

Lech – Champions of Poland

After 17 years, Lech Poznan Football Club became the champions of Poland, winning their last match with Zagłębie Lubin 2:0 outdistancing the second-placed team in the table, Wisła Kraków, by mere points. Poznan's footballers have now claimed the Polish championship for the 6th time in the history of the league.



Lech Poznan Football Club is the pride of Poznan's inhabitants and a perfect marketing product for the city's authorities – which is why the club is treated by both the former and the latter as the apple of their eyes. No other Polish team can count on such fan love. The stadium is filled to the last seat during Ekstraklasa matches in Poznan, and tickets are sold out a dozen or so days before the match. What is more, Poznan leads in sales of season passes allowing entry to all matches in a season. Poznan fans are not only young men clad in sporting t-shirts wrapped in their club scarves, loudly supporting their favourites, but also women, children and even whole families. The setting of each match – with special banners, flags and fan

songs – is prepared separately for each match. This season's biggest hits included the matches against Legia and Wisła Kraków, which were watched not only by thousands of fans in the stadium but also whole masses of football fans sitting in front of their TVs – in private houses, pubs and dedicated fan zones.

Following the example of such football powers as FC Barcelona or Manchester United, in Poznan there are special shops offering Lech Poznan gadgets such as original team shirts with the name of a favourite player; scarves; posters; footballs; towels; cosmetics; key rings; calendars; and other souvenirs. Profits go into the club's budget.

Poznan's team can also pride itself on having the best striker of this year's league – Robert Lewandowski. This nearly 22-year-old player is seen as one of the biggest hopes for Polish football. Lewandowski does perfectly well, not only in the Poznan team but also in the Polish national squad.

One club interested in purchasing him is Borussia Dortmund, which is willing to pay 5 million Euros for the young Pole, an exorbitant amount in Polish terms.

Another pride of Poznan's fans is the stadium, redevelopment of which is drawing to a close. As early as June, the enormous venue (as far as Polish stadiums go) will be

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able to accommodate over 40,000 football fans. At the moment, two longer stands are having their seats installed and a special membrane is being installed on the roof of the stadium. Poznan's venue will be one of the arenas to host the Euro 2012 European Football Championship matches.

Lech Poznan Football Club was established in 1922. The club is commonly referred to as "Kolejorz", since for many years it has been owned by Polish State Railways. In the pre-war period, the club did not achieve any sporting successes, failing to advance even to the 1st league. After 1945, i.e. the Second World War, Lech started playing in the 1st league, although with mixed results. It wasn't until as late as the 1970s that the team began scoring major successes. In 1978, team played in the European Cups. Nevertheless, the beginning of the 1980s proved to be the best time for Lech – in 1982, the club won the Polish Football Cup, and in 1983 and 1984 – the Polish Championship. Poznan footballers achieved similar successes in the years 1990, 1992 and 1993. It is also worth mentioning another significant success as for Polish conditions: Lech's promotion to the group phase of the UEFA Cup. Nevertheless, we have had to wait for Lech's winning another Championship of Poland for 17 years!

Snapshots from Poznan

Railway station for Euro 2012



Construction of the new Poznan main railway station is scheduled to commence by the end of this year. The new venue is to be completed by April 2012 – by the time of the EURO 2012 European Football Championships.

The contractor – TriGranit, a Hungarian construction consortium – won a tender announced by Polish State Railways.

The new railway station will have the character of a modern shopping and service venue. Cashier's windows, waiting areas and passages to platforms will be incorporated into a shopping arcade, the latter also housing service and dining facilities.

After completion of the new station located just a few dozen metres east of the current railway station, the former venue will be dismantled. Plans are also envisaged to cover part of the track over and use the so-reclaimed land to develop a new city centre, including modern hotels and office blocks.

But before the construction works

can start, a number of formalities have yet to be completed. The Railway Board hopes that every-

thing will be settled by autumn. If so, nothing will prevent fans coming to the Euro 2012 matches held in Poznan from using the new railway station.

UEFA satisfied with Poznan's preparations

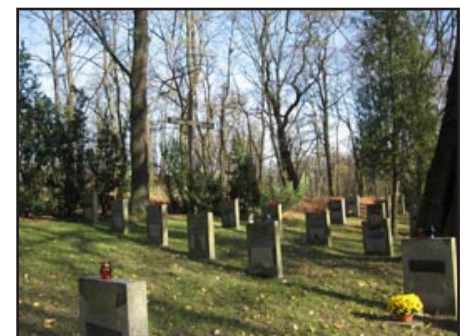
During his visit to Poznan, Director of the EURO 2012 European Football Championships Martin Kallen, stated that he was impressed with the progress in Poznan's preparations for Euro 2012. The UEFA envoy examined Poznan's stadium, the Ławica airport and modernisation works on the Poznan roads. According to Keller, the works in Poznan are proceeding in accordance with the schedule, and in some cases are even ahead of it (for example, in construction of the stadium). In two years' time, we will not only see the completed football stadium to host the final matches of the Euro 2012, but also extended Ławica airport, broadened ul. Bukowska, Grunwaldzka and Bułgarska roads and new, West-

ern Poznan ring linking Northern and Southern Poland with the A2 motorway to Świecko and Warsaw, as well as the completed last section of the A2 motorway from Nowy Tomyśl to the western Polish border.

Furthermore, a recent UEFA representative's visit to Poznan involved discussion of issues concerning sale of EURO 2012 tickets and organisation of special fan zones for those fans who fail to obtain tickets.

Solidarity with Russia

Poznan inhabitants gladly responded to the appeal made by Archbishop Józef Życiński and democratic communities, by lighting candles on the graves of Red Army soldiers who perished during the battles for Poznan against Nazi forces in the winter of 1945. On the 9th of May, candles were burning on all of the Soviet graves in the cemeteries in Cytadela and Miłostowo. Candles were lit in military cemeteries throughout the country. In this way, Poles thanked their Russian neighbours for the solidarity shown by them during the tragic catastrophe of the Polish aircraft in Smoleńsk which resulted in the death of the Polish President, Lech Kaczyński, and his wife, Maria, as well as 94 high-ranking Polish officials.



Academic Poznan

Juwenalia 2010

The upcoming days in Poznan will pass under the sign of great student fun – between the 20th and 23rd of May, Poznan will see another edition of the Juwenalia students festival – Juwenalia 2010. For these few days, power in the city is taken over by the students.



Preparations have already been under way for several days – each of Poznan's colleges have organised their own student events which will be crowned by a three-day music festival.

It has become a kind of tradition that the Juwenalia is opened with a large, colourful procession of students from all Poznan's colleges marching through the city. This year, the procession will go through the city centre on the 20th of May (start at 5:00 pm from plac Mickiewicza in the city centre). The colourful students' procession will proceed along the streets to the stadium of the Academic Sport Association (stadion AZS, a distance of about 2 kilometres, ul. Pułaskiego). It is there that the enormous party will begin.

Since early April, preparations have been under way for redevelopment of the infrastructure, modernisation of the stands and

entrance gates, conversion of the main field and hall of the stadium, which will be hosting the brilliant audience of the Festival for 4 days with an unquestionable, enormous success. Each day of the festival will be dedicated to a different type of music. The stage will host several dozen performers.

Picture - Juwenalia's tradition includes a colourful procession of students

AeroDesigne – Poznan students' success

Students of the Poznan University of Technology won the high 4th and 6th positions in the international contest for model aircrafts – AeroDesigne, the final of which was held in the USA.

AeroDesign is a series of competitions organised by the American Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE). The contest can be entered by students of any technological college of the world. Each year, participants are asked to prepare a project consisting in development and implementation of an aircraft design. The objective is to make a model that will carry the biggest load possible during the contest, although the sizes of the aircraft and its engine are limited by the rules of the contest, annually altered to prevent students' coming to the contest with the same models and to force them to design new structures.

The competition is co-organised by the manufacturer of the cult F-16 aircrafts – Lockheed Martin. All structures, flights and presentations during the competition are assessed by specialists from this company and the equally famous NASA. For the last two

years, Poznan students have gained support from the City of Poznan. The presence of the group representing Poznan attests to the scientific potential of the city and its convenient conditions for realisation of one's ambitions. City's aid allows students to travel to the place of contest which crowns their long and often winding road. These engineers-to-be repay their help with fabulous results – they've already completed the contest in 25th and 8th position, two years ago and last year respectively.

President's Bench

President Heliodor Świącicki's bench, a monument to the first President of the Adam Mickiewicz University, was erected just before the edifice of the Collegium Minus of the Poznan university. The sculpture was created by Grzegorz Godawa and financed by the Adam Mickiewicz University, AMU Foundation and AMU Alumni Association. The unveiling of the monument is a part of the May events organised by the University to celebrate the first year of the anniversary of the anniversary decade. The decade will be crowned in 2019 – with celebration of the 100th anniversary of Poznan University's establishment.



President's Bench

The world's most famous popular-science conference in Poznan

ing lectures and meetings with eminent representatives from the world of science, practical danc-

TEDx Poznań

x = independently organized TED event

On the 28th of May 2010, Poznan will host TEDx Poznań, a conference promoting innovative ideas in popular-science. The Poznan event is organised under licence from the American TED foundation, which regularly invites world authorities from diverse domains to speak at its forum. TEDx Poznań will be the first edition of this event to be held outside Warsaw.

The TED conference, established in Long Beach USA in 1984, was initially dedicated to technology, design and entertainment. Ever since then though, the thematic spectrum of the conference has grown much broader, hosting such eminent speakers as Bill Clinton, James Cameron, Bill Gates and Malcolm Gladwell. For the last few years, the American foundation has backed hundreds of local initiatives of the so-called TEDx, all around the world.

The Poznan edition of the well-known conference was the idea of people who shared one passion – to better know and understand the mechanisms ruling the world. The Poznan edition of TEDx will inaugurate the Poznan Workshop project – a series of popular-science events supported by the City of Poznan, includ-

ing workshops, as well as a course teaching French through theatre performance activities. Through the Poznan Workshop, the city intends to support those projects which accentuate the scientific character of the city and creative potential of Poznan inhabitants. A range of events under one aegis will stress Poznan's image as a city offering the highest level of education, making use of unusual projects.

A LipDub by the students of the Poznan University of Economics

400 students and lecturers of the Poznan University of Economics were involved in creation of the LipDub film. The completed movie premiered late evening on the 5th of May.

The leitmotif of the LipDub made by the Poznan University of Economics is the prestigious awards ceremony. While watching a broadcast of the ceremony, a group of students came up with the idea to shoot their own LipDub and gain the gold statuette. This is where the fun part begins. Only a few minutes' long, the movie still features scenes presenting a vip party, laboratory experiments and an editorial studio.

The movie is available on the YouTube site:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JpdsslVbpUY>

The Poznan University of Economics is yet another Poznan college to have shot a LipDub movie – the first movie had been made by the students of the Adam Mickiewicz University a few months earlier.

Poznan will have the fifth university

Polish Parliament has decided to alter the name of the Academy of Fine Arts in Poznan. Upon enforcement of the relevant law, the college will be renamed the Poznan University of Fine Arts.

An application to rename the college was submitted by the authorities of the Academy of Fine Arts and supported by its students, PhD candidates and employees. The alteration was made possible by the Act on higher education, stating that the college is entitled to use as part of its name the word "university" complemented with a relevant adjective determining the profile of the college. A new name may be granted depending on the University's holding 6 licences to grant PhD titles in at least 4 domains connected with the profile of the college. The Poznan Academy of Fine Arts has 5 faculties holding such licences: the Faculty of Painting; the Faculty of Sculpture and Performing Arts; the Faculty of Graphic Arts; the Faculty of Multimedia Communications and the Faculty of Architecture and Design.

May attractions

May is one of the most beautiful months of the year. After a long, grey Winter, trees become green again and everything around gleams with the colours of flowers coming into bloom. And even this year, although May is quite cool and rainy, it is worth having a walk in the Arboretum in Kórnik or Poznan's Botanical Gardens.



Kórnik is a small town located just 25 kilometres from Poznan. The town's main attraction is its neo-Gothic castle from the early 19th century and the beautiful park surrounding it. The Arboretum-Park is one of Poland's largest clusters of trees and shrubs, imported there from around the world. In the 19th century, Tytus Działyński – the owner of the property – began collecting trees and shrubs and converted the area into a park in an English-garden style – characterised by loose arrangements of groups of trees, vast stretches of meadows and distant perspectives. In May, the garden offers an additional attraction: azaleas and rhodo-

dendrons coming into glorious bloom.

These are unquestionably some of the most beautifully blooming shrubs one can find in parks and gardens. They belong to the heath family, making up the Rhododendron genus. According to custom, they are referred to as 'rododendrons'. There are over 1,000 species of these plants

originating from China, Japan, as well as South America, Balkans and Alps. Over 12,000 different variants of azaleas and rhododendrons have been grown for the last 150 years.

In Kurnik, it is best to admire them in the

second half of May.

Poznan's own botanical gardens are another good destination for a May walk. The garden – a scientific institution of the Adam Mickiewicz University – is one of the most beautiful parks in

Poznan. Its first section was established between 1922 and 1925 as the "School Botanic Garden". After the Second World War, the area of the garden was gradually extended with additional hectares and today it covers several dozen hectares

of park planted over with flora from around the world. The 10 hectares of the Department of Plant Geography include over 1,700 trees and shrubs, showing the richness of forms and floral diversity of various regions of the world, particularly the Eastern and Northern Asia and North America.

Particular attention should be paid to the rock garden set up on the land covering about 6,000 m² and including a collection of approximately 1,600 plants from various mountain ranges.

The last is the small yet particularly important department of Rare and Endangered Species. The department was set up in order to retain the species endangered with extinction in their natural conditions. It covers an area of approximately 0.25 ha and is divided into two quarters distinguished by their habitat conditions.

Furthermore, the garden encompasses small greenhouses housing collections of plants from intertropical areas. Among 2,500 presented plants, species from South and Central America prevail.



Calendar of Events

Maria Peszek in a club style

The 21st of May 2010, 10:00 pm
SQ Stary Browar, ul. Półwiejska

For the last few years, Maria Peszek has belonged to the circle of the most creative artists on the Polish musical scene. Her albums have gained extremely favourable reviews, dozens of awards and the admiration of fans throughout the country.

Meeting with Austrian architecture

The 21st of May 2010, at 8:00 pm
Austrian Centre for Culture, AMU, ul. Zwierzyniecka 7, Poznan

A lecture on development and specific features of Vienna's commercial architecture in the declining years of the Habsburgian Monarchy, delivered by mgr Agnieszka Gryska from the Institute for Art History at AMU.

Walka@ karnawału z postem (Fight of the Carnival against Lent)

The 22nd of May 2010, at 9:30 pm
Stara Rzeźnia, ul. Garbary 101/111

A performance staged by Polski Teatr Tańca. It is not without reason that the title of this play – termed by its creators as a choreographic and musical installation – may bring to one's mind the famous work by Breughel. Common features include the thinking about the human condition, nature and its contradictions, the longing for the ideal and succumbing to the temptation of disharmony.

XIU XIU / Eskulap OffStage

The 23rd of May 2010, at 8:00 pm
Eskulap, ul. Przybyszewskiego 39

Xiu Xiu – an American experimental indie rock band founded by James

Stewart, the only permanent member of the band. At the moment, the band's leader is working with two musicians – Angela Seo and Ches Smith. Xiu Xiu is regarded as a legend of the alternative scene, a model of deeply emotional, or even depressive, playing.

Czesław Śpiewa Pop

The 23rd of May 2010, at 8:00
Castle Courtyard, "Zamek" Culture Centre

Czesław Śpiewa is a project led by Czesław Mozil – a vocalist, composer and accordionist; a graduate of the Royal Danish Music Academy. Since 2002, Mozil has played with Teslo Value. His album "Debiut" (2008) needed only 6 weeks to reach gold status.

Lady Fosse

The 24th of May 2010
Teatr Wielki, ul. Fredry 9, Poznan

Lady Fosse is a story about a woman told through dance. The title heroine is a woman full of grace and elegance; voluptuous and predatory, but sensitive and romantic, too.

Dona Rosa – concert

25th of May 2010, at 8:00 pm
"Zamek" Culture Centre, ul. Św. Marcin 80/82, Poznan

This artist's biography resembles a true fairy tale. In 1999, a Portuguese producer was commissioned to find a fado vocalist to appear in an Austrian musical programme shot in Marakesh. The creator of the programme – André Heller, a well-known Viennese artist and impresario, had a specific person in mind – a blind singer he had once heard on the Lisbon streets a few years earlier. After several days of intensive questing, the singer was found – Dona Rosa.

Arek Skolik Special Trio

The 28th of May 2010, at 8:30 pm
Blue Note Jazz Club, ul. Kościuszki

The rediscovered beauty of jazz mainstream; masters' standards and rousing straighthead; a leading Polish percussionist - Arek Skolik - and 'the young wolves' of the Polish jazz scene are promoting their new album "Detour Ahead".

Dee Alexander Quartet

The 30th of May 2010, at 8:30 pm
Aula Nova, ul. Św. Marcin 87

The "Wild is the Wind" concert is part of the spring edition of the Made in Chicago Festival.

Boogie Boys

The 30th of May 2010, at 8:00 pm
Blue Note Jazz Club, ul. Kościuszki 76/78

Boogie-woogie with a spot of black blues; promotion of the new album "Hey You".

Two pianos playing boogie-woogie is the idea of two gifted pianists – Bartek Szopiński and Michał Cholewiński – and percussionist Szymon Szopiński, for a return to the roots of American blues and Polish light music.

Nahorny Sextet - Chopin Genius Loci

The 1st of June 2010, at 8:00 pm
Blue Note Jazz Club, ul. Kościuszki

Classics and pulsating contemporary mainstream with a Polish note, plus the creme de la creme of the Polish jazz scene.

Global Gathering 2010

The 5th of June 2010, from 2:30 pm until 06:00 am

Tor Poznań, ul. Wyścigowa 3, Przeźmierowo

The largest club music holiday, with international stars.