

# Universities Pool Council

## PRESS RELEASE

### UPC Nine-ball Championships 2009/10

The weekend of the 4-6 December 2009 sees forty-six teams and over 150 university nine-ball players arrive in Liverpool to battle it out for the Team and Individual Championships. This event has grown dramatically in the last six years, and to accommodate this growth the event will now be played in two fantastic Riley's venues – Grand Central and Wavertree. With a further three teams competing compared with last season's entry, the event continues to boast the title of the biggest annual nine-ball event in the UK.

"The move to Liverpool for this event is an exciting one. Both venues provide excellent conditions to host this event and we look forward to working with their enthusiastic management and teams to ensure this event is a continued success," commented UPC Communications Director Dave Graham.

This event will continue to use the Championship/Trophy format with the bonus of a 'second chance' that double elimination offers.

University of Warwick dominated the event in 2008-2009 by winning the Team Championship and Trophy with 1st team player Matthew Bradley winning the Individual Championship. They will be vehemently trying to defend their silverware in Liverpool. They have proven to have a tremendous pedigree in this discipline by winning the Team Championships in three of the five years the event has been held.

Last year's finalists Essex, strengthened 'on paper' by the addition of Sam Jeffrey (England U21 international at World Rules Eight-ball) will hope to go one better this year and Imperial, Bristol, Manchester Met and York come back with teams which they are hopeful are strong enough to challenge in the latter stages contested on Sunday. A dark horse in the draw will be London School of Economics, who will be anticipating building on the notable success of their pool club in their fledgling season in 2008-2009.

Matthew Bradley will be optimistic about becoming the first player to retain the Individual Championship but there is a large field of entrants with the intention of ending his dream! Names to look out for are Rich Wharton (Anglia Ruskin) who is aiming to become the first player to win both the UPC Eight-ball and Nine-ball individual titles, GB9ball Tour players Chun Hao Man (Manchester Met) and Kevin Lau (Huddersfield) with Mike Walsh, Luke Fleet (both York), James Hill and Jay Murphy (both Warwick) all expected to do well. The entry

of several new and restructured teams means that there could well be a few unknown quantities in the draw.

The action gets underway with the Individual Championship at 10h15 on Friday 4th December. The Team Championship/Trophy begins at 14h45 on the same day with the Individual Championship Semi-finals and Final from 20h00 on Saturday 5th December.

The Team Championship resumes at 9h30 on Sunday 6th December. Both the Championship and Trophy will culminate in the afternoon with the Championship Semis and Final and Trophy Final from around 13h45.

ENDS

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For further information:

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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.