

CUP FINALS WEEKEND

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

 **VOLLEYBALL
ENGLAND**





WELCOME TO CUP FINALS WEEKEND

Hello, and welcome to Cup Finals Weekend at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering!

It's a huge privilege to welcome you to one of the biggest events in the English volleyball calendar, which is a celebration of passion, progress and the power of sport to bring people together.

This weekend, 22 teams from across the country take to the court, all chasing their moment of glory. From U15, U16 and U18 matches and sitting volleyball to the Men's and Women's Shield and Cup Finals, the stakes couldn't be higher. These teams have battled with determination and incredible spirit to get here - and now they've earned the right to play for winners' trophies. Every match is a story waiting to be written, and every player out there has put in the hours to be ready.

Volleyball in England is growing, not just in numbers, but in visibility, professionalism and in belief. We're seeing more junior athletes coming through strong club systems. We're seeing new fans discover the game through exciting match content, livestreams, and highlight reels. We're seeing clubs investing into pathways, coaching and community. And behind the scenes, we're working hard to tell the stories of the players, coaches, and clubs who are shaping the future.

None of this is by chance. It's the result of the volleyball community, athletes, coaches, volunteers, officials, parents, and fans, all pulling in the same direction. You've helped drive the sport forward, and this weekend is a celebration of everything we've achieved together.

To the teams competing this weekend... congratulations! Your journey has brought you here, and we can't wait to see you leave it all on the court. To the fans, whether you're joining us here in Kettering or cheering from home... your passion drives this sport. Your energy in the stands, your messages of support and your belief in your teams is what makes weekends like this truly special.

A massive thank you also to the venue team here at the National Volleyball Centre for their continued support, to our brilliant Hub staff, whose tireless work behind the scenes has helped bring this showcase event to life, and to our dedicated partners, including Sport England, the Volleyball England Foundation, the British Volleyball Federation, Mikasa, MAAREE, DYNAMIK, Hudl, Universal Services, Sportserve, Kitround, IBB LED, FabLittleBag, Award It! and Accelerate Sport.

Thank you for being a part of it.

Charlie Ford

Charlie Ford
Chief Executive Officer
Volleyball England

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SATURDAY

COURT
1



U16 GIRLS' FINAL
10:30
LEEDS GORSE V MALORY EAGLES

COURT
2



SITTING VOLLEYBALL GRAND PRIX FINAL
10:30
SITTING BUCKS V HELP FOR HEROES

COURT
1



MEN'S SHIELD FINAL
13:00
WESSEX V COVENTRY AND WARWICK RIGA

COURT
1



WOMEN'S SHIELD FINAL
15:30
BRISTOL V BEDMINSTER

COURT
2



U16 BOYS' FINAL
15:30
URMSTON GRAMMAR V RICHMOND

COURT
1



MEN'S CUP FINAL
19:00
MALORY EAGLES V ESSEX REBELS

SUNDAY

COURT
1



U18 GIRLS' FINAL
10:30
THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL V LEEDS GORSE



COURT
2



U15 BOYS' FINAL
10:30
URMSTON GRAMMAR V RICHMOND



COURT
1

WOMEN'S CUP FINAL
13:00
TEAM SIDEOUT POLONIA V MALORY EAGLES

COURT
1



U18 BOYS' FINAL
15:30
URMSTON GRAMMAR V LEEDS GORSE



COURT
2



U15 GIRLS' FINAL
15:30
WAPPING WILDCATS V RICHMOND



SATURDAY

OFFICIALS

COURT 1

COURT 2

U16 GIRLS' FINAL

FRANCESCA BENTLEY
FIRST REFEREE

SARAH HANRAHAN
SECOND REFEREE

MEN'S SHIELD FINAL

IGNACIO DIEZ
FIRST REFEREE

KLAUDIA FRENCH
SECOND REFEREE

WOMEN'S SHIELD FINAL

DAVID TOPACHO
FIRST REFEREE

FIONA COTTERILL
SECOND REFEREE

MEN'S CUP FINAL

SEBASTIAN WIDLARZ
FIRST REFEREE

MARTIN SHAKESPEARE
SECOND REFEREE

SITTING GRAND PRIX FINAL

HUAXI LIU
FIRST REFEREE

HERMAN PRADA
SECOND REFEREE

U16 BOYS' FINAL

CHRIS TSUI
FIRST REFEREE

ABDUL SALAM SAFADI
SECOND REFEREE



SUNDAY OFFICIALS

COURT 1

U18 GIRLS' FINAL

DANIEL HARRISON
FIRST REFEREE

STEPHEN SMITH
SECOND REFEREE

WOMEN'S CUP FINAL

LENNY BARRY
FIRST REFEREE

PETER PARSONS
SECOND REFEREE

U18 BOYS' FINAL

PETE WHYARD
FIRST REFEREE

LUDWIK KOWALEWSKI
SECOND REFEREE

COURT 2

U15 BOYS' FINAL

NEIL BENTLEY
FIRST REFEREE

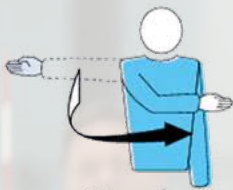
HERMAN PRADA
SECOND REFEREE

U15 GIRLS' FINAL

CHERIE CHEUNG
FIRST REFEREE

DOMITILLA DI STEFANO
SECOND REFEREE

REFEREEING 101



Service

Hand moves from serving team side to signal the start of a point



Ball Touched

The ball was touched before going dead



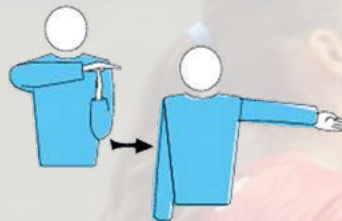
Ball Touched

The ball was touched before going dead



Ball Out

Flag raised vertically to signal ball landing out of court



Timeout

A team has called for a time out (30seconds)



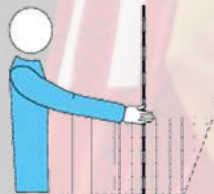
Ball In

The ball landed in the area of play



Four Touches

Ball has been touched four times giving the other team a point



Net Touch

A player has touched the net during a point



Ball Out

The ball landed out of the area of play



Crossing Space Fault

The ball has touched an antenna, wall or other surface not in play



Double Touch

The player has touched the ball twice in a row



Rotation fault

Players are not in correct location at the time of service

VOLLEYBALL 101

A whistle-stop guide to the face-paced and thrilling game!

- A volleyball game consists of two teams of six players each, separated by a net. Volleyball positions are Setter, Middle, Outside, Opposite and Libero.
- Two teams will rally - or hit the ball back and forth over the net - until a fault occurs.
- There is a maximum of three touches per side (a block does not count as a touch).
- The objective is to score points by sending the ball over the net, and grounding it in the opponent's side of the court.
- Volleyball matches are made up of sets, typically three or five sets. All matches at Final 4 will be played as best of five.
- Each set is played to 25 points. Sets must be won by at least two clear points. Tie break sets (fifth set) are played to 15 points.

Quick guide rules

- Only six players on the floor at any given time: three in the front row and three in the back row.
- Players may not touch the ball twice in succession (a block is not considered a hit).
- A ball may be played off the net during a volley and on a serve.
- A ball hitting a boundary line is in.
- A ball is out if it hits an antenna, the floor completely outside the court, any of the net or cables outside the antennae, the referee stand or pole, or the ceiling above a non-playable area.
- It is legal to contact the ball with any part of a player's body.
- It is illegal to catch, hold or throw the ball.
- A player cannot block or attack a serve from on or inside the three-metre line.

SITTING VOLLEYBALL GRAND PRIX FINAL

SITTING BUCKS

Bench Personnel: Stephen Smith

Bench Personnel: Michael Knight

3 John Munro

Universal

4 Natalie Lewis

Universal

5 Paul Jeffrey

Universal

7 Colin Goodbrand

Universal

8 Michael Knight

Universal

9 Daniel Bingley

Universal

10 Kev Tann

Universal

11 Stephen Smith

Universal

14 Rob Richardson

Universal

HELP FOR HEROES

Head Coach: Charlie Walker

Bench Personnel: Carolyn Dufley

Bench Personnel: John Worrall

1 Netra Rana

Universal

2 Frank Aveh

Universal

3 Daniel Kitcher

Universal

4 Carolyn Dufley

Universal

5 Joachim Pierre

Universal

6 John Dixon

Universal

7 Corie Mapp

Universal

8 Chris Platts

Universal

9 John Worrall

Universal

10 Charlie Walker

Universal

11 Christopher Anslow

Universal

12 C Francis Nduka

Universal



Sitting Bucks are aiming to secure a historic fourth consecutive Sitting Volleyball title this weekend, having lifted the trophy in each of the past three seasons with wins over South Hants (2022 and 2024), and Help for Heroes (2023).

This year, a familiar rival stands in their way as they once again face Help for Heroes in the final. The two teams recently clashed at the Final 4, where Sitting Bucks claimed a closely contested 2-0 victory, with set scores of 25-21 and 25-19.

Manager and coach Steve Smith shared his excitement about reaching the final, saying: "The team is extremely excited to have made it to the final once again. This is our fourth in a row, and it's great to see that we still have the same hunger and desire to perform at our best.

"We're sticking to our usual routine, training on Tuesday nights - focusing on movement, court coverage and clean passing - to prepare us for what will be a tough match.

"Help for Heroes has a large squad, and while they often stick with the same six on court, they always have the option to rotate players and bring something different, which we'll be ready for."

"As we head into the final, we'll be concentrating on our own game, minimising mistakes, and playing smart, high-percentage volleyball, especially when the pressure is on."



After a challenging 2023-24 season that saw them finish fourth overall, Help for Heroes have returned to the form that took them to the Cup Final in 2022-23, where they narrowly missed out on the title to Sitting Bucks. Now back in the final, they're determined to flip the script and bring home the trophy.

Team Manager and player Carolyn Dufley, reflecting on their journey, said: "Reaching the final this year means so much after an up-and-down season. Our goal was to put aside differences and reconnect as a team. With a group made up of veterans and family members, it was about re-establishing what it means to support each other, no matter the result."

That renewed sense of unity has played a huge role in their resurgence. "We've had a reputation in the past for being our own worst enemies," Dufley said. "But this season, with stronger coaching, better management and a real collective buy-in from the players, we've found our identity again."

They'll once again face Sitting Bucks, familiar rivals who've won all their match-ups this season and feature three GB players. "They're a strong side," said Dufley, "but we know their game now, and we're ready."

With Paralympians and GB veterans across both squads, Help for Heroes will hope to draw on their experience and teamwork to finally claim the coveted title.

U16 GIRLS' FINAL

LEEDS GORSE

Head Coach: Elaine Brown

Assistant Coach: Stephen McKeown

Assistant Coach: Alessia Garnera

Bench Personnel: Michael Lee

Bench Personnel: Daniella Tchandeu

1 Zani Cai

Middle, Opposite

2 Charlotta Macinska

Universal

3 Evie Hague

Middle, Outside

5 Olivia Mcadoo

Middle, Opposite

6 Kystina Ngatcha

Universal

9 Elizabeth Perfection Uwagboe Akuetiehme

Universal

11 Fati Umar Mahmud

Middle, Libero

10 Rejoice Eghianruwa

Middle

12 Estelle Pajak

Middle, Outside

8 Lauren Thorn

Setter, Middle, Opposite

15 Tamara Alahendrage Don

Libero

MALORY EAGLES

Head Coach: Carlos Johnson

Assistant Coach: Giuseppe Monterosso

4 Shizuka Foster-Vairinhos

Outside, Setter

21 Polly Tuggey

Middle

14 Mariana Conceicao

Opposite

22 Leela Davies

Setter

16 Kelly Ilight Saucedo Anez

Opposite

12 Zonia Andruszkiewicz Ayala

Outside

7 Elisha Pamela D'almeida

Middle

5 Ruby Davies

Libero

11 Zeynep Sen

Outside

15 Hana Metcalfe

Middle

77 Masal Canli

Outside

6 Marta Martin

Opposite



Although finishing the Grand Prix campaign as the number one team in the country, Leeds Gorse did not have it all their own way in the Last 8 semi-finals.

There was little to choose in the first two sets of their match with Richmond A, exchanging sets, before taking command in the decider to win 25-19, 21-25, 15-7.

That followed earlier success in Pool A, where they had finished top but made to work hard to do so, as they were taken to three sets by both South Hants and South Bucks.

Four of the squad have represented the club at international level.

"After earning the national title last year, we feel we are on track by returning to the finals this year," said Head Coach Elaine Brown.

"It's a reflection of the hard work and resilience we've all put into the programme. We've grown as a team over the years and are excited, but know the job's not done yet.

In general, it's been incredible to take a step back and appreciate how far the girls have come considering that, for most, this is only their third year of playing volleyball.

"We hope to play together and support each other as a team in the final, which will be important if we are to come out on top against strong opposition.

"It's been great to be able to support the girls' development, especially when it means so much to them, as both sides will play with heart and fire."

Malory Eagles have enjoyed an excellent 2024-25 season, coming second in the national rankings following the Grand Prix matches.

And they justified that status in the U16 Last 8 in March where they produced a series of powerful performances to clinch a Cup Finals spot.

The team eased through Pool B in style, not dropping a set in accounting for Richmond A, Urmston Grammar and Richmond B in convincingly style.

And they were no less impressive in their semi-final, overcoming a resilient South Hants side 25-13, 25-17, led by twins Ruby (libero) and Leela (setter) Davies.

"Our team is thrilled and excited to get this opportunity to play the final match of the tournament," said Head Coach Peppe Monterosso.

"We have been to finals before, but this U16 group has only just come together so it is right up there in terms of our achievements.

"Having lost badly to Richmond in round two, it was uplifting to square things up in round three, and then again in the Last 8.

"Our game is pretty basic: try to keep it off the floor on our side and stick it down as quickly as possible on the opponents' side. We are prepared to hustle for every point until there are no points left to play. We have also got better at staying emotionally stable during games.

"Our opponents, Leeds, are probably the most athletic squad in the country. They are tall, explosive and challenging to compete against."

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MENU



MEN'S SHIELD FINAL

WESSEX

Bench Personnel: Matthew Hunter

1 Jamie Keates

Setter

3 Marcos Perez Martin

Middle

4 Luke Smith

Middle

5 Michael Wahl

Outside

6 Hubert Ginda

Universal

7 Harry Aplin

Libero

8 Seb Smith

Middle

9 Sam Reid

Captain, Outside

11 Matthew Hunter

Opposite

13 Felix Summers

Middle, Opposite

COVENTRY AND WARWICK RIGAS

Coach: Masoud Sobhani

Bench Personnel: Chris Jones

Bench Personnel: Thomas Young

1 Malvern Chirima

Outside

3 Uldis Elksnis

Setter

4 Ali Yeganeh

Outside

5 Jacob Lingwood

Libero

6 Chris Jones

Outside

7 Thomas Young

Captain

8 Solomon Victor

Opposite

9 Kim Magdales

Setter

11 George Maynard

Middle

13 Andreas Manthopoulos

Middle

15 Sepehr Sobhani

Middle

17 Sammy Ahmed

Middle

18 Roberto Rigante

Libero

20 Ryan Crowley

Outside



Having secured promotion to Division 1 after finishing top of Division 2 South, Wessex are looking to finish off an outstanding season with another trophy in the National Shield final against Coventry and Warwick Riga.

A win would mark a significant milestone for the club with deep roots in the game, eager to return to the national spotlight.

"It was always the plan this year," said player and coach Matt Hunter. "So it's amazing to have achieved the first goal. The second goal is to bring home the gold."

Wessex have been strong throughout their Shield campaign, dropping just four sets across five rounds. Their grit was on full display in the semi-final, where they came from two sets down away at Sheffield to complete a thrilling reverse sweep, sealing the fifth set 15-13 to win 3-2.

Hunter brings a unique perspective as he was in the squad the last time Wessex reached a national final over a decade ago.

"Wessex has an extremely rich history," he added: "This will be our first major final since 2014, so it's good to see the club making moves back to where we've been before."

"The squad is a mix of youth and experience. Aside from myself, most of the team are Bournemouth University players or part of the junior club. That energy and hunger, paired with leadership, has been a huge asset."

"Facing Riga, we know they've had a strong season and have key players we'll aim to nullify. We haven't played each other since our Super League days about 10 years ago, so it's all set up for a great final."



Fresh off promotion to Division 1 after finishing runners-up in Division 2 Central, Coventry & Warwick Riga will look to cap an unforgettable campaign with victory in the National Shield final against Wessex.

Riga's journey began all the way back in September with a confident win over South Hants, and they haven't looked back since, defeating Portsmouth Phoenix, Spelthorne Lions, the Army, and finally Loughborough Students in a high-stakes semi-final.

That latter win was all the more rewarding, having lost to Loughborough just weeks earlier in league play but Riga bounced back with renewed determination.

"It's an indescribable feeling," said Roberto Rigante. "Reaching this point is a huge milestone in the club's history. We regrouped, worked hard on our game plan, and secured the win when it mattered most. We're saving the big celebration for when the final chapter is written."

"It's been a long time since we were in a final, the last time was in 2004, we came very close a few seasons ago, losing in the semis in a dramatic tiebreaker, so getting back to the final now feels incredible."

Rigante credits resilience as their key strength. "We've had our ups and downs, but what sets us apart is how we stuck together, learning, adapting, and growing stronger mentally and tactically."

Looking ahead, he's expecting a battle. "Wessex are a top team with promotion and momentum behind them. We're expecting a tough match, but we're ready for it. We know they'll fight just as hard as we will, making for an exciting and challenging final."

U16 BOYS' FINAL

URMSTON GRAMMAR

Head coach: Howard Ainsworth
Assistand coach: Iain Hines
Bench Personnel: Mathew Grundy
Bench Personnel: Abi Littler

3 Kairon Tait-Millward
Setter

6 Carlos Balanay
Captain, Outside

9 Muhau Ngonda
Middle

10 Oliver Joynes
Opposite

11 Dylan Cabije
Outside

12 Didier Ho-yeung Siu
Middle

14 Jed Roque
Outside

15 Oskar Skorupka
Outside

18 Joe Cowles
Middle

21 Emeka Uzoka
Opposite

22 Samuel Bartlett
Opposite

RICHMOND

Head coach: Jean Max Sourmarié
Assistand coach: Noah Adam Andrew Goalen
Bench Personnel: Rodrigo Voss

46 Andrei Hernandez Cutchon
Setter

48 Ryan Wartnaby
Captain, Outside

65 Archie Anding
Middle

33 Kai Watton
Opposite

17 Tyler Sourmarie
Outside

22 Oliver Harrison
Middle

49 Ivan Gospodinov
Outside

29 Marcus Sze
Outside

39 Max Prasek
Middle

60 Oskar Redestowicz
Opposite

47 Adam Has
Opposite

9 Albert Ruddick
Opposite

14 Ethan Brice
Opposite

15 Joachim Chan
Opposite



Urmston finished on the same number of ranking points as their Cup Final opponents Richmond, but were ranked number one by virtue of their superior points difference per sets played.

They were slow starters in their Last 8 pool, as they were pushed all the way by Richmond B in their first game before coming through 15-13 in the deciding set.

That paved the way for more confident, straight sets successes over The Boswells School and MK City to see them through to the semi-finals.

There, they encountered a Bristol side who had played well to finish as runners-up in Pool A and were always in control in recording a 25-20, 25-19 triumph to secure their passage to Kettering under the watchful eye of coaches Iain Hines and Howard Ainsworth.

The team has a proud tradition to follow as their U15 team were delighted to beat Richmond by a 25-18, 25-22, 25-22 scoreline in last year's final as Jed Roque led by example to be named MVP.

"Beating Leeds and Staffs in Grand Prix 1 were important wins for us because they are a tough sides and we had some insecurity about the games, but the win created momentum and confidence moving forward," said Howard Ainsworth, who co-coaches the side along with Iain Hines.

"Richmond are a good team. We played them last year, and we have both got better. It is two excellent teams who want to entertain."

The U16 team are one of three teams from the school to be in with a chance of becoming national champions (along with the U18 and U15 squads), so it promises to be a busy weekend for a number of their youngest players.

For a club used to winning Cup Finals on a regular basis, 2024-25 has been a frustrating season for Richmond in that fewer teams have made it through to Kettering than they would have liked.

That said, the U16 squad has performed to a high level all year and will be quietly confident of getting the job done.

Having lost to Urmston in the U15 final last year, the opportunity to gain a spot of revenge against the same opponents 12 months on will not be lost on the South West London side, who have been strong performers all season long.

In the Last 8, they emerged from their group unbeaten, negotiating matches with Leeds Gorse, Bristol and Newcastle Staffs in straight sets.

They faced familiar opposition in the semi-final where they took on their club-mates Richmond B, who had professed from Pool A as runners-up to Urmston Grammar.

Putting any sentiment, they brushed aside their opponents to win 25-21, 25-16 and claim a coveted golden ticket.

With Richmond Docklands men having preserved their DYNAMIK Men's Super League status with play-off victory over NVL Division 1 Black Country and the women's side also avoiding the drop in Women's NVL Division 1, some junior success would be a welcome final   to the club's season.

WOMEN'S SHIELD FINAL

BRISTOL

Head coach: Mauro Ceccarini
Assistant coach: Konstantinos Anastasakis
Bench Personnel: Ines Gomes
Bench Personnel: Lana Shaughnessy

1 Erin Jefferys
Universal

2 Amy Baldwin
Middle

3 Anita Nonev
Setter

4 Maria Valderrabano
Outside

6 Millie Cattell
Captain, Outside

7 Bethan Grace Bailey
Outside

8 Mari-Liis Sits
Universal

9 Martina Tremaroli
Opposite

10 Ceylin Asya Oskay
Outside

12 Levi Painter
Outside

16 Beatriz Gutierrez Gonzalez
Setter

17 Sarah MacLaren
Middle

13 Ariyo Fukui
Libero

26 Silvia Bertie
Libero

BEDMINSTER

Head coach: Gary Burton
Assistant coach: Lay Heng Dinghy Chan
Bench Personnel: Sarah Burki

2 Charlene Müller
Outside

3 Joelle Lazzarotto
Setter

5 Evelina Steinarte
Middle

6 Sara Pavanel
Opposite, Outside

9 Chung Hei Wong
Opposite

10 Giulia Cavallo
Setter

11 Greta Cosentino
Libero

12 Annelot Nieuwenhuis
Outside

15 Lucia Costantini
Middle

21 Sze Nam Chan
Libero



Bristol head into the National Finals with valuable experience, having reached the Shield Final in 2022–23, where they narrowly missed out on the title. This year, they're back with renewed determination to go one step further.

Their path to the final hasn't been easy, finishing with a hard-fought 3-1 semi-final win over Northampton, the latest in a string of gritty performances that have showcased their growth and resilience.

"This team has changed a lot since our last final," said captain Millie Cattell. "We've got a largely new line-up compared to 2023, and building strong bonds and a positive atmosphere has been our biggest achievement.

"That togetherness is what has helped us win Division 2 West a few weeks ago - and reach the final again."

One of the team's season highlights came in the final league match, where they staged a fourth-set comeback to win 3-1— and then discover shortly after that they'd secured the league title.

Cattell added: "At the start of the season, our coach, Mauro, set the goal of making the Shield Final. It felt far off, but each game built our confidence and belief.

As they prepare to face Bedminster in an all-Bristol showdown, Bristol are ready for a high-energy clash.

"We've played them twice this season. It's always a thriller—and we're ready," said Cattell.



In their debut year in the competition, Bedminster have reached the National Finals —a huge milestone for the Bristol-based club, who haven't previously reached this level of success in their history.

Their place in the final comes off the back of a gritty 3-0 semi-final win over Loughborough Students (25-21, 27-25, 25-19), and with promotion to Division 1 already secured via the play-offs at the University of Cambridge earlier this month, the team head into the final riding a wave of confidence.

Player and club secretary Joelle Lazzarotto shared the team's huge excitement ahead of the weekend and said: "This is one of our biggest achievements to date. We're absolutely buzzing to be going all the way to the finals!"

At the heart of Bedminster's success is their team ethos. "We've built a great team spirit," Joelle explained. "Whether we're travelling to away games or just spending time together, it's been one of the season's real highlights. We play with high energy, fast plays at the net and always support each other."

She added: "There's never a point where we give up. Every single point is fought for, and our communication and positivity keep us going."

With over seven nationalities represented and key contributions from U17 players, Bedminster is proud of both its diversity and its future.

Now facing rivals Bristol in a highly-anticipated derby, Bedminster are ready to put on a show.

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MALORY EAGLES



LOGAN CLARK
Middle, Captain



DYLAN COHAN
Middle



JOSHUA FUNDAFUNDA
Middle



JORDAN DALRYMPLE
Outside



NATHAN FULLERTON
Opposite



DAN SAMPSON
Setter



BENAYA KOUAME
Outside



JOEL MARTINEZ
Setter



SONER YASHAR
Setter



CHING HANG CHONG
Setter



DALTON BÜNDE
Outside



BRYCE BOAN
Outside



REMI CADORET
Libero



DAN HUNTER
Libero

JEFFERSON WILLIAMS
Head Coach

BENCH PERSONNEL

CAROL GORDON
Assistant Coach

IAN LEGRAND
Assistant Coach

ANDREW OMOSHEBI
Bench Personnel

REUBEN FERNANDES
Bench Personnel



After a rollercoaster season filled with hard-fought battles and several injuries, Malory Eagles are back in the Cup Finals for the third consecutive year, having tussled with the Rebels not only in the DYNAMIK Men's Super League, but also throughout the BUCS season with a number of their players also representing the University of East London (UEL).

"We are thrilled to make it three years running," said Carol Gordon, Assistant Coach. "The team has high expectations, but it has been a very competitive and challenging season against the top-tier teams with setbacks along the way. Missing out on the play-off finals was disappointing, so we're still chasing that title."

Malory's campaign has been backed by the crucial support of three sponsors: Eurochem for their team kit, VBDC who have hosted live events and Athlify, all of whom have helped elevate the programme this season.

The London side, known for their quick offense and high-octane play, now face a team who pipped them to regular season top spot in the DYNAMIK Men's Super League.

"Essex are a tough-serving team," said team captain Logan Clark. "Both our matches with them this season went to five sets, so fans can expect another thriller. Our games with them have definitely been the most fun and we're hoping to come out on top."

What sets Malory apart is their depth of experience. "We have an ex-Olympian in Dan Hunter, who competed for Team GB in 2012," Gordon explained. "Alongside Dan, we've got Nathan Fullerton and Jordan Dalrymple, both of whom have played professionally in Europe."

Clark added: "Our team chemistry and camaraderie have been huge for us. It's allowed us to build a quick offense that's tough to stop and we're ready to bring that fire to the Finals."

ESSEX REBELS



JACOB KERN
Outside, Captain



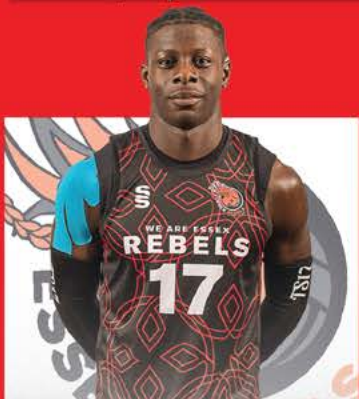
THOMAS JEFFERSON
Middle



CAM KERN
Setter



SAM SHERWIN
Middle



THOMAS SHATIMEHIN
Outside



EUAN FRASER
Opposite



DAVEN PASCAL
Middle



BEN OSBORNE
Outside



NATHAN HALL
Setter



JACOB LLOYD-WILLIAMS
Middle



OSCAR CURZON-HALL
Opposite



ASHER MILLER
Universal



LEFTERIS IOANNOU
Libero



BEN BUTLER
Libero

BENCH PERSONNEL

ALEX PORTER
Head Coach

HASSAN FARHAT
Bench Personnel
TRISTAN LANE
Bench Personnel

JOSHUA HOLDSWORTH
Bench Personnel
CALLUM BANKS
Bench Personnel



Essex Rebels are back in the National Cup Final for the second time in three years, aiming to go one better than in 2023 when they narrowly lost to Malory Eagles.

This year's final brings a thrilling rematch between two Super League powerhouses, with Essex hoping the result swings in their favour this time around.

After topping the regular season with a 15-3 record and claiming silver at the Final 4 behind London Giants, the Rebels have built some serious momentum.

Their road to the final included a commanding 3-0 semi-final win over Giants and a statement victory against reigning champions Durham in the last 16.

For Head Coach Alex Porter, the final means more than just a trophy. "The Cup Final is part of a larger picture: developing athletes, the team and the sport over the long term," he said.

With 11 multi-year athletes and 10 with national team experience, including 10 returners from the 2023 final, Essex has both experience and hunger.

"Beating the Giants in the semi-final with this same group was special," Porter added. "Now, we're ready for the final step in the final against Malory."

"We're the tallest and one of the quickest teams in the league, so expect fast actions with big hits, blocks and aces. Alongside that, we're one of the calmest, most focused teams in the league. When the pressure's on, we get the job done."

With two evenly-matched sides and a history of close encounters, the final promises to deliver a thrilling finish. "Both league games went 3-2, so we know it's going to be tight," Porter said. "Nathan Fullerton is a major threat, but they've got quality across the board. So we'll need to be at our best to win."

U18 GIRLS' FINAL

THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL

LEEDS GORSE

Head Coach: Darren Lewis
Assistant Coach: Stephanie Boyce
Assistant Coach: Joshua Chapman
Bench Personnel: Andrew Tuck

Head Coach: Elaine Brown
Assistant Coach: Stephen Mckeown
Assistant Coach: Alessia Garnera
Bench Personnel: Michael Lee
Bench Personnel: Pete Makowski

4 Karolina Wall
Setter

2 Eleanor Tuck
Captain, Outside

9 Elisa Jarmon
Middle

10 Esther Adesiyun
Opposite

12 Alice Jagielska
Outside

13 Katarina Knezevic
Middle

16 Sarah Yuen
Middle

11 Scarlett Parkhurst
Outside

7 Yasmin Baptiste
Middle

8 Harriet Lea
Outside

5 Lily Frost
Middle

3 Maisie Watson
Middle

6 Maisie Hornsby
Middle

14 Chloe Silvester
Middle

1 Folasade Aladese
Middle, Opposite

2 Charlotta Macinska
Universal

3 Liliana Kowalska
Middle, Opposite

7 Aryuna Wann
Outside

8 Lauren Thorn
Middle, Opposite, Setter

9 Elizabeth Perfection Uwagboe Akuetiehme
Middle, Opposite, Outside

11 Daniella Tchandeu
Captain

13 Rejoice Eghianruwa
Middle

14 Krystina Ngatcha
Middle, Opposite, Setter

17 Layla Henry
Opposite, Outside

10 Tamara Alahendrage Don
Libero

15 Abigail Wong
Libero



The Boswells School are the defending champions in the U18 girls' category, having beaten Richmond 29-27, 25-23, 25-16 last April.

MVP in that match, Alice Jagielska, has been back to lead from the front again this season and helped the team recover from a slow start - finishing fifth in the first Super Series round - to claim two overall victories from four attempts.

In their Last 8 pool, Boswells defeated Leeds Gorse in three sets and Urmston Grammar and Taunton in straight sets to make it through to the Last 4 semi-final.

There, the team in red and black showed few nerves in securing a 25-8, 28-26 success over Malory Eagles to clinch their golden ticket.

Boswells' Head Coach Darren Lewis said: "I'm exceptionally pleased for everyone in the programme at how we have performed across the season.

"We are pleased we can continue our strong tradition of reaching and winning finals - and hopefully this will be another victory.

"We have some very talented performers who are highly-driven and Cup Finals give them a chance to showcase their skills in what is the best standard of junior volleyball.

"We have performed consistently across all the Grand Prix with an exciting offense and some great rallies and have a good team chemistry and understanding of how we want to play."

Boswells would like to say thank you to their sponsors Absolute Gym and Nelson Policies.



Having taken out the top-ranked seeds and twice Super Series winners Richmond in the semi-finals, Leeds Gorse will be optimistic they can upset the apple cart again when they play The Boswells School in the final.

To beat Boswells, those in purple and orange will have to turn around a three-set defeat at the Last 8, where a hard-fought pool match (28-26, 23-25, 15-9) went against them.

Head Coach Elaine Brown said: "It feels phenomenal to have reached Cup Finals as this was our big goal for the year from the girls' programme in Leeds.

"It is the biggest achievement so far for this team and something we have been working towards since U15 level.

"Seeing how far the girls have come in just three to four years is incredible, and it's all finally coming together... we couldn't be more proud of the girls.

"We have a lot of height and power in the team, but sometimes we can be our own worst enemy. However, now we have really started to come together as a team.

"We have played our final opponent Boswells at every Super Series this year, so have gotten to know them quite well.

"The team is a unit that backs each other on and off the court. Seven players on the team have represented their country on an international stage. They have since brought that experience back to the team and helped empower other players."

U15 BOYS' FINAL

URMSTON GRAMMAR

Head coach: Howard Ainsworth
Assistant coach: Iain Hines
Bench Personnel: Mathew Grundy
Bench Personnel: Abi Littler

3 Kairon Tait-Millward

Setter

2 Archie Sutton

Captain, Outside

7 Max Burnside

Middle

8 George Euston

Opposite

16 James Wilson

Outside

20 Oscar Martis

Outside

18 Joe Cowles

Middle

21 Emeka Uzoka

Opposite

9 Muhau Ngonda

Middle

RICHMOND

Head Coach: Jean Max Sourmarie
Assistant Coach: Noah Goalen
Assistant Coach: Przemek Soczewka
Bench Personnel: Lucas Voss
Bench Personnel: Rodrigo Voss

7 Staney Steventon

Setter

17 Tyler Sourmarie

Captain, Outside

67 Dante Navarro-Adler

Middle

20 Ryan Peters

Opposite

29 Marcus Sze

Outside

46 Juul Verheyden

Middle

36 Monty Easton

Middle

15 Nikita Yakunin

Outside

32 Charlie Lindop

Middle

13 Patrick Oliver

Outside

15 Damien Musungu

Middle

17 Alex Cox

Middle

8 Owen Kwok

Libero

94 Patrick Towfghi

Outside



The youngest of the three Urmston Grammar teams to clinch a place in Kettering for Cup Finals Weekend did so with relative ease.

In Pool B of the U15 Last 8 competition, they conceded only 76 points in their three matches, without dropping a set, defeating Monkseaton, Leeds Gorse and The Boswells School.

That hat-trick of wins preceded a straight sets win over Pool B runners-up Wessex by a comfortable 25-16, 25-16 margin.

Co-coach Iain Hines said: "The team is very happy. We put a lot of pressure on ourselves to make the final and we're excited to take on the challenge of Richmond.

"It's our first year together as a team, so it has to be the greatest achievement so far. It's great to see what we work on in training paying off on the court when it matters. All players are from the same year group at the school.

"The preparation for matches always starts at school with conversations in the corridor and training. We will look at a video, but we like to focus on ourselves and what we do well.

"The players like to attack and it's what we focus on most in training. Inconsistency in blocking is probably our biggest weaknesses, but we have really improved our out-of-system setting and hitting.

We have yet to come across Richmond so far in the competition so don't know lots. However, we have seen them play and they have a lot of quality in all areas."

Like their girls' side, Richmond have reached Cup Finals hoping to go all the way having fallen at the final hurdle last year.

In 2024-25, they were beaten in straight sets by a talented Urmston Grammar side and face the same opponents this time in another South v North battle this time around.

The Londoners will certainly go into the match battle-hardened, as they were twice pushed hard in the U15 Last 8.

First, playing in Pool B, they finished ahead of their rivals with three wins from three, but were forced to bounce back from a set down to overcome Newcastle Staffs, though things were more straightforward against Team SideOut and Wessex.

However, their next big test was only just around the corner as their semi-final clash with Leeds Gorse proved to be an epic contest.

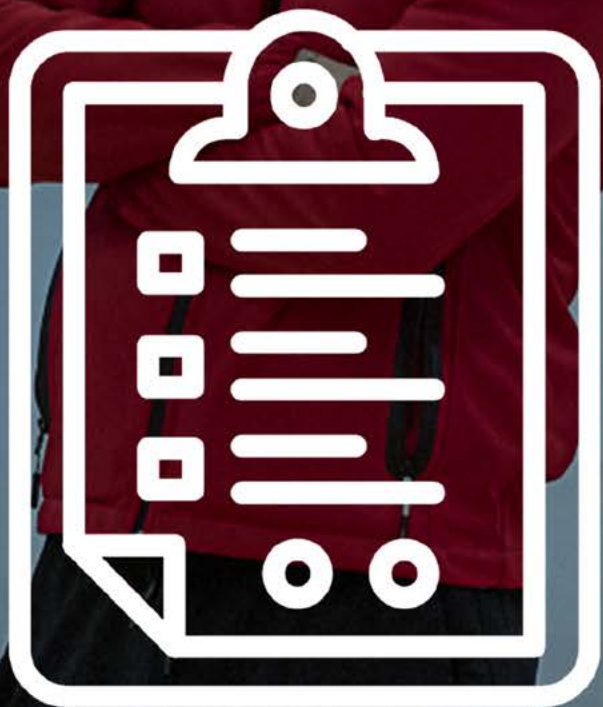
Just two points separated the teams in each of the first two sets, as Richmond struck the first blow, winning a lung-buster 30-28, before the Yorkshire club levelled, taking the second 25-23.

With the contest up in the air, the Dark and Light Blues found their best form at just the right time to clinch the deciding tie break set 15-11 and book their passage to Kettering.

Now they have been busy preparing for their re-match with Urmston knowing that parents and friends will be cheering them on both in the arena and at home watching the Volleyball England YouTube livestream.

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HER CALL



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Supporting every female
referee in England to develop,
grow and further enhance their
knowledge and experience of
refereeing.

TEAM SIDEOUT POLONIA



ABIGAIL RUSSELL
Middle



CAORIE MILLERD
Outside



MERVE AKIN
Setter



CARLA MULLI
Outside



ALICE JAGIELSKA
Opposite



YULIA TOKARENKO
Outside



YOHANA BIAVATI
Opposite



ANNA RANTALA
Outside



KASEY BELL
Middle



KONSTANTINA SKANDALI
Setter



DANNA CHEUNG
Outside



VALERIA BUSQUETS
Middle



SYDNEY BUSA
Libero



ALARA YILMAZ
Libero, Captain

MARK KONTOPOULOS
Head Coach

BENCH PERSONNEL

KRYSTIAN KOWALSKI
Assistant Coach

HAI-BINH LY
Statistician

SAM SORSKY
Assistant Coach

VLADISLAV POTEHIN
Bench Personnel



Team SideOut Polonia are ready to make a strong push to defend the National Cup they won last year against Durham Palatinates after a successful 2024 campaign as a whole.

Having made it to the final for the fourth consecutive year, the team has a wealth of experience that could give them the edge over their opponents, Malory Eagles.

SideOut's track record includes two cup victories in the past three years - and they will be eager to maintain such pedigree on their return to Kettering.

With a strong squad depth, SideOut have consistently proven themselves as one of the top teams in the MARREE Women's Super League during 2024-25.

In the regular season, the Londoners finished second behind the Eagles with a 15-3 record, securing a spot in the Super League Final 4, where they claimed the bronze medal after losing to Essex Eagles in the semi-final but then beating Lionhearts Vinarius.

This season, Polonia have met Malory twice, with honours currently even. In the most recent encounter, SideOut swept Malory 3-0, marking the only loss for the Eagles in the regular season, while the pre-Christmas meeting saw Malory earn a battling 3-2 triumph.

In the end, both teams ended the regular season on 47 points, with only set difference separating them, adding another layer of excitement and intrigue to this final.

Now just one game from securing back-to-back Cup Final successes, and having missed out on Final 4 glory, expect SideOut to come out all guns blazing in a bid to end their season on a high.

MALORY EAGLES



CHLOE ALLEN
Outside, Captain



STEPHANIE BOYCE
Middle



SELENA BATISTE
Universal



GRACE LAZARD
Middle



JADEN SCOTT
Middle



VERERE OYEARONE
Middle



SOPHIE SZYSZKO
Outside



ELIZABETH KELLUM
Universal



JOHANNA KRUIZE
Outside



EMICHIKA TOMOI
Outside



MICHELL DANIEL
Outside



GEORGIA MCGOVERN
Setter



PATRICIA CO
Libero



ARIADNE SIERRA
Libero

JEFFERSON WILLIAMS
Head Coach

BENCH PERSONNEL

CAROL GORDON
Assistant Coach

IAN LEGRAND
Assistant Coach

ANDREW OMOSHEBI
Bench Personnel

ZSOFIA PALANKAI-OMOSHEBI
Bench Personnel



Crowned MAAREE Women's Super League champions for the first time since the early 2000s earlier this month, Malory Eagles are aiming to finish their dream season with a National Cup title to match.

After a dominant performance at the Final 4 in Crystal Palace, having already clinched top spot in the regular season with a 17-1 record, momentum is certainly on their side heading into this weekend's clash with Team SideOut Polonia.

Malory have cruised through the Cup's earlier rounds without dropping a set, beating Darkstar Derbyshire on the road in their semi-final, and will look to carry that success forward.

Assistant Coach Carol Gordon said: "We're thrilled to finally join our men's team in a national final. We've been close in recent years, and now to chase the double is something special. The players know it's a tough challenge, but they're focused and ready."

Captain Chloe Allen echoed the sense of significance and said: "With this group of girls, it will be a highlight for sure. The club has had a successful past, but with the team now this feels like a monumental moment for us, especially as we are all so close personally. It feels like an even more special title we could win together."

"Our squad depth has been crucial," Gordon added. "The league has been competitive, and we've had some tough battles, often grinding out fifth-set wins. We're fortunate to have such a talented group of players who have all played a part in this season."

"SideOut are tough servers, have a great setter in Merve [Akin] and, defensively, they mirror a lot of what we do. It's going to be a real fight for every point."

U18 BOYS' FINAL

URMSTON GRAMMAR

Head coach: Howard Ainsworth
Assistand coach: Iain Hines
Bench Personnel: Mathew Grundy
Bench Personnel: Abi Littler

1 Connor Donaldson

Setter

3 Kairon Tait-Millward

Middle

8 George Euston

Middle

9 Muhau Ngonda

Universal

11 Alex Armstrong

Outside

12 George Eaton

Opposite

13 Oscar Smith

Outside

17 Didier Ho-yeung Siu

Libero

18 Joe Cowles

Middle

21 Emeka Uzoka

Middle

22 Samuel Bartlett

Middle

LEEDS GORSE

Head coach: Pete Makowski
Assistand coach: Nelson Murangwa
Bench Personnel: Scott Cosgrove

1 Maksymilian Makowski

Universal

3 Josh Cosgrove

Universal

11 Liam Lamb

Middle

10 Ben Sorley

Universal

15 Essay Mulubrhan

Outside

8 Jack Shorting

Opposite

12 Henry Dautaj

Middle

14 Dylan Parsons

Libero

6 Oliver Furnell

Universal

5 Emmanuel Oretoye

Universal

2 Gabriel Harrison

Universal

7 Nathan Hampshire

Setter, Captain

13 Evan Dando

Libero



Urmston Grammar, like their final opponents Leeds Gorse, upset the odds to reach Cup Finals, getting the better of number-one ranked Richmond in their Last 8 semi-final by a 25-20, 25-20 margin.

That was after the Greater Manchester side had picked themselves up superbly after a heart-breaking 15-13 final set defeat to Newcastle Staffs in their first pool match to recover quickly and defeat both Willesden Titans and AST Academy in straight sets to build momentum.

While Urmston did not win a Super Series, during the regular season, they were consistent performers across the board to end up third in the overall rankings.

Co-coach Howard Ainsworth said: "The team came in as underdogs and are so happy to make the finals. We have four U18 players, two U16 and four U15 players.

"Beating Richmond in the semi-final was great and our greatest achievement to date, but we want to go one better.

"We beat Richmond in the final Grand Prix of the season, and that gave us the confidence to compete in the Last 8, while we have worked hard on and off the court for our success so far.

"We love to attack and hitting is our strength, but the connection between all our hitters and the setter has definitely improved as the season has gone on

"Leeds are well organised and have a great defence, so it will definitely be interesting to see who can win the Battle of the North!"

Victory by Leeds Gorse in the Last 8 semi-final over the side who had won the previous two U18 Super Series, Newcastle Staffs, sparked memorable scenes of celebration.

They showed all their battling qualities at March's Last 8, where, having lost in three sets to Richmond, they beat Stockport 16-14 in the third to clinch victory in a must-win match and then pulled off what was the result of their season by knocking out Newcastle Staffs in their semi-final.

"What makes our team unique is that we're built on homegrown talent," said Makowski. "Every player has developed through our system, and we've grown together as a unit.

"This group of lads has been incredible. Reaching and winning the U15 and U16 finals was a huge achievement, but the U18 category is by far the most competitive and difficult challenge we've faced.

"We have a lot of respect for Urmston, as they have several very mature players, some of whom are up to three years older than our starters."

"We truly became a team when we faced adversity, especially when we dropped from the Super Series. The Last 8 was a real rollercoaster, where we were on the brink of elimination, losing 14-11 in a tie-break against Stockport, but we pulled through.

"Our style is inspired by Japanese volleyball - technically immaculate, aggressive and fast-paced, making sure every move is executed with intent."

U15 GIRLS' FINAL

WAPPING WILDCATS

Head Coach: Elsa Meserlian

- 1 Mina-imani Malcolm**
Libero
- 2 Jennifer Scantelbury**
Middle
- 4 Umme Hafsa nadia**
Outside
- 5 Akayla Mack**
Middle
- 7 Erica Jane Soledad**
Setter
- 9 Fatima Conteh**
Middle, Opposite
- 10 India Rogers**
Opposite
- 11 Shizuka Foster-Vairinhos**
Outside

RICHMOND

Head Coach: Francesca Secchi

Bench Personnel: Tomoko Hashimoto

- 2 Sno Dixon**
Universal
- 6 Mikeighla Cabrejas**
Libero
- 7 Grace Owen-Crompton**
Middle
- 9 Defne Tuncer**
Middle
- 11 Reika Hashimoto**
Libero
- 12 Fien Verheyden**
Universal
- 13 Lili Coen**
Opposite
- 14 Olivia Cross**
Setter
- 15 Veronica Kornilova**
Universal
- 16 Nehir Akatlar**
Outside
- 19 Ayse Morgul**
Universal
- 3 Melissie Ella Sutton**
Middle



Wapping have reached their first major Cup Final in some style, having come into the Last 8 competition ranked third in the country.

The team, who train twice a week and compete in the Kent Local League, won all four of their matches, though they were made to work hard to finish at the summit of Pool B.

The first of those matches was particularly critical as their opponents eventually finished second in the pool, a result with the Wildcats edged 17-15 in the final set.

Head Coach Elsa Meserlian said: "It feels like a lot of hard work has paid off and reaching the finals is the best achievement by our juniors to date."

"The last two points of the Urmston Grammar game were amazing moments for us. Jenny had a lucky dink clipping the net and giving us the advantage and Zuka then pummelled the ball cross court from the outside, which hit the libero and went flying into the heavens. I knew, then, the team wanted it.

"We are an athletic, quick, defensive team. We don't stop and we never give up and we have improved our ability to sideout as the season has gone on.

"I would recommend people watch us as we are about to make history by bringing the first junior gold medal to the Wildcats!

"We have three athletes on full playing scholarships, which means covering all costs including regional or national selection camps."

Richmond come into Cup Finals having finished top of the national rankings after the Grand Prix season.

They will be determined to go one better than last year, where they reached the final only to lose 3-1 to Leeds Gorse.

The signs certainly look good for the team, given their impressive performance in the U15 Last 8 during which they conceded only 68 points in topping Pool A.

Team Manager Tomoko Hashimoto is looking forward to playing at Kettering once more and said: "We're excited, proud and pleased.

"This is the most prestigious tournament in their season, so it's very important to them. In our club, the U15 team is put together anew each year. It's nice to see how well the remaining girls have bonded with the younger players.

"We like to play with one setter, two liberos and a block defence. Most players are familiar with more than one position and have a solid overhand serve. The team has not played together that long, but half the team has played the U15 final before and are relatively experienced players.

"Our opponents (Wapping) are unpredictable with some strong servers and we could meet a stronger six at the finals than we've met before.

"Over half the team are still U14 and will be returning to the competition next year. Having lost last year, they are eager for the gold medal this year."