

Universities Pool Council

PRESS RELEASE

Oxford University's domination of UPC Women's Championship continues

Riley's, Coventry was the scene as Oxford University 1st continue to set the standard in the UPC Women's Team Championship overcoming a valiant University of Warwick 1st in the final in a repeat of the concluding match of last year. Louisa Gill (Oxford) overcame Kate Hillman (Cambridge) in a tense final frame decider to win the UPC Individual Championship.

Oxford 1st, last year's winners and pre-tournament favourites, came through their group with maximum points and marked their intentions by not dropping a frame. Warwick 1st, silver medallists last year, were hoping to go one better this year as they progressed as the winner of Group B. Edge Hill University demonstrated the strength in depth at their university as their 1st and 2nd team held top spot in Group C and D respectively.

In the Championship format, two progressed from each group so the group winners were joined by Plymouth 1st and 2nd alongside Oxford 2nd and 3rd. There was a surprise exit at this stage for Cambridge 1st who have an established pedigree in this event and disappointment for Abertay 1st and London School of Economics 1st who narrowly missed securing a quarter-final berth on their first outing.

Oxford 1st, champions in the previous four seasons, were staring down the barrel of their first defeat in this event as Plymouth 1st were on the hill at 3-2 in their quarter-final match. Oxford 1st however demonstrated their resilience by forcing a shootout and as the momentum shifted to them, they breathed a sigh of relief as they progressed to the semi-final. They were joined in the last four by their 2nd team, who whitewashed Edge Hill 2nd in a one-sided quarter final. In the other quarter-finals, Warwick 1st got the better of Oxford 3rd and Edge Hill 1st were too strong for Plymouth 2nd.

In the last 4, Warwick 1st continued to grow with a solid performance to get the better of Edge Hill 1st. In the other, Oxford 1st made it to their fifth consecutive final by getting the better of their 2nd team (and securing bragging rights in the process!).

Warwick 1st, captained by seasoned university player Charlotte Scarff, were hoping to have their name etched on the trophy for the first time and took the first frame in the final. Unfortunately for them, Oxford 1st built on the challenges they had faced at the knock-out stages and posted an assured final performance to triumph 4-1 in a one-sided final.

In the UPC Women's Individual Championship, all eyes were on Nicki Hoskins (Oxford) to see whether she could complete a hat-trick of individual Championship wins. It wasn't to be though as Victoria Jefferiss (Kent) ended her campaign in the last 32. With this shock exit blowing the field wide open, number 2 seed Kate Hillman sensed an opportunity as she reached the final. Louisa Gill (Oxford) had not read the script as she joined Kate in the final and held her nerve to edge to victory and complete the Oxford University double.

Attention now switches to the Student Eight-ball Pool Home Internationals on 17-18 April 2009 at Dublin.

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For further information and full results:

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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.