

Bučovice Blind Football Cup tournament is taking place again this year. Elite teams from every corner of Europe are coming to test their strength.

Brno, 27. May 2019

This year's Bučovice Blind Football Cup (BBFC) tournament will take place from June 1 to June 2 in South Moravian village Bučovice. This unique event is taking place for the seventh time already. The tournament will be attended by teams of blind football players from six European countries. For the first time in history, the winners of the English league, West Bromwich Albion, will play at the tournament.

So far, Brussels 5-a-side from Anderlecht, Pirsos Thessaloniki from Greece, FC St. Pauli from Germany, and ÖBSV Vienna from Austria have confirmed their attendance. As usual, the home team will be represented by Avoy MU Brno, which was third in the last year's tournament. *"Last year's BBFC was my second to attend and I haven't seen a better tournament. Not only because we were third, but because of the atmosphere as well,"* said **Jan Bango**, one of the Avoy MU Brno players. **Jitka Graclíková**, organizer of the event, said *"we know, thanks to the enthusiastic reactions of players and spectators, that what we do makes sense. We'll do our best to achieve such a positive feedback this year as well"*.

For the first time, West Bromwich Albion, six-time English champion and holder of four cups, will be attending. In fact, Bučovice Blind Football Cup will be their first international tournament ever. Their team features players, such as Dylan Malpas, who earned the title of the world's best goalkeeper at last year's world championship in Madrid, or the legendary 45-year-old Darren Harris, and also the youngest player of the tournament, Eesu Amjida.

"Just like in the previous years, teams from across the ocean, such as Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, and Guatemala also wanted to participate in the tournament. Mexican team, won an invitation to our tournament as part of their winning at the last December's South American championship Copa Libertadores that took place in Mexico. Sadly enough, they couldn't get the money to pay for the travels. We genuinely hope that next year it's going to work out," Graclíková explains.

The ceremonial kick-off will be performed by Šimon Rejtar, the most gifted Czech youth player in the B1 category (i.e. the full loss of sight). He's also the greatest hope in the formation of the Czech national team. As usually, the matches will be presided by four best European referees who preside over all important

international matches. Among others, it's the 2016 paralympics in Rio de Janeiro or last year's world championship in Madrid.

Headphones will be available to borrow to listen to a professional commentator in English. Current match score and video stream from the event will be available at our new website. www.bbfc.cz/en/live.

The tournament will take place, just like in the previous years, on an outside field featuring the third generation turf at Bučovice primary school, Školní 710. The games will be on in any weather.

The video invitation is available is [here](#) and the Facebook event is [here](#).

For more information, see our website www.bbfc.cz.

Overview of the teams (incl. winnings and years of participation)

- Brussels 5-a-side Anderlecht (Belgium): 2015, 2016, **2017 – 1st place**, 2018, 2019
- Pirsos Thessaloniki (Greece): **2014 – 2nd place**, **2015 – 2nd place**, **2016 – 3rd place**, 2019
- FC St. Pauli (Germany): 2013, 2014, **2015 – 3rd place**, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019
- ÖBSV Vienna (Austria): 2018, 2019
- Avoy MU Brno (Czech Republic): 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, **2018 – 3rd place**, 2019
- West Bromwich Albion (England): 2019

About blind football

Football for the blind is played under rules issued by IBSA (International Blind Sports Association) which are inspired by the rules from the regular football. The teams have a goalkeeper and four players on the field. Their task is to score more goals than their opponent. The ball has a sound system installed, which allows the ball to be heard when in motion. Only the goalkeepers can use their sight, the players are blind. To ensure the same conditions for everyone, the players are required to wear blindfolds. Players receive information on what's happening on the field from their goalkeeper, coach, and a navigator who's placed behind the opponent's net.

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