

Launch of 2010 IBSA World Blind Football Championships held

Logistique helped to launch their big event for 2010 recently in Hereford.

The 2010 IBSA World Blind Football Championships will be held at thePoint4, the new international standard sports centre at The Royal National College for the Blind (RNC) in Hereford, between 14th and 22nd August.

The event – the largest disability football event ever to be held in England – will act as a direct qualifier for the Paralympics in London 2012 and will showcase the very best blind footballers from across the world as they compete for the most prestigious prize in the Sport.

Ten countries, including hosts England and current World Champions Argentina, will join France, Spain and six other qualifiers (yet to be confirmed but likely to include China, Brazil and South Africa) at the Championships next August. The teams will be drawn into groups of five, with England's first group game to be played on the opening evening, Saturday 14th August at thePoint4. The draw for the tournament will be made next April at thePoint4 when England will take on Germany for a final pre-Championship warm up match. Tickets for Championship will be available next year.

As well as the tournament itself, The FA, Herefordshire County FA, Herefordshire County and City Council, and the Royal National College for the Blind will be working to create a lasting legacy from the event – including a raised awareness of issues around disability, the benefits of sport for all sectors of the community, and increased opportunities for participation. Schools, community groups, businesses and volunteers from across the West Midlands will be invited to take part in a number of sporting, educational and cultural events leading up to, and during the tournament. Opportunities will be promoted on the 2010 website, and via an interactive roadshow.

The launch saw players from Hereford United take on the England Blind team in a penalty shoot out with England winning by 1 goal to nil.

Tournament Director, Jon Dutton said "Blind 2010 promises to be a huge event for us and with the tournament acting as a direct qualifier for London 2012 then the pressure will be on to deliver a cracking event".

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