

# Bučovice Blind Football Cup 2019

## Final Report

The 7th edition of the international tournament Bučovice Blind Football Cup was realized from the 1st to the 2nd of June 2019. Only six clubs participated in the event and they played according to the system all-play-all. The German team FC St. Pauli Hamburg has not missed any of the editions yet and this year finally managed to win the cup for the 1st place. The Greeks from Pirsos Thessaloniki did not take the gold medals again and finished second so they repeated the same standings from the years 2014 and 2015. The players of the home team Avoy MU Brno defeated the bronze medals from the previous year as they got ahead of newcomers from West Bromwich Albion coming from Great Britain only because of the higher number of scored goals.

We appreciate our partners and fans support much. Without them it would not be possible to realize the tournament.

**The tournament's organizers:** Avoy MU Brno, z. s.

**The tournament's partners and sponsors:** Avast foundation, Seznam.cz, Masaryk University, Světluška – Nadační fond Českého rozhlasu, Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sports of the Czech Republic, Southmoravian region, ČEZ foundation, Charta 77 foundation, Penzion U Matulů, ZŠ Školní 710 in Bučovice, Lesensky.cz, SportObchod.cz

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The final report contains:

1. Article about the Tournament (author: Lukáš Másilko)
2. The list of all the Games (including results, goals, yellow/red cards)
3. Final Table of the Tournament
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## **1. Article about the Tournament**

Since 2013, Bučovice town has been the place where international blind football cup takes place. The 7th year was slightly different – organizers decided to invite six, not eight teams. Therefore, the tournament structure was different. Each team played against every other team, it was exciting all the way to the last three matches which decided the podium stand. All teams, except of the Greek team from Thessaloniki, were greeted by Petr Peňáz, director of Teiresias Centre at Masaryk University. The Greek team did not arrive until early in the morning of the first day of the tournament due to the technical issues on their plane. Šimon Rejtar, a young promise of Czech blind football, executed the opening kick-off.

Another interesting thing about this year's tournament was the low number of goals. The total number of goals was only 15, which makes it only a goal per match. The teams ended up in a nil-nil draw seven times during the tournament. It shows the balanced level of the teams, as well as the stronger defence.

### **Saturday Matches**

The first match didn't confirm the statistics. The home team from Brno lost to the team from Hamburg nil-three. The Germans were more active and managed to create more opportunities to score while completely wrecking the scoring attempts of the home team by defending in all four men. The first goal of the match, and the whole tournament, was scored by legendary Michael Löffler who took the ball on the left, took advantage of the minor distraction in the defence line and got right in front of Tomáš Bukovský. Although the kick wasn't perfect, it was from a close distance, so it bounced of the goalkeeper right into the net. In the second half of the match, the home team was getting ready to even the score, but Rasmus Narjes and, several minutes later, Paul Ruge halted its efforts. They both scored in a similar fashion, when they got the ball mid-field, passed the defence on the right, getting right in front of the goalkeeper and scoring with the ground shot on the net. The result, 3-nil speaks volumes about German team St. Pauli, which formed more opportunities than the home team.

The other teams took part in the next two matches. Both ended up in a draw. Greeks from Thessaloniki, despite their late arrival to Bučovice, managed to hold off the British newbies from West Bromwich Albion, even though they had Darren Harris who knows the Bučovice field very well because he attended the tournament as a member of Worcester BFC, the winner of the 6th year in 2018.

The home team's second match brought it valuable three points. The team got into the lead when Keryn Seal confirmed his talent by scoring right at the beginning of the match. Together with Jan Bango he overtook the Belgian forward in their defensive half. Keryn took the ball close to the goal where he easily got past the two defending Belgian players and scored with his right foot. The home team's game was livelier than in the first match, mainly thanks to Keryn Seal's move into the forwards where he assisted Jan Mrázek. No more goals were scored, so Avoy MU Brno finally got their first three points.

The next match between St. Paul and West Bromwich ended up in a draw. Dylan Malpas was a marvelous goalkeeper in the British net. He managed to direct the team's defence line as well as to give a full stop to opponent's scoring attempts. What followed was the sixth match between Vienna and Thessaloniki. The Greeks were more active and several of their players were a great danger to Tanja Hengl, the goal-keeper. The players of Vienna, however, were able to resist the attacks in the first and second halves, although they committed a few fouls. Dimos Zacharos, the offensive star of Thessaloniki, was a bit out of shape and focused mainly on the defence, therefore unaging Stratos had to take his position. In the 32 mins he accepted a long pass from the goal-keeper, got to a shooting position, fired from behind a defender and Tanja Hengl was not able to save the goal.

Also in the third match of the British team their opponent had serious trouble with Dylan Malpas, the goal-keeper. This time the footballers from Brno could not find a way to score and because the British were not able to score either, the match finished with the third nil-nil draw in a row and their dream - to win the whole tournament - was becoming distant. In the next match St. Pauli beat Vienna without any major trouble, after goals by Phillipp Versen (12mins) and Rasmus Narjes (16mins). The Germans had 7 points and indicated that they are a candidate to overall victory. The first goal was preceded by a beautiful lob by Michael Löffler who found Versen on the half-way line. Phillipp lost the ball when he hit opponents defence, but he made an effort to follow the ball running to the opponents goal. He was able to catch up with the ball close to the goal and fired to the right post, giving the goal-keeper no chance to save it. Versen was involved in the second goal as well, when he passed the ball to Rasmus Narjes. Rasmus managed to free himself from the defendants and fired a beautiful shot below the crossbar, giving the Germans a comfortable lead which they kept until the end of the game.

The ninth and last match of the first day ended up with another goalless draw, this time between 5-a-side Anderlecht and Pirsos Thessaloniki. Altogether it was the fifth game with no goal, the spectator saw only 7 goals during the whole day.

## Sunday Matches

The second day of the tournament started with a match between ÖBSV Vienna and West Bromwich Albion. For a long time the game seemed to finish with another draw of the British team, which would be the fourth in a row. In the last minute, however, Darren Harris handled a pass from the goal-keeper, turned around with the ball and tried to pass through three defendants. They managed to stop him for a while, but Darren was the first to find the bounced ball and fired it to the distant goalpost, scoring the crucial goal. The Austrians had only 30 seconds left, and although Mustafa Hösgören got into a dangerous position, he did not manage to score from a three metres distance.

Avoy MU Brno than fought against Greek team Pirsos Thessaloniki. Both teams were very careful with their defence, so the spectators did not see many interesting moments in the game. In the second half, 25 mins, the home team demanded a penalty. Giorgios Ampatzis saved Keryn Seal's shot, but he fell out of the goal area during the action. The referee, however, did not judge it as a violation of rules. In 33 mins the Greeks played a corner-kick. Dmitris Feimoglou led the ball to a place near the opponent's penalty spot and then he fired the ball. The ball passed through two defendants and continued to the net between the legs of Tomáš Bukovský, the goal-keeper, who saw it at the last minute. Attempts to even the score were pointless, the Greeks were defending in four players and did not give the home team any obvious opportunity to score.

Players of German team from St. Pauli dominated the third match on Sunday when they scored twice during eight minutes at the beginning of their match against Anderlecht. In 4 mins Paul Ruge dribbled very fast from the half-way line, went around the defence from the right side, led the ball to the left and fired to the left goalpost. In 8 mins Germans scored for the second time. Michael Löffler guarded Christoph Eilers and passed the ball to Paul Ruge who sent Rasmus Narjes to the front. On the half-way line Rasmus managed to pass through Said Salek and then there was only Dorien Cornelis in his way. When Rasmus got to her he successfully shot the ball to the distant post and there were no doubts about the winner of this match.

There were three matches left and only four teams had a chance to fight for the medal positions. The home team was in the worst position since they had four points and aggregate score 1:4, which only gave them a chance to fight for the bronze medal and, furthermore, had to rely on the help of other teams. West Bromwich had two more points and much better aggregate score 1:0. However, there was no chance for them to think about the gold medals, because they were four points behind the team from St. Pauli. The Germans knew they were one single point from winning the tournament while the team from Thessaloniki, with eight points, was in a worse position - they had to beat the Germans.

First the home team fought for their hope against Vienna. The first half was very equal, Brno had only two goal-scoring chances thanks to two direct free kicks played by Keryn Seal close to the opponent's penalty area. There was no goal until 16 mins, when Keryn went through a difficult duel against Alphons Lekanga. Keryn won and used the open space on the right side of the pitch to score the first goal of the match. After the half-time Keryn scored again from the corner-kick after he led the ball around the whole penalty area and fired the ball with his left foot to the distant goalpost. The home team, however, needed to score more goals to catch up with the British team. At the same time they had to concentrate on defence, because players of Vienna's team, especially Mustafa Hösgören, were a great danger. Milan Duda, the coach of the home team, made a great move when he substituted tired Keryn Seal for Jan Mrázek, who was full of energy and gave the defence of Vienna no time to relax and together with Jan Bango, who did a great defending jog, paralyzed the offensive attempts of the Austrians. In 34 mins Brno scored their third goal. Jan Bango handled a long pass from Tomáš Bukovský, the goal-keeper, and try to dribble past three defenders. He was stopped, but eventually managed to continue with the ball towards the goal. Tanja Hengl could not save the shot and Jaba celebrated his very first goal during the tournament. And the situation got even better after two more minutes, when Tomáš Javorský won the duel against Mustafa Hösgören and gained the ball for Jan Mrázek. He took the ball near the half-way line and nobody was able to stop him on his way towards the goal. Mrca finished his getaway with an excellent shot, scoring the fourth goal. Thanks to this his team got in front of West Bromwich and were waiting for their stumble in the last match of the tournament.

Before the last match the "cup final" took place when St. Pauli played against Thessaloniki. It was a rough game in which defences played the key role. The Greeks, however, did not get to a single goal-scoring chance and were glad that Stratos was not sent off during the game. In the first half he was booked for tripping a player with the ball in a very dangerous manner. In the second half Stratos committed a very similar foul, but this time he was only warned by the referee without seeing the yellow card again. The goal-less draw launched moments of pure joy of the German players who finally, on the seventh attempt, got the cup for winning the tournament. The Greeks, on the contrary, had to worry about their silver medals, because there was a chance for West Bromwich to equal their score with them in the last match.

The Belgians were fighting fiercely and were doing their best to help the home team to get the bronze medals. They did not only excel in defence, but attacked their opponents goal too and especially Kevin Vanderborcht was a great danger. Dylan Malpas, however, was able to save all attempts from the distance and the last match of the tournament ended up in a goalless draw, which was great news for the Greeks, who finished second again, and for the Czechs, who got the bronze medals. The British had the same number of points as the Czechs, their difference in aggregate score was the same as well and their match against the Czechs ended up with a draw. Higher number of scored goals was the key difference that put the home team to the third position. The British finished on the fourth place although they did not concede a goal during the whole tournament.

## 2. The List of all the Games

Saturday 1st of June				
When	Teams	Score	Goals scored	Yellow/red cards
10:00–11:00	Avoy MU Brno – St. Pauli	0:3 (0:1)	St. Pauli: Löffler, Narjes, Ruge	
11:00–12:00	5-a-side Anderlecht – Vienna	0:0		
12:00–13:00	West Bromwich – Thessaloniki	0:0		
13:00–14:00	Avoy MU Brno – 5-a-side Anderlecht	1:0 (1:0)	Brno: Seal	
14:00–15:00	St. Pauli – West Bromwich	0:0		
15:00–16:00	Vienna – Thessaloniki	0:1 (0:0)	Thessaloniki: Stratos	
16:00–17:00	Avoy MU Brno – West Bromwich	0:0		
17:00–18:00	St. Pauli – 5-a-side Anderlecht	2:0 (2:0)	St. Pauli: Versen, Narjes	
18:00–19:00	5-a-side Anderlecht – Thessaloniki	0:0		
Sunday 2nd of June				
When	Teams	Score	Goals scored	Yellow/red cards
09:00–10:00	Vienna – West Bromwich	0:1 (0:0)	West Bromwich: Harris	
10:00–11:00	Brno – Thessaloniki	0:1 (0:1)	Thessaloniki: Feimoglou	Brno: Seal (žlutá)
11:00–12:00	St. Pauli – 5-a-side Anderlecht	2:0 (2:0)	St. Pauli: Ruge, Narjes	
12:00–13:00	Brno – Vienna	4:0 (1:0)	Brno: Seal 2, Bango, Mrázek	
13:00–14:00	St. Pauli – Thessaloniki	0:0		Thessaloniki: Stratos, Tokatlidis (žlutá)
14:00–15:00	5-a-side Anderlecht – West Bromwich	0:0		

## 3. Final Table of the Tournament

Final standings	Wins	Draws	Losses	Points	Score
1. FC St. Pauli	3	2	0	11	7:0
2. Pirsos Thessaloniki	2	3	0	9	2:0
3. Avoy MU Brno	2	1	2	7	5:4
4. West Bromwich Albion	1	4	0	7	1:0
5. Brussels 5-a-side Anderlecht	0	3	2	3	0:3
6. ÖBSV Vienna	0	1	4	1	0:8

## 4. The Best Players of the Tournament

The best goalkeeper: Dylan Malpas (West Bromwich Albion)

The best defender: Rasmus Narjes (FC St. Pauli)

The best forward: Keryn Seal (Avoy MU Brno)

## **5. The List of Shooters**

1. Keryn Seal (Avoy MU Brno) – 3 goals
1. Rasmus Narjes (FC St. Pauli) – 3 goals
2. Paul Ruge (FC St. Pauli) – 2 goals
3. Michael Löffler (FC St. Pauli) – 1 goal
3. Jan Mrázek (Avoy MU Brno) – 1 goal
3. Dimitris Feimoglou (Pirsos Thessaloniki) – 1 goal
3. Phillipp Versen (FC St. Pauli) – 1 goal
3. Jan Bango (Avoy MU Brno) – 1 goal
3. Darren Harris (West Bromwich Albion) – 1 goal
3. Stratos Chatziapostolidis (Pirsos Thessaloniki) – 1 goal

## **6. Participants' Feedback**

**David Mycock (pioneer of blind football in the CR):** You're brilliant at this, Jitka. Absolutely amazing effort over the last few years and I am in awe and indebted to you and all your colleagues kindness in looking after me and others. I am so glad I can come and share this with you all, but feel like I only drink pivo and watch now.

I am happy to do this but please let me know how I can better help you out at this event if possible next year such as coming over a couple of days earlier to build the spot and the arena or doing the match commentating etc

I hope you are all recovering well again now though as it is a massive effort to do this event each year. Best wishes and warm hugs. Stay in touch. Dave

**Paul Glover (coach, West Bromwich Albion):** Hi Jitka. I hope this email finds you well , and that you are not too exhausted from your weekend exertions. I just wanted to say a huge thankyou to you and all of your team for all that you did for us this weekend. Many of the players have told me previously how good your tournament is, and it certainly didn't disappoint. In fact it is fair to say that all expectations were well exceeded. Your attention to detail and your hospitality was truly amazing, I know that all staff and players are very appreciative. Please pass on our gratitude to all involved.

I hope to see you again next year! Many many Thanks.

**Ondřej Gottlieb (Avoy MU Brno player):** This year I participated in my sixth Bučovice blind football tournament, I missed only its first edition and I can say that the quality and level of the tournament exceeds all other tournaments I have ever had the opportunity to play. It's amazing that the organizers can attract teams from all over Europe whose blind fans can also watch the competition thanks to the professional English commentary. But it is friendly and even a so called party atmosphere that makes Bučovice Blind Football Cup an absolutely specific and exceptional event many teams are interested in and is one of the highlights of the season for most players. In Brno, both the physical (on the pitch) and the psychic (off the pitch) are under preparation, which this year brought its fruit in the third place. I am proud to be part of the Avoy MU Brno team and to participate in this grand tournament every year, I am proud of all who organize the tournament and would like to say one big THANK YOU.

**Dylan Malpas (West Bromwich Albion goalie, also awarded as the best goalie in the world):** Fantastic trip away with WBA Blind Football team for the 7th addition of the BBFC 2019. Fantastic to be voted the best goalkeeper of the tournament for the second year running, conceding 0 goals in 5 matches against very strong opposition. A massive thankyou to Jitka Graclíková and everyone at Avoy for allowing us to compete in this fantastic tournament.

Couldn't be any prouder of everyone at WBA Blind and especially our youngest player Eesa who played fantastic in his first matches at 13 years old. Thank you to everyone for the kind words and messages really means so much.

**Darren Harris (West Bromwich Albion forward):** Hi, have you recovered? Just wanted to join the rest of the troops in saying thanks once again for putting a great event. I'm sure we will be back next year. Now Paul has seen it for himself, he realizes how brilliant it is.

**Miriam Steen (guide from FC St. Pauli):** Thank you sooooo much for this Weekend so special! I hope to see you as soon as possible.

**Sven Gronau (goalkeeper of the winning team of FC St. Pauli):** What a perfect weekend. Thanks a lot. Tired but very happy. £=best tournament in Europe - The Bucovice Blind football Cup. Now we have it black on white. Received an official letter of the sports senator: Congratulations for winning the European Cup :)

**Brussels 5-a-side Anderlecht:** Thanks a lot to Avoy MU Brno for the invitation and the fantastic organization (and especially to Jitka Graclíková and Tomáš Bukovský). Thanks to all the volunteers, photographers, catering, the other teams and the referees for the very good and lovely atmosphere during the all weekend!

**Stuart Winton (IBSA referee):** Fantastic BBFC weekend again - thanks very much for everything you do to make it enjoyable.

**Jana Baštová (economist from the local primary school):** My dearests, congratulations on your bronze medals once more again. Thank you so much for the beautiful sport and personal experience. You are a nice group that I always love to see again. Say hello to everyone and send a big kiss. Thank you for having YOU.

**FC St. Pauli:** Many thanks Avoy MU Brno, Jitka Graclíková & Tomáš Bukovský and your helpers for your dedication and love for this sport. Definitely the best blindfootball tournament in the world!

## **7. Articles and Reports in Media**

1. Listy jižní Moravy – [Nevidomí fotbalisté z celé Evropy míří do Bučovic](#) (Czech article including an invitation released on 28 May 2019)
2. [Regionální portál Bučovicko.cz – Bučovice Blind Football Cup se blíží, síly změří elitní týmy nevidomých z Evropy](#) (Czech article including an invitation released on 28 May 2019)
3. [Tojeseznace.cz – Po roce se chystá turnaj Bučovice Blind Football Cup. Síly poměří elitní týmy nevidomých ze všech koutů Evropy!](#) (Czech article including an invitation released on 28 May 2019)
4. [Vyškovský deník – Turnaj nevidomých fotbalistů v Bučovicích vyhrál německý St. Pauli](#) (Czech article about the tournament released on 5 June 2019)
5. Lidové noviny – Bučovický fotbalový pohár přilákal hvězdy (Czech article including an invitation released on 29 May 2019)
6. Právo – Turnaj nevidomých se šampionem (Czech article including an invitation released on 1 June 2019)
7. [Lesensky.cz – I letos jsme podpořili turnaj nevidomých fotbalistů. Bučovický Blind Cup je naše srdcovka](#) (Czech article about the tournament released on 3 June 2019)



8. [West Bromwich Albion News – Albion Blind remain unbeaten in Bučovice Cup](#) (Article about the first tournament's day of the british team including the highlights' video, released on 1 June 2019)

## 8. Photographs and Video

1. Photo galleries with text descriptions, the pictures were taken by: [Tomáš Bezděk](#), [Silvie Hrbáčková](#)
2. [Youtube channel including video records of all the 15 games](#) (with original English commentary)



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"Keeeeeper's!" Sven Gronau having a ball



St. Pauli against Anderlecht, goal by Rasmus



Keryn Seal's shot against Greeks





Vojta Polášek defending Darren Harris



Musti's chance against Dylan



Full grandstand



Free kick shot from Aaron against Avoy wall



Buky pouring with water on Šimon



Bronz medalists hosting team Avoy MU Brno



Pirsos Thessaloniki on 2nd place again



Happy BBFC 2019 champions from St. Pauli





Group picture after the closing ceremony