

**CUP  
FINALS**



# OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

 **VOLLEYBALL  
ENGLAND**

**20TH AND 21ST APRIL 2024  
NATIONAL VOLLEYBALL CENTRE, KETTERING**

# WELCOME TO CUP FINALS



I'm delighted to welcome you to Cup Finals Weekend 2024, here at the National Volleyball Centre in Kettering.

Across the weekend, we've got 11 fantastic games that will showcase the best indoor volleyball teams and players from across the National Volleyball League.

I want to congratulate all of our finalists on reaching this stage and wish them the very best of luck.

Across the 2023-24 indoor season, the Volleyball England Hub Team have worked hard to increase the visibility and exposure of the National Volleyball Leagues.

Through short form video, previews and game round-ups, we have seen a significant increase in website traffic and followers across all of our social media channels. We hope to build on this moving forward as we continue to grow interest and engagement levels in the sport.

I would like to thank all of the fans for coming, especially those who have travelled the length and breadth of the country to be with us. Your support is greatly appreciated and means a lot to the sport and its progression.

Last but by no means least, I would like to thank the National Volleyball Centre staff for hosting us, and our team of officials for helping to put on what is sure to be a fantastic event.

Enjoy the Cup Finals and thank you for joining us.

CUP FINALS



*Charlie Ford*

Charlie Ford, Chief Executive Officer  
Volleyball England



# SOCIALS

SHARE YOUR PICTURES AND  
VIDEOS WITH US WITH

**#CUPFINALS24**



**@volleyballengland**



**Volleyball England**



**@VballEngland**



**@VballEngland**



**Volleyball England**



# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

U16 BOYS | COURT 1 | 10:30  
LEEDS GORSE VS  
THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL

SITTING VOLLEYBALL | COURT 2 | 10:30  
SITTING BUCKS VS  
SOUTH HANTS

WOMEN'S SHIELD | COURT 1 | 13:00  
LEICESTER ATHENA VS  
LONDON BEARS

U16 GIRLS | COURT 2 | 13:00  
THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL VS  
RICHMOND

MEN'S SHIELD | COURT 1 | 15:30  
WIGAN SEAHAWKS VS  
SQUAD

WOMEN'S CUP FINAL | COURT 1 | 18:15  
DURHAM PALATINATES VS  
TEAM SIDEOUT POLONIA

Times detailed are when teams are expected to take to the court to warm up, with their respective matches starting 30 minutes later. Start times may be put back from those advertised should previous matches overrun.



# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

**U18 GIRLS | COURT 1 | 10:30**  
**RICHMOND VS**  
**THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL**

**U15 BOYS | COURT 2 | 10:30**  
**RICHMOND VS**  
**URMSTON GRAMMAR**

**MEN'S CUP FINAL | COURT 1 | 13:00**  
**DURHAM PALATINATES VS**  
**MALORY EAGLES**

**U18 BOYS | COURT 1 | 15:30**  
**NEWCASTLE STAFFS VS**  
**RICHMOND**

**U15 GIRLS | COURT 2 | 15:30**  
**RICHMOND VS**  
**LEEDS GORSE**

Times detailed are when teams are expected to take to the court to warm up, with their respective matches starting 30 minutes later. Start times may be put back from those advertised should previous matches overrun.

# HUNGRY?

We have a great range of food available

Find menus here:

**The Wood Oven**

**Brisket Bros (Saturday)**





# VOLLEYBALL 101

A whistle-stop guide to the fast-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 Cup finals 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.

# OFFICIALS

## SATURDAY

### U16 BOYS | COURT 1 | 10:30

First Referee - **Giordano Marchi**  
Second Referee - **Patrick Koroma**

### SITTING VOLLEYBALL | COURT 2 | 10:30

First Referee - **Dee Wauchope**  
Second Referee - **Glynn Archibald**

### WOMEN'S SHIELD | COURT 1 | 13:00

First Referee - **Rita Grimes**  
Second Referee - **Huaxi Liu**

### U16 GIRLS | COURT 2 | 13:00

First Referee - **Sarah Hanrahan**  
Second Referee - **Gianni Sutton**

### MEN'S SHIELD | COURT 1 | 15:30

First Referee - **Alin-Vasile Dinica**  
Second Referee - **Istvan Elsik**

### WOMEN'S CUP FINAL | COURT 1 | 18:15

First Referee - **William Perugini**  
Second Referee - **Alexandru Calin**

## SUNDAY

### U18 GIRLS | COURT 1 | 10:30

First Referee - **David Topacho**  
Second Referee - **Roberto Rigante**

### U15 BOYS | COURT 2 | 10:30

First Referee - **Peter Parsons**  
Second Referee - **Richard Burbedge**

### MEN'S CUP FINAL | COURT 1 | 13:00

First Referee - **Aleksandar Dimitrov**  
Second Referee - **Glynn Archibald**

### U18 BOYS | COURT 1 | 15:30

First Referee - **Ian Cheesbrough**  
Second Referee - **Carl Padayachee**

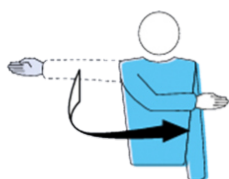
### U15 GIRLS | COURT 2 | 15:30

First Referee - **Klaudia French**  
Second Referee - **Ludwik Kowalewski**



# REFEREE 101

Get to grips with the officials' signals



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



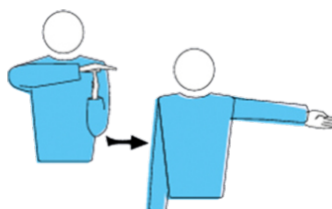
**Ball Touched**  
The ball was touched before going dead



**Ball Touched (Line Judge)**  
The ball was touched before going dead



**Ball Out (line judge)**  
Flag raised vertically to signal ball landing out of court



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



**Ball In (Line Judge)**  
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 (line Judge)**  
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

For more detail on the calls officials will be making [click here](#)

# U16 BOYS' FINAL

10:30am SATURDAY COURT 1

## LEEDS GORSE

Coach - Pete Makowski  
Assistant Coach - Elaine Brown  
Bench Personnel - Nelson Murangwa  
Team Secretary - Marzena Makowska  
Statistician - Scott Cosgrove



- 1 **DYLAN PARSONS**  
Outside
- 2 **MAKS MAKOWSKI**  
Outside
- 5 **OLIVER FURNELL**  
Middle
- 6 **EMMANUEL ORETOYE**  
Universal
- 7 **GABRIEL HARRISON**  
Opposite
- 8 **JOSHUA COSGROVE**  
Setter
- 9 **IOANNIS DIMITRAKOPOULOS**  
Middle
- 12 **FIN BEALS**  
Middle
- 13 **NABY BANGOURA**  
Middle
- 15 **EVAN DANDO**  
Liberero
- 16 **ESSAY MULUBRHAN**  
Liberero

## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL

Coach - Darren Lewis  
Assistant Coach - Stephanie Boyce  
Bench Personnel - Rachel Lewis  
Team Manager - Andrew Tuck  
Statistician - Josh Chapman



- 1 **NOAH MORENA**  
Setter
- 3 **ZACH BULLIVANT**  
Universal
- 4 **TOM GIBBINS**  
Opposite
- 5 **LUCAS FITZPATRICK**  
Opposite
- 6 **ELLIOT SMITH**  
Opposite
- 7 **RAYYAN YAZED**  
Setter
- 8 **ADAM MOHAMED**  
Middle
- 9 **TOM RAMSBOTTOM**  
Middle
- 12 **MAX CAROLAN**  
Outside
- 13 **RYAN TANDY**  
Middle
- 14 **CONNOR EADIE**  
Outside
- 15 **MARTIN RUNGAJA**  
Middle
- 10 **ORSON CHITTY**  
Liberero
- 11 **NIALL KELLY**  
Liberero





## LEEDS GORSE



After an “incredible level of volleyball” at the Last 8, Leeds are “extremely happy to be in the final”.

Last year, the Purples and Oranges lost in a dramatic final to London Sharks, so are looking to go the extra mile this year and claim the title.

They showed their resilience by putting in a strong comeback in their semi-final match against Richmond, which showcased “the great character of the players”.

Leeds recognise their middles as having been one of the keys to their success this season - and hope those players continue to excel in the final.

This group of players won U15 National Championship and U15 Inter Regionals in 2023 with Yorkshire, so another success at U16 level would underline their continued improvement and development.



## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL



Anyone who saw Boswells’ semi-final against Deep Dish Crystal Palace will know just how deep they had to dig to make it through to this weekend’s final.

After dropping the second set and trailing 12-8 in the decider, they somehow clawed their way back into the match before recording a narrow 16-14 victory.

Coming up against Leeds Gorse, for the right to be national champions, Boswells are well aware they will need to stop their opponents’ “offence through the middle” and will hope to overcome this with their “fast and dynamic style of volleyball”.

Having faced each other in the pool stages of the Last 8 - where Leeds came out on top in three sets - Boswells are looking to make up for that narrow defeat this time.

They can certainly draw confidence from their consistent displays this season, finishing top of GP1’s Gold Pool C and then claiming second Spot in GP2’s Platinum Pool.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# SITTING VOLLEYBALL FINAL

10:30am

SATURDAY

COURT 2

## SITTING BUCKS

Bench Personnel - Steve Smith

Assistant Coach - Mike Knight



**3 JOHN MUNRO**  
Outside

**4 EDDY VERBEEK**  
Middle

**5 PAUL JEFFREY**  
Outside

**7 COLIN GOODBRAND**  
Outside

**8 MICHAEL KNIGHT**  
Outside, Setter

**9 DANIEL BINGLEY**  
Middle

**10 KEVIN TANN**  
Setter

**11 STEVE SMITH**  
Universal

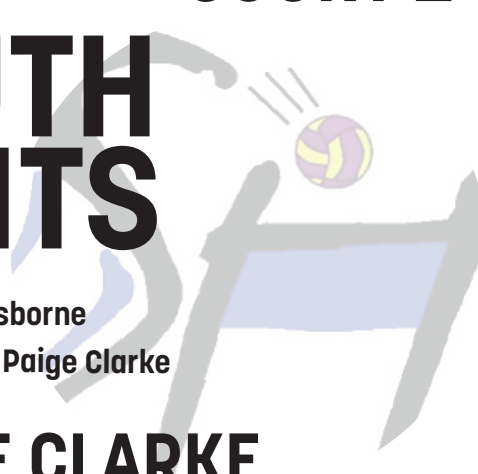
**14 ROB RICHARDSON**  
Setter

Sponsored by: Guidant Global, powered by Impellam

## SOUTH HANTS

Coach - Richard Osborne

Assistant Coach - Paige Clarke



**1 PAIGE CLARKE**  
Outside

**3 MICHELLE MORRIS**  
Setter

**7 STUART SNOW**  
Outside

**8 RICHARD OSBORNE**  
Universal

**9 MIKE STONEMAN**  
Outside

**11 MARK HEMMING**  
Middle

**12 RAZ TOADER**  
Universal

**14 BARRY MARSH**  
Middle

**15 BEN OSBORNE**  
Universal





# SITTING BUCKS



Sitting Bucks are looking to claim the Sitting Volleyball title for a third year on the bounce after victories against Help for Heroes (2023) and South Hants (2022).

In that 2022 encounter against their opponents this weekend, it was a five set thriller, with Bucks just coming out on top 3-2. They will, no doubt, be hoping this year will be just as exciting.

Earlier in the season, Bucks were pushed hard by Nottingham Casualties before the Buckinghamshire side were able to clinch a 2-1 victory, with the team "digging deep".

Bucks say they are "really proud of how well they [Casualties] have progressed and they are an excellent example of what teams can achieve with commitment and determination".

Weekly training sessions will allow the defending champions to come out swinging, but they will also be giving South Hants a great deal of respect as they are "great friends of ours, and we have the greatest respect for them and their volleyball skill and knowledge".

Ongoing success has brought in new sponsorships so "we can renew our kit, provide some funding towards international club competition and increase awareness of the sport locally at grassroots level".

As well as playing in the Sitting Grand Prix, Sitting Bucks recently took part in the ParaVolley Europe Bronze Club Competition where "we were beaten by the Slovenian national champions, but we put up a great fight and we really enjoyed the increased intensity of the higher level competition. It gave us the drive to achieve even more".



# SOUTH HANTS



After struggling to put out a team in the 2022-23 season, South Hants have returned to their 2021-22 form with a second Cup Final in three years.

Head Coach Richard Osborne said: "The team has worked exceptionally hard all season, so to get to the final is both a relief and testament to the commitment from each player."

One thing Hants like about being involved in the event is the sense of community it brings.

"The Sitting Volleyball community is small and so this sense is heightened and it is always great to meet up with friends," added Richard. "There is a rivalry as you would hope and expect, but there is also great respect across all the teams and matches are played in the right spirit."

"A highlight this year has been the introduction of Nottingham Casualties, who have instantly become part of the Sitting Volleyball family, putting in some great performances that have seen them promoted to Tier 1."

With Hants and final opponents South Bucks having played each other six times already this year, there is a strong understanding of each other's skills and strengths so "as a neutral watching it, it is sure to be a spectacle".

Osborne hopes that the showcase of the sport at the National Finals will encourage teams to build their own sitting teams. He said: "Sitting Volleyball remains a relatively unknown sport, even amongst the indoor community, so this will be an opportunity to watch a fast-paced version of the sport, with high degrees of skill and agility. We need more clubs to get involved in Sitting Volleyball, so hopefully the final will inspire more to come forward."

Watch live on **YouTube**



# VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND FOUNDATION

The Foundation aims to provide financial support to help develop, educate and promote the health of individuals and groups through volleyball.



It is the aim of the Foundation to ensure the opportunity to play volleyball is available to all, and is not limited by income.

Our projects and services are designed to aid those who are most in need, under-served or under-represented in our communities. In this way, we can help improve the lives of others, through our beloved sport of volleyball.



Some of our projects over the last two years have been supporting children in Birmingham to have their first experience of volleyball, supporting the young volunteers at the Commonwealth Games and supporting the sitting volleyball community.

## How can you help the foundation?

- Go to our website and become a regular donor.
- Support our fundraising events such as the Christmas Auction.
- Become an ambassador or volunteer for the Foundation



We are here this weekend come and talk to us about how you can support us to give more people opportunities to take part in the sport we are all passionate about.



[www.volleyballenglandfoundation.org](http://www.volleyballenglandfoundation.org)



# HER CALL



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

**FIND OUT MORE HERE**



# WOMEN'S SHIELD FINAL

1pm SATURDAY COURT 1

## LEICESTER ATHENA

Coach - Steve Jones  
Assistant Coach - Henryk Lakomy  
Bench Personnel - Sarah Payne

- 2 KIRSTY LOGAN**  
Outside
- 6 SARAH EDWARDS**  
Outside
- 8 OLIWIA STRYSZOWSKA**  
Middle
- 9 KAR HO**  
Universal
- 10 MARIANNA COULENTIANOS**  
Middle
- 12 HELEN LOWE**  
Middle
- 13 LISA TASKER**  
Middle
- 14 PAULINA BODZAK**  
Setter
- 15 KIM KRAUZA-SPURGIN**  
Universal
- 16 SAFFRON BETTS**  
Opposite
- 4 WIKTORIA GRZEGORZEW**  
Libero

## LONDON BEARS

Coach - Krystian Kowalski  
Bench Personnel - Nicole Henry  
Team Secretary - Rachel Steintz

- 5 ANNABELLE TINKER**  
Setter
- 6 MELISA YILMAZ**  
Outside
- 7 JULIANNE HENDRY**  
Middle
- 8 ROSIE KIRK**  
Middle
- 11 AEGIL EVGENIOU**  
Outside
- 12 HAYLEY MOLLER**  
Opposite
- 14 MARIA VITTORIA SODA**  
Middle
- 17 MEGAN METCALF**  
Universal
- 18 CHERIE CHEUNG**  
Middle
- 19 KARIS CHEUNG**  
Outside
- 20 DANNA CHEUNG**  
Outside
- 4 AMELIA STAMP**  
Libero
- 15 FRANCESCA BRITTEN**  
Libero





## LEICESTER ATHENA



Athena have found getting to a first national final “really exciting”. They have competed in the National Cup and Shield for the last few years, but never made it very far, so “it has been a huge achievement for us to make it to the Shield final...but we know we are not finished yet!”

“Athena have always valued teamwork and forming friendships since the club was founded in 2016,” they say. “Although we love our time on court, we have had some wonderful laughs off court.”

“This has given us a chance to get to know each other better, especially with so many wonderful new players joining our team this year.”

Five of their 11 players are new to the squad this year and with “many new players joining, it has taken time to get used to everyone else’s style of play.”

However, the Leicester side feel teamwork is one of their biggest developments this year and they demonstrated that en route to the final by beating



## LONDON BEARS



Similar to opponents Leicester Athena, this is the first time the Bears have made it to the National Finals after being knocked out at the quarter-final and semi-final stages previously.

“Our favourite moment of the competition this season was winning a match as the underdogs in the quarter-finals against Richmond,” they say. The Bears will look to carry this momentum into the final.

“You can expect a style of play characterised by a tight defence and a strong offence from our team. We prioritise maintaining a solid defensive structure to thwart opposing attacks, while also generating scoring opportunities through our offensive prowess.”

Looking back across the season, the capital side recognises that their “offensive capabilities have notably strengthened”, with players demonstrating increased effectiveness in scoring points and creating opportunities on the attack.

They add: “What makes our team truly unique is our diverse composition and inclusive culture. We are an international ensemble, comprising of players hailing from various corners of the globe, spanning from younger talents to seasoned players.”

Watch live on **YouTube**

# U16 GIRLS' FINAL

1pm

SATURDAY

COURT 2

## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL

Coch - **Stephanie Boyce**  
Assistant Coach - **Darren Lewis**  
Bench Personnel - **Josh Chapman**

- 1** **ABI GEDDES**  
Opposite
- 2** **MAISIE WATSON**  
Universal
- 3** **YANA KLIMKO**  
Opposite
- 4** **ELISHA D'ALMEIDA**  
Middle
- 5** **LILY FROST**  
Universal
- 7** **YASMIN BAPTISE**  
Setter
- 8** **DURU BEYAZIT**  
Outside
- 9** **ELISA JARMON**  
Outside
- 10** **NIKA KLIMKO**  
Setter
- 11** **ESTHER ADESIYAN**  
Middle
- 12** **ZONNIA ANDRUSZKIEWICZ AYALA**  
Universal
- 14** **SARAH YUEN**  
Liber

## RICHMOND

Coch - **Francesca Secchi**  
Bench Personell - **Manuela Mandredini**

- 3** **ANNA SZENTESSY**  
Setter, Opposite
- 4** **DURU ATESOGLU**  
Opposite, Outside
- 7** **GUREM NURI**  
Opposite, Outside
- 10** **ADIA MOLAEI**  
Setter
- 11** **ALEXANDRA FITZER**  
Middle
- 12** **ADELA RODROVA**  
Outside
- 13** **ALLY OWEN-CROMPTON**  
Middle
- 18** **CHERYL MANFREDINI DA CRUZ**  
Outside, Opposite
- 19** **AYSE MORGUL**  
Outside
- 6** **MIKEIGHLA CABREJAS**  
Liber
- 14** **OLIVIA CROSS**  
Liber





## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL



After victory in last year's U15 vGirls' final, the Boswells squad have continued that momentum this season and return to bid for back-to-back titles.

The school side underlined their potential in the Last 8 competition, where they were the only team to make it through the group stages without dropping a set, seeing off the challenges of Leeds Gorse Orange, Urmston Grammar A and Black Country A.

That set up a semi-final against South Bucks where they were equally impressive, triumphing 25-15, 25-18 with seemingly something to spare.

However, they know they will likely have to ramp things up against familiar rivals Richmond, who have been the other most consistent performers at U16 Girls level this 2023-24 season.

Boswells did not drop a set in winning GP1's Gold Pool B ahead of Ashfield Vipers, AST Academy and Willesden Divets.

In GP2's Platinum Pool they lost just one match - to Richmond - so will hope a spot of revenge is in order.



## RICHMOND



A rematch of last year's U15 Girls' final will see Richmond determined to reverse the scoreline after being edged out by title winners Boswells on that occasion.

With a lot of the players being involved in 4v4 tournaments only two years ago, the Richmond coaching staff are extremely pleased to see the squad has developed so well.

The South West London club have already highlighted they are made of stern stuff when they brushed off a three-set defeat to Malory in the Last 8 group stages to set up a last four meeting with Leeds Gorse.

Although Leeds took the first set 25-20, Richmond found a way to win, taking the second 25-15 and then sealing the decider 15-13.

Prior to that in the earlier Grand Prix Series, the team had finished joint top in terms of ranking points (58) with Boswells.

That was after finishing second in Gold Pool A in GP1 and top of the Platinum Pool in GP2.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# CUP FINALS MERCH

HEAD TO THE FANZONE  
TO GET YOUR CUP FINALS  
MERCH!



**T-Shirts**  
**£12**  
Grey, Black, White



**Bang, bang,  
Stick**  
**£3**



**Foam Hand**  
**£5**

Fan bundle Incl: 1x T-shirt, 1x Bang,bang stick, 1x Foam Hand - £17



# GET INTO COACHING

Develop the next generation  
of volleyball players



Get involved here



[www.volleyballengland.org/get-involved/coach](http://www.volleyballengland.org/get-involved/coach)

# MEN'S SHIELD FINAL

3:30pm

SATURDAY

COURT 1

## WIGAN SEAHAWKS

Coach - Jack Butler

Assistant Coach - Tobias Degg

Bench Personnel - Andrea Siena

- 1 STEVEN HALLIWELL**  
Setter
- 2 OWEN RIMMER**  
Outside
- 3 PAUL KERSHAW**  
Outside
- 7 CHRIS MARTIN**  
Outside
- 8 TED LAM**  
Universal
- 10 TOBIAS DEGG**  
Setter
- 11 THOMAS GILBERT-RULE**  
Middle
- 12 SYMON HALLMARK**  
Middle
- 14 JACK DANDY**  
Middle
- 16 PIOTR KNUTH**  
Outside
- 17 JACK BUTLER**  
Opposite
- 20 ROBERT RADU**  
Middle
- 13 THOMAS BEDWORTH**  
Libero
- 21 RAF DE OLIVEIRA**  
Libero

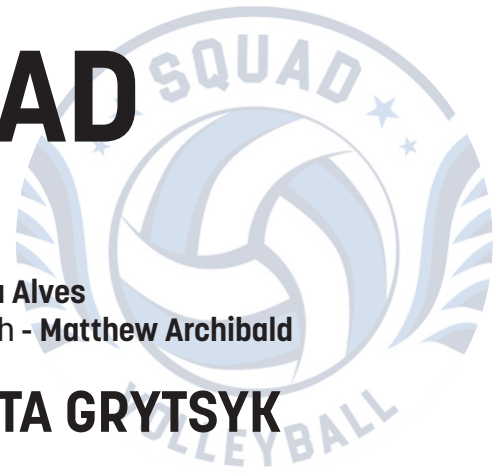
Sponsored by: EDU Lettings and O-Motors

## SQUAD

Coach - Priscila Alves

Assistant Coach - Matthew Archibald

- 11 MYKYTA GRYTSYK**  
Middle
- 13 REMIGIJUS RITERIS**  
Universal
- 14 IGNATUS AMOAKO**  
Universal
- 22 SAM MURRAY**  
Middle
- 23 MATEO GONZALEZ BLANCO**  
Universal
- 33 WILLIAM ASHBURY**  
Middle
- 34 STEFANO COLACI**  
Setter
- 39 PATRICK HEALY**  
Setter
- 40 KRZYSZTOF OZARSKI**  
Universal
- 44 ANDREA PIZZATO**  
Middle
- 48 DANIEL HALL**  
Middle
- 50 NORIA MALANDA**  
Middle
- 20 HO TAK TANG**  
Libero
- 28 LUCIO FIORIN**  
Libero







# WIGAN SEAHAWKS



After making it to the NVL play-offs (27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> April), Wigan are looking to have a reason to celebrate on consecutive weekends.

Head coach Jack Butler said: "You can see from the players' reactions at the end of the semi-final how much it means to have the opportunity to play in the final."

Wigan say they will be scrappy on defence, with every player prepared to put everything on the line to keep every ball alive and promising another high-octane performance against this weekend's opponents, Squad.

"Starting the season with a lot of new players was a challenge," added Jack. "Trying to find the right mix to get our strongest team wasn't easy."

Wigan know that it will be a tough battle if they want to win this Shield final, given SQUAD have already defeated several highly-ranked teams on their path through.

But the Seahawks have also played some eye-catching volleyball in their own run to this stage, having dropped only two sets across their quarter and semi-finals against Intervolley Manchester and Oxford respectively.

The Seahawks acknowledge their supporters are one of the reasons for the club's success. Jack said: "Home or away, we always have fantastic support that creates a great atmosphere - our supporters are as important as all the players and we wouldn't have got as far as we have without them!"



# SQUAD



Flying high in the London Premier League - second with a game in hand on Wapping Wildcats at the time of writing - SQUAD will look to cap what has been an monumental run in the National Shield this season with victory over Wigan Seahawks.

The team played their first match in the competition in round 1 back in November - and are still going strong - beating Black Country 2, Cambridge ARU, Tamworth Spartans, Spelthorne Lions and Exeter Storm along the way.

That latter semi-final success over Exeter (25-9, 25-20, 25-22) was all the more impressive considering the Devon club lost only twice in their Division 2 South campaign to claim a play-off berth - and that was to champions Bristol.

SQUAD promise "a fast and powerful performance" in the final and feel the development of their middles throughout the season, to strengthen their blocking ability, has been a crucial reason for their success.

They see themselves as underdogs against Wigan, saying "we are a local team from South East London, playing at national level for the first time our history!"

Watch live on **YouTube**

# WOMEN'S CUP FINAL

6:30pm

SATURDAY

COURT 1

## DURHAM PALATINATES

Coach - Paul Welsh  
Assistant Coach - Ross Enfield  
Bench Personnel - Max Gibbins

- 1 **HANNA LAUBE**  
Setter
- 4 **TAYLOR LITTEKEN**  
Middle
- 5 **SYDNEY STEVENS**  
Outside
- 6 **KENNADIE JAKE-TURNER**  
Middle
- 7 **ALICE BRAND**  
Outside
- 8 **SYDNEY ABER**  
Opposite
- 9 **DEFNE CINAR**  
Outside
- 10 **MALEA STANTON**  
Setter
- 11 **KASEY BELL**  
Opposite
- 15 **SUSANNA SUTKI**  
Setter
- 18 **CAMRYN CARFINO**  
Outside
- 2 **EMILY HABER**  
Libero
- 3 **NATALIE COLFESCU**  
Libero

## TEAM SIDEOUT POLONIA

Coach - Mark Kontopoulos  
Assistant Coach - Vladislav Potehin  
Bench Personell - Hai-Binh Ly  
Team Manager - Gabi Kontopoulos Medricka

- 2 **CAORIE MILLERD**  
Outside
- 3 **MERVE AKIN**  
Setter
- 5 **MARIA SVIRIDOVA**  
Middle
- 6 **JADEN SCOTT**  
Middle
- 9 **JANA PARMOVA**  
Outside
- 12 **ALICE JAGIELSKA**  
Opposite
- 14 **EMMA BUBOLA**  
Opposite
- 15 **KONSTANTINA SKANDALI**  
Setter
- 16 **KANAKO HAYASHI**  
Outside
- 18 **JULIA TOKARENKO**  
Outside
- 19 **SYDNEY BUSA**  
Outside
- 4 **ANNA TSOUMI**  
Libero
- 10 **ALARA YILMAZ**  
Libero





## DURHAM PALATINATES



## TEAM SIDEOUT POLONIA



Assistant coach Ross Enfield says "It feels great to be back at the National Cup Final again" as the team looks to defend their title against the same opponents (Team Sideout Polonia) they beat at Cup Finals weekend last year.

"This is always a target of ours at the beginning of the year when the team sets its goals for the season," he said. "The players have worked extremely hard, week in, week out to get to another final."

This is Durham's fourth consecutive year of making it to the National Cup Final with victories in half of those matches - a record they will look to improve on with another success.

In the MAAREE Women's Super League, Durham posted a regular season record of 17-1, with their only defeat coming 3-0 at home to... Sideout. The teams were closely matched in the corresponding fixture in London, where Durham just edged it by a 3-2 margin.

Durham hope to "inspire young volleyballers to compete at this level" with an exciting on-court game".

Similar to the men's side, much of the team was assembled at the start of the year, though the stalwart Alice Brand has helped ensure changes in personnel have not affected the consistency in performances.



After making it to the final for the third straight year, Team Sideout Polonia say "it feels great to be back in the National Final. The cup tournament is always a fun one because of the knock-out structure, which means every game truly matters!"

Sideout are the only team to defeat weekend opponents Durham Palatinates in this year's MAAREE Women's Super League, clinching a 3-0 victory in the North East.

They say maintaining a high level in the league as well as in the Cup "is a testament to the high standards and performance levels we expect out of ourselves as a team. It will be an even greater achievement if we can lift the trophy at the end of the match!"

In a thrilling match against Durham in last year's final, Sideout just couldn't quite replicate the success of 2022, where they beat their old foes.

This time, both teams will also have one eye on Super League glory when they return to the NVC next weekend for the Final 4 competition.

Finishing the regular season in top spot with a 16-2 record, Sideout will go into that as number one seeds, meaning they will play Essex Rebels in their semi-final.

First, though, the focus will be on their latest crunch game with Durham, where Polonia will hope that double Errea Player of the Month winner, Maria Sviridova, and England U18 Girls captain, Alice Jagielska, will be on top form.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# U18 GIRLS' FINAL

10:30am SUNDAY COURT 1

## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL



Coach - Darren Lewis  
 Assistant Coach - Stephanie Boyce  
 Bench Personnel - Rachel Lewis  
 Team Manager - Andrew Tuck  
 Statistician - Josh Chapman

- 1 MOLLY CLARK**  
Middle
- 2 NATASHA FROST**  
Outside, Opposite
- 3 YASMIN BAPTISTE**  
Setter
- 4 CATHERINE FRIMPONG**  
Middle
- 5 ELIZABETH GILBERT**  
Middle
- 7 HARRIETT PHILP-EDWARDS**  
Setter
- 8 DURU BEYAZIT**  
Outside, Opposite
- 9 ELISA JARMON**  
Outside
- 10 ESTHER ADESIYAN**  
Middle
- 11 SCARLETT PARKHURST**  
Outside
- 12 ALICE JAGIELSKA**  
Opposite, Outside
- 6 ANJA RYDMAN**  
Liberero
- 14 KATIE OLLEY**  
Liberero

## RICHMOND



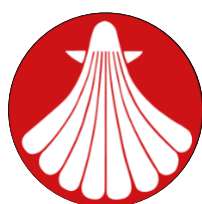
Coach - Marjana Senk Erminio  
 Assistant Coach - Francesca Secchi  
 Bench Personnel - Mike Keefe  
 Team Manager - Lorraine Hames

- 2 ANJA ERMINIO**  
Outside
- 3 ANNA SZENTESSY**  
Setter
- 5 IZZY HAMES**  
Outside
- 8 GINEVRA MERLINI**  
Opposite
- 9 EYLUL EROL**  
Opposite, Outside
- 10 GUREM NURI**  
Outside
- 11 ALLY OWEN**  
Middle
- 12 ADELA RODROVA**  
Middle
- 13 MARTA PAVLOVIC**  
Middle
- 15 JOSEFA AHUMADA**  
Setter
- 16 FLORENCE INGHAM**  
Middle
- 4 IMGE ESMER**  
Liberero
- 18 LANA SHAGNESSY**  
Liberero





## THE BOSWELLS SCHOOL



Head Coach Darren Lewis says he is "incredibly proud" of the Boswells squad after their stellar performances have seen the Chelmsford school excel.

With their eyes set on going one better than last year at this level, when they narrowly lost to Richmond, a steely determination and focus is likely.

Boswells come into the final on the back of a dominant performance in the Last 8, finishing top of their pool without dropping a set in defeating Urmston Grammar A, Leeds Gorse Orange and Nottingham Rockets.

Their semi-final was also relatively straightforward as they overcame Weymouth Ripples 25-21, 25-17 to set up a meeting with Richmond, who also progressed without dropping a set on the other side of the draw.

Boswells were also impressive in GPs 1 and 2, proving too strong for South Bucks, Ashcombe and Malory Eagles in the former to head up Gold Pool B and then finishing the latter as runners-up in the Platinum Pool behind this weekend's opponents.



## RICHMOND



After beating The Boswells School in a five-set thriller in last year's Cup Final at this age group, Richmond will be seeking to repeat the trick against the same opponents 12 months on.

They have put in a series of strong performances across the Grand Prix season and Last 8 matches, starting with a trio of straight sets triumphs in leading the way in GP1's Gold Pool A, ahead of Leeds Gorse Orange, Wessex and Worthing Lions.

In GP2's Platinum Pool, the girls beat Black Country and Urmston Grammar, while their game with Boswells was not played to a finish, as they clinched top spot once more.

When the competition moved onto the Last 8, Richmond were able to progress to the semi-finals without dropping a set as Weymouth Ripples, Black Country and South Bucks were the teams defeated.

And there was no mistake when a place at this weekend's proceedings at stake as they came through 25-23, 25-16 against Urmston Grammar to tee up an eagerly-anticipated rematch with Boswells.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# U15 BOYS' FINAL

10:30am                      SUNDAY                      COURT 2

## RICHMOND

Coach - Jean Max Sourmarie  
Assistant Coach - Anton Kornilov  
Bench Personnel - Przemek Soczewka

- 5** OSKAR REDESTOWICZ  
Middle
- 20** DANTE NAVARRO-ADLER  
Middle
- 22** OLI HARRISON  
Middle
- 33** KAI WATTON  
Opposite
- 34** IVAN GOSPODINOV  
Outside
- 35** ARCHIE ANDING  
Middle
- 42** MAX PRASEK  
Middle
- 55** ALBERT RUDDICK  
Outside
- 56** TYLER SOURMARIE  
Outside
- 59** ALEKSANDR DONCHENKO  
Setter
- 14** ETHAN BRICE  
Liberero
- 15** JOACHIM CHAN  
Liberero

Sponsored by: by Travis Perkins

## URMSTON GRAMMAR

Coach - Howard Ainsworth  
Assistant Coach - Iain Hines

- 1** OSCAR MARTIS  
Outside
- 2** DIDIER SIU  
Opposite
- 3** DYLAN CABIJE  
Setter
- 6** OSKAR SKORUPKA  
Outside
- 8** GEORGE EUSTON  
Middle
- 9** KAIRON TAIT-MILLWARD  
Middle
- 10** EMEKA UZOKA  
Middle
- 14** MUHAU NGONDA  
Outside
- 15** DANYAL HUSSAMOU  
Outside
- 16** JED ROQUE  
Setter
- 7** MAX BURNSIDE  
Liberero
- 12** JOE COWLES  
Liberero





## URMSTON GRAMMAR



Head coach Howard Ainsworth says he is "grateful that we get to compete at the highest level and see what we can learn from the experience."

But it is a sign of the progress made by the North West School that this final appearance is their second at U15 level in three years.

Urmston are yet to face final opponents Richmond this season but with both teams making it to the final after narrow 2-1 victories, it is likely to be an entertaining game between two up-and-coming teams.

Grammar sealed their spot in a cross-Pennine thriller against Leeds Gorse where they fought back from the disappointment of losing an epic first set 30-28 to take the next two 25-17, 15-10.

Urmston say that what they lack in experience - four out of their seven starters are U14 players - they make up for with their love and passion for volleyball.

It is something they hope can carry them to the national title and help the continued development of a talented young squad.



## RICHMOND



After making it to the finals for the third consecutive year, Richmond are also seeking to make it a second victory in that time.

After heartbreak last year, when Leeds Gorse claimed the title, the South West London side have shown a steely determination in this season's Grand Prix Series, having dropped only one set up to this point.

In the Last 8 competition in March, the team recorded a 100% record in winning Pool A, beating Leeds Gorse Orange, Boswells and South Bucks in the process.

They then held their nerve in a nail-biting semi-final against Wessex by taking the deciding third set 16-14 after both sides had previously won a set apiece.

Richmond claim "a calm and focused preparation" could be vital for them if they are to edge out Urmston Grammar and take the title.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# FINAL 4

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SUPER  
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# MEN'S CUP FINAL

1pm

SUNDAY

COURT 1

## DURHAM PALATINATES

Bench Personnel - Max Gibbins



- 5 JOE LINDER**  
Outside
- 6 DONOVAN TODOROV**  
Middle
- 7 GRANT MALESKI**  
Opposite
- 8 JOE KOBYLARZ**  
Setter
- 11 BRAD PETERS**  
Outside
- 12 JAKUB GRACZYK**  
Outside
- 13 RYAN DICKSON**  
Outside
- 15 ACE BACKER**  
Middle
- 16 CONOR DUNN**  
Setter
- 17 NICOLA IANNELLI**  
Libero

## MALORY EAGLES

Coach - Jefferson Williams  
 Assistant Coach - Carol Gordon  
 Assistant Coach - Ian Legrand  
 Team Manager - Andrew Omeshebi  
 Statistician - Antonio Codrington



- 1 LUKE ATKINSON**  
Setter
- 2 GHENADIE COROI**  
Outside
- 4 LOGAN CLARK**  
Middle
- 6 JOSHUA FUNDAFUNDA**  
Middle
- 7 ZANE SMITH-WAUL**  
Middle
- 8 NATHAN FULLERTON**  
Opposite
- 10 CAMERON CARRINGTON**  
Outside
- 11 TOBY FRENCH**  
Outside
- 12 CHEIKH BA**  
Middle
- 16 CAMERON HOOK**  
Outside
- 17 ADAM BAIZA**  
Setter
- 3 CHESTER SEARLE**  
Libero
- 20 TOBI SHATIMEHIN**  
Libero





## DURHAM PALATINATES



"The hard work the boys have put in during training has really paid off," believes Durham Palatinates' Max Gibbins, as he and his teammates bid to claim a first Cup Final crown since 2019.

After claiming the Super League title in 2023, the North East club are looking to do the quadruple this year, following on from victory in the BUCS League and BUCS Cup earlier in the season. This could be a third trophy of the season and a fourth opportunity will come in the Final 4 competition on 27th and 28th of April.

Durham claim their opposite (Grant Maleski) and middles (Donovan Todorov and Ace Backer) could be the ones to make the difference with a promise of some "bounces".

After the team were only brought together at the start of the academic year in September, they feel they have since gelled together well. Captain Max said: "We have a range of different players from various backgrounds".

"Grant played in the UCLA team for four years, Conor (Dunn) and Donovan (Todorov) both played Division 1 Volleyball at UCSB. Nico (Iannelli) played for one of the best professional teams in the world at Modena. Ace (Backer) and Brad (Peters) both played together in Division 1 at Lees Mcrae."



## MALORY EAGLES



After victory against Essex Rebels last year, the Eagles are looking to make it back-to-back Cup Final successes for the first time since 2006 and 2007.

Coming up against a familiar foe who they play regularly in the Super League in Durham, the Londoners will hope their regular experience of the big occasions will be able to pull them through this time.

"Our team have dug deep throughout the season and showed character in a tough semi-final against Nottingham," say Malory, where they were 3-2 victors having been 2-1 down.

Malory have had a long history of success and had the pleasure of working with some great players, including Richard Dobell, Alex Bialokoz, Matthew Jones (who played professionally in Europe for over 17 years) Joel Banks (Great Britain's Assistant Coach at London 2012 and currently Head Coach at Berlin Recycling) and Clayton Lucas (Olympic Broadcaster).

Along with this has come a healthy list of achievements that these players and the youth that followed them have secured. The 2023-24 cohort are looking to add a further chapter to the club's already-storied history with another piece of silverware for the trophy cabinet.

Watch live on **YouTube**

# U18 BOYS' FINAL

3:30pm SUNDAY COURT 1

## NEWCASTLE STAFFS

Coach - Julian Kobylarz  
 Assistant Coach - Will Roberts  
 Bench Personnel - Cayde Keates  
 Bench Personnel - Joe Kobylarz  
 Team Secretary - Sharon Sturland

- 1 KIERAN CARSTENS**  
Opposite
- 2 FINN CHALKLEY-BEALES**  
Middle
- 4 CHARLIE KOBYLARZ**  
Outside
- 5 JOSHUA CHIZWA**  
Outside
- 6 ETHAN HUCKFIELD**  
Outside
- 7 FREDDIE GUEST**  
Middle
- 10 JAMES COX**  
Setter
- 11 JOSHUA STURLAND**  
Universal
- 13 SEB KARAS**  
Middle
- 9 ALBERT BIRYUKOV-WANG**  
Libero

## RICHMOND

Coach - Przemek Soczewka  
 Assistant Coach - Nick Sampson  
 Bench Personnel - Anton Kornilov  
 Team Manager - Scott Williams  
 Statistician - Yoan Kuzmanov

- 1 DAN SAMPSON**  
Setter
- 2 JEREMY CHATER JONES**  
Middle
- 8 BEN SANDERS**  
Outside
- 9 ROMARIO STAMBOLLIU**  
Opposite
- 16 MATTHEW WILLIAMS**  
Universal
- 17 DUNCAN MOFFAT**  
Outside
- 18 HARRY PALAZZOLO**  
Outside
- 24 OSCAR CROSS**  
Middle
- 28 NICHOLAS HEINER ALZATE-SOBOTKA**  
Outside
- 29 CHRISTIAN WHITLINGUM**  
Opposite
- 30 DENIZ ISIK**  
Opposite
- 38 REASE JARMON**  
Middle
- 10 GEORGE RUDDICK**  
Libero
- 11 LEWIS BUNTON**  
Libero

Sponsored by: by Travis Perkins



## NEWCASTLE STAFFS



After a 12-year absence for the boys at the National Finals, Newcastle Staffs are “very proud of the achievement of this group of boys this year”.

After losing to this weekend’s opponents, Richmond, in the group stages of the Last 8, Staffs are looking to bounce back with a different result this time to claim a first national title since 2011.

The team showcased their skill when hitting back from 1-0 down in their semi-final against Leeds Gorse to take the next two sets 26-24, 15-11.

Castle have promised to “throw everything at the final in a bid to be crowned champions,” so an exciting final is in prospect.

It is currently 1-1 in matches between Newcastle and Richmond this season, after the West Midlands side were 2-0 victors in GP2, making it really hard to pick a winner.



## RICHMOND



“After narrowly losing our semi-final last season, there is a tremendous sense of achievement in returning and fighting our way through to this year’s finals,” say Richmond.

When they met this weekend’s opponents, Newcastle Staffs, in the Last 8 “the match went back and forth. However, a stellar performance in the third set, with a particularly memorable roof block on match point, led to a hard-fought victory”.

With both sides having won a meeting over the course of the 2023-24 season, “we are eagerly anticipating an exciting match-up in the final.”

Richmond are proud that their team is representative of countries from around the world, with players from a number of different backgrounds welcomed into the squad.

“We are a very multi-cultural team with players hailing from Poland, Greece, USA, Italy, India, Albania, Colombia, Lithuania and Guyana, to name just a few,” they say.

Watch live on **YouTube**



# U15 GIRLS' FINAL

3:30pm

SUNDAY

COURT 2

## LEEDS GORSE

Coach - Elaine Brown  
Assistant Coach - Alessia Garnero  
Bench Personnel - Dave Potter  
Team Secretary - Penny Speers  
Statistician - Holly Bentley

- 1 NAOMI WEBBER**  
Setter, Middle
- 2 CHARLOTTA MACINSKA**  
Outside
- 3 VANESA VALKOVSKA**  
Setter, Outside, Opposite
- 4 FATI UMARAHMUD**  
Middle
- 5 ZANI CAI**  
Middle, Opposite
- 6 KRYSTINA NGATCHA**  
Universal
- 7 CHLOE HUNTER**  
Middle
- 8 LAUREN THORN**  
Setter, Middle, Opposite
- 10 REJOICE EGHIANRUWA**  
Middle
- 11 TAMARA ALAHENDRAGE DON**  
Middle
- 12 DELYSE HIRST**  
Libero

## RICHMOND

Coach - Francesca Secchi  
Bench Personnel - Manuela Mandredini  
Team Secretary - Agostino Simonetta

- 3 ANNA SZENTESSY**  
Setter, Opposite
- 4 ERIKA HASHIMOTO**  
Middle
- 8 JULIA SIMONETTA**  
Setter
- 10 ADIA MOLAEI**  
Setter
- 13 ALLY OWEN-CROMPTON**  
Middle
- 15 OYKU OZTURK**  
Outside
- 18 CHERYL MANFREDINI DA CRUZ**  
Opposite, Outside
- 19 AYSE MORGUL**  
Outside
- 6 MIKEIGHLA CABREJAS**  
Libero
- 14 OLIVIA CROSS**  
Libero



# LEEDS GORSE



After a 2-1 victory over Richmond B in the Last 8 semi-finals, Leeds Gorse coach Elaine Brown said it feels "fantastic" to be the first girls team from the club and city to make it to the finals.

Also coach of the West Yorkshire club's MAAREE Women's Super League side, seeing players develop over the season is, she says, one of the highlights of her role.

Leeds are well aware that opponents Richmond bring skill and experience from previous seasons and Cup Finals successes, which pose a significant challenge, but they are hoping their strength and teamwork will allow them to clinch the title.

With previous meetings between the two teams both going to three sets, it is likely to be a high-paced, high-octane game where both teams will put everything on the line.

Gorse will go into the match buoyed by a Last 8 semi-final win over Richmond's B side where they came through a three setter to triumph 15-12 in the deciding tie break, sparking huge celebrations - and some tears - from their team.



# RICHMOND



Richmond have enjoyed an excellent and unbeaten 2023-24 season across the Grand Prix and Last 8 competitions - and will hope to extend that run for one more game.

In GP1 at Ashcombe, the team came through a three-strong pool with Wapping Wildcats and Deep Dish Crystal Palace, conceding a miserly 26 points in the process.

The South West London club also topped vGold Pool A in GP2 held at Coventry, this time beating South Hants and Wessex in straight sets and Leeds Gorse Orange 15-12 in a third set decider.

Those results enabled them to lead the way in the overall national rankings going into the Last 8 stages, where they were placed in Pool B alongside Leeds Gorse Orange, South Bucks and Newcastle Staffs.

Again, they dropped only one set - to the West Yorkshire side - setting up a semi-final meeting with The Boswells School, where they emerged as 25-13, 25-6 victors.

This weekend will see them renew their close rivalry with Leeds, as the pair meet for a third time, this time with the title of national champions at stake.

Watch live on **YouTube**