



PRESS RELEASE

UPC Eight-Ball Pool Championships 2009-2010

Excitement in the University pool scene reaches fever pitch in anticipation of the forthcoming BUCS-UPC Eight-ball Pool Championships to be held at Vauxhall Holiday Park in Great Yarmouth from 25-28 February 2010. With record entries, this will be the biggest standalone university pool event ever held in the British Isles with around 500 students competing on 36 tournament standard Supreme tables.

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

As with all university events in the calendar, it will be very difficult to pick a winner in the Team Championship. Defending champions Queens University (Belfast), buoyed by further success in this season's HESPC Irish Intervarsities Pool Championships, will arrive vehemently trying to retain their title. Last year's finalists Durham University return, hoping to go one better this year reclaiming the title they last won in 2004-2005. University of York 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 University of Warwick, who have an established pedigree in this discipline and University of Glasgow, the inaugural SUPA Scottish Student 8-ball Champions, who will travel south of the border hunting further success. University of Leeds, London School of Economics and University of Portsmouth are among the teams promoted from the Shield event last season who will be keen to test themselves at the higher level.

The 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 2010-2011 and teams who hold strong hopes of securing those berths include Queens University (Belfast) 2nd and Manchester Met 1st. We welcome Bangor University, University of Glamorgan and Coventry University who are competing at this level for the first time.

The Individual Championship has always been hotly-contested and this year may be the hardest to call ever with the biggest (and highest quality?) field of entrants that have ever competed. Lee Morris (UWE), who played some breathtaking pool under the cameras to take the title last year, will have his work cut out to defend his crown. Leading the queue of over 400 students hoping to be consulting the inscriber will be Rich Wharton (Anglia Ruskin, Cambridge), who became the first student to win both the Eight-ball and Nine-ball Individual titles earlier this season and Glen Spalling (University of Leeds). Although untested at university level, there are a number of debut entries with a mainstream pool pedigree who are expected to do well. Sam Jeffrey from Essex University (England U-21 World Rules International), Will Jerram from Edge Hill (former snooker professional) and Marc Fleming from Robert Gordon University (Scottish World Rules International and IPA tourist) are names which immediately catch the eye as ones to watch.

For the first time, the UPC will be holding a Team Speed Pool Contest at this event on the evening of Saturday 27 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 [CuesportTV](http://www.cuesport.tv) (www.cuesport.tv) will be in attendance at the weekend, streaming a selection of matches to a global audience on their website.

Play commences with the Qualifying Rounds of the Individual Championship at 3pm on 25 February 2010.

For a guide to Great Yarmouth and a full schedule for the event, please visit www.upc-pool.org.uk

ENDS

19 February, 2010

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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.