

Heritage Oil Open to be televised

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Liam Pitchford is among a strong line-up for the Heritage Oil Open

The latter stages of the Heritage Oil Open are to be televised by BT Sport.

The tournament is the biggest prize-money event in England this year, with a total of £14,000 on offer, and is a key warm-up for the Commonwealth Games.

The early rounds will be played at the K2 venue in Crawley from Friday July 4 to Sunday July 6. The focus then moves to the BT Sport studios in the Olympic Park, Stratford for the semi-finals and finals of the men's and women's singles on Monday July 7.

In a huge boost to the sport, BT Sport TV cameras will be at K2 on the Saturday and also in the studio on the Monday, where there will be seven cameras on duty for each match, including high-resolution slow-motion cameras.

More than 150 entries have been received, but there is still space in the Open and banded events for anyone wishing to enter.

The event standard will be very high, with a number of overseas players complimenting a strong domestic entry.

The top two English players in the rankings, Liam Pitchford and Paul Drinkhall, will be competing, as will their counterparts in the women's rankings, Kelly Sibley and Joanna Drinkhall.

Andrew Baggaley, Danny Reed, Darius Knight and Sam Walker are also on the entry list for the men's event, while the women's draw also features Hannah Hicks, Tin-Tin Ho.

The Welsh Commonwealth Games squads are also likely to appear in both men's and women's events, while the top overseas players to have entered include world No 95 Adam Pattantyos (HUN) and Niagol Stoyanov (ITA, 160) in the men's event and Galia Dvorak (SPA, 90) in the women's.

If you are interested in attending either at K2 or at the BT Sport studio, then please contact Steve Pound via stevepound9177@yahoo.co.uk or tel 07710 400451.

Steve Pound (23rd April 2014)

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