

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release

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THE ATLANTIC CUP 2017

After six very successful years, Sporting Events are delighted to announce the return of The Atlantic Cup from the 31st January to 7th February 2017 in the Algarve, Portugal.

This winter, eight clubs from across Europe will compete for the coveted pre-season trophy. Matches will be held across three venues – Estádio Algarve, Estádio Bela Vista and Estádio Municipal de Albufeira. Participating clubs are as follows:

Group A

FC Shakhtar (Ukrainian Premier League)
Aalborg BK (Danish Superliga)
FK Jablonec (Czech ePojisteni.cz Liga)
Örebro SK (Swedish Allsvenskan)

Group B

HNK Rijeka (Croatian 1.HNL)
Djurgårdens IF (Swedish Allsvenskan)
AGF Aarhus (Danish Superliga)
Debreceni VSC (Hungarian NB I)

The Atlantic Cup 2017 will consist of two groups of four teams ('Group A' and 'Group B'). Each team will play two games against opponents from within their group. The winner of each group will be determined by the team that accumulates the most points across their two fixtures. These two teams will play each other in the final of The Atlantic Cup 2017. The remaining teams will then go on to play the corresponding team in the opposing group in a Play-Off game. (2nd place v 2nd place, 3rd place v 3rd place, 4th place v 4th place). However, if two teams from one country finish in the same position in their relative group, fixtures will be adjusted to ensure that no teams from the same country play each other in the second phase of the tournament (this will not apply to the two finalists).

Sporting Events are honoured to announce that FC Shakhtar will be competing in The Atlantic Cup 2017 for the first time. The Ukrainian powerhouse are enjoying a fantastic season so far, having comfortably secured their place in the last-32 of the Europa League as well as sitting 10 points clear at the top of the Premier League. Shakhtar's trip will be an extra special one for Portuguese head coach Paulo Fonseca who returns to his homeland. With form behind them and a host of international players throughout their squad, Shakhtar will feel confident about making their mark on the competition.

The Atlantic Cup has always boasted a strong collection of Danish sides with some of the biggest names in the Danish premier division competing (and often going on to win) in the pre-season tournament. 2017 is no different, with 2014 double winners Aalborg BK and AGF Aarhus returning to Portugal. Both clubs will be aiming to conquer The Atlantic Cup and show the rest of the competition exactly what Danish teams are made of.

Once again, The Atlantic Cup will showcase a strong Swedish contingent, with both Örebro SK and Djurgårdens IF making an appearance. This will be Örebro's fourth consecutive year in the competition, and after impressively reaching the final in both 2015 and 2016, they will be keen to impress once again. Djurgården are holding their own in the Allsvenskan and will no doubt want to fly the flag for Sweden in Portugal.

Sporting Events are delighted to welcome HNK Rijeka to Portugal for their Atlantic Cup Debut. One of the most decorated teams in Croatia, they are currently sitting pretty at the top of the 1.HNL league and will be determined to show the rest of the competition that they are a force to be reckoned with.

Czech Republic outfit and Atlantic Cup regulars FK Jablonec return for their third consecutive appearance in the tournament. They have impressed in previous years, and after picking up a spectacular three wins last time round, they will be eager to once again show how strong Czech teams can be in the competition.

For the first time, Sporting Events welcomes Debreceni VSC. They are the most successful club in Hungary, with seven league titles to their name. As the first ever Hungarian outfit to take on The Atlantic Cup, they will be keen to show the rest of the competition that they are no pushovers.

Tournament Schedule

Tuesday 31 January – FC Shakhtar v FK Jablonec – Estádio Bela Vista (16:00 GMT)

Tuesday 31 January – Örebro SK v Aalborg BK – Estádio Bela Vista (19:45 GMT)

Wednesday 1 February – Rijeka AGF v AGF Aarhus – Estádio Bela Vista (16:00 GMT)

Wednesday 1 February – Debrecen v Djurgårdens IF – Estádio Bela Vista (19:45 GMT)

Friday 3 February – Aalborg BK v FC Shakhtar – Estádio Bela Vista (16:00 GMT)

Friday 3 February – FK Jablonec v Örebro SK – Estádio Bela Vista (19:45 GMT)

Saturday 4 February – Djurgårdens IF v HNK Rijeka – Estádio Bela Vista (16:00 GMT)

Saturday 4 February – AGF Aarhus v Debrecen – Estádio Bela Vista (19:45 GMT)

Monday 6 February – Third A v Third B – Estádio Algarve (16:00 GMT)

Monday 6 February – Fourth A v Fourth B – Estádio Algarve (19:45 GMT)

Tuesday 7 February – First A v First B (Final) – Estádio Algarve (16:00 GMT)

Tuesday 7 February – Second A v Second B – Estádio Algarve (19:45 GMT)

For further information, please visit our website at <http://www.theatlanticcup.com>

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