full of confidence after a strong campaign in the recent HESPC Irish Intervarsity Pool Championship and University of York, who demonstrate the strength in depth at their institution by fielding three teams. University of Oxford and University of Cambridge, who have a healthy intervarsity rivalry in pool as well as rowing, will both be hoping to shine.

The BUCS-UPC Eight-ball 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. University of Leeds, buoyed by the addition of Spalling and Martin Pratt (UPC Individual Championship semi-

finalist 2006-07), are likely to start as favourites to win the title. The format of the event sees the eight quarter-finalists promoted to the Championship/Trophy in 2009/10 and teams hoping to secure those berths include University of Portsmouth who had a strong showing last year and University of Sheffield and University of Exeter who are competing at university level for the first time.

The UPC Individual Championship has always been hotly-contested and this year will prove no different with the biggest field of entrants that have ever competed. Rich Wharton (Anglia Ruskin Cambridge), who played so well in winning this title in his debut season in 2007-08, will be vehemently trying to defend his crown. Players who also have strong title aspirations include recent UPC Nine-ball Individual Champion Matthew Bradley and his Warwick team mate James Murphy, Welsh Blackball International Lee Morris (UWE) and the aforementioned Spalling and Pratt.

Play commences on thirty six tables with the preliminary round of the individuals at 3pm on 19 February 2009.

For a guide to Great Yarmouth and a full schedule for the event, please visit the [UPC website](#).

Game on!

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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.