

# The Vikings Vault - Scrapbook Archive





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# Courier

The Newspaper of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne  
No. 68. Price 3d. WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1967

3 - COURIER, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1967

## New sport honours for Newcastle

# HANDBALL CHAMPIONS AT FIRST GO!

NEWCASTLE University are the Handball Champions of British Universities. They won the Championship last term, and last week-end successfully defended their trophy in Edinburgh.



The winning trophy.

The game, introduced to the University last year, is very popular in Scandinavia, and seven large Norwegians squeezed into an 1100 and set off to do battle for the Heriot-Watt Trophy.

The tournament was arranged at Strathclyde University and 5 teams took part. This was Newcastle's first match, and first victory, and seven substitute players returned with a large silver cup.

### FRACTURED

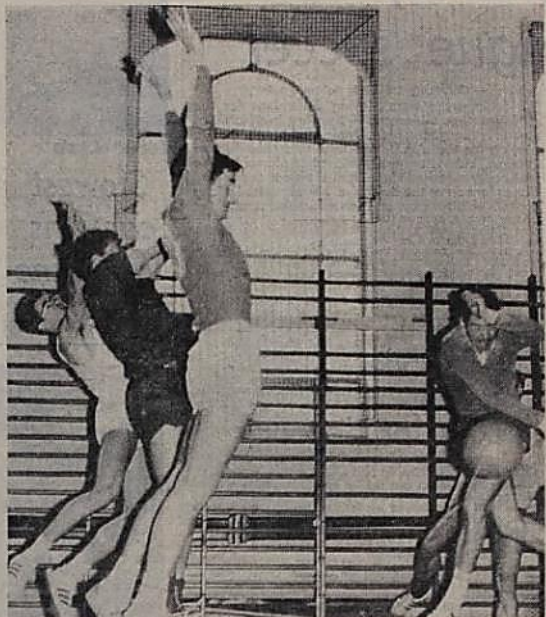
Whereas all the other teams had substitutes, Newcastle had only their full team and so sometimes had to play for twenty-minute halves non-stop.

Last week-end, ten players went to Edinburgh to defend the trophy.

Seven teams were playing outdoors on two tennis courts, and as they were playing on fairways, the players had rather a rough time. In fact one of the Newcastle team, Ebbin Poulsen, fractured his right foot in the game against Strathclyde.

Newcastle U 8. Heriot-Watt U 4  
Newcastle U 10. Strathclyde U 6  
Newcastle U 16. Glasgow U 6  
Newcastle U 6. Sunderland T 3

Team: Knut, Waagene, Lax Fossan, Ebbin Poulsen, Harald Harang, Dag Nilson, Sivis, Edsgaard, Gnr Edsgaard.



Handball is played on a pitch the size of a large tennis court. At each end there is a goal, about half the size of a soccer goal, or perhaps smaller. In front of this there is a semi-circle, from within which goals cannot be scored. There are seven players, including the goalkeeper, on

the field at any time, but a team consists of ten players, who interchange every five minutes or so. A game usually lasts for two thirty-minute halves.

The ball, which is smaller than a football, and can be held in the hand, cannot be held for more than three

seconds, nor run with for more than three steps. It is, therefore, a very fast game.

Newcastle's team, however, is composed entirely of Norwegians. They feel that this makes handball in this University somewhat a minority sport.

22 February  
1967

8 - Courier, Wednesday, October 25, 1967

## Introducing exciting sport

# HANDBALL CLUB SEEKS NEW ENTHUSIASTS - UNSKILLED

25 October  
1967

WHEN asking an Englishman what handball is, one is liable to get three or four suggestions, of which none is correct. It is to be concluded with great sadness that most Englishmen haven't the vaguest idea about the game. It is to be hoped that they all feel so offended by this insult that they will now read on with keen interest.

Handball is a game which has great popularity throughout the world, and it is gaining still more. The bulk of its support however comes from Europe. It is also played in Russia, Turkey, Iceland and even North-America. But in the very middle of this lies England, almost untouched by the charm of this fast game. This is a situation which handball enthusiasts aim to change, and it should be possible. The fact that the English are world-champions in football shows that England is full of ball-talent. A good footballer or basketballer will almost certainly be a good handballer.

Handball is a game which may be played indoors as well as outside, and by both sexes - give it a try, it might well be a game suiting your temperament and abilities.

### TRAINING

Last year, Newcastle University Handball Club was started, and it is already recognised as a member of Athletics Union, which means a grant to cover expenses for gear and fixtures. The club is also a member of the British and English Amateur Handball Association. Two tournaments were arranged last year, in which six different teams took part. The University Club won them both.

Today the club has around 40 members, from which are selected the 1st, 2nd and, if enough interest is shown, 3rd teams. Hence there is always a chance for you. Everyone is invited along to the training sessions, and will be given instruction if they go. You don't know the game? - so no skill is expected of you.

Training sessions are arranged weekly, starting October 23, 8.30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Lightfoot Sports Centre, Wharrier Street, Walker (Bus No. 19 and 12). For further information, have a look at the notice-board in the Physical Education Department (later to be moved to the Union Foyer), or contact any of the Norwegian students. The club looks forward to seeing you enjoying the game.



Handball enthusiasts in action.

24 January  
1968

## Handball

Due to unfortunate circumstances the Handball Club did not get the intended start last term. Prior to the season, training had been

planned to take place regularly, but had to be abandoned.

This term training sessions have been revived every Wednesday evening from 9-10.30 p.m. at Lightfoot Sports Centre.

Buses 12, 2, 19 to Wharrier Street (Walker). New and old members are welcome. One of the major aims of the club is the introduction of this sport to England.

## Handball TROPHY RETAINED

13 March  
1968

THE University Handball Club retained its British Universities Championship title in a tournament held in Newcastle on 2nd-3rd March. The tournament, which went down well, was held at the Lightfoot Sports Centre between six teams.

Newcastle were joint favourites with Sunderland Technical College, Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh, had a rather poor start in its first match on Saturday afternoon. Hopes for repeated success in the Cup were rapidly fading as the University, facing Glasgow, only managed to escape with a close 9-7 victory after a match marked by lack of self-confidence and precision in the team.

### BRILLIANT

However, as the afternoon went by, Newcastle seemed to improve in every match, growing with the standard of their opponents. In the team's second match versus Heriot Watt, Newcastle lead all the way although winning only 9-7. Also Queens University, Belfast was later on held to a 9-7 victory, the match being clearer than the actual result suggests.

The last round on the Saturday included Sunderland against Newcastle. So far both teams had a clear three victory record. But Sunderland, having the better goal average, started favourites in this match so vital to the final outcome of the tournament. Newcastle, however, after getting a good start, seemed to settle down very easily, putting on by far the best performance of the tournament.

With this the cup was already more or less won and the next day Newcastle confirmed its strong position thrashing Strathclyde University, Glasgow, by 16-1. Sunderland came through to beat Queen's University by 7-3 to gain second place in tournament.

The final score board was:

|                   | P | W | D | L | Pts. |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|------|
| 1 Newcastle U.    | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 10   |
| 2 Sid. Tech. Col. | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 8    |
| 3 Q's Un., Bifst. | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 6    |
| 4 Heriot Watt U.  | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 4    |
| 5 Strathclyde U.  | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 2    |
| 6 Glasgow Uni.    | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0    |



The Handball Challenge Cup

20 March  
1968

## SECOND VICTORY

THE University Handball Club strengthened its good record of the season by beating Sunderland Technical College 27-25 last Wednesday. Sunderland seeking revenge for the defeat in the British University Championships, put on a good performance leading most of the match.

However, in the final minutes Newcastle, although lacking goalkeeper S. Torp, and centre forward S. Eidsgaard showed its better condition and came through to beat the by then very tired Sunderland team. Most of the Newcastle goals were put in by F. Aschim, K. Vaagnes and H. Harung, the latter having to move into centre forward position as the team was rearranged.

### CHRISTMAS

This match served as a good conclusion of the season for the Handball Club having nine wins in 11 matches. The club, although having good results on the field, has not been able to get the game properly introduced in the University. This is due to a series of unfortunate circumstances, one being that we were unable to use Lightfoot Sports Centre all Christmas term. Also when training finally started, on Wednesday nights, a lot of people were tired after various games in the afternoon. Next season there is, however, a chance of hiring Lightfoot on Monday or Thursday nights in which case the possibilities should be better.

20 November  
1968

## Good start

THE weekend 9th and 10th of November, the University handball team went to play a tournament in Glasgow, which proved to turn out surprisingly well for the Newcastle players—despite little training and the loss of three brilliant players last year.

The first opponents were the very strong, well playing Belfast team. We were beaten 13-10, which only reflects the lack of self confidence and the uncertainty amongst our players. In the second match the team showed big tricks of high standards, and beat the Herriot-Watt 2nd very easily 16-10. The victory being much clearer than the actual figures suggest.

### SPIRIT

In the first match on Sunday morning, the Newcastle team showed up all its fighting spirit and managed a 15-12 victory over Strathclyde University. In the last match Glasgow University was thrashed 22-7.

In all respects a very promising weekend for the handball team.

The players were: Sturis Eidsgaard (captain), Knut Vaagnes, Dag Nilsen, Nils Arne Ottesen, Tor Ovrevik, Truls Johnsen, Robert Jorgensen, Kjell Svendsen and Bjarte Svenheim.

Newcomers are particularly welcome to join the club. Training sessions are arranged every Monday evening from 8.30-10.30 p.m. For further details see the handball notice board in the Union Foyer.

22 November  
1968

GLASGOW UNIVERSITY GUARDIAN

Friday, 22nd November, 1968

## Handball

A team from the University competed in the Inter-University Championships held at Strathclyde on Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th November, against teams from Strathclyde, Heriot-Watt, Newcastle, Sunderland and Belfast. It is to the credit of the team in their first full season that they finished sixth out of eight vastly more experienced teams. Due to previous commitments the G.U. Team was under strength but played extremely well on the Saturday only losing after a great struggle to the eventual winners, Heriot-Watt. On Sunday the performance deteriorated slightly due partly to the loss of both Brian Fitzgerald and Steinhoff, who on the previous day had been the mainstay of the attack, and to an injury to the goal-keeper, Lindsay Pennycook.

The official British University Championships will be held in Glasgow during the second term, and provided that the University can field its full team then the prospect of finishing in the top three looks quite promising.

Practices are being held on Thursdays between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m. Everyone welcome.

## HANDBALL

- 1st 10, Belfast 13
- 1st 16, Herriot-Watt 10
- 1st 22, Glasgow 7
- 1st 15, Strathclyde 12

## HANDBALL COME GOOD

19 March  
1969

Last Saturday the University Handball Club rounded off a disappointingly quiet Epiphany term by a very convincing 22-14 win over Sunderland Technical College.

As usual the Newcastle team did not quite get going till the second half of the game. The first half ended with a 7-5 lead to Sunderland after a reasonably good performance by both teams. However there was never any doubt among the Newcastle players that they would win the match. From the very beginning of the second half they showed their superiority over the Sunderland players.

High speed matched with good technique gave as a result some moments of brilliant handball.

In the defence Per Shauman and Svein Jacobsen played very safe, and Tor Ounelik and Nils-Anne Ottosen had a number of really good shots.

As goalkeeper Cren Ottosen did a very good job, especially in the second half, Trabs Jahnsen and Robert Jorgensen played brilliantly as wings. Trabs had some startling jump-shots.

The players were: Sturla Eidsgaard (captain), Svein Jacobsen, Truls Jahnsen, Robert Jorgensen, Dag Nilsen, Cren Olav Ottosen, Nils-Anne Ottosen, Peter Smedvig, Per Straumen, Tron Ourevik. (Apologies for bad spelling. — Sam).

## GOOD START FOR HANDBALL

29 October  
1969

HANDBALL. THE weekend 18th-19th of October, the University Handball Club took part in the first tournament this term in Edinburgh. With a number of female supporters the trip turned out to be a success both socially and sportwise.

Eight teams took part and Newcastle finished after a number of good games. The eight teams were divided into two groups of four, and the two best teams of each group were to go onto the final matches. Newcastle came through very easily, and in the final matches on Sunday beat the very strong team from Queens University Belfast 9-4. The last match on Sunday finished in a 9-5 defeat by Heriot Watt, who won the competition. Despite the one defeat, this was a very good start for the Handball Club.

### LIGHT FOOT

Two very good German players have joined the club this year. They are Jochem Thumma and Gunter Kalbacher. The other players were: Byorn Alveburg, Lars Grosted, Geir O. Ottosen, Peter Smedvig, Tor Ourevik, Sturla Eidsgaard. Training sessions are arranged at the Lightfoot Sports Centre, Wharrier Street, every Monday evening from 9 to 10.30 p.m. STURLA EIDSGAARD.

## Handball

Handball is a game which is very popular throughout the world, but mainly in Europe, Japan, Russia, Turkey and even North America. But England remains almost untouched by the game. Handballers wish to change this. The fact that England have been football world champions shows there is great ball-talent in England.

Handball is a game which may be played outdoors and indoors, and by both sexes. Give it a try — it might well be a game suiting your temperament and abilities. There is always a chance for you to be selected to the 1st or 2nd team. If you don't know the game, you will be given instructions. Everyone is invited to the training sessions which are arranged weekly, starting October 11th, 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. at Lightfoot Sports Centre, Wharrier Street, Walker (Bus No. 12). For further information have a look at the noticeboard in the Union Foyer. The club looks forward to seeing you enjoying the game.

6 October  
1971

1 December  
1971

## Newcastle do well

SATURDAY, November 13, the University Handball Club represented by 1st and 2nd teams, went to Edinburgh to play in Heriot Watt University's Challenge Cup. The teams participating came from all British universities where handball is practised, so the winning team is really one of the best in Britain.

On Saturday afternoon all teams played three matches each. Both Newcastle teams played well, and luckily both succeeded in qualifying for the semi-finals to be played next day. On Sunday Newcastle I met Newcastle II in the first semi-final.

### MAN TRAP

Early in the match it looked like the well-playing 2nd team would win, but the stronger 1st team scored enough goals to qualify for the final. In the other semi-final Heriot Watt I beat Sunderland I so Sunderland I and Newcastle II were to fight for 3rd and 4th places.

Unfortunately Sunderland was the better team and won the match, with a few goals, but again Newcastle II impressed with good play. In the final Newcastle I met Heriot Watt I. Heriot Watt have won the cup nearly every year, and were big favourites this year as well.

### MANSLAUGHTER

However, Newcastle I played their best match of the season and won easily 14-11. The victory was celebrated with a bottle of champagne, and more is to come in the near future—we hope.

#### Final results:

1. Newcastle I.
2. Heriot Watt I.
3. Sunderland I.
4. Newcastle II.
5. Strathclyde.
6. Heriot Watt II.
7. Sunderland II.
8. Queens, Belfast.

26 January  
1972

## DEMO AT SPORTS CENTRE

A Lecture-demonstration at the Lightfoot Sports Centre on 31st January at 7.0 p.m. has been arranged to introduce the game of Handball to Lecturers, Primary and Secondary school teachers, Youth Leaders, Students and other interested members of the general public. The coach will be COLIN GERRARD, Senior Area Coach of the British Handball Association and Captain of the Great Britain squad for the 1972

Olympic Games.

The programme is as follows:—

7.00 p.m. — Assemble. Introduction and general explanation of game and skills.

Demonstration of basic skills, defence, set pieces and refereeing.

7.45 p.m. — Question time and short break for refreshment.

8.00 p.m. — Handball Match Newcastle University v. Teesside Fliers.

Tickets — price 10p. — can be obtained from The Warden, The Lightfoot Sports Centre, Wharrier Street, Walker, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6, 3BR. In order that we can ascertain numbers in advance, please complete the ticket application forms. It may be possible to pay at the door on the night, but a seat could not be guaranteed.

This event has been arranged in connection with the N.E. Region of the C.C.P.R. the B.H.A. Teesside Fliers Handball Club and Newcastle University Handball Club.

If you are interested, please collect a ticket application from the Porter's Lodge.

## HANDBALL

23 February  
1972

# FINAL VICTORY

The University Handball team has again proved its quality, this time by winning the "Geordie Cup," disposing of both the Great Britain 'A' and 'B' teams in the process.

The competition was held at the Lightfoot Sportstadium on February 12 and 13. After beating Sunderland Polytechnic 14-7 and the Great Britain 'B' team 9-7 on the Saturday, the University played Great Britain 'A' in the semi-finals on the Sunday. The team played their best match of the season, and ended up winning the match 10-6.

In the final the University faced Heriot-Watt University, and with only two minutes of the match left Heriot-Watt were leading 12-11. But Newcastle staged a tremendous comeback and scored two goals in the last minute to win the tournament.

The University 'B' team showed their strength by beating Sunderland Poly 8-7 in the play-off for fifth place.

# HEAVY HANDED

4 October  
1972

HANDBALL is a game which is very popular throughout the world, mainly in Europe, Russia, Japan and even in North America. But England remains almost untouched by the game. Handballers wish to change this. The fact that England have been football world champions shows there is great ball-talent in England.

Handball is a game which may be played outdoors and indoors, and by both sexes. Give it a try — it might well be a game suiting your temperament and abilities. There is always a chance for you to be selected to the 1st or 2nd team.

## INSTRUCTIONS

If you don't know the game, you will be given instructions. Everyone is invited to the training sessions, which are arranged twice a week — on Mondays, starting October 9th, 9.00 to 10.30 p.m. at Lightfoot Sports Centre, Wharrier Street, Walker (Bus No. 12) and on Thursdays, starting October 12th, 8.00 to 9.0 p.m. at the University in Lower Gym.

For further information, have a look at the noticeboard in the Union Foyer. The club looks forward to seeing you enjoying the game.

## HANDBALL

28 February  
1973

# Thumbs down for Uni. Handball team

NEWCASTLE University Handball Club had invited seven teams to Lightfoot Sports Centre for last weekend to play for the Geordie Cup. For reasons not under Newcastle's control only four teams showed up on Saturday morning, the teams being Sunderland, Heriot Watt (Edinburgh), Teesside Flyers and Brentwood, and, of course, Newcastle the Cup-holders.

It was decided to let all the teams play League in one group at first. Then the fifth would have to play against the fourth, and the winner of that match would have to face the first as one semi-final, the other one being played between the second and third so that the tournament

would have a final, a solution that may not have been the best one after all.

The tournament was started by Newcastle v. Sunderland. The two teams know each other well from various test matches and a tournament in Edinburgh last December and Newcastle wanted to make up for what they thought had then been a very unlucky 5:6 defeat. The final score was 6:4 to Newcastle who did some splendid performances on Saturday and ended up first.

Their other results:  
Newcastle—Teesside 10:5  
—Brentwood 5:5  
—Heriot Watt 5:4

The table on Saturday evening was:  
1. Newcastle 7:1 26:18  
2. Sunderland 6:2 28:16  
3. Heriot Watt 4:4 32:24  
4. Brentwood 3:5 18:25  
5. Teesside Flyers 0:8 22:43

## MUCH EFFORT

On Sunday morning Teesside Flyers, one player short the day before, gained a 9:7 win over Brentwood and had to play Newcastle again. The first semi-final Sunderland v. Heriot Watt ended 4:6 and was almost the exact reverse of Saturday's match when Sunderland had won by 7:4. Newcastle had to work hard to secure their 11:5 win against Teesside.

After a 6:0 lead Newcastle knew the match was theirs, yet much effort had to be put into the second half (2 x 15 min.) and they were rather exhausted when the final whistle blew.

In the match for the third position, Sunderland beat Teesside 12:9.

## UNLUCKY

The final between Newcastle and Heriot Watt saw a rather tired and somewhat unlucky Newcastle team unable to play their game like they had done the day before when, after a 4:0 lead by Heriot Watt, they had fought back and won 5:4. Heriot Watt at once took the lead, led 7:2 at half-time (2 x 20 min) and won by 15:5. There is no doubt that the better team won, though Newcastle weren't as bad as a 10-goal difference might indicate.

The atmosphere of the tournament was friendly though some players obviously mixed up rugby or something else and Handball and committed some rather ugly fouls for which they were duly sent off. The tournament did, however, lack spectators or supporters, whose cheering might have livened things up and would certainly have created some of the flair which at least those players from the continent (Norway, France, Germany) are accustomed to.

## Final table:

|                    |      |       |
|--------------------|------|-------|
| 1. Heriot Watt     | 8:4  | 53:33 |
| 2. Newcastle       | 9:3  | 40:38 |
| 3. Sunderland      | 8:4  | 44:31 |
| 4. Teesside Flyers | 2:12 | 45:73 |
| 5. Brentwood       | 3:7  | 25:34 |

21 November  
1973



**LAST WEEKEND** the University Handball team competed in the National Handball Championships at the Picketts Lock Centre, Edmon- ton. The 6 competing teams played each other once, and in their first match Newcastle drew 6-6 with Brentwood, the eventual champions.

Newcastle played Herriot-Watt next, and turned out to

be the better team, winning 9-8. On Sunday Brentwood took an indisputable lead, and Newcastle went into their final game against Huyton needing at least a draw to take second place. Good teamwork allowed Newcastle to gain a 2-2 draw, and hence second place in the tournament on goal average.

n.b. Anyone interested in playing an exciting and fascinating sport will be most welcome at the practices each Tuesday at 9.00 p.m. at the Lightfoot Sports Centre and/or each Thursday at 8.00 p.m. at the Physical Education Centre,

## HANDBALL

5 December  
1973

**AFTER BEING** runners-up in the British Championships, Newcastle University Handball Club was once again successful, this time in the "Heriot-Watt University Challenge Cup Tournament" up in Edinburgh. Ten teams took part in the competition.

It was played in two pools each consisting of five teams and the semi final was to be between the first two teams of each of these pools.

The Newcastle team played against teams from Heriot-Watt University, Bellahouston, Strathclyde and Sunderland. Newcastle only lost one game against Bellahouston thereby becoming winners of group B. We then met Wolverhampton, second of group A, in the semi finals. By a great effort by all players we managed to go through to

the finals to meet East Kilbride, a Handball Club outside Glasgow. After a half time lead of 6 : 1 we ended up with a 10 : 8 win only to keep the Cup for the fourth time.

This victory makes Newcastle Handball Club one of the best handball teams in England.

Full term's  
results  
round-up

- NEXT WEEK -

The Courier and Newcastle Uni Sport...



Thursday March 16, 1995

Handball heroes  
win first National  
championships

- Page 11 -

...together going for GOLD!!!

Thursday, March 16, 1995

16 March  
1995

# Handy heroes

## BUSA Handball

**H**ANDBALL - what the hell is that, you might ask. Most people think it is a mix between netball and lacrosse, but in reality it is a very tough, physical sport, somewhere inbetween football and basketball.

Sunday 5th of March saw the first ever British Student Handball Championships in Nottingham. After training very hard (?) for about a month we felt it was time to show what we were made of. Newcastle was represented in both men's and women's events.

In their first match the boys recorded a 7-3 win over Nene. Unfortunately the boys were beginning to get tired after a hard night at Loughborough SU and they drew against both Keele and Loughborough.

After all this hard work we all thought they deserved to win but alas - Lady Luck was not

on their side this time and Nottingham won the trophy on goal difference.

The girls, however, wiped the floor against their opponents, winning by a staggering margin of 10-2 in their first match against Nottingham/Nene and 11-2 against Loughborough. In the third and last match they met Keele.

Keele had only 4 players of their own and had, by the time Newcastle met them, sussed out which the best players were, so Newcastle lost 2-5. But it didn't matter. The championships were ours. We had won the first ever British Students Handball Championships - without having any Brits on the team.

Men's Team: B.Ribesén, R.I.Jonassen, K.Vassbotn, P.O.Baalerud, S.Langsethagen, K.Knutsen, K.Fersum, T.Holst.

Women's Team: E.Sjoelie, R.Mardalen, C.Clark, L.Skughei, J.Risa, M.Anderson, E.Bakken, K.Gronvold, M.Rekvik.

Camilla Clark

**Sport**  
thecourieronline.co.uk/sport



www.thecourieronline.co.uk

Monday 27 February 2012

Issue 1246

Free

27 February  
2012

# Handball display promise in debut

## HANDBALL

By Manu Espinosa Nevraumont  
in MANCHESTER

Last weekend the Newcastle University handball had a promising showing at the University Handball Championships in Manchester, organised by the ABUHC. Overall the team had 3 wins and 2 losses.

Getting off to a good start with a 6-3 win over Bangor they then fell to a 5-13 defeat to group-winners Oxford. A rather unjust score line of 4-9 against Lincoln A followed, in what was a closely contested game for the most part. Both sides had drawn a fixture only two weeks earlier.

Despite this sore defeat, Newcastle picked themselves back up to seal a narrow 4-3 win over Lincoln B to ensure third place in their group. However, the loss to Lincoln A meant qualification to the quarter-finals was not possible, but third entailed a play-off against Brighton.

In what was probably one of the games of the tournament, Newcastle prevailed 7-6 victors. In engaging a new set of tactics, Brighton were caught off guard, conceding two suspensions and two penalties. After some spectacular goals from Juan Carlos Sánchez "Kachó", a frantic finish ensued with Brighton looking for an equalizer. Despite top-scorer Geofrey Laborde coming off injured and receiving a suspension themselves, Newcastle stayed strong defensively to pull off a fantastic victory.

The University of Essex won the competition after beating the Uni-

versity of Manchester in the final. Newcastle's final win meant an overall joint 9th place position out of over 20 teams, in what is the Handball Club's first competitive showing.

The Club was established following on from a popular series of GoPlay sessions ran by NUSU. The team is multicultural with Spanish, French, German and Mexican students among an encouraging number of British players. Several of the British contingent have been asked to attend trials for the Great Britain Students' squad, with a forthcoming update should any make the cut.

Mark Harrison, who has been coaching the team and leading from the sidelines for the Championships said, "to finish in the top half of the tournament amongst some highly experienced teams, in what is our first year in existence, is phenomenal. It was necessary for the players to give 100%, and not one of them disappointed."

The Newcastle University Handball Club is under the Presidency of Jack McKay and after such a successful first season with a largely beginner squad, plans are already underway for a larger recruitment programme in September and entry into a national England Handball league.



27 February  
2012

## Handball display promise in debut

By **Manuel Espinosa Neвраumont** - 27 February 2012

*Manu Espinosa Neвраumont reports from Manchester as Newcastle University's Handball side show great potential at the University Handball Championships*

Last weekend the Newcastle University handball had a promising showing at the University Handball Championships in Manchester, organised by the ABUHC. Overall the team had 3 wins and 2 losses.

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## Handball in the North East enters a new Viking age

8 February  
2016

By **news\_web** - 8 February 2016

*The Newcastle Vikings Handball Club has been growing since 2012. Image: NVHC.*



Sports Editor **Calum Wilson** visited the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club to discuss the rise of Handball in the North East.

Founded in 2012, amidst the aftermath of Olympic fever, the Newcastle Vikings became the first developmental Handball club to hail from the city. Despite their humble beginnings, the club set out on a mission to grow Handball in the North East. Four years on, the club and the sport is showing great promise.

The Newcastle Vikings currently boast a Men's, Women's and Junior team. The Men's and Women's teams both compete in the England Handball North Regional Development League. The Vikings made their debut in the league last season, with both sides finishing in an impressive 4<sup>th</sup> position.

As the Vikings enter the latter half of only their second year in the Development League, both teams look set for top four finishes once more. Last Saturday, the Men's team beat the combined outfit Leeds Hornets/University of Huddersfield, at their home venue at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

*"THE NEWCASTLE VIKINGS CURRENTLY BOAST A MEN'S, WOMEN'S AND JUNIOR TEAM"*

Despite starting the match as underdogs, with the visitors 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table, the Vikings sailed into a 3-1 lead thanks to an early hat-trick from left-winger Gracjan Joppek. Joppek, who is Polish, was one of 5 non-British members of the diverse 10-man Vikings squad, epitomising the international appeal of Handball.

Left-half Athbi Almarzouq, a Kuwaiti student studying at Northumbria University, extended the Vikings' lead to 6-2 later in the half. A two-minute sin-bin for the opposition number 4 allowed the hosts to stretch their advantage to 10-3 before the first time-out. The two teams then traded blows, before going into half time at 13-6.

The start of the second period was a much more even encounter. Daniel Walsh in the Vikings' goal was called into action on a couple of occasions as the visitors tried to mount a comeback. Leeds/Huddersfield added to their tally, but a breakaway goal from Matthew Lamb soon restored the 7-goal difference.

*"LEFT-HALF ATHBI ALMARZOUQ, A KUWAITI STUDENT STUDYING AT NORTHUMBRIA UNIVERSITY, EXTENDED THE VIKINGS' LEAD TO 6-2"*

Almarzouq and Joppek were amongst the scorers as both sides shared a flurry of late goals. The Vikings held on, with the match finishing 22-15. However, the day's entertainment was far from over as the Vikings played host to the second round of the North East Handball Tournament, against teams from Durham and York.

Organised by Vikings' Head Coach Marlen Slinning, the friendly tournament is designed to help develop Handball across the North East of England. "The plan for us is to get more clubs in the North East", Slinning explained. "In the UK, I think Handball is actually growing, but here in the North East we are a step behind most places."

Neither Newcastle University or Northumbria University currently field an official Handball team, but Slinning is hopeful that the Vikings can work closely with the Universities in the future. "We want Handball to be active within the Universities. We would want to work together with any University clubs to develop Handball in the North East."

*"IN THE UK, I THINK HANDBALL IS ACTUALLY GROWING, BUT HERE IN THE NORTH EAST WE ARE A STEP BEHIND MOST PLACES"*

Slinning, who comes from Norway and has years of Handball experience, also wants to develop the sport amongst younger children. "We have sessions for children down to the age of 8, we are trying to get kids involved at a younger age. So we have improved, in that we started with just Women and Men and now we offer Handball for kids, but it is a slow process to develop Handball in the North East."

For more information, visit: <http://newcastlehandball.co.uk>

19 February  
2018

## Vikings propelling invasion of Handball

Written by Mark Sleightholm • 19th February 2018 • Sport



For a sport that's so popular in the rest of Europe, handball has a surprisingly low profile in the UK. But just six years after its foundation the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club boasts a men's and a women's team, alongside junior teams, and counts several Newcastle students among its members.

Handball's popularity elsewhere in Europe and further afield explains the club's high number of international members, and Newcastle University students such as Maren Liane and Emily Bjerk joined the club after growing up playing the sport in Norway. Fellow Norwegian Pål Jakobsen had limited experience before arriving in the UK, but was a keen follower of the sport and now enjoys playing for the Vikings.

Liane explains the sport as "a mix between football, basketball and rugby," with the simplicity of football combined with the pace and high scores of basketball.

"Everyone plays defence, and everyone plays attack, so everyone runs the whole court," she continued. "You also have tackles as well, so it's a bit more physical than basketball in that sense." Indeed, the lack of protective clothing is deceptive; handball can be a brutal sport.

The Vikings, however, tend to play in a more friendly manner, making the club a good starting place for beginners. The unlimited subs in handball makes it relatively easy for beginners to gain match experience, and Vikings members are more than welcome to just attend training sessions.

These sessions are held twice a week: Monday evenings in South Shields and Wednesday evenings in Benfield, just next to Walkergate Metro.

For those looking to get a bit more competitive, the club holds training matches and competes in handball leagues. "There's a few people who started off with just doing training," Liane explained, "and then they joined the training matches and now they're playing the league."

The men's team currently sits at the bottom of the National North division, but is more concerned with gaining experience and having fun than racking up a string of victories.

"We're quite new; we have a mix of abilities," Jakobsen explained. "We know we're not going to be the best in this league, and therefore there's not much complaining either. We're there to develop and have fun, basically."

The women's team is currently a division lower, in the Regional North league. Like the men, they want to win but their main motivation is the fun of playing matches.

The club was set up in the aftermath of the London 2012 Olympics, where the appearance of a British handball team sparked a wave of interest in the sport across the country. Team GB crashed out of the Games after losing every single one of their matches, but their presence helped to introduce handball to a British audience.

### **By building connections with local schools the Vikings can introduce handball to a new generation of players, and ultimately encourage more British kids to take up the sport**

The Vikings' membership consists of a mix of students – particularly those such as Liane and Bjerk who played the sport before coming to the UK – and locals. While setting up a handball club in Newcastle University's Athletic Union could help to attract more student members this would also require a lot of work and dedication from its founders, so for the time being the Vikings are the main source of Tyneside handball action.

"I think quite a few people are keen when they come to university to try something new, to do something they've never done before," Liane explained. But unlike the AU clubs' ability to advertise their sports at freshers' fair, the Vikings are not part of the University and so can't benefit from this kind of publicity.

"It's a challenge with us being an outside club," she continued. "Because it's hard to get in contact with students unless they know about handball beforehand."

One of the club's main aims going forward is to reach out to junior players. By building connections with local schools the Vikings can introduce handball to a new generation of players, and ultimately encourage more British kids to take up the sport. The junior teams have their own training sessions and can take part in under-16 competitions if they want to.

The three students are keen to spread the word about their beloved sport. Liane summarised a typical encounter with English students: "everyone that I've explained it to is like, 'Oh that sounds really cool. Why do we not have it?' and I think with it being an indoor sport as well, it's quite nice for England!

"The basic rules are quite easy to get into, it's a bit like football in the sense that as long as you have a ball you can start to play, which is good for beginners."

Anyone is welcome to join the Vikings and try out handball. The club offers three free taster sessions for newbies, and Bjerk points out that a great way to find out more about the sport is to tag along to a training session. "If there are people who don't know what it is they can also come by and just watch and see what we're doing, she explained. "They don't have to train, they can just sit and watch how it works."

If handball's moment has finally come in the UK, the Vikings are at the forefront of this expansion. Their mix of competition and fun and welcoming attitudes towards beginners makes the club an important part of the development of handball in the UK, and the Norwegian students hope that their enthusiasm for the sport will be shared by more of their fellow students in Newcastle.

## Monkseaton's hand-y squad

Evening Chronicle 30 June 2004

You have to hand it to Monkseaton Middle School - when it comes to flying England's flag they are top of the class!

The North Tyneside school has just concluded its first year of competition in the Scottish U-12 and U-14 Junior Leagues - in the sport of handball.

At the start of the year the boys and girls teams (pictured) suffered heavy defeats but rallied as the season progressed, eventually gaining victories over Tryst and Gracemount.

Up against three other teams in their league, the under-12 team finished fourth while the under-14s finished third out of five teams.

With the competition expanding next season (October to June) to include more Scottish teams, Monkseaton Middle will be joined by pupils from Whitley Bay and Monkseaton High. They will also be playing in the England junior event with their older squad.

The year culminated in an invitation to attend an international event, called "Focus Europe," in Sligo, Ireland.

Fielding three teams against Irish and German opposition, Monkseaton's boys finished eighth and ninth from 11 teams, while the girls team (a joint Monkseaton /Solingen squad) took the girls title and were undefeated in eight games.

30 June  
2004

## School success deserves big hand

Evening Chronicle 8 June 2005

You have to hand it to Monkseaton Middle School - when it comes to handball they are top of the form.

The newly-formed North Tyneside squad travelled north of the border and defeated Gracemount to claim the Under-12 Scottish Cup.

The team, having played only since September last year, faced Gracemount for the third time this season, having beaten them in both their Scottish League matches on the way to sealing the title earlier this year.

The Cup final, held at the Tryst Sports Centre in Cumbernauld, was the culmination of a hard but successful year for the young squad, who have suffered only one defeat all season. The game started well for Monkseaton, the first half finishing 4-2 in their favour.

Gracemount, however, came back hard in the second period and the match ended 9-9 and then 12-12 after extra time.

That took the tie to a golden-goal decider - and after only 30 seconds Monkseaton's captain Jonathan Armstrong scored the crucial strike.

The squad, pictured above, is Jonathan Armstrong, Seraosha Ferozepurwalla, Jack Gibson, Ryan Carr, James Gray, Jamie Hansford, Scott Latimer, Robert Bray, Kieran Graham, Aman Majid, Ryan Brooke, Christopher Wilson, Steven Borg and Robbie Chedburn.

8 June  
2005



The Newcastle Vikings handball squad (above) which will be playing competitively in Scotland this autumn - just a year after being formed

# Vikings are handed a first chance in league

TYNESIDE handball club the Newcastle Vikings are about to embark on their first competitive season after forming only a year ago, writes MICHAEL RACE.

The Vikings joined the Scottish Handball Association earlier this year and are scheduled to be playing against Edinburgh and Glasgow in the coming weeks after developing rapidly in just 12 months.

Head coach Marlen Slinning said: "We started the club a year ago and had a lot of development sessions which attracted quite a bit of interest."

"This allowed us to form a few teams and develop the club to the standard of handball which can be played competitively."

The origins of handball are

## HANDBALL

somewhat unclear. One view is the game was invented in Germany in the late 19th century to keep football players fit during the off-season.

Another is the game goes all the way back to the time of the ancient Greeks, with evidence showing the early stages of what is now modern-day handball.

One thing for sure - the Vikings are the first and only handball club in the North East to play competitively, the new squad taking on 14 other teams from across Britain in the Association.

Slinning added: "I have been playing handball since I was about five.

"I am from Norway and handball was big and competitive over there.

"It is great we as a club can now play competitively.

"The game has really taken off since the Olympic Games, which showed how action-packed and entertaining it could be.

"We chose to join the Scottish Handball Association as it is easier for us to travel to Edinburgh and Glasgow, where we will play most of our games as there is no court with the right dimensions to play in the North East."

A standard handball court is approximately 40 metres long and 20 metres wide - a large indoor arena to facilitate the action-packed sport which inspired the Vikings to form.

As well as their senior side, the Vikings have launched junior handball sessions at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth.

Slinning said: "We hope we attract new members to our club with a grant we were given from Sport England aimed at increasing participation in the North East.

"Handball is enjoyable, great fun, a great way to meet new people and a new exciting sport to try out for all ages and genders."

Anyone interested in playing for the club should along to training sessions on Wednesdays (Juniors 7.00-8.00, adults 8.00-10.00) at Percy Hedley School.

## Your Team: The Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

By Emily Meritt - 7 November 2014



Some senior and junior members of the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

The Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Juniors cater for ages 10-16 years and their Seniors start from 17 years upwards.

They are part of the England Handball Association and the North Regional Development League.

The club is not currently sponsored, and are keen to hear from any possible sponsor.

The club are based at the Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields (this is where they hold their home matches and Monday training) and the Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth (for their Wednesday training.)

Chair and Head Coach Marlen Slinning said: "Newcastle Vikings Handball Club is the first developmental handball club in Tyneside, founded in September 2012 with a mission to grow and develop handball in the North East.

"Head coach Marlen Slinning established the club with a group of other sports enthusiasts, building on the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games. The club's board is working hard to provide the right structure to develop handball in the North East, with a goal of developing sustainable handball teams in different age groups and genders to take part in national tournaments and leagues.

"The Vikings men's and women's teams play in the England Handball North Regional Development League, having played their debut season in the Scottish Handball League in 2013/14. They are a highly multi-national club, players hail from right across Europe as well as Africa, Asia and South America.

"Anyone interested in playing handball is welcome to join the clubs training sessions, the first introductory session is free."

The club time table is as follows:

Mondays - Juniors (10-16yrs) 6:30-7:30pm and Adults (17+) 7-8:30pm (league players until 10pm) at Temple Park Leisure Centre, John Reid Road, South Shields NE34 8QN

Wednesdays - Juniors (10-16yrs) 7-8pm, Adults (17+) 8-10pm at the Percy Hedley Sport Academy, West Lane, Killingworth.

Club Contact details: [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk) / [info@newcastlehandball.co.uk](mailto:info@newcastlehandball.co.uk) /

Facebook: Newcastle Vikings Handball Club / Twitter: @NVHandball / Tel: 07838-542601

# Handball: The Newcastle Vikings v Peninsula Women's Handball Home League

By **Emily Meritt** – 25 November 2014



Marlen Slinning of the Newcastle Vikings takes a flying shot at a goal

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club at Newcastle Vikings v Peninsula women's handball home league match took place on November 8 2014 at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. It was a Seniors match. (For players aged 17+)

Chairperson and Head Coach Marlen Slinning said: "The Newcastle Vikings won 21-9 Peninsula (Merseyside)

"The event was the England Handball North Regional Development League and the Vikings Women had back to Winning Ways in Style

"The Newcastle Vikings Handball Clubs women's team made the most of their first home league match at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields last weekend to get their season going with a big win over a young Peninsula team.

*Sofie Vaula battles through the Peninsula defence to take a shot at the goal!*

"The Merseyside club were first to get on the score sheet, but the Vikings soon struck back through Marie Brevet before edging in front. A brace of goals each from Sandra Christke, Gesa Junge, Marlen Slinning and Sofie Vaula, backed up by typically tight Vikings defending and a penalty save by goalkeeper Andrea King, helped Newcastle build a strong 9-3 lead at half time.

"Again Peninsula came out slightly faster after the break, before captain Sandra Christke and head coach Marlen Slinning started to dominate the goalscoring proceedings as Newcastle regained control of the game. Six second-half goals from Christke together with a further five from Slinning fired the Vikings into an unassailable lead as the Vikings broke the 20 goals barrier. A late strike from Judyta Turulska rounded the game off as Newcastle Vikings claimed a 21-9 victory to jump up to second in the England North Regional Development League table."



The Newcastle Vikings featuring Jason Lee, Matthew Lamb, Selina Stenberg, Blessing Ogbie, Kathryn Powell, Andrea King, Gesa Junge, Judyta Turulska, Craig Swanson, Robert Thompson, Marlen Slinning, Sofie Vaula, Sandra Christke and Marie Brevet

The Newcastle Vikings are: Andrea King (GK), Marie Brevet (1 goal), Marlen Slinning (7), Sofie Vaula (2), Gesa Junge (2), Blessing Ogbie, Judyta Turulska (1), Kathryn Powell, Sandra Christke (8).



25 November 2014

22 January 2015

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## GRASSROOTS SPORT

THE CHRONICLE THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2015

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Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's men's squad (above) and (top right and right) action from their league clash with Leeds University which they won 27-20 to make it three league matches unbeaten



Newcastle Vikings' women's team (left) and (above) action from their league clash with Leeds University

# Vikings Hand out double defeat

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men and women came away from their England North Development League matches against Leeds University with impressive 27-20 and 26-5 victories respectively.

Flying at Leeds Futsal Arena, Simon Heinz's 13 goals for the men and Marlen Slinning's 10 strikes for the women led the way.

They were ably supported by six aces: from Jonathan Bastit, Marie Brevet and Sandra Christke plus a creditable five goals from a charging Matthew Lamb.

The Vikings' women team made a flying start to their match, thanks to an

## Tynesiders are too strong on court for student rivals

early hat-trick from winger Brevet, as they opened up a 10-point lead before Leeds eventually muddled the scorers.

By half-time Newcastle were 13-3 ahead.

The home team's half-time formation changes briefly threatened a comeback but the Vikings' tight defence soon stilled them.

Head coach Slinning and captain Christke made the most of Leeds' handling errors to score several breakaway counter attacks as Newcastle further stretched their advantage, the final whistle signalling a commanding victory for the Vikings.

The men's match was a more closely-fought affair but the Vikings soon began to open up a lead as their training-court team plays mesmerised the Leeds defence.

With winger Heinz seemingly scor-

ing at will from the acutest of angles and the back-court power of Bastit and David Miroga combining with Lamb's opportunism, a 12-8 half-time advantage for the Vikings was never under threat.

After a difficult debut season in the Scottish League, the Vikings' men's focus on teamwork under coach Jason Lee is creating new-found confidence as their victory over Leeds took their unbeaten run to three games.

They will look to continue their good form in this weekend's tough double-header.

They travel to London for a League Cup preliminary qualifier before a home league match against Huddersfield University.

Watch out for reports on both games in Grassroots Sport next week.

NEWCASTLE Women: Andrea King (GK), Marie Brevet (10 goals), Marlen Slinning (10), Jonathan Powell, Kathryn Powell (8), Gesa Junge (2), Blessing Ogbie, Sandra Christke (5).

LEEDS Men: Simon Heinz (13), Craig Swanson, Jason Lee, Mark Morrison (11 goals), Simon Heintz (11), Sam Turner, Neil Thomson, Jonathan Bastit (5), David Miroga (2), Robert Thompson, Matthew Lamb (5).

**TO feature in Grassroots Sport e-mail Tony Hodgson at tony.hodgson@trinitymirror.com or ring him on 0191 201 6464**

9 February  
2015

# Vikings doubly delighted to play Leeds off the court

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings claimed a fantastic double over Leeds Carnegie in the England Handball North Regional Development League.

The club's women's team celebrated a resounding 29-1 victory while the men's squad triumphed 27-22 to stretch their unbeaten league run to five matches and move them up to second in the table.

The victories at Leeds Metropolitan University's Sports Centre added to Newcastle's respective 25-3 and 26-19 home victories in November.

Judya Turulska, captain Sandra Christie and Vikings' head coach Marlen Slinning led the way for the dominant women's team, scoring six goals apiece.

They were ably backed up by four goals each from Marie-Louise Brevet and Sofie Vaala, Kathryn Powell also bagging a brace and Blessing Ogbee on the scoresheet for the first time this season.

While several chances to rack up an even bigger win went astray, Newcastle were rarely troubled defensively.

The home team's second-half consolation was a disappointment for the Vikings as they looked set to keep a clean sheet.

The 29-1 result, though, reinforced Newcastle's third place in the league as they narrowed the gap to leaders NEM Hawks and Liverpool.

The Vikings men's team went into the match missing several regular players so it was a chance for others to step up to the mark - which they did.

Brilliant goalkeeping from Mike Cooke in the first half and Dan Walsh in the second, supported by solid defensive work by Craig Swanson in particular, helped foil many of Leeds' attacking plays as the Vikings built a strong advantage at the other end of the court.

Newcastle's goalkeeping was led by new centre Amaury Michelant's debut eight goals with seven from Jonathan Bastit and four from Mark Harrison.

However, it was setting up younger brother Tom to claim his first senior goal for the Vikings which satisfied Harrison more.

A fourth league win on the trot takes Newcastle's men level on points with Bolton Hussars at the top of the league.

Anyone interested in playing, supporting or sponsoring handball in the North East can find out more at [www.newcastle-handball.co.uk](http://www.newcastle-handball.co.uk) or via the club's Facebook pages Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and South Shields Handball.

**Newcastle Vikings women:** Andrea King (Goal), Marie-Louise Brevet (6 goals), Marlen Slinning (6), Sofie Vaala (4), Gesa Junge, Blessing Ogbee (1), Judya Turulska (6), Kathryn Powell (2), Sandra Christie (6).  
**Newcastle Vikings men:** Daniel Walsh (6), Mike Cooke (5), Amaury Michelant (8 goals), Craig Swanson (1), Scott Garrow (2), Robert Thompson, Thomas Harrison (1), Jack Woods (2), Jonathan Bastit (2), Matthew Lamb (2), Mark Harrison (4).



■ Newcastle Vikings' triumphant men's and women's handball teams who enjoyed double success against Leeds Carnegie and are well placed in the England Handball North Regional Development League

6 March  
2015

# Vikings erase the memory of defeat

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team bounced back from the previous week's defeat to beat Manchester 28-19 in their England North Regional Development League clash.

In doing so they extended their lead at the top of the table.

However, it proved a frustrating turnaround for the Vikings' women as Manchester took the spoils 18-17 in a tight match at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The game started well for the hosts as a brilliant early hat-trick from half player Gesa Junge, subsequently matched by fellow half Judya Turulska, helped Newcastle build a 10-7 first-half advantage.

Manchester came out the stronger after the break and soon turned the scoreline in their favour as a nervy Newcastle side faltered in a repeat scenario of their opening match of the season.

A late flourish from winger Marie-Louise Brevet to grab a brace of goals in the dying seconds proved too little too late as Manchester held on for the win.

Newcastle's men also went into their encounter looking to avenge points dropped in their early-season away fixture.

David Miozga, Simon Heintz and player-coach Jason Lee got the ball rolling with early strikes before centre Amaury Michelant bagged the first of his five first-half goals.

Ably supported by strong defence and goalkeeping, the Vikings had built an unassailable 14-7 lead by half-time.

The second period continued in similar manner with goals coming from throughout the squad in a great team performance.

They included a breakaway brace from substitute wingers Scott Garrow and Robert Thompson's first of the season.

Heintz and Michelant added further late scores to their individual tallies.

They wrapped up a convincing victory which took the Vikings four points clear of the chasing pack ahead of another home league match against Liverpool at Temple Park tomorrow.

# Hawks swoop to beat Vikings

March 2015

## HANDBALL

AFTER leading for much of the game, Newcastle Vikings' women's team was unlucky to be narrowly beaten 23-21 by NEM Hawks in its North Regional Development League match in Bolton.

The Hawks had been unable to fulfil the reverse fixture the previous weekend, the Vikings consequently being awarded a 10-0 win by the England Handball Association.

After half player Gesa Junge set the Vikings' ball rolling, the first period was dominated by a string of great goals by the returning Sofie Vaala, who fired in an array of scores both from the wing and the line positions.

Left-half Judya Turulska also picked up a brace.

The Manchester-based side was initially finding it hard to break through a solid Newcastle defence at the other end, backed up by excellent agile goalkeeping from Andrea King between the posts, but recovered enough to draw level 8-8 by half-time.

The Vikings came out the stronger side after the break.

They quickly stretched out a five-goal lead as each of the other Newcastle outfield players was on the scoresheet.

However, the stronger Hawks, benefiting from having several experienced Super Eight League players in their squad, gradually clawed their way back with powerful strikes from their back-court players and two penalties the diving King was unfortunate not to save.

As the Vikings fought to stay ahead, the game was over-shadowed by a foul on player-coach Marlen Slinning who suffered a suspected broken nose as she tried to break through the Hawks' defence line and missed the last five minutes of the match.

The incident meant a tense finale, the Hawks seizing the initiative with fast breaks to breach the unsettled Newcastle team and just edge the game.

The Vikings remain second in the table ahead of their deciding final-week-end double-header against the two Merseyside teams next month.

11 March  
2015



■ Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's mixed junior team (above) which enjoyed an 11-2 victory over North Tyneside's Churchill Community College

# Juniors have plenty in hand to beat Churchill

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' mixed junior team defeated Churchill Community College 11-2 in a friendly match at Percy Hedley Sports Academy.

This was the first match of the season for the hosts but they started the match with two superb goals in the first five minutes from backcourt players Jamie Clark and James Porter.

Churchill hit back quickly with a well-placed goal and followed that up with another well taken-score, quickly breaking through the Vikings' defence.

With the scores level, the Vikings closed the gaps and formed a solid defence for the rest of the half.

Charlie Pears joined the two other backcourt players on the scoresheet just before half-time and the Vikings went into the break 7-2 up.

After the team talks, Churchill came back stronger in defence, determined to make it more tricky for the Vikings to hit the back of the net.

However, four further scores from Rebecca Johnson, Clark and Porter sealed the Vikings' victory.

The Vikings' junior team consisted of Cameron Reveale, Krystina Coulson, Charlie Pears, (Rebecca Johnson, Jamie Clark, Raymond Latcham, James Porter Andrei Inta and Matthew Fairgrieve.

The Vikings are keen to welcome new junior players (10-16



■ Newcastle Vikings' men's team lost its North Development Handball League clash 22-15 to Liverpool

years) to Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields on Mondays (6.30-7.30) and Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth on Wednesdays (7.00-8.00). Free taster sessions are available.

Any school interested in playing the Vikings in a friendly match should email info@newcastlehandball.co.uk.

■ LIVERPOOL came from behind to take the spoils 22-15 against Newcastle Vikings' men's team in their England Handball North Regional Development League match.

After losing to their opponents in their opening match of the

season, Newcastle were looking to make the most of home advantage in the return fixture at Temple Park Leisure Centre to extend their lead at the top of the table.

They made a strong start as goals from player-coach Jason Lee and Robert Thompson from the wings and back-court players Amaury Michelant and Dawid Miozga helped them build a good early lead.

However, Liverpool - with just seven players - found another gear to quickly peg the score back while stifling the Vikings' attacks before moving ahead.

At half-time, the match was finely poised 11-10 to Liverpool.

The Merseysiders gradually stretched their advantage in the second half as Newcastle struggled to break through the Liverpool defence and faltered with their shooting accuracy.

It was not until 20 minutes into the second half, and by that point his side was seven goals adrift, Michelant eventually made a breakthrough with his fourth goal of the match.

Newcastle rallied with a quick brace from half-back Jonathan Basti and late strikes from Thompson and former captain Chris Bowe - but it was not to be the Vikings' day as the Merseysiders secured the victory.

April 2015

# Mersey mission brings Vikings mixed results

NEWCASTLE Vikings women's team ended their first season in the England Handball North Regional Development League with a win and a defeat.

They clinched a brilliant 48-7 victory at Merseyside-based Peninsula but then lost 26-4 to table-topping Liverpool.

Against Peninsula, it did not take the Tynesiders long to get into their scoring stride as half Judyta Turulska, line Sandra Christke and winger Marie-Louise Brevet each helped themselves to early hat-tricks.

Goalkeeper Andrea King kept the home team at bay with a series of customary diving saves

## HANDBALL

at the opposite end of the court. Head-coach Marlen Slinning then came on to get into the act with four strikes.

By the time Turulska had added her sixth and captain Christke her fifth, the Newcastle side had built a strong 18-3 advantage at half-time.

The Vikings nevertheless stepped up the pace in the second period in a superbly dominant team performance.

Half Fienke Nanne and centre Kathryn Powell added their names to the scoresheet with three and two goals respectively

but it was Turulska and Slinning who continued to rain the goals in.

By the time the final whistle went they had hit the net 13 times apiece, Christke claiming 10 and Brevet seven.

Less than 24 hours later the Newcastle ladies were back on court again for a much tougher encounter with table-topping Liverpool.

The Vikings' tiredness from the energy-sapping win of the previous day was soon evident as they struggled to break through a well-drilled home defensive line.

Liverpool' showed greater ex-

perience and shooting accuracy and had built an unassailable 12-2 lead by the break, Nanne and Slinning scoring the Vikings' goals.

Goalkeeper King tried her best to keep Liverpool's strikes at bay, including making two penalty saves.

However, despite further goals from Nanne and Turulska, the final scoreline was to be Newcastle's heaviest defeat of an otherwise largely positive season.

The Vikings look set to finish in fourth place on 26 points, having won seven and lost five of their matches while maintaining the second-best defensive record in the league.

The ladies take on Bristol in their League Cup' semi-final at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields on Saturday (3.00).

Meanwhile, the Vikings men's team's first season in the England Handball North Regional Development League ended with a 23-14 home defeat to Bolton Hussars at Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The result left them sitting in second place in the men's league table, pending the completion of the other teams' remaining fixtures.

That represents a significant improvement from the Vikings' debut 2013/14 campaign in the Scottish League.

Their final 2014/15 league season tally reads played 12, won six, drawn two, lost four.

The squad scored 256 goals and conceded 240 goals for a +16 goal difference and ended up with 26 points.



■ Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's women's team who ended their first season in the England Handball North Regional Development League with mixed results in their final two games

# GRASSROOTS SPORT



The teams who took part in the 2014 Vikings handball tournament taken and right action from the event. This year's tournament is held in South Shields this weekend.

## Squads are on Hand for a big day of action!

**HANDBALL**

The 11th annual Vikings Handball tournament will be staged at Temple Park Leisure on Saturday. Looking to further build on the success of last year's event at the South Shields venue.

The competition is headed by Newcastle Vikings, the first ever university handball club in North East England which were placed in the home bracket at Temple Park.

The action-packed Vikings event will see teams from England and Scotland compete in men's and women's handball competitions. Entry is free but spectators will have to pay to watch live.

...and they and their sport great hand...

...This is a great opportunity to compete and watch the games live on TV...

...The Vikings tournament will see Newcastle Vikings men take on teams from Durham, York, East Kilbride, EK22 and Edinburgh as well as competing against Glasgow.

...In the women's competition, the Vikings ladies will be looking to defend their title against Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee.

...For anyone interested in getting involved and getting a go at playing handball, Newcastle Vikings junior and adult teams meet on Monday evenings at Temple Park Leisure Centre and on Wednesday evenings at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy in R20, Newcastle.

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The Vikings' ladies team celebrate after securing a place in the League Cup final by beating Broom 15-11.

## Vikings into their first Cup final

**HANDBALL**

Newcastle Vikings women's team qualified for their first national cup final after knocking out Broom 15-11.

The England Handball Association League Cup semi-final match at Temple Park Leisure Centre saw Newcastle Vikings take the game with two late goals.

Forward full player Johanna Turfka pulled the Vikings back into the game with her first half goal.

Goalkeeper Andrea King made two great saves in the latter end of the first half.

As Broom sought to fight back, Newcastle Vikings strengthened their lead on the match through a brace from half back Emma Turfka's 15th and a further 10th from center playing including another penalty score.

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# GRASSROOTS SPORT



The teams who took part in the Newcastle Vikings handball tournament at South Shields Temple Park Leisure Centre (above) and (left and right) action from the women's and men's competitions.

## You have to hand it to Glasgow

### Scots retain Temple Park tourney title

**HANDBALL**

GLASGOW'S men retained their Tyneside Handball tournament crown and Bedfordshire's Cranfield University Wolves claimed the women's title at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the end-of-season tournament - now in its third year - welcomed teams from across England and Scotland.

The early group matches were all close-fought affairs before the three experienced Scottish men's teams picked up the pace and began to rack up big scores.

Edinburgh claimed the biggest win of the day in beating York Hunters 18-2 before East Kilbride's EK22 defeated Newcastle's second team 18-4.

The day's highest-scoring match

# GRASSROOTS SPORT



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The day's highest-scoring match



Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams who took part in the action at Temple Park.

...to top the men's group unbeaten in their five matches.

With the home sides given a run-out to several new and inexperienced players, Newcastle's two men's teams and women's side all struggled to get into their usual attacking flow. However, both the men's squads did eventually gain some joy in each winning their final play-off matches 10-8 and 13-7 over EK22 and York Hunters respectively, the Vikings men's first



June 2015

# Vikings go down with a fight in Cup decider

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings Ladies' team put in a gritty team performance but went down 22-14 to a strong London GD II side in the England Handball Association Women's League Cup final in Manchester.

Depleted by the absence of several regular players, the Vikings went into their first national cup decider at the Trafford Soccerdome with just seven available players so were up against it from the outset.

The experienced London GD side, on the other hand, benefited from a full bench of substitutes.

Newcastle were slow to get into their game as London raced into an early 7-0 lead.

However, the Vikings soon found their defensive resolve and attacking potency once half-player Gesa Junge's long-range effort put them on the scoresheet, quickly followed by a hat-trick from player-coach Marlen Slinning.

Remarkably, the Vikings battled back to just one behind at 8-7 thanks to further strikes from Junge, centre Slinning and captain Sandra Christke from the penalty line.

However, London seized back the initiative just before the break to go in 10-7 up at half-time.

The second period saw London put the Vikings to the sword with incessant attacking plays to extend their advantage.

However, a brace of Christke goals from the line position and Slinning's fifth, together with great instinctive saves from goalkeeper Andrea King, kept Newcastle in the game.

Half Fienke Nanne added her name to the Vikings' scoresheet with a powerful strike from distance before neatly setting up winger Blessing Ogbee.

Without the ability to make any rolling substitutions, though, tiredness began to take its toll on



■ The Newcastle Vikings (dark strip) and London GD squads who contested the League Cup final in Manchester (above) and (below) action from the game, which London won 22-14



the Newcastle team as the London side stretched their lead with quick breakaway goals.

The Vikings never gave up however, and kept up their fighting spirit throughout with Slinning scoring her sixth and seventh goals to give her the cup

final's top-scorer accolade. London GD II claimed the league cup winners' trophy, adding to the EHA National Cup final and Super Eight Women's League titles already won by their first team this season.

The Newcastle Vikings' ladies

will nevertheless look back on their first English cup final experience with pride in the way their depleted team performed and competed right to the end.

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS: Andrea King (GK), Marlen Slinning (7 goals), Josefina Fienke/ Nanne (1), Simone Smith, Gesa Junge (2), Blessing Ogbee (1), Sandra Christke (1).

4 August 2015

# Vikings hope beach involvement will be Brit of all right

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team will be competing in the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole, Dorset, this weekend.

Taking place at Branksome Chine Beach, the tournament is now in its third year and features its biggest team entry yet with 33 men's and women's teams set to be involved.

The Vikings will be taking part for the first time and have been preparing with fun practice sessions at Tynemouth Longsands beach over recent weeks.

Beach handball, also known as 'sandball', is played on a



■ The Vikings prepare for this weekend's British Championships

smaller court than standard indoor handball with four-a-side teams rather than the normal seven-a-side. Fast-paced and highly entertaining, one of the highlights of the beach ver-

sion of the game is goals scored with trick shots, such as shooting while spinning in the air, score double.

Goals scored by the 'rush' goalkeepers also score double.

Points are scored for the winners of each 10-minute half of the match, 'golden goals' deciding each half winner if scores are level and a penalty shootout held if each team wins a half to decide the overall winner.

Newcastle Vikings, finalists in the English League Cup this year and one of 14 women's teams entered in the competition, appear to have been drawn in a tough group.

They will face National

League and cup winners London GD's first team, National Cup runners-up Coventry, London-based Olympia, and the first team of guest entrants TV Ettingenweiler from Germany.

Their group matches take place on Saturday, the knockout rounds on Sunday.

Newcastle will welcome back former Vikings player and top goals-per-game scorer from their debut 2013/14 season Nina van Ruijven, who is flying in from the Netherlands to play in the tournament.

Also making a guest appearance will be Manchester Handball Club's Edna Ogbee, sister of Vikings' winger Blessing.

18 August  
2015

THE CHRONICLE TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2015

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GRASSROOTS

# Life's a beach for Vikings!

## City's girls by the seaside for first foray into sandball

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's women's team enjoyed mixed fortunes competing in the third annual British Beach Handball Championships at Branksome Chine beach in Poole, Dorset.

As one of 14 women's teams taking part in the tournament, it proved a tough debut in the heat of a sun-kissed day on the south coast for the Vikings as they sought to get to grips with the differing tactics of the 'sandball' version of the game.

Beach handball is played on a smaller court than standard indoor handball, with four-a-side teams rather than the normal seven-a-side.

Points are scored for the winners of each 10-minute half of the match, while entertaining trick shots, such as shooting while spinning in the air, and goals scored by the 'rush' goalkeepers count double.

After losing both of their opening group matches 2-0 against London-based Olympia and then London GD's first team, the Vikings fought back to win their first half-match point against Coventry.

With their opponents just snatching the second half to level the points, the match went into a running penalty shoot-out to decide the overall match winner.

However, Newcastle were unable to score from their three attempts, Coventry



NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's ladies' team which competed at the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole

### HANDBALL

try going on to take the match 2-1. The Vikings then went down 2-0 to the first team of guest entrants TV Ettlingenweier from Germany in their final group game.

Day two saw the Vikings drawn in a play-off for the plate competition against Cambridge.

It proved to be the euphoric highlight of the Vikings ladies' weekend.

They won their first match, convincingly taking the first half 9-3 and then battling back from six goals down in the

second half with well-taken two-point goals to triumph 11-10 for a brilliant 2-0 overall match victory.

The Tynesiders then fought all the way in their plate quarter-final and went agonisingly close to levelling the match in the dying seconds before Oxford Blues scored a 'golden goal' decider to win the second half for a 2-0 knock-out.

Newcastle nevertheless came away looking on the positives of an entertaining first foray into the beach handball arena.

They savoured their first half and

match wins in particular and the fact all of their players were on the scoresheet during the tournament.

The women's plate final was eventually won by local club Sandbanks against London Angels, while TV Ettlingenweier defeated Coventry in the women's cup final.

In the men's competitions, London GD won the men's cup final with Poole Phoenix taking the men's plate final. **NEWCASTLE VIKINGS SQUAD:** Andrea Ring (goalkeeper), Marlen Slinning (second goalkeeper), Nina van Ruyven, Gera Junge, Blessing Ogbee, Edna Ogbee, Kathryn Powell, Sandra Overlie (captain).



NEWCASTLE Vikings' Handball Club's women's team (in blue) competing in the British Beach Handball Championships, where they endured mixed fortunes

16 October  
2015



NEWCASTLE Vikings' ladies who lost by one point to Manchester in their opening England Handball North Regional Development League clash

# Vikings are handed a defeat in first outing

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team were left frustrated after seeing Manchester snatch a late 23-22 win in their opening match of the England Handball North Regional Development League season.

Their male counterparts also saw an early lead overturned.

Playing in front of good crowd at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields, half players Judyta Turulska and Alina Inta got the Vikings' ladies off to a bright start with an early brace and hat-trick respectively as the home side built a strong lead.

It was one they were to maintain throughout most of the match.

Tight defence was complemented by further strikes from captain Sandra Christke from the line position, winger Blessing Ogbee and a brace each from player-coach Marlen Slinning and centre Sina Linsemann either side of a further Inta double as Newcastle eased to a 14-10 half-time advantage.

The second period began in similar vein to the first with two Turulska strikes as the well-matched teams traded goals, Slinning, Inta and Ogbee also each adding to their first half tallies.

Manchester narrowed the gap



NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's squad also lost narrowly to Manchester in their opening EHNDR League fixture

briefly, only for Newcastle to regain their four-goal advantage through Slinning and Turulska.

Again the away side clawed their way back - and this time it was to prove decisive.

The Vikings were unable to make the most of a two-minute suspension to break through a depleted but solidly resolute Manchester defence line before the scores were eventually levelled at 21-21.

Manchester then went ahead for the first time in the dying minutes and while Christke pulled one back it was to be so

near and yet so far for the Vikings at the final whistle.

Newcastle's men also made a great start.

Centre Peter Schichtel set the ball rolling with two early goals either side of an Athbi Almarzouq strike from the half position before winger Wiktor Laczny fired in four quickfire goals to help the Vikings stretch out an early lead.

However, Manchester soon found their attacking rhythm as eight first-half Manuel Lane strikes - out of a personal 12-goal match tally - almost single-

handedly pulled the away team back and into the lead.

Further Schichtel and Almarzouq braces plus Laczny and Gracjan Joppok efforts nevertheless kept the home side in the running. Newcastle going into the half-time break 14-13 behind.

However, the Vikings were unable to keep pace during the second half and, despite Laczny taking his own goals tally to eight and further strikes from Almarzouq and Schichtel, Manchester extended their advantage to record a 22-18 success.

28 October  
2015

# Vikings' girls hand out a defeat to the Hawks

## HANDBALL

A BRILLIANT team performance by Newcastle Vikings' women saw them claim an unexpected 28-19 away victory against Manchester NEM Hawks in the England North Regional Development League.

Going into the match with just seven available players and no substitutes, the Vikings were clear underdogs on paper against the more experienced and powerful Hawks.

However, half player Judyta Turulska's early flourish on her way to a match-winning personal 12-goal tally saw Newcastle build a lead right from the start.

It was a lead they never surrendered throughout the game - thanks also in part to wayward early shooting from the Hawks.

With centre Sina Linsenmann and line-player Sandra Christke also scoring seven goals apiece, Newcastle managed to keep up the pressure at the top end of the court while resolutely thwarting the Hawks' fast and strong attacking plays as the home side sought to fight back.

Captain Christke led by example with superb body-on-the-line defending.

Excellent goalkeeping from Andrea King also helped to keep



■ Newcastle Vikings' ladies team who pulled off a brilliant league victory over Manchester NEM Hawks

the Hawks' powerful shots at bay.

An unstoppable bullet shot from right half Gesa Junge took Newcastle into the half-time break with a 14-10 advantage while winger Blessing Ogbee also put her name on the scoresheet soon into the second half.

Youngster Krystina Coulson also enjoyed a promising first full game since stepping up from the junior ranks.

However, it was Newcastle's three back-court players who dominated and fittingly it was top-scorer Turulska who rounded off the goalscoring.

Meanwhile, the Vikings men's team took part in the annual Edinburgh Handball Tournament.

They started with a 7-4 win against Dundee but then suffered defeats to Dublin (6-8), Cumberland-based Tryst (6-10) and eventual winners Glasgow (4-7) before a battling 8-8 draw with East Kilbride's EK82 in their final play-off match.

That made it three wins in a row and pushed the Vikings up to second in the league table.

November  
2015

# No Mersey is shown by the impressive Vikings

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's and women's teams extended their winning runs with two high-scoring away victories against Merseyside-based Peninsula in the England Handball North Regional Development League.

The Vikings women had an early start to travel to the Glyndwr University venue in Wrexham.

However, early hat-tricks from left-half Judyta Turulska and line player Sandra Christke soon got them off to a flying start.

Hitting a rich vein of scoring form, Turulska went on to add a further six first-half goals in her personal 13-goal tally.

The tight Newcastle defence line restricted the home team to just one goal before the break, goalkeeper Andrea King making several good saves too.

Winger Blessing Ogbee and centre Kathryn Powell also added their names to the first-half scoresheet before winger Meghan Acres claimed her first Vikings goal.

Right-half Gesa Jungesoon ensured all six of Newcastle's outfield players were on target.

All four players went on to add further strikes before Turulska and captain Christke rounded off a well-deserved 33-7 victory.

That made it three wins in a row and pushed the Vikings up to second in the league table.



■ Newcastle Vikings' ladies team made it three league wins in a row by beating Merseyside club Peninsula

The men then took to the court against an experienced Peninsula team who were last season playing in the second-tier Championship League.

New centre Nicholas Foldager opened the Newcastle scoring as he fired in seven first-half goals, Athbi Almarzoug also striking four from the left-half position.

With Daniel Walsh making crucial saves between the posts,

and a first Vikings strike for line player Holger Schulz, the away team's confidence was building as they went into the break with a 15-9 advantage.

Almarzoug and winger Wiktor Laczny each claimed a further four second-half efforts as Newcastle sought to maintain their lead and fend off a Peninsula fightback.

As the game opened up, wing-

er Kole Viejo exploited space in behind the Peninsula defence to add a hat-trick of his own.

A late Gracjan Joppek brace and finishes from Schulz and Laczny rounded off the Vikings' scoring in their 32-25 win.

Newcastle Vikings women: Andrea King (GK), Meghan Acres (L goal), Judyta Turulska (13), Gesa Junge (2), Blessing Ogbee (4), Kathryn Powell (2), Sandra Christke (7). Newcastle Vikings men: Daniel Walsh (GK), Wiktor Laczny (7 goals), Athbi Almarzoug (8), Gracjan Joppek (3), Keeper Ottavio, Florento Kole Viejo-Caballero (4), Nicholas Foldager (7), Jonathan Burt, Holger Schulz (5).

# Vikings leave it late to earn a crucial point

A THRILLING finish saw Newcastle Vikings' men claim an equaliser in the dying seconds of their England North Regional Development League clash against the University of Leeds' Gryphons at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

**HANDBALL**

In a very evenly-matched game where there was rarely more than a single goal separating the two sides throughout the 60 minutes, the home side's goalscoring was led by half players Abibi Almarzoug and Stephan Stricker with

together with crucial saves from goalkeepers Daniel Walsh and Faisal Alshabli, ensured the teams kept level-pegging.

A quick-fire Almarzoug hat-trick then put Newcastle tantalisingly ahead - but yet again the Gryphons pulled

back and edged in front. Young half player James Swanson set the ball rolling at the start of the second half with a well-deserved first Vikings goal of the season.

Striker from winger Gracjan Joppke, Stricker and Lamb,

With the clock running down into the final few seconds, Laczyny broke through the Leeds defence line to fire in the leveliser for a 22-22 final scoreline.

Meanwhile, the University of Leeds' women's B team was forced to forfeit its game after being unable to field a full team of registered league players, granting Newcastle a default 10-0 win.

The Vikings' ladies nevertheless played out a 22-9 friendly win against a makeshift Leeds side, Newcastle taking the opportunity to give several less experienced players valuable court time.

Newcastle Vikings men: Daniel Walsh (GK), Faisal Alshabli (GK), Matthew Lamb (12 goals), Abibi Almarzoug (10), Gracjan Joppke (10), Stephan Stricker (10), James Swanson (10), Gracjan Joppke (10), Stephan Stricker (10), Gracjan Joppke (10).



Newcastle Vikings' men's team (above) and (below and bottom) action from their match with Leeds



More action from the Newcastle-Leeds game at Temple Park



Newcastle Vikings' ladies' team who defeated Leeds in a friendly clash at Temple Park

# Vikings stung by Hornets

**HANDBALL**

A BELOW-PAR team performance saw Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's women squad lose 23-11 to a combined Leeds Hornets/Huddersfield team in the England North Regional Development League.

The Hornets took an early lead at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

Newcastle initially stayed in touch through goals from half players Judyta Turulska and Alina Inta.

However, the away team's more potent attacking plays and solid defence line, combined with wayward shooting from the increasingly frustrated Vikings, helped them stretch out an eight-goal lead.

Line-player Sandra Christke and Inta eventually found the back of the net but by half-time the Vikings were 10 points adrift at 14-4.

Two more Inta strikes at the start of the second period gave the home side hope of an unlikely comeback.

While the match was now more evenly matched with a better defensive display from the Vikings, the damage had already been done.

Newcastle kept pressing and added goals through Turulska, Christke and a brace from player-coach Marlen Slinning - returning to action after injury.

They were unable to pull the game back any further, however, and by the time Inta nabbed a late fifth the Hornets had run out convincing winners.

# Vikings Hunted down by York

**HANDBALL**

THE first round of the inaugural North East Handball Tournament took place in York.

However, with Durham University's squad unable to make the trip due to transport problems, Newcastle Vikings and York Hunters were left to battle it out between them.

The Vikings' men went into the day's matches missing a regular goalkeeper, which York duly exploited.

A 16-12 victory in the opening game was later backed up by a 10-6 home win in the second round of the day as York grabbed the opportunity to take an early advantage.

However, with York unable to field a full women's team, two friendly mixed men's/women's matches were instead played in between and after those men's fixtures.

The Tynesiders gained a modicum of revenge with a 9-5 success in the first game, while the final game was drawn 12-12.

The second round of the three-way North East tournament will take place at Newcastle Vikings' home venue, Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields, on Saturday, January 30 (2.00-5.00).

The third and final round will be hosted by Durham University at their Queen's Camps Sports Centre in Stockton on Sunday, February 28 (1.00-3.00).

The Vikings set up the tournament as part of their mission to help develop handball in the North East.

It seeks to create a more formal mini-league arrangement and encourage wider participation and more competitive court time for beginners and younger non-league players at the region's up-and-coming clubs.

THE Vikings' men's and women's teams resume their North East Regional Development League campaign at home to Liverpool on January 10.

13 January  
2016

THE CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 13, 2016

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## GRASSROOTS SPORT

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Newcastle Vikings men's team (above left) who lost to Liverpool Speke in the Northern Regional Development Handball League and (above right) action from the game at Temple Park in South Shields

# Vikings are shown no Mersey!

## Club's sides are handed two defeats

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's women's and men's teams each suffered tough returns to action after the winter break against Merseyside opponents in their Northern Regional Development League home matches at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The women's side lost 24-12 to Liverpool Ladies while the men went down 34-19 to Liverpool Speke Garden.

Experienced league leaders Liverpool Ladies built a strong early stage lead before the Vikings got off the mark through the first of Anna Inna's penalty goals.

Fellow back-court players Judyta Taniaka and Sina Linbenmann also both scored twice either side of captain Sandra Christak's strike from the line position.

Goalkeeper Andrea King pulled off a series of great saves as the away



Newcastle Vikings' ladies team (in darker strip) with Liverpool Ladies (Green) before their league clash at Temple Park

### HANDBALL

without a recognised goalkeeper, Kasper Olesen volunteering to put himself in the firing line.

Goals from centre Robin Devilette and wingers Wiktor Laczny and Gracjan Joppok kept the Vikings in the game early on.

However, the Merseysiders soon began to take advantage of the Vikings' goalkeeping weakness.

Laczny's last-trick plus further first-half goals from Devilette, Kole Vajpo-Cabelero and Nicklas Foldager kept the home side going. However, Liverpool were 16-8 up come the break.

The second half continued in a similar vein to the first as Newcastle struggled to threaten Liverpool's shooting accuracy.

Half player Foldager added five further goals to his personal scoring tally, with Joppok, Devilette, Laczny, Stephan Secler and a Vajpo-Cabelero double also finding the back of the net for the Vikings.

However, it was Newcastle's defensive frailty which proved their downfall as Liverpool Speke Garden ran out convincing winners.

niska and Inna. However, Liverpool's 16-7 half-time advantage never really looked in danger of being treed in.

King continued to do her best to keep the Merseysiders at bay with several trademark diving stops between the posts - including a penalty save.

However, Liverpool's powerful at-

tack and assured defence at the other end proved to be the difference between the teams as they restricted the home side to just five goals throughout the second half, including another two Inna penalty strikes.

Newcastle's men went into their game against Liverpool Speke Garden

without a recognised goalkeeper, Kasper Olesen volunteering to put himself in the firing line.

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27 January  
2016

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## GRASSROOTS SPORT

THE CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27, 2016

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## Cup not one that cheers the Vikings!



Newcastle Vikings (in black) and Fulham Hawks pictured before their Cup clash

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team was knocked out of the England Handball League Cup at the first-round stage 35-15 by Fulham Hawks at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

### HANDBALL

Goals from centre Stephan Stricker and debutant half-player Johannes Bellin initially kept Newcastle on a par with their London opponents before the away team began to open out a lead.

Right - winger Wiktor Laczny scored a hat-trick and half Athbi Almarzouq added to the Vikings' scoreline.

However, by the time Bellin and Stricker struck again just before half-time the Hawks had scored double the Vikings' tally to go in 16-8 up at the interval.

Stricker quickly added his third just after the break but, despite further strikes from winger Kole Vajpo,

Bellin and Gracjan Joppok and another Laczny hat-trick, the Vikings were unable to contain the Hawks' attacking plays and much better shooting accuracy.

By the time the final whistle sounded Fulham had rounded off a convincing victory to progress to the quarter-finals.

NEWCASTLE WINGERS: Daniel Walsh (2), Przemyslaw Vajpo-Cabelero (1), Kole Vajpo-Cabelero (1), Gracjan Joppok (1), Adam Haskings, Wiktor Laczny (6), Robert Thompson, Karim Saadi, Stephan Stricker, Greg Swanson, Stephan Secler (3), Heger Schult, Johannes Bellin (2).

3 February  
2016

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## GRASSROOTS SPORT

THE CHRONICLE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2016

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Teams from Newcastle Vikings (black strip), Durham University and York Hunters who took part in the second round of the North East Handball Tournament at Temple Park Leisure Centre

The second round of the North East Handball Tournament between Newcastle Vikings, Durham University and York Hunters took place at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The Vikings claimed four wins out of four in the men's and women's matches.

The friendly tournament got underway with Durham University taking on York in a mixed-sex match due to both clubs not being able to field full men's sides, Durham winning 13-8.

Newcastle Vikings' women then

### HANDBALL

scored a brilliant runaway 20-2 win over York Hunters, both teams giving a run-out to two Durham University players.

The Vikings men then beat York's mixed team 17-10 as the home side sought to give more game time to a

number of newer and less regular league players in the friendly contest.

In the second women's match of the day, Newcastle switched things around a bit to give several players a go at playing in less familiar positions - but after York took an early two-goal lead the Vikings came back to win 9-3.

The final men's match saw the

Vikings run out convincing 16-6 victors over the mixed Durham University side.

Together with Newcastle's league victory over the combined Leeds Hornets/Huddersfield men's team earlier in the day, the regional tournament wins were a welcome return to winning ways for the Vikings men's and

women's teams. They also represented revenge for the Vikings after York Hunters had won both men's games and one of the two mixed-sex matches in last month's first round, which Durham were unable to make.

Durham University host the third round of the North East tournament on February 28.

2 March  
2016



■ Newcastle Vikings (black strip) in action in the third round of the inaugural North East Handball Tournament, which they ended up winning

# Victorious Vikings get hands on silverware!

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings ran out overall winners of the inaugural North East Handball Tournament.

Their men's and women's teams claimed another four wins out of four in Sunday's third and final round of matches at Durham University and York Hunters.

With York having won the first round and Newcastle taking the second, both on home ground, the scene was set for a competitive final round of matches at the University of Durham Sports Centre in Stockton.

The opening tie saw Newcas-



tle's men (above) beat Durham 7-5 in a tight, feisty encounter. In the women's competition Newcastle and York again each

gave a run-out to two Durham University girls, the Newcastle-Durham team runaway 15-2 winners in its first match.

Durham's men then convincingly triumphed 15-5 against York.

In the second women's match Newcastle-Durham registered another victory over York-Durham, 8-3 this time.

The final men's match was another close contest as Newcastle and York traded goals throughout before the Vikings eventually scored a 12-10 win to seal the overall tournament title.

Newcastle Vikings' media officer Andrea King said: "We would like to thank all the players who took part in the three North East tournament days and we look forward to another fun competition next season."

23 March  
2016



■ Newcastle Vikings' men's squad who enjoyed a double success over Leeds opposition in the England Handball North Regional League

# Leeds squads have no answer to the Vikings

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team claimed their biggest win of the season with a morale-boosting 31-19 victory over Leeds University in their England Handball North Regional Development League encounter at the Leeds Futsal Arena.

Half-player Johannes Bellm got the Vikings going with an early brace, soon followed by a Peter Schichtel hat-trick and double from winger Wiktor Laczny.

Further goals were quickly added by half Arhbi Almarzouq, line-player Craig Swanson, winger Gracjan Joppek and centre David Topacho before Bellm claimed his third in what was a dominant first-half attacking display backed up by solid defending.

Winger Matthew Lamb, a Stephan Stricker double strike from the back-court and centre Schichtel's fourth, extended Newcastle's lead to 16-7 by half-time.

The second half, however, turned into a more evenly-balanced affair - but the Vikings kept fighting on.

Swanson lobbed the goalkeeper for his second before Topacho, Almarzouq, Laczny, Bellm, Schichtel and Stricker all added to their tallies.

Holger Schultz from the line



■ Newcastle Vikings (dark strip) in action during their league clash with Leeds Carnegie at Temple Park

position and player-coach Jonathian Ilastit each struck twice to round off an emphatic 31-19 victory.

The Vikings followed up that league success by coming from behind to snatch a late 17-16 victory against Leeds Carnegie at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The Leeds Beckett University side, lacking any substitutes, took the advantage early on as the Vikings struggled to get into their stride.

However, Bellm's brace and a Stricker strike from the back-court eventually got the home side's scoreboard ticking over

before line-player Holger Schultz got in on the act to level things up.

Half-player Bellm claimed his second from the penalty line to keep Newcastle in touch before, with the scores level at 6-6, goalkeeper Daniel Walsh made two ultimately crucial penalty saves at the other end.

Carnegie nevertheless managed to open out a narrow 9-7 lead by the half-time break following Bellm's fourth goal.

Centre Robin Devlitem opened the second-half scoring with a quick hat-trick, again only by Bellm's fifth.

Adam Moberley then struck his first goal of the season from the right wing before Bastit and Schichtel each broke through from the back court.

With Carnegie temporarily down to six players, Bellm's brace helped the home side take the lead for the first time in the match at 16-15.

Despite Carnegie levelling it up again in a tense final few minutes, a brilliant double save at point-blank range from goalkeeper Walsh prevented them from taking the lead again before Devlitem grabbed the late winner and the Vikings held on to the final whistle.

11 April  
2016

## Vikings hit back to down Hawks

### HANDBALL

A MUCH-IMPROVED second-half display saw Newcastle Vikings' ladies fight back to beat Manchester's NEM Hawks 23-20 in their England Handball North Regional Development League match at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The Vikings struggled to find their way in the first half against an NEM Hawks team who rattled up with just six players.

Led by Great Britain international winger Lucy Acres Brady, the Hawks took an early two-goal lead before half player Alina Inta got the Vikings going.

Young winger Krystina Coulson scored her first Vikings goals since coming up from the junior side.

Missing Ogbe added a brace from the line position either side of a further three. Inta back-court smokes.

However, Newcastle were poor defensively and struggled to contain the dynamic movement of the Hawks' attacking plays and were indebted to good saves from on-form goalkeeper Andrea King to keep them in the game.

Half Janyta Turuska and line player Sandra Christie then scored twice each before another Inta double and one from winger Meghan Acres helped the Vikings pull back and take a 14-13 lead into the half-time break.

King pulled off a fantastic right-footed save in the dying seconds to deny the Hawks a leveller.

The Vikings found their fight to greater defensive tightness in the second period as another Turuska brace and breakaway strikes from Ogbe, Christie and Inta helped them open up a six-goal advantage.

The Hawks switched their goalkeepers around but could not prevent Coulson - claiming her third and an Inta penalty shot before debutant Lou Mierthing was on the scorelines from the wing. Inta rounded up her 11th goal in a brilliant match-winning haul.

Acres stretched the lead before Turuska's double, Mierthing and Christie rounded things off.



Newcastle Vikings' ladies squad in all smiles after coming from behind to beat Manchester Hawks in the English Regional Handball League

April 2016

## Vikings warm up for Cup tie with a fine win

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team finished their England Handball North Regional Development League season in style with a 30-12 home win over Leeds Carnegie at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The impressive victory sets the Vikings up well for this weekend's England Handball League Cup semi-final clash against champions London GD II - who beat Newcastle in last season's final.

Newcastle Vikings' men's team ended their England Handball North Regional Development League season on a losing note.

They were narrowly beaten 23-22 by Liverpool Speke Garston.

Half-player Stephan Stricker led the way for the Vikings in scoring eight goals - but four two-minute suspensions proved their downfall.

20 June  
2016



All the teams who took part in the Tyneside Handball Tournament

# Tournament title stays in the hands of Vikings

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' ladies reclaimed their Tyneside Handball Tournament crown as the University of Strathclyde won the men's competition in a fast-paced day of action.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the annual tournament - now in its third year - was staged at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

It welcomed men's and women's teams from across northern England and Scotland competing in group stages, play-offs and finals.

Newcastle Vikings' men took on the newly-established Sunderland side, combined teams from York Hunters-Durham University and Edinburgh-Newcastle, the University of Strathclyde and reigning two-time champions Glasgow.

The Vikings' women were up against Durham University, the University of Leeds and Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's draw with Durham University in the last of the women's group-stage fixtures saw them win through to the final on goal difference.

Durham had to settle for third place ahead of the University of Leeds.

However, Newcastle's ladies were too strong for Edinburgh in the final as they ran out 17-10 winners in the highest-scoring match of the day.

Vikings' half-player Alina Inta claimed the tournament top-scorer prize with 13 goals.

A feisty derby play-off encounter saw Sunderland beat Newcastle 9-7 for third place to gain revenge for the

Vikings' group-stage victory, while the Edinburgh-Newcastle team overcame York Hunters-Durham University 6-5 in the fifth-place decider.

Glasgow's men had gone through the group stages unbeaten and seemed set for their third Tyneside win in a row.

However, an evenly-matched final saw their Scottish student neighbours hold them to a sudden-death penalty shoot-out to decide the title for the second year.

This time, however, Glasgow were to be denied as the University of Strathclyde goalkeeper's second save gave them a 6-5 shoot-out victory.

Strathclyde's Chris Mowat and Glasgow's Yohann Gloaguen were the clear top-scorers in the men's competition for the second year running with 26 and 21 goals respectively.

**MEN'S RESULTS:** York Hunters 4 Newcastle Vikings 8, Edinburgh 1 Sunderland 5, Glasgow 9 Uni of Strathclyde 7, Sunderland 10 York Hunters 8, Newcastle Vikings 6 Glasgow 10, Uni of Strathclyde 14 Edinburgh 8, York Hunters 4 Glasgow 7, Edinburgh 4 Newcastle Vikings 12, Sunderland 5 Uni of Strathclyde 9, Newcastle Vikings 5 Sunderland 4, Uni of Strathclyde 11 York Hunters 5 Edinburgh 1 Glasgow 9, Newcastle Vikings 6, York Hunters 4 Edinburgh 5, Glasgow 8 Sunderland 3.

**WOMEN'S RESULTS:** Edinburgh 3 Newcastle Vikings 5, Durham University 6 Leeds University 7, Leeds University 3 Edinburgh 9, Newcastle Vikings 4 Durham University 7, Leeds University 2 Newcastle Vikings 8, Durham University 8 Edinburgh 8.

**GRASSROOTS Sport: E-mail Tony Hodgson at tony.hodgson@trinitymirror.com or ring 201 6464**



The victorious Newcastle Vikings' ladies squad which retained its title



Ladies' action from the tournament

Grassroots Sport



Newcastle Vikings' women's and men's squads who competed in Dorset



# Vikings have a hand in contest beside the sea

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's men and women competed in the fourth British Beach Handball Championships in Poole, Dorset.

The Vikings' women were returning for their second year while a combined Sunderland and Newcastle men's team also ventured south to compete together as the fantastically-named Sandcastles United.

Action-packed and fast-paced, beach handball is played on a smaller court than indoor handball with only four players on court at any one time and continuous rolling substitutions.

The 13-team women's competition got underway with Newcastle's women taking on Cambridge in group two, the Vikings narrowly losing the first half 6-5 and the second 10-6 for a 2-0 defeat.

They picked up their game to win their next match against Reading Lions, victorious 2-1 in a penalty shoot-out after winning the first half 8-3 and unluckily losing the second half 12-10.

However, their final group game against a strong Oxford Blues team resulted in another 2-0 loss as they went down 19-14, 13-8.

**HANDBALL SPECIAL**

The Vikings finished third in their group on two points, behind Oxford (six) and Cambridge (five).

The men's group one matches began with a tough start for Sandcastles United as they lost the first half heavily against Ruislip West London Eagles 21-10 - but they fought hard in a much closer 13-14 second half.

Having started to get to grips with the tactics of the beach game, they then surpassed expectations to narrowly win their second match 2-0 over champions Brighton Firsts, claiming the first half 12-11 with a golden goal and then 13-11 in the second period.

Sandcastles then won both of their final group matches in penalty shoot-outs after the half-winning points were shared.

A big 23-12 first half win over Southampton was followed by a 13-10 second-half defeat before they came back to prevail 6-5 in the shoot-out.

Their Coventry match was also drawn 14-13, 15-7 before winning the deciding shoot-out 5-3 as Sandcastles finished the group on six points.

The second day of action saw an early start for the Vikings' women, drawn to play a Cup qualifier match against London's Olympia.

However, a 13-7, 12-11 defeat meant they dropped into the second-tier plate competition.

Newcastle then scored their first 2-0 match victory in the quarter-final against hometown favourites Poole Phoenixes 8-5, 19-7.

However, they then came up against Oxford Blues again in the semi-final, narrowly losing the first half 13-12 and then 15-6 in the second half as injuries and tiredness took their toll.

The Sandcastles men went into their Cup quarter-final with a further depleted team of just five players - so it was always going to be an uphill struggle as they were also knocked out by Oxford Blues 18-10 20-15.

The men's tournament was ultimately won by guest Dutch team Heikka Hauskaa as London GD retained the women's cup against Poole Phoenixes II.

Brighton beat London GD in the men's plate final while Oxford Blues went on to win the women's plate.



Newcastle Vikings' men (and below and bottom) women in beach action



Newcastle Vikings (black strip) in action against neighbours Sunderland

# Vikings hand out a defeat in derby

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's men made a winning start to the new England Handball North Regional Development League season.

They fought back from going behind in a tense derby encounter to snatch a 16-13 home victory as Sunderland's goalkeeper saw red in the final minutes.

The match at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields was the first time the two North East sides had met in a competitive league game, having only previous played each other in friendly tournaments.

Sunderland made a flying start as centre Dimitrios Pappas fired them in front inside the first minute - but the Vikings soon pulled back through captain David Topacho.

The two sides then continued to trade blows throughout an evenly-

matched first half in which both sides struggled with their shooting accuracy against solid defences and good saves by both goalkeepers.

Goals from former Newcastle wingers Jack Woods and Wiktor Laczny plus a Pappas hat-trick just kept Sunderland in front.

Topacho also picked up another three interspersed by goals from centre Mohammed Ghuloum and line-player Craig Swanson's brace.

Ghuloum levelled again as the interval beckoned before another former Vikings player Athbi Almarzouq nudged Sunderland 9-8 in front just before the break.

With the momentum in the away team's favour, Pappas extended Sunderland's advantage at the start of the second period with another

hat-trick of goals before captain Woods picked up his fourth.

However, centre Vlad Cocos' strike, a breakaway goal from winger Matthew Lamb and a Ghuloum double ensured Newcastle always stayed in touch.

Stand-in Vikings goalkeeper Jonathan Bastit's long throw then enabled winger Kole Viejo-Caballero to level the game.

That set the tone for a tense finale as Sunderland began to tire, Viejo-Caballero soon grabbing his second to edge Newcastle in front for the first time in the match.

With two minutes to go Sunderland goalkeeper Gracjan Joppek committed a cynical foul outside the area and was sent off.

Captain Topacho promptly fired in the consequent penalty strike before Ghuloum scored again to seal a well-fought comeback victory for the Vikings.



# Vikings just miss a place in top three

27 October 2016

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men finished in fourth spot in the annual Edinburgh International Tournament.

A slow start saw them go down 10-2 in their first group game to London's Olympia before then drawing 5-5 in the second match against hosts Edinburgh.

However, the Vikings grew into the tournament by beating Dublin International 8-6 to advance to the next stage of the competition, where they faced Strathclyde-Glasgow University in the quarter-finals.

With the pace of the game becoming even quicker in the knockout stages, Newcastle pulled out an early lead thanks in part to the heroics of goalkeeper Daniel Walsh - who kept them in the game and helped ensure the Vikings held out for a 6-4 victory.

The semi-final saw Newcastle face fellow group team Dublin again.

Much like the Vikings, Dublin had also had a slow start to the tournament but grew into it - becoming stronger and stronger.

In the end they were too good for a Vikings side which had the least amount of players in Edinburgh and fatigue began to set in despite them putting up a good fight. The final score was 10-5 to Dublin.

The defeat to the Irish side meant Newcastle would face the hosts Edinburgh for the second time in the third and fourth-place play-off.

The game started off at a fast pace, Edinburgh taking an early lead before the Vikings pull back goals.

However, the hosts then pulled away for a 12-4 success.

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS: Daniel Walsh (GK), Holger Schulz, Florencio Yáñez, Yojo Caballero, Peter Schichtel, Adam Moberley, Matthew Lamb, Thomas Harrison, Daniel Leil.

■ It was a tough opening to the England Handball North Regional Development League season for Newcastle



The Vikings' men's squad

Vikings' women as they suffered a frustrating 16-34 defeat at Merseyside club Peninsula in Warrington.

The hosts opened out an early lead as the Vikings sought to find their feet and cope with their offensive moves, half-player Judyta Turulska's double eventually getting Newcastle on the scoresheet.

A quick-fire treble from centre Rebecka Östergren and fellow back-court player Alina Inta briefly closed the gap to four to give the Vikings hope of an unlikely comeback.

However, despite further goals from Turulska, Östergren and line-player Maren Liane, the Vikings continued to struggle to break through the well-drilled home defence line and by half-time Peninsula's more clinical shooting accuracy had gained them a 16-8 advantage.

The second half continued in a similar vein, Inta dominating the Vikings' scoring with a further six strikes including two from the penalty line interspersed by goals from Östergren and captain Sandra Christie.

However, as Newcastle began to tire the home side, exploited several breakaway plays to secure victory.

4 November 2016



Newcastle Vikings (in black) lost 25-23 to Leeds in their England Handball North Regional Development League match at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

## Leeds hand out a shock defeat as Vikings fail to hold on to a lead

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men team let slip a five-goal advantage as Leeds Carnegie came back to snatch a 23-25 win in the England Handball North Regional Development League match at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

In a closely-fought encounter, Vikings' captain David Topacho opened the scoring, soon followed by goals from fellow back-court players Mohammed Ghuloum, James Porter, Topacho's second, Johannes Belim and a Stephan Stricker brace.

## HANDBALL

However, the Leeds side levelled things up at 7-7 before the teams traded goals for a while, winger Thomas Harrison's neat job of the goalkeeper on the break and centre Ghuloum's double keeping Newcastle just in front before Carnegie nudged ahead themselves.

Half players Porter, Topacho and Stricker helped pull Newcastle back as the scores were tied 13-13 at the

interval. The Vikings' captain again led the way at the start of the second half as the home side opened out a seemingly decisive five-goal lead.

Topacho's hat-trick, one from line-player Craig Swanson and another two from Ghuloum and Belim's second from the back court were complemented by good saves at the other end by Newcastle goalkeepers Daniel Walsh and Mark Harrison.

However, Leeds gradually clawed their way back as Newcastle began to falter.

Following further strikes from Stricker and Topacho, Carnegie levelled the game at 22-22 with just minutes to go.

The away side then grabbed three quick goals as the Vikings' frustrations showed.

Winger Matthew Lamb's breakaway effort on the final whistle proved a mere consolation.

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS: Daniel Walsh (GK), Mark Harrison (GK), Florencio Yáñez, Yojo Caballero, Matt Cook, Craig Swanson, 11 goals: Nathan Lamb (1), Mohammed Ghuloum (4), Jack Moberley, James Porter (2), Thomas Harrison (1), Johannes Belim (2), David Topacho (1), Holger Schulz, Stephan Stricker (4).

23 November 2016

## Vikings handed a double defeat - but girls only just fall short

NEWCASTLE Vikings men's and women's teams suffered contrasting defeats to Leeds University in their latest England North Regional Development League fixtures in Bradford.

The Vikings' women battled all the way before losing by just one goal 23-22 - but the men's team fell to a heavy 31-18 defeat.

Newcastle's ladies took an early

## HANDBALL

lead through half Judyta Turulska, soon followed by goals from fellow back-court players Rebecka Östergren and Alina Inta.

However, the Leeds students pulled back to 6-6 midway through the half before taking the lead themselves.

Further strikes from Turulska, Östergren, Inta and captain Sandra Christie, together with fine goalkeeping including a diving penalty save from Andrea King, helped keep the Vikings in the game before Inta's penalty strike levelled things up 11-11 at half-time.

Östergren's quick-fire hat-trick and Blessing Odebe's goal from the right-wing put Newcastle in the

ascendancy again at the start of the second period.

Inta added two more penalties, while centre Östergren had notched up eight goals for the game before injury forced her off.

The Vikings had just six players for the closing minutes and were unable to prevent Leeds claiming victory despite a last-minute strike from Krystina Coulson.

15 November  
2016



Newcastle Vikings' women's team (in black) on their way to victory against Manchester

chroniclive.co.uk

## Vikings court success with league win treble

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's and women's teams both claimed impressive England Handball North Regional Development League victories at Manchester.

Playing at the National Cycling Centre on a court in the middle of the former Commonwealth Games velodrome, captain David Topacho quickly got the Vikings ball rolling, soon followed by goals from line player Holger Schulz and half Stephan Stricker as Newcastle opened up an early lead.

Manchester levelled before winger Matthew Lamb and back-court players Mohammed Ghuloum and Peter Schichtel added their names to the Vikings' scoresheet.

Topacho and Ghuloum then each claimed further strikes to give Newcastle a 9-3 half-time advantage.

Lamb, Ghuloum and Schichtel's brace extended Newcastle's lead in the second half as Manchester briefly threatened a comeback.

However, with the defence line remaining firm, further goals from Stricker, Schulz, Topacho, Ghuloum and Schichtel sealed the 18-12 success for the Vikings men.

The women then took centre stage and Newcastle raced into an early lead through half-players Jody Turulska (2) and Alina Inta and a Maren Lane hat-trick.

Captain Sandra Christke added a brace from the line position. Inta and Turulska each netting twice more and Christke adding her third,

while a solid defensive performance and good saves from goalkeeper Andrea King restricted the home side to just five first-half goals at the other end - 13-5 the interval scoreline.

It was Manchester who came out more determined immediately after the break with four quick goals before centre Rebecka Ostergen and Lane's double helped to settle the Vikings' nerves.

Inta fired in three more either side of two Lane penalties. Turulska re-found the net with another brace, Ostergen and Christke then rounding off a 25-16 result to give Newcastle's women a welcome first victory over Manchester.

They followed up that success with a powerful display to thrash Leeds Carnegie 26-10 at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre and make it two wins in two days.

Christke was on fire from the start as her four quick strikes from the line position and half Jody Turulska's brace opened out a commanding lead for the Vikings in their second England Handball North Regional Development League match of the weekend.

Goalkeeper King pulled off several good one-on-one saves, Maren Lane scored from the right wing, Inta and Ostergen each added doubles and Turulska scored her third to give the home side a 12-7 half-time advantage.

The Vikings' defensive solidity

was more impressive in the second period, restricting the Leeds Beckett University side to just three goals.

Ostergen powered in three of her own from the line position while Turulska scored from centre and Inta claimed a brace before Ostergen reverted to centre and shot in another three.

King made a diving penalty save to thwart the Carnegie goalkeeper's effort before having a penalty goal of her own disallowed while Turulska, Inta and Christke each scored again.

Youngster Rebecca Johnson then fired in a long-range cracker to mark her Vikings' league debut in style and Turulska rounded off Newcastle's 26-10 victory.

Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's squads celebrate their victories in Manchester



7 December  
2016



The Newcastle Vikings (in black) and Sunderland squads after their league clash at Sunderland College

## Vikings hand out a derby drubbing

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men beat Sunderland 35-27 in a pulsating England Handball North Regional Development League match at Sunderland College to make it a derby double following their 16-13 home win at the start of the season.

Centre Peter Schichtel set the ball rolling in the first minute, soon followed by goals from half David Topacho and wingers Matthew Lamb and Adam Moberley before Schichtel added his second.

Great Britain under-21 winger Niall Flanagan, returning for his first Vikings appearance of the season after international duty, came on to grab a quick-fire hat-trick - soon adding his fourth on a fast break after braces from Lamb and Topacho.

Kole Viejo-Cabellero put his name on the scoresheet from the wing before Mohammed Ghuloum struck twice from the back



Action from the derby clash

court either side of further goals from Moberley on the line and Lamb as Newcastle took an 18-13 advantage into the half-time break.

Ex-Viking Wiktor Laczny had scored nine of the home team's goals.

Topacho, Lamb and Schichtel combined to extend Newcastle's lead early in the second half, Stephan Bastit and Topacho adding further doubles to seal the victory.

in goal past the goalkeeper from fellow half Jonathan Bastit.

Charis Perros and Laczny tried their best to claw Sunderland back into the game, scoring six and five goals apiece from the back court.

However, their tiring defence struggled to contain the Vikings as wingers Flanagan, Viejo-Cabellero, Lamb and Moberley all took advantage on the break, half-players Bastit and Topacho adding further doubles to seal the victory.

Grassroots Sport

9 January 2017



Newcastle Vikings' ladies' team on their way to victory (left) and (right) action from the men's clash - the Vikings are in the black strip

# Vikings' girls prove the Lead-ing lights!

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's women's team went into 2017 on a high after a convincing 25-8 thrash at Leeds Carnegie in the England North Regional Development League.

However, the club's men's squad went down to a 19-27 defeat to table-topping Leeds Beckett University.

The women's match saw the Leeds students take an early lead before Maireen Llane's brace from the right half position put the Vikings ahead - and from there the Tyrone-ids never looked back.

Captain Sandra Christie on the line, left winger Blessing Ogbue, centre Rebecca Oatgreen and left-half Juchya Turulaka all added their names to the scoresheet while goalkeeper Andrea King denied Carnegie a penalty shot before they missed another.

Ogbue's second was quickly followed by three more from Christie, further effort from Oatgreen and Llane and then a brilliant hat-trick of flying wing strikes from an on-fire Ogbue as the Leeds side struggled to contain the Vikings' attacking plays.

Turulaka, Llane and Christie rounded off the first half's scoring as the Vikings went into the break with a big 16-6 lead.

Turulaka's hat-trick of goals soon extended Newcastle's advantage at the start of the second half.

However, while the defence line remained solid, in taking the opportunity to experiment with positional changes the Vikings seemed to lose some of their attacking flow and shooting accuracy.



Newcastle Vikings' ladies' team after their victory at Leeds Carnegie

**HANDBALL**

Oatgreen nevertheless picked up three from the line position, split only by Ogbue's sixth in arguably her best game for the Vikings.

Turulaka matched her sixth from centre while Llane added another before going off injured - leaving Newcastle short-handed for the final minutes of the game.

However, it did not prevent Oatgreen and Turulaka adding to their tally as the ladies gained their first win of the season so far.

In the men's game, both teams traded goals throughout a fairly

even first half. Captain David Topachko again led the way for Newcastle with early goals either side of a brace from centre Muhammad Ghuloum.

Right-half Jonathan Hunt's effort was followed by another Gibraltar brace while strikes from fellow back-court players Stephen Stricker and Topachko were interspersed by goals from wingers Niall Hanagan and Matthew Laitch.

Leeds nevertheless just edged the scoring 13-12 at the break.

However, the second period turned out to be a more frustrating affair for the Vikings as they struggled to take their opportunities to

keep pace with Carnegie's scoring at the other end.

Craig Swanson scored from the line position, Stricker and Laitch picked up their second goals while Ghuloum and Topachko added their fifth strikes before late finishes from wingers Hanagan and Adam Mulholland. However, the home side ran out clear winners in the end.

Both Vikings teams sit in second place in their league tables.

NEWCASTLE Vikings 16-25 Leeds Carnegie 8-16, 19-27; Leeds Carnegie 13-12 Newcastle Vikings 12-13; Newcastle Vikings 19-27 Leeds Carnegie 27-19; Newcastle Vikings 25-8 Leeds Carnegie 8-25; Newcastle Vikings 16-25 Leeds Carnegie 8-16, 19-27; Leeds Carnegie 13-12 Newcastle Vikings 12-13; Newcastle Vikings 19-27 Leeds Carnegie 27-19; Newcastle Vikings 25-8 Leeds Carnegie 8-25.

Grassroots Sport

18 January 2017



Action from the Vikings' clash with Peninsula - the Vikings are in the black shorts

# Vikings so close to a shock win

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team came within just one goal of causing an upset in their top-of-the-table England Handball North Regional Development League match against a strong Peninsula side, losing 20-19.

A busy day of handball at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre began with under-16 Tyne and Wear trials.

Twenty girls and eight boys selected following last month's Handball Schools Festival turned up for the first round of trials in front of a large crowd of family supporters, the second round due to take place on Sunday, February 12 ahead of the Vikings' home matches against Liverpool and Liverpool Speke Garston.

Newcastle's ladies took an early lead in the following league match, the opener appropriately scored by captain Sandra Christie on her birthday.

Right-half Alina Jitr's powerful shot from the back court and Maireen Llane's penalty strike then provided left-half Juchya Turulaka's landmark 15th Vikings league and cup goal.

Their opponents from Merseyside's Wirral peninsula nevertheless levelled the scores before edging in front.

In a competitive match in which there were never more than two goals between the sides, Newcastle continued to peg back Peninsula through goals from line-winger Kyratara Coulson, line player Llane's second penalty and centre Christie's brace before the away side went

**HANDBALL**

in 11-9 up at half-time. Winger Blessing Ogbue added her name to the scoresheet.

However, the Vikings' second-half scoring was dominated by another five strikes from Turulaka - fellow back-court player Inta firing in four more of her own, including one from the penalty line.

At the other end a gutsy all-round defensive performance coupled with fine saves from goalkeeper Andrea King continued to thwart Peninsula's pacy attacking plays, King also saving two penalty shots.

However, as Newcastle again fought back in try to level the scores in the final minutes it was Peninsula's defence which stayed solid and just managed to keep the Vikings at bay.

The day culminated with a series of North East friendly league meets matches.

With Sunnyside unable to field a team, it was left to Newcastle Vikings, Durham University and York Hunters to take each other on in the second round of the mini league.

Newcastle opened with a 14-9 win over York before slipping to an 11-16 defeat to Durham, York then outscoring the student side 16-7.

In the repeat fixtures the Vikings beat the Hunters 8-7 before Durham triumphed 11-7 over Newcastle and 10-9 against York.

16 January 2017

Grassroots Sport



All the under-13 and under-15 girls' teams who took part in the first Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Festival at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields



Action (and below) from the Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Festival



# Pupils try their hand at a new sport on court

The first Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Festival proved a huge success.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club in association with Merley's Handball Coaching and funded through Tyne and Wear Sport's satellite club grant award, the tournament was played at the Vikings' home match venue Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. More than 150 under-13 and under-15 girls and boys took part.

Mortimer Community College and St Wilfrid's RC College made it a fortunate double for South Shields schools in the girls' competition.

Mortimer won all three of their matches over Walbottle Campus (2-1), Whitley Bay High School (4-1), and Churchill Community College (3-1) to take the under-13 title.

In the under-15s St Wilfrid's girls beat Mortimer (2-1), Oxlisse Community Academy (2-0) and Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy (4-0)

**HANDBALL**

before drawing with Churchill (0-0). In the boys' competitions both Newcastle's Walbottle Campus One (under-15s) and Gateshead's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy (under-13s) also went undefeated.

Walbottle's first team defeated Churchill Community College (5-0), their schoolmates Walbottle Campus 2 (5-1) and Whitley Bay High School (3-3) before sealing victory in a last-minute decider against Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy (3-2).

Lord Lawson took the under-13 title in impressive style without conceding a goal in leading Walbottle (3-0), Mortimer Community College (5-0), Churchill (3-0) and Oxlisse Community Academy (2-0).

The winning teams were each presented with an England Handball Association bag of a dozen handballs while the best players from each of

the competitions received a Newcastle Vikings Handball Club T-shirt. All the children who took part also received a Vikings wristband.

Scouting of the best talent from the under-15s competitions also saw 20 girls and 20 boys selected to take part in Tyne and Wear county handball trials.

The first round of trials took place at Temple Park Leisure Centre today ahead of the Newcastle Vikings ladies' home league match against Merseyside club Peninsula and the second round of the North East men's and women's friendly league competitions between Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham and York.

Anyone wishing to join the Vikings should go along to junior training sessions on Mondays (7.30pm-8.30pm) at Temple Park Leisure Centre or Wednesdays (1pm-4pm) at Hedley's Sport in Killingworth.

Go to [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk) for more details.



St Wilfrid's RC College were under-13 girls' winners



Under-15 girls' champions Mortimer Community College



Lord Lawson of Beamish were under-13 boys' winners



Walbottle Campus were under-15 boys' winners



All the under-13 and under-15 boys' teams at Temple Park

Grassroots Sport

Classroom Sport

11 February 2017



Newcastle Vikings' men (dark) struggle on the attack against Manchester



Action from the Vikings' ladies clash against Manchester with the Vikings in the dark strip

# Point is, two setbacks for Vikings are so frustrating

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men and women's teams succumbed to agonising one-goal defeats at home in Manchester in England Handball North Regional Development League matches at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

It was the second consecutive single-goal league loss in a row for the Vikings' ladies in another close-fought game which never saw either side manage to open up more than a two-goal advantage throughout.

Manchester found the lack of the net first before captain Sandra Christie's clever flick from the edge of the goal area and strikes from wingers Blessing Ogboe and Meghan Acres edged Newcastle in front.

Centre Maren Liine fired in from the penalty line and winger Krystina Coulson and half-backs Jadyra Turulskaa and Alma Inna each added their names to the scoresheet before Liine's second put the Vikings ahead 7-3 just before half-time.

However, Manchester quickly retook control at the start of the second half as a somewhat subdued Newcastle seemed to struggle to get into their flow.

Three back-court goals apiece from Turulskaa and Liine, coupled with shuffling defensive play, nevertheless assured they kept in touch.

However, Manchester regained the lead in the closing minutes. Ogboe's second against her former club evening just not time to give the Vikings time to search for another keeper as

**HANDBALL**

the away side first held on for a 10-13 win.

The following men's match was a similarly close and low-scoring encounter.

Captain David Topascho, both opened and closed Newcastle's half scoring from half-back, fellow back-court players Mohammed Ghuloum and Johannes Bellm plus wingers Adam Mabbetley and Mathias Lamb all finding the back of the Manchester net in between.

However, the away side went into the half-time break with a 2-6 advantage.

Bellm added two more early in the second period either side of Lamb's second and a strike from half-back Stephan Stricker further back-court efforts coming from Topascho's brace and Ghuloum.

Thomas Harrison levelled the scores from the wing again but as the Vikings pushed on the attack Manchester took advantage on the breaks to open their lead again.

Liine strikers from Topascho and Ghuloum were not enough to prevent another frustrating result for the Vikings men - 17-10 the final score.

NEWCASTLE Vikings Ladies: Sandra Christie (capt), Maren Liine (10), Krystina Coulson (7), Jadyra Turulskaa (3), Alma Inna (3), Blessing Ogboe (2), Meghan Acres (2), Mollie Coope (1), Sandra Christie (1), Maren Liine (1), Krystina Coulson (1), Jadyra Turulskaa (1), Alma Inna (1), Blessing Ogboe (1), Meghan Acres (1), Mollie Coope (1). Newcastle Vikings Men: David Topascho (capt), Johannes Bellm (10), Mathias Lamb (3), Adam Mabbetley (2), Stephan Stricker (2), Mollie Coope (1), Mollie Coope (1).

22 February 2017

# No Mersey shown by the in-form Vikings

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men ran out 24-11 home victors over Liverpool Speke Garston in the England Handball North Regional Development League - but the club's ladies were unlucky to fall to their third consecutive single-goal defeat.

A busy day of handball action at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre began with the second round of the under-16 Tyne and Wear trials - 22 girls and 11 boys put through their paces as they push for selection for the first county junior teams.

The Vikings' and Liverpool's women then took to the court for their first league meeting of the season.

The visitors grabbed an early lead before centre Maren Liine fired in a cracking brace to level things up and captain Sandra Christie struck a quick hat-trick from the line position.

The teams continued to trade goals with goalkeeper Andrea King denying Liverpool opening up a lead with several big saves.

Left-half Jadyra Turulskaa scored a double of her own either side of Liine's penalty before Meghan Acres' left-wing shot just smacked under the keeper's foot to give Newcastle a 3-2 half-time advantage.

The Merseysiders regained the lead early in the second half but Christie's brace soon levelled matters again, chucking up her 13th Vikings league and cup goal in the process.

Newcastle fought well together in defence to keep the pacy Liverpool attacking plays at bay, King continuing to pull off good saves.

At the other end of the court Liine's second penalty was soon followed by strikes from wingers Blessing Ogboe and Acres and half-back Alma Inna to keep the Vikings in touch.



The triumphant Newcastle Vikings' men's team and (below) action from their league clash with Liverpool Speke Garston



The away side nevertheless managed to open up a two-goal lead going into the final minutes but despite Kristina Coulson's late left-wing brace the Vikings fell agonisingly short - the final score 18-17.

The men's match was a low-scoring slow starter dominated by solid defenses, just 2-2 on the scoreboard

after the first 15 minutes with Newcastle's goals coming from centre Mohammed Ghuloum and winger Mathew Lamb.

Ghuloum fired in from the penalty line and Stephan Stricker struck low from the back-court before the Vikings started to assert dominance through winger Niall Flanagan's fly-

ing treble, split only by Ghuloum's third.

Right-half Johannes Bellm and winger Kole Viejo-Cabellem rounded off the first half scoring as the Vikings took a 10-5 lead into the half-time break.

A further brace from Flanagan got the second half underway, soon followed by another Ghuloum penalty.

Newcastle were increasingly breaking through the tiring Liverpool defence line.

Vlad Cocos fired in twice and then again after Stricker and captain David Topascho had also exploited the gaps.

Ghuloum scored his fifth and Stricker added another, while Lamb's pace on the fast breaks gained him a further brace.

Bellm and Stricker rounded off a much-improved team performance for the Vikings' men and a welcome runaway home victory.

13 March 2017

Crusade of Sport



Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams who took part in the North East Handball League clashes in York

### Lion tamers end Vikings' Cup dreams

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's and women's teams were both knocked out of the England Handball League Cup at Reading Lions.

It was always going to be tough for two depleted makeshift Vikings teams, several players having to play out of their usual positions.

The men's semi-final was first up and the Vikings initially kept pace with the bigger more powerful Lions side thanks to right half Johannes Belim's early brace and one from Matthew Lamb playing in the unfamiliar centre position.

A strong defensive display and good block saves from goalkeeper Mark Harrison between the posts helped keep Reading at bay.

Belim continued to lead the way at the other end of the court, line-players Holger Schulz and Craig Swanson also on target.

However, Reading at half-time had a 16-9 advantage.

The home side continued to stretch out their lead in the second period while Belim's back-court shooting took his personal match tally to 10 for the Vikings.

Lamb also scored twice more on the break and Swanson added a late double from the line position.

However, it was an unexpected goal midway through the half from usual goalkeeper Daniel Walsh, playing on the left-wing for the first time, which brought the biggest cheers from the Vikings' players and supporters.

Despite fighting all the way, Newcastle were unable to tame the Lions as Reading progressed through to the final 32-18.

Reading's Lionesses took an early lead in the subsequent women's League Cup quarter-final contest before two acute-angle Eman ElBanhawy goals from the right-wing and a Sandra Christie strike from the line position soon pulled Newcastle level.

Blessing Ogbee, playing back-court for the first time, then fired into the top corner from right-half to unexpectedly put the Vikings' ladies in front - but Reading's accurate back-court shooting and fast breaks helped them re-take the lead.

Maren Liane struck back for Newcastle with a hat-trick before Ogbee and captain Christie each scored their second goals to round off the first half.

The second period was a lower-scoring affair.

Liane notched a further two, either side of a welcome first Vikings' goal from Malin Wallin.

However, they were unable to keep pace with the Lionesses despite a goal from goalkeeper Andrea King and went down 22-14.

### All to play for on final weekend as squads court league title glory

The third round of the North East Handball League took place at York St John's University as part of York Handball Club's first festival.

The hosts covered on a winning side by defeating Newcastle Vikings 6-5, a combined Sunderland/Durham University men's team then beating the University of York 8-3.

**HANDBALL**

Next up was the first of two women's matches between the Newcastle Vikings ladies (featuring guest Sunderland and York Hunters players) and the University of York. The Vikings' team dominated both

games, first winning 10-1 and then 11-1 in the second match.

In between, Newcastle's men overcame the University of York 8-6 and Sunderland/Durham triumphed 7-4 against York Hunters.

The final matches saw the Vikings men run out 8-4 victors over Sunderland/Durham before York

Hunters rounded off a successful day of action by being 6-1 winners against their city's university students.

With three points for a win, two for a draw and one for a defeat, and the scores being aggregated across all four rounds of matches, there is still all to play for in the last round of league matches in Durham in April.

### Vikings end campaign with defeat

27 March 2017

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings Ladies' England North Regional Development League season ended with a 21-14 loss to the unbeaten Liverpool Ladies at the Greenbank Academy.

The hosts made a quick start, opening up an early three-goal lead before Blessing Ogbee's near-post strike from the left wing got the Vikings' ball rolling.

Newcastle closed the gap to two through goals from right-half Alina Inta and captain Sandra Christie from the line position.

However, despite determined defending at the other end of the court and the best efforts of Andrea King between the posts, they were unable to withhold several decisive Liverpool attacks on the fast-break.

Liverpool's goalkeeper, meanwhile, continued to pull off a series of great saves to frustrate the Vikings' shots, two Inta penalties the only other breakthroughs in the first half.

It was 9-5 to the home side at the break.

Liverpool extended their advantage further at the start of the second half but the scoring was more evenly matched thereafter.

Left-half Judyta Turuska finally found her way through the stubborn Merseyside team's defence, line-player Christie picking up a brace either side of another Ogbee goal.

Inta then scored four on the trot, including three consecutive delightful hits over the Liverpool goalkeeper.

Yet however much the Vikings fought they were unable close the gap.

Turuska's second rounded off Newcastle's scoring.

# County squads battle for Games glory at Temple Park



## Pupils prove a dab hand on the court



THE Year and Three Handball School Games County Finals were held at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shropshire.

Widobuck Academy and Ludlow Community Academy boys' handball teams claimed the under-15 girls' and boys' trophies respectively.

North Tyneside of Walsley BC College completed its under-15 girls' championship and North Tyneside of Churchill Community College won the under-13 boys' championship.

Hosted by Tyne and Wear Sports, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and Newcastle Handball Club, the tournament featured teams from 120 under-15 and under-13 girls and boys from schools representing parts of the Tyne and Wear districts.

### SCHOOLS' HANDBALL SPECIAL

North Tyneside of Walsley BC College finished 15th respectively most trophies in the girls' competition while with winning a single girl.

They opened with a win over traditionally Churchill Community College (2-0) before defeating Newcastle's Lord Lonsdale of Newcastle Academy (2-0), Newcastle's Goodrich Community School (2-0) and Newcastle's Kings (2-0).

Meanwhile in the under-13 girls' competition, Newcastle's Handball Academy girls took second place in the girls' division from Churchill Community in their final game, Newcastle

and Lord Lonsdale of Newcastle Academy (4-1) and Glasgow with Glasgow Academy (2-2) and St Albans BC College (2-2) before defeating Churchill Community College (2-1) in the second round.

In the boys' competition Churchill Community College took the under-13 title by beating Newcastle's Goodrich Community School (2-0) and Lord Lonsdale of Newcastle Academy (2-1) before defeating Newcastle Community Academy (2-0) and St Albans BC College (2-1).

Newcastle's Handball Academy Academy girls were victorious at under-15 level, picking up their good measure over Lord Lonsdale of Newcastle Academy (4-1), St Albans BC

College (4-0) and Churchill Community College (4-0) - only Goodrich Academy holding their nerve (4-2) (2-0).

The top three sides in both competitions were gathered with their girls, boys and leaders medals by Tyne and Wear Sports' School Games Co-ordinator Gail Lee.

The winning teams will progress to the Regional County School Games Handball Championships at Temple Park next week.

For last boys and girls coaching to give handball, Newcastle Vikings hold junior coaching sessions on Monday evenings (7.30-9.30) at Temple Park Leisure Centre and on Wednesday evenings (7.00-9.00) at Blithfield Sports in Kingsnorth. Go to www.newcastlehandball.co.uk for more details.



All the boys' teams who took part in the Tyne and Wear Handball School Games County Finals

19 April 2017



Pictured backstage from top left are the girls' under-15 and under-13 medalists and the boys' under-15 and under-13 medalists



## Trials show off sport's future stars

JUNIOR handballers took the spotlight at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shropshire.

More than 20 girls and boys gathered for the 2017 round of the Tyne and Wear County Handball Trials - all vying to be selected for a place in the first under-15 county teams.

They were followed by a joint final round of under-15 girls and boys between teams of Newcastle Vikings' handball players.

The winners emerged with 10 and 4-1 with some of the best and greatest players in action. The girls defeated the boys 1-0.

The girls won Tuesday then won 4-1 against the boys in the final. It was the girls who won the County Handball Trials on the 19th April.

The winners will progress with the competition with 10 girls and 4 boys.



Junior handballers who took part in the Tyne and Wear Junior Trials

action and the boys, who ended up on 1-0.

The boys' action was rounded off by a friendly match between the Newcastle and Edinburgh women's teams.

With the Vikings holding a few less experienced players including girls' fans at their junior's fun run-out in the junior club - Edinburgh were able to win out on advantage right from the start.

Newcastle fought back and by half-time were only 2-4 behind.

Newcastle's girls were unable to win the Edinburgh girls' match and eventual leading in the final was eventually won by 25-10 at the final whistle.



Newcastle Vikings Ladies took a friendly handball match in a friendly handball match at Temple Park Leisure Centre

Grassroots Sport



All the men's and women's teams who took part in the fifth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre

# Scots' hands on a double



Hosts Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams at South Shields

## TEAMS FROM NORTH OF BORDER TAKE HONOURS AT ANNUAL COMPETITION

### HANDBALL SPECIAL

GLASGOW and Edinburgh took the men's and women's honours respectively at the fifth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings, a full day of fast-paced action, packed handball saw 10 teams from across England and Scotland taking part in the quick fire 20-minute men's and women's group and placing matches.

Glasgow went unbeaten throughout the day to regain their title and become three-time champions with a 16-11 victory over East Kilbride's EK82 in a repeat of the 2014 men's final.

Maciej Trzys and Jack Lees each scored six goals for the two Scottish sides.

Durham University claimed third place with a 12-7 success over Bedfordshire's Cranfield University.

The Vikings defeated York Hunters 12-5 in the fifth/sixth-place play-off.

In the women's competition Edinburgh won for the first time

since 2013, beating the University of Leeds 11-5 in the decider.

Emma Andersen led the way for the Scots with four strikes. Having surrendered their title, Newcastle Vikings' ladies overcame Cranfield University 7-5 to take third place in a battle of the 2014/16 and 2015 tournament winners.

The men's tournament top-scorer award went to Durham University half-player Lucas Palumbo with 21 goals.

University of Leeds winger Magda Karwatka top-scored in the women's competition with 11 goals.

Men's group matches - results: Newcastle Vikings 8 York Hunters 6, Cranfield University 10 11, Durham University 6 Glasgow 7, 1982 17 York Hunters 8, Newcastle Vikings 8 Durham University 10, Glasgow 10 Cranfield University 4, York Hunters 4 Durham University 10, Cranfield University 7 Newcastle Vikings 3, 1482 6 Glasgow 17, Newcastle Vikings 3, 1982 11, Glasgow 14 York Hunters 6, Cranfield University 10 Durham Vikings 6 Glasgow 11 Newcastle Vikings 7, York Hunters 10 Cranfield University 7 Durham Vikings 7, 1982 11.

Women's group matches - results: Newcastle Vikings 7 University of Leeds 5, Edinburgh 10 Cranfield University 7, Newcastle Vikings 7 Cranfield University 4, Edinburgh 7 University of Leeds 5, Newcastle Vikings 5, Edinburgh 8, Cranfield University University of Leeds 12.



Grassroots Sport



Action (and below and right) from the fifth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament





15 June  
2017

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Grassroots Sport

# The hand-y performers!

THE North East Handball Schools Games at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre saw four local schools win through to this month's national finals.

Organised by the England Handball Association in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the day produced an entertaining and highly competitive mix of under-13 and under-15 boys and girls matches.

South Shields' St Wilfrid's RC College won the Under-13 Girls' Cup, defeating both Ponteland's Richard Coates Middle School 2-1 and Chester-le-Street's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy 3-0.

**SCHOOLS HANDBALL**

The two defeated sides then drew 2-2, Richard Coates Middle School taking the runners-up spot on goals scored.

The under-13 boys' competition was ultimately decided on goals scored after each of the three teams won once and lost once.

Wallsend's Churchill Community College beat Richard Coates Middle School 2-1 and Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy defeated Churchill Community College 4-0.

Richard Coates Middle School then triumphed 3-2

over Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy, who narrowly took the title having scored the most goals overall.

Washington's Oxclose Community Academy won the Under-15 Boys' Cup with an extra-time 3-2 victory over Newcastle's Gosforth Academy - after a last-minute equaliser by Gosforth had levelled the scores at 2-2 at the end of normal time.

With Washington's Biddick Academy unable to take part, Gosforth Academy claimed the under-15 girls' honours unchallenged.

The winning schools go on to represent the North East at the English Schools Handball



Under-13 boys' winners Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy



Under-15 boys' winners Washington's Oxclose Academy



Under-13 girls' winners St Wilfrid's RC College



Gosforth Academy were crowned girls' under-15 champions - without playing a match!



All the teams who took part in the North East Handball Schools Games at Temple Park Leisure Centre

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Grassroots Sport



Action from the Northumberland School Games handball tournament at Cramlington Learning Centre



## They are very hand-y performers

THE Northumberland Schools Games' handball competition was staged at Cramlington Learning Centre.

It was won by the Morpeth and Ponteland team that won all five of its matches.

Run by Newcastle Vikings, six mixed girls and boys area teams competed for the honours in a series of round-robin matches.

**HANDBALL**

The Morpeth and Northumberland team went unbeaten to finish ahead of Tynesdale with Cramlington and Seaton Valley third.

Ashington and Coquet finished fourth, Blyth and Bedlington were fifth and North Northumberland ended up sixth.

**RESULTS:** Ashington and Coquet 4, Blyth and Bedlington 1, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 3, Morpeth and Ponteland 6, North Northumberland 4, Ashington and Coquet 4, Blyth and Bedlington 1, Tynesdale 2, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 1, Tynesdale 4, Morpeth and Ponteland 10, North Northumberland 2, Ashington and Coquet 1, Morpeth and Ponteland 6, Blyth and Bedlington 3, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 7, North Northumberland 4, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 4, Tynesdale 6, Ashington and Coquet 3, North Northumberland 2, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 4, Morpeth and Ponteland 8, Tynesdale 3, Ashington and Coquet 4, Cramlington and Seaton Valley 5, Blyth and Bedlington 1, Morpeth and Ponteland 7, and North Northumberland 2, Tynesdale 7.



Tournament winners Morpeth and Ponteland with their medals

4 October  
2017

## Sharks show their teeth to hand Vikings a defeat in opening clash of the season

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team were sent to Coventry to take on the Sharks in their first appearance in the National League North - and lost 33-24.

It proved to be a tough first half for the Vikings as they struggled to get going and fight off the attacking strength of the more experienced Sharks.

The home side took an early lead but, after a slow start, captain David Topacho struck Newcastle's first goal of the season from the backcourt - soon followed by goals from centre Adam Harwood and line player Julien Eng.

The Vikings continued to fight their way back into the game with further strikes from Topacho, Eng and wingers

### HANDBALL

Matthew Lamb and Adam Moberley. However, they could not contain the Sharks on the fast breaks as they continued to concede goals at the other end.

Half-player Topacho added his fourth just before half-time but the Vikings went into the break 18-9 down.

However, Newcastle started the second half the stronger team, scoring several goals on the bounce without reply to close the gap - Topacho's fifth being followed by a quick fire hat-trick from youngster Harwood.

The Great Britain under-20 international, a new Vikings acquisition from Milton Keynes club Oly Cats after moving to study at Durham University, dominated Newcastle's scoring as he notched in to second-half goals - including another hat-trick towards the end of the game.

Topacho added another two to his personal tally, while full-back Lamb and Eng strikes also interspersed Harwood's onslaught.

However, despite the visitors defending much better, the home side fought back as Newcastle missed a few opportunities in pushing to narrow the Sharks' advantage further.



20 October  
2017

## County's girls show their hand on competitive debut in Chester

THE new Tyne and Wear under-16 girls handball team took part in their first England North competition at the Northgate Arena in Chester.

The first of their two 20-minute matches was against Staffordshire side Olympia Cannock, who opened up an early six-goal lead before centre Alexandra Inta scored Tyne and Wear's first goal midway through the first half.

However, they were unable to hold off Cannock's attacks and by the time right-half Nazish Amin scored Tyne and Wear's second just before the break they were 20-2 down.

The North Easterners made a better start in the second period as Inta scored her second goal with a great break through the Cannock defence, while goalkeeper Bryony Coldwell made a string of brilliant saves at the other end.

Romanian youngster Inta went on to strike four more, her sixth goal coming on the fast break as she intercepted a pass in defence

### HANDBALL

before dribbling up the court to shoot past the Cannock goalkeeper.

Inta, winger Esther Moffitt, right-half Zoe Barber and line-player Jess Hegarty all went close to further goals as Tyne and Wear tried to find gaps in the Cannock back line - but Cannock ran out 35-7 winners.

Tyne and Wear girls then played a friendly against Shropshire.

The more experienced Shropshire opened up a three-goal lead before Amin struck Tyne and Wear's first goal of the game.

Shropshire extended their advantage to take a 12-1 lead into the half-time break.

Inta scored Tyne and Wear's second early in the second half before her penalty shot struck the post.

Hegarty saw a great scoring opportunity well saved and Amin also missed with a penalty strike as Shropshire prevailed 24-2.

The Tyne and Wear under-16 girls' handball team which competed in Chester



8 November  
2017



Newcastle Vikings' ladies handball team

# Ladies hand out a defeat to hosts

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team came from behind to snatch a superb 17-15 victory over hosts Manchester in their first Regional League North game of the season - but the hosts proved too strong for Newcastle's men.

### HANDBALL

swift Bjerk hat-trick to put the Vikings ahead for the first time.

It was a solid defensive team performance by the Tynesiders, backed up by an inspired goalkeeping display from Andrea King.

In the men's National League North clash, the home side took an early three-goal lead before centre Julien Eng put the Vikings on the scoresheet.

However, despite further goals from England half players Adam Harwood, Stephan Stricker and captain David Topacho's brace, Newcastle were unable to withstand the swift and powerful attacking plays of their opponents as Manchester opened up a 16-6 advantage by half-time.

Manchester's experience, strength and shooting accuracy

continued to dominate in the second period, while a hand injury to Harwood led to him having to sit out the rest of the game.

Wingers Adam Moberley and Matthew Lamb grabbed opportunistic goals to add to further Eng and Stricker strikes from the back court as the Vikings tried their best to fight their way back into the contest.

Etienne Lisse scored his first Vikings' goal from the line position, Eng fired in two penalties and Lamb snatched his second on the rebound - but by the final whistle Manchester's men had run out clear 32-14 winners.

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS MEN: Daniel Walsh (GK), Mark Harrison (GK), Robert Thompson, Etienne Lisse (1 goal), David Topacho (2), Matthew Lamb (2), Adam Harwood (1), Adam Moberley (1), Mohamed Jedd Bouassera, Jonathan Baxst, Stephan Secker (2), Julien Eng (2).

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS WOMEN: Andrea King (GK), Marie Brevet (2 goals), Marlen Sinning-Goultly (3), Katerina Gilson, Maren Lisse (4), Blessing Ogburn (1), Emily Bjerk (6), Sandra Christie (1).



Action from the Newcastle Vikings' ladies' (grey strip) match against Manchester

## Hosts hand out defeats to Vikings

20 November 2017

### HANDBALL

IT was a disappointing weekend for Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams as they slumped to away league defeats.

Newcastle's women looked to extend their lead at the top of the Regional League North table when they took on the University of Leeds in Bradford.

However, despite a battling defensive performance, the Vikings ladies struggled with their shooting accuracy in trying to find a way past the students' solid backline.

The University of Leeds edged the first half 7-4 and, as the Tynesiders tried to fight back in the second period, the home side countered to triumph 16-9.

Winger Blessing Ogbee top-scored for Newcastle with three goals, centre Maren Liane and half-back Marlen Slinning Gouly bagging a brace each.

Captain Sandra Christie also scored from the back court, Marie Brevet adding one from the other wing.

The Vikings' men team (pictured below) travelled to Wrexham to take on Deva in a National League North fixture.

Backcourt players Cedric Le Lay, with five debut goals, and



Julien Eng, with four strikes, dominated Newcastle's scoring throughout the first half as the Vikings started well and opened up an early 7-4 lead.

However, Newcastle then lost their way as the home side found its form and charged back to take a 21-9 advantage into the break.

Etienne Lisse picked up a treble early in the second half but, despite further back-court strikes from Eng, Le Lay and captain David Topacho and wingers Robert Thompson and Fedi Boussema grabbing their first goals of the season, it proved to be too much to ask for the Vikings to pull the game back.

Deva went on to claim a resounding 41-17 victory, leaving Newcastle rooted to the bottom of the table.

**NEWCASTLE VIKINGS WOMEN:** Andrea King (GO), Marie Brevet (1 goal), Marlen Slinning Gouly (2), Maren Liane (2), Emily Birk, Blessing Ogbee (1), Sandra Christie (1), Maria Jose Gonzalez.

**NEWCASTLE VIKINGS MEN:** Daniel Walsh (GO), Mark Hamilton (GO), Robert Thompson (1 goal), Cedric Le Lay (6), David Topacho (1), Matthew Lantz, Etienne Lisse (3), Adam Mobbley, Muhammad Fedi Boussema (1), Jonathan Bastit, Julien Eng (5).

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men slipped out of the England Handball National Cup after going down 29-13 to Manchester. The Vikings now drop into the Shield competition, where they have been drawn at home to Reading Lions in February.

22 November 2017

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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2017 **The Chronicle** 75

### Grassroots Sport

8 December 2017

## County girls take the positives from double defeat



Tyne and Wear's under-16 girls' handball team

TYNE and Wear's under-16 girls team showed a huge improvement in their second round of England Handball north regional competition matches in Chester - despite defeats in their league and friendly games.

They started well in their opening league game against the experienced Shropshire Juniors, taking an early lead thanks to Alexandra Inta's backcourt shot after a first-minute penalty miss.

That was soon followed by a penalty strike from fellow Romanian Ana Botezatu.

Good defending and fantastic saves from goalkeeper Bryony Coldwell kept the Midlanders at bay before they eventually pulled one back - only for captain Alice Atkinson to fire into the top corner from the left-half position.

However, as several players began to miss good scoring chances, Shropshire quickly turned the game around to take a 6-3 advantage into the break.

Shropshire extended their lead early in the second half before right-half Zoe

### HANDBALL

Barber broke through to score. However, despite their best efforts - Coldwell making brilliant stops between the posts and two more Botezatu goals at the other end - Tyne and Wear were unable to claw their way back as Shropshire ran out 15-6 winners.

With Nottingham forfeiting their scheduled league game to tilt Tyne and Wear a default 10-0 win, the girls then played a friendly against Staffordshire side Olympia Cannock.

Coldwell pulled off big saves in the first minute but was unable to prevent Cannock gradually building up a lead, interspersed with Inta's hat-trick for the Northeasterners.

Cannock were 9-3 up at half-time and began the second half with two more goals.

Tyne and Wear continued to push forward in attack, Botezatu and Inta finding the net.

The Romanian duo again combined for a late breakaway goal which Botezatu netted from the rebound after Inta's shot hit the Cannock goalkeeper - but a last-minute penalty sealed Olympia's 14-6 victory.

11 December 2017

## Nott a bad effort from girls as they run their opponents close

TYNE and Wear's under-16 girls put in two much-improved performances in their third round of England Handball North Regional competition matches in Chester - running their opposition much closer than in previous outings.

The first league game against Nottingham saw the North East team take an early lead through centre Alexandra Inta's double and one from half-player Ana Botezatu.

Fellow half player Zoe Barber fired a great shot into the top corner but Nottingham soon levelled things up again.

However, youngster Inta broke through to score her third and, with goalkeeper Bryony Coldwell

### HANDBALL

making good saves at the other end, Botezatu added her second and Inta's fourth to put Tyne and Wear 7-5 ahead at half-time.

Nottingham replied with three quick goals at the start of the second half but Inta and Botezatu soon put the North Easterners back in front.

The Midlanders edged back ahead as Tyne and Wear began to fire but kept pushing on.

Botezatu added a penalty and Barber stole the ball in her own half and dribbled up the court to shoot into the top corner - but despite Inta also

scoring a late brace it was not enough as Nottingham ran out 20-13 winners.

The girls' second league match was due to be against Olympia Cannock - but with them cancelling the girls played a friendly game against the experienced Peninsula side instead.

The sides went into the break level at 5-5. Botezatu's hat-trick put Tyne and Wear ahead as the second-half began, but several penalties coupled with two-minute suspensions for Inta and Barber let Peninsula regain the advantage.

Both players came back on to score either side of Botezatu's fifth - but her sixth from the penalty line was in vain as Peninsula prevailed 14-12.

# Vikings are better but still on the losing side

16 December 2017



NEWCASTLE Vikings men's and women's teams shipped to home defeats despite improved performances in England Handball League matches at South Shields Temple Park Leisure Centre.

The men's National League North match saw the Vikings take on a strong Loughborough University side they had lost heavily to in the away fixture a fortnight before.

This time they put up more of a challenge despite the students again picking up three points with an 11-18 win to leave Newcastle still winless in their first season playing in the higher league.

Right-half Jonathan Bastin had put Newcastle into an early lead with his first strike of the season.

Centre Julien Eng, right-winger Andrei Ciurea and left half Stephan Stricker also found the net as the Vikings matched their opponents, debutant goalkeeper Pål Jakobsen

**HANDBALL**

pulling off excellent saves to keep Loughborough's attacks at bay.

However, the university side soon began to find their way through the Vikings' defence.

While Eng fired in another four goals from the back court, sandwiching Cedric Le Lay's goal from the line position, Loughborough went into the half-time break 17-9 ahead.

Eng and Stricker sought to pull the Vikings back into it early in the second half.

Mathew Lamb broke away to score the first of his three opportunities, fellow wingers Ciurea and Feil Boussemia also adding to Newcastle's tally.



By the time captain David Topacho and Eng struck again from the back court and Lamb rounded off the Vikings' scoring with his third goal the game was already lost.

Newcastle's women were looking for their first win against Liverpool in the following women's Regional League match.

With the away team missing their regular goalkeeper this seemed a good opportunity to get one over on their opponents.

The Merseyside eventless save on the scoresheet first before centre Maren Liane's double and Marlen Sinnig Gouly pulled the Vikings back into it.

Goalkeeper Andrea King pulled off a string of big saves but Newcastle struggled to prevent Liverpool centre Ania Wojtowicz from breaking through their defence line.

Liverpool held on for a well-played 24-22 victory.

12-goal tally for the match. Further first-half goals for the home side came from Alina Inta and Emily Bjerk's penalty. Blessing Ogbee and Marie Brevet firing in from the wings and Sinnig Gouly and Liane again striking from the back court.

Trailing 14-9 at half-time the Vikings ladies fought back with three quick goals at the start of the second period, captain Sandra Christie netting from the line position.

Bjerk then nabbed her second penalty and Liane her fourth of the game.

Gouly added a brace to her tally with Christie, Brevet, Inta and Ogbee all claiming their second goals of the game.

However, further strikes from Sinnig Gouly, Ogbee, Inta and Liane proved not quite enough as Newcastle rued missed opportunities and Liverpool held on for a well-played 24-22 victory.



10 January 2018

## Sharks show their teeth to see off Vikings' challenge

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's men returned to action after the festive break looking for a first win of the season against National League North leaders Coventry Sharks at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

However, it was not to be as they lost 39-19.

The visitors took an early lead before centre Julien Eng pulled one back and Jonathan Bastin set winger Matthew Lamb away on the counter-break to fire in a second.

However, despite four further consecutive Eng strikes from the back

**HANDBALL**

court, the Vikings were unable to stifle the speed and guile of the Sharks.

Captain David Topacho and line-player Cedric Le Lay added their names to the scoresheet but by the half-time whistle Coventry had opened up a convincing 21-8 advantage.

Le Lay and a Stephan Stricker back-court brace gave the Vikings early hope of a fighting comeback at the start of the second half.

While both goalkeepers Daniel Walch

and Pål Jakobsen made good saves in the Newcastle goal, the Vikings' players gave the ball away too often as the rampant away side continued to return plays on the fast break to extend their lead further.

Left-half Topacho fired in his second, Feil Boussemia netted from the left-wing and Eng struck another double, with Lamb breaking away and Le Lay pivoting on the line to each score twice more in the closing stages.



## Grassroots Sport

24 January 2018

# Vikings show top form to defeat Leeds



The Vikings' triumphant ladies' team and (below and bottom) action from their match against Leeds Beckett

NEWCASTLE Vikings' ladies jumped back to the top of the England Handball Regional League North table with a convincing 35-14 win over Leeds Beckett University.

However, the home side's men held off a Vikings' right-back to take their National League North contest 24-18.

Captain Sandra Christie set the tone for the ladies' clash early on with two quick goals from the line position before the students pulled one back.

Centre Maren Liane then struck a brace of her own, winger Marie Brevet getting round the back of the defence to fire in either side of one from right half Marlen Sinnig Gouly as the Vikings began to open up a lead.

Christie bagged another double and half players Emily Bjerk and Alina Inta with a brace added their names to the scoresheet.

Liane then rounded off the first-half scoring with a penalty strike to give Newcastle a 13-4 advantage at the break.

Though Leeds Beckett found the back of the Vikings' net more often in the second half, it was not enough to trouble Newcastle's attacking potency at the other end of the court.

Player of the match Liane and Brevet each notched another five goals, with four more for both Christie and Inta, two from Bjerk, another

**HANDBALL**

side of another Stricker effort early in the second half.

Further back-court strikes from captain David Topacho and another Eng brace helped the Vikings briefly close the gap - backed up by brilliant saves from Newcastle's Pål Jakobsen between the posts.

Topacho and wingers Lamb, Ciurea and Boussemia on the double added further effort for the Vikings.

However, they were unable to narrow the scoreline any further as a late flurry from Leeds Beckett gave the home team their victory at the final whistle.



Clara notched twice either side of another Stricker effort early in the second half.

Further back-court strikes from captain David Topacho and another Eng brace helped the Vikings briefly close the gap - backed up by brilliant saves from Newcastle's Pål Jakobsen between the posts.

Topacho and wingers Lamb, Ciurea and Boussemia on the double added further effort for the Vikings.

However, they were unable to narrow the scoreline any further as a late flurry from Leeds Beckett gave the home team their victory at the final whistle.



Newcastle Vikings men's squad

## Depleted county squad loses to Shropshire

TYNE and Weir's under-16 girls' squad, completed in the fourth round of the England Handball North Regional League.

With only six girls able to make the journey to Chester it was always going to be an uphill struggle against a strong Shropshire side in their opening match.

However, Alexandra Inta scored from the back court in the first minute to give them early hope

**JUNIOR HANDBALL**

Centre Naz Amin, making her comeback after a knee injury, added a second from centre.

However, despite great saves from goalkeeper Bryony Coldwell, the opposition had opened up an 8-2 advantage by half-time.

Second-half goals for Tyne and Weir came from Zoe Barber and

Esther Meffitt. However, Shropshire scored a further six goals to run out 14-4 winners.

Merseyside club Peninsula forfeited the second match to give Tyne and Weir a default 10-0 victory.

They then played a friendly against Olympia Cannock, the Staffordshire side winning 13-7.



Tyne and Weir's under-16 girls' squad

14 February 2018



Action from Newcastle Vikings' women's handball team's English League North victory over Manchester

# Victory for Vikings is doubly satisfying

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women completed a first-season double victory over Manchester with a 21-14 win in their Regional League North fixture.

The victory, at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields, took the girls level on points with Liverpool at the top of the table.

However, it was the visitors who sealed the double with a 27-13 success in the men's National League North match before Newcastle's men picked up a welcome first win of the season - defeating York Hunters 24-20 in the North East League.

The men were first on court against a strong Manchester first team.

Newcastle fought well with solid defensive play backed up by great first-half saves from goalkeeper Daniel Walsh and by half-time were still in with a chance at 13-8 down.

However, they struggled to find the net in the second half as Manchester pulled away for a convincing victory.

Julien Eng top-scored for the Vikings with five goals, fellow back-court players Cedric Le Lay, Etienne Lisse and captain David Topacho also on the scoresheet together with line-player Adam Moberley and a hat-trick from winger Matthew Lamb.

In a low-scoring first half of the women's game, dominated by tight defence lines and great saves from



Newcastle Vikings (black strip) take on Manchester



both goalkeepers, Manchester took an early lead before right-winger Katerina Gibson equalised with her first senior Vikings goal.

The away side then opened up a two-goal advantage.

Half-backs Alina Inta with two and one each from Marlen Slinning Gouly and Emily Bjerk kept Newcastle in touching distance before the Vikings took advantage of a Manchester two-minute suspension to draw level 7-7 at half-time through winger Marie Brevet and centre Maren Liane.

Blessing Ogbee fired Newcastle ahead from the right wing at the

start of the second half before the Vikings' back-court players took control to stretch their advantage with pin-point shooting from distance.

Inta's treble saw her pass 100 league and cup goals for the club, while Liane also added three more to her tally and Bjerk another, with goalkeeper Andrea King pulling off a series of double saves at the other end.

Captain Sandra Christie got in on the act with a hat-trick from the line position and Brevet added her second before another double from Liane clinched the victory.

Newcastle then gave a run-out to several less-regular players in their opening friendly North East League fixture of the season, coming away with a morale-boosting victory.

York Hunters had raced into an early lead before the Vikings pulled back to go into the break 12-10 in front, at a scoreline matched in the second half as the Vikings eventually ran out 24-20 winners.

VIKINGS MEN v MANCHESTER: Daniel Walsh (GK), Pål Jakobsen (GK), Andrei Bugdan, Carius, David Topacho (1 goal), Matthew Lamb (2), Cedric Le Lay (2), Adam Moberley (1), Mohamed Foad, Brevette, Jennifer An, Basti, Etienne Lisse (1), Pabli Docampo, Julian Eng (2).  
VIKINGS WOMEN v MANCHESTER: Andrea King (GK), Marie Brevet (2 goals), Marlen Slinning Gouly (1), Katerina Gibson (1), Alina Liane (2), Blessing Ogbee (1), Emily Bjerk (2), Alina Inta (3), Sandra Christie (1), Maria Jose Gonzalez Alvarez.

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16 February 2018

## Young Vikings celebrate a first win



NEWCASTLE Vikings' junior side enjoyed a first win of the season in a friendly mini-tournament against Scottish club Tryst 77 - although the Cumberland-based side went away with the honours.

The round-robin tournament at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre featured a mixed team of the Vikings' junior players.

It included seven girls from the Tyne and Wear under-16 side, taking on the year two and year four age group girls of visiting former British champions Tryst 77.

Newcastle's Juniors narrowly lost 8-6 to Tryst 04 in the opening game before the more experienced Tryst 02 team overcame their younger clubmates 18-3 and the Vikings 14-5.

### JUNIOR HANDBALL

much-welcomed 7-3 victory over Tryst 04 in the return round of matches. Alexandra Inta netting her second hat-trick of the day and Ana Botezatu and Tahura Udoin each scoring twice.

Tryst 02 then rounded off an unbeaten competition with another double victory in defeating Tryst 04 11-5 and the Vikings 12-3.

With three points for a win, two for a draw and one for a loss, Tryst 02 won the tournament with 12 points and a +39 goal difference.

The Vikings were second on six points and a -16 goal difference just ahead of Tryst 04 - also on six points but with an inferior -23 goal difference.

21 February 2018

## Roaring Lions hand out a National Shield loss to the Vikings

A SECOND-HALF turnaround saw Newcastle Vikings' men knocked out of the National Shield competition 28-22 at the quarter-final stage by Reading Lions at Temple Park in South Shields.

In the first half Newcastle played some of their best team handball of the season as they built a somewhat unexpected lead in looking to avenge last year's away defeat.

Centre Julien Eng's early strike started the Vikings' scoring, he soon adding another in between goals from half-players Etienne Lisse and Cedric Le Lay.

An Eng hat-trick put the home side 7-5 ahead midway through the half, goalkeeper Pål Jakobsen pulling off a series of brilliant saves to deny Reading's attacking plays.

Line-player Adam Moberley, captaining the side for the first time, also got in on the act and Le Lay and Lisse each notched twice more.

### HANDBALL

Three more from Eng took his tally up to eight before Moberley's second sent Newcastle into the half-time break 16-13 up.

However, the Lions roared back strongly at the start of the second period as they began to find gaps in the Newcastle defence.

Despite further back-court strikes from Lisse and Eng's brace, the Vikings struggled to find the net at the other end.

Reading edged in front at 20-19 and while the Vikings fought hard they were unable to prevent the Lions from pulling further ahead.

Right-winger Bogdan Ciurea added his name to the scoresheet but by the time Eng struck his 11th goal of the game and Le Lay another it was too little too late as Reading went through.



GRASSROOTS SPORT: RING TONY HODGSON ON 0191 201 6464

5 April 2018

## Lady Vikings victorious to keep alive title dreams

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's team ran out clear 28-16 winners over bottom side Leeds Beckett University in their English Regional League North encounter at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

The Vikings took the court looking for a big win to narrow their goal-difference gap with the University of Leeds at the top ahead of their crunch clash this month.

Usual winger Marie Brevet quickly took the opportunity of playing in the half position to get them off to the perfect start, soon followed by back-court strikes from



The victorious Vikings' ladies team

captain Alina Inta either side of one from winger Krystina Coulson in her first game of the season.

A topsy-turvy first half saw the two teams continually vie for the

helping to edge Newcastle 9-8 in front at half-time.

The second half, however, saw the Vikings gradually open up a strong advantage.

Inta and Gouly struck in quick succession before Brevet added four more to her tally, Gonzalez and Coulson also each netting again.

Leeds Beckett changed their tactics to try to mark the Newcastle captain out of the game but Inta's power and precision from the penalty line helped her to a further three goals, while centre Gouly also broke through Beckett's defence line for three more of her own.

Brevet's breakaway brace took her to seven for the game, Gonzalez pivoted to strike her third and the

victory was wrapped up by player-of-the-match Inta's eighth and Gouly's seventh.

With Liverpool evening last month's defeat to Manchester to jump to the top, the Vikings' result places Newcastle's women just one point behind the Merseysiders and level on points with the University of Leeds, who hold a 10-better goal difference.

The Vikings now face both of the top sides this month in what look set to be two tough end-of-season title-deciding matches as the league battle goes down to the wire.

They take on University of Leeds at Temple Park on Saturday, April 14 (10.00) before travelling to Liverpool a week later.

Grassroots Sport



All the girls' squads who took part in the Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Games tournament at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

THE 2018 Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Games saw three south-of-the-Tyne schools crowned champions at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

The morning's girls' under-13 matches, each lasting ten minutes, produced particularly high-scoring games.

Both Sunderland's Castle View Enterprise Academy and South Shields' St Wilfrid's RC College picked up impressive 12-0 wins over Walbottle Campus.

Wallsend's Churchill Community Academy also notched an 8-0 scoreline over the Newcastle school.

St Wilfrid's went on to win the under-13 girls' competition, remaining unbeaten to retain their title and beating runners-up Castle View Enterprise Academy 4-1 in their final match.

Washington's Oxclose Community Academy also went undefeated in winning the under-15 girls' competition with two wins and a draw.

They took the gold medals with a close-fought 1-0 victory over runners-up St Wilfrid's in the final match.

North Shields' John Spence High School finished close behind in third place ahead of Walbottle Campus.

In the afternoon's boys' matches, St Wilfrid's under-13s again scored the biggest victory of all the games with an 11-3 victory over Walbottle Campus.

However, Washington's Oxclose Com-

# Schools show their hand at the Games

**HANDBALL**

munity Academy's greater consistency won them the competition.

They were unbeaten with two wins and a draw, just ahead of the South Shields school.

Churchill Community Academy just pipped Walbottle Campus for third place.

The boys' under-15 competition went down to the wire and was ultimately decided on goal difference.

Washington-based Biddick Academy's 7-0 victory over Churchill Community Academy in the penultimate match helped them to a +10 goal difference, which proved enough to pip Walbottle Campus - who could only beat Boldon School 3-1 in the last game of the day for an aggregate +7 goal difference.

Boldon School's 5-1 success over Churchill proved decisive in gaining them third place.

Organisers of the event were Tyne and Wear Sport and Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.

A Vikings spokesman said: "It was a great day of competitive handball."

All the champions now go on to take part in the North East Regional Handball Finals on Thursday, April 26, also at Temple Park.

**RESULTS** - Girls Under-13: Castle View 12-0 Walbottle, St Wilfrid's 8-4 Churchill, Church Hill 1-0 Castle View, Walbottle 0-12 St Wilfrid's, Churchill 8-0 Walbottle, St Wilfrid's 4-1 Castle View.  
Girls Under-15: St Wilfrid's 2-1 John Spence, Oxclose 4-1 Walbottle, John Spence 2-2 Oxclose, Walbottle 2-6 St Wilfrid's.  
John Spence 6-2 Walbottle, St Wilfrid's 6-1 Oxclose.  
Boys Under-13: Walbottle 1-1 Churchill, Oxclose 4-1 St Wilfrid's, Oxclose 7-1 Walbottle, Churchill 1-3 St Wilfrid's, Churchill 4-4 Oxclose, St Wilfrid's 11-3 Walbottle.  
Boys Under-15: Biddick 3-0 Boldon, Walbottle 5-0 Churchill, Biddick 8-3 Walbottle, Churchill 1-3 Boldon, Churchill 6-7 Biddick, Boldon 1-3 Walbottle.



Action from the boys' competition at Temple Park



All the boys' squads who competed at Temple Park Leisure Centre

Grassroots Sport



St Wilfrid's who won the under-13 girls' competition



Oxclose Community Academy who won the under-15 girls' competition



St Wilfrid's who won the under-13 boys' competition



Biddick Academy triumphed in the under-15 boys' competition

# Double delight for victorious Vikings

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's and men's teams both scored convincing North East Friendly League wins over the University of York at Temple Park Leisure Centre.

**HANDBALL**

The Vikings' ladies took the opportunity to give under-16 half-player Zoe Barber a first run-out in the senior side and club debuts to new back-court players Caroline Steinhagen and Ingrid Misund in a shortened 2 x 20-minutes match.

Line player Maria Jose Gonzalez opened the scoring with her first goal for the club, soon followed by strikes from centre Steinhagen and winger Blessing Ogbee.

The university side pulled one back but two more from Gonzalez either side of one from half Maren Liane put Newcastle 6-1 up at the break.

Newcastle then ran away with it in the second half, scoring another 12 unanswered goals as York rarely troubled the Vikings' solid defence.

Gonzalez and Steinhagen both took their personal tallies up to five apiece, Misund scored her first Newcastle goal, winger Emily Bjerk notched three on the break and Liane

also netted two more late on as the Vikings rounded off a 18-1 victory.

The men's game saw the Vikings take the first half 16-11 with centre Julien Eng claiming four, half Centre Le Lay, line-player Adam Mobbetley and winger Matthew Lamb each scoring trebles while fellow winger Bogdan Clurea added a brace and line-player Craig Swanson also netted.

The second-half was, however, much more one-sided as the Vikings ran away in dominant style.

Le Lay's fourth was followed by one from guest women's player Maren Liane.

Eng took his tally to seven with Clurea and half Etienne Lisse also both scoring another three.

Swanson grabbed his second, while Fedi Boussame also found the net late on and Mobbetley's double rounded off a 33-15 victory.



Newcastle Vikings' (all-black strip) and University of York's men's handball teams who met in a North East Friendly League clash at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre

14 May 2018

SPORT

# Hand-y performers

## HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's handball team was crowned England Handball Regional League North champions after an 18-13 victory over Liverpool at Greenbank Sports Academy.

The Vikings went into their title-deciding final league game of the season knowing they were guaranteed a best-ever top-two finish after the University of Leeds forfeited the previous weekend's rearranged fixture.

However, they would have to beat Liverpool for the first time in their four English Handball League seasons to snatch the title from the Merseysiders' grasp.

Centre Maren Liane got Newcastle off to the perfect start with an early goal from the back court.

However, Liverpool took advantage of defensive line infringements to score three consecutive well-taken penalties courtesy of Malgorza Janus.

The Vikings soon pulled back to level through right-winger Marie Brevet's powerful shot into the top-corner and Liane's second from the line position.

The two teams continued to trade blows throughout the first half as left-half Ingvild Misund and Liane broke through the home defence and Emily Bjerk fired into the bottom corner from the right wing to keep the Vikings on a par.

However, with goalkeeper Andrea King pulling off two penalty saves, late goals from Maria Gonzalez pivoting on the line and right-half Alina Inta sent Newcastle into the break with a narrow 8-7 lead.

The second half started in a similar vein with Liane netting either



Newcastle Vikings' ladies team celebrates its title success

## VIKINGS FEELING JUST CHAMPION AFTER SECURING LEAGUE TITLE WITH A VICTORY

side of Misund's second. Head coach Maren Slinning Gouly then got in on the act to beat the Liverpool goalkeeper herself, while King saved her third penalty at the other end as the Vikings' defence held firm to thwart the home side's attacks.

With added impetus, Newcastle gradually opened up their advantage through further Inta and Liane

back-court strikes, Bjerk's wing shot found its way under the goal keeper and player-of-the-match Gouly broke through for her second.

Inta struck her third and season-top-scorer Liane rounded off the scoring with her seventh of the match before the final whistle sent the Vikings into elation.

The triumph saw Newcastle Vikings jump to the top of the table

and unexpectedly take their first league title with an unassailable 20-point lead over Liverpool and the University of Leeds.

The Tynesiders then went into battle in the promotion play-offs, narrowly losing out 16-14 to Loughborough University's first team in a tight North-Midlands semi-final play-off match at Oldham Leisure Centre.

A SPECIAL FEATURE ON THE N/EAST SCHOOLS HANDBALL GAMES FINALS IN GRASSROOTS SOON

21 May 2018

## Grassroots Sport

# School squads triumph in Temple Park court battles

## Pupils show their hand at north Finals

THE North East Regional Schools Handball Games Finals took place at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

Five county-winning schools representing Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley competed for the under-15 and under-13 boys' and girls' titles.

The under-15 competitions developed into a battle between Tyne and Wear and the Tees Valley. Washington's Oxclose Community Academy girls won all three of their matches without conceding a single goal, against Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science.

Another Washington school, Biddick Academy took the boys' honours after winning their first three games before High Tunstall gained a narrow late consolation victory.

South Shields' St Wilfrid's RC College similarly won their first three games in the under-13 girls' competition to secure the title before falling to defeat in their second match against Northumberland's Richard Coates C&E Middle School. High Tunstall, meanwhile, picked up two wins over Richard Coates to claim the runners-up spot.

The boys' under-13 competition went

### SCHOOLS HANDBALL

down to the wire before High Tunstall defeated Oxclose Community Academy 7-6 in the last match of the day for their decisive third victory.

Runners-up Oxclose had earlier scored two convincing victories over Richard Coates, while the Northumberland school's sole success had come over eventual champions High Tunstall.

The champions were presented with their cups and medals by the England Handball Association's north regional delivery manager Andy Clark.

He said: "I was impressed with the standard and competitiveness of the play throughout the day."

The region's four winning schools now go on to challenge for English national schools honours in Worcester on the weekend of June 9 and 10.

**Under-15 girls title winners Oxclose Academy**  
1. Oxclose 2. Richard Coates 3. High Tunstall 4. St Wilfrid's  
**Under-13 girls title winners St Wilfrid's**  
1. St Wilfrid's 2. Oxclose 3. High Tunstall 4. Richard Coates  
**Under-15 boys champions Biddick Academy**  
1. Biddick 2. High Tunstall 3. Oxclose 4. Richard Coates  
**Under-13 boys champions High Tunstall**  
1. High Tunstall 2. Oxclose 3. Richard Coates 4. Biddick



High Tunstall triumphed in the under-13 boys competition



Under-13 girls competition champions St Wilfrid's



Under-15 girls title winners Oxclose Academy



Under-15 boys champions Biddick Academy



All the squads who took part in the 2018 Tyneside Handball Tournament at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields

# Scots have title firmly in hand at Temple Park

TWO-TIME winners up ERK2 from East Kilbride claimed their five Tyneside Handball Tournament crown in the 55th staging of the annual competition at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

Following their late withdrawals, the men's competition was reduced to a four-team battle between Tyneside Vikings, Durham University, York Harriers and ERK2.

It was the Scottish club who took advantage of the absence of three-time champions and recently crowned 2018 British Handball League Play-off champions Glasgow to retain the tournament title.

Hours after Vikings lost their open-

**HANDBALL**

ing group match 11-8 to the 2018 British University Handball winners up Durham University before drawing 9-9 with York Harriers.

They then found their form to peak up four straight wins, including impressive 11-9 and 12-8 victories over ERK2.

The Scottish side, nevertheless, also secured four group-stage victories, the biggest winning margin of the day coming in their final group match in which they defeated York 16-5.

Durham finished the group stage

in third place just ahead of York. The Harriers tested the table in the third-fourth place play-off as the university side lost club president and top scorer Lucas Palombos to injury.

York, coming away with a well played 4-8 victory.

Having finished top of the group table in their most successful tournament showing, the Vikings went into the final in positive mood.

However, a pulsating, high-scoring match of the day saw ERK2 overcome the Vikings 16-11.

The result means a Scottish team has won the men's tournament every year since the Vikings first established it in 2013.



Newcastle Vikings' men's squad in high spirits at the tournament

ERK2's Grant Britain, under-20 international Jack Trew, picked up the competition's top goalkeeping award with 26 strikes, ahead of team-mate Benjamin Muir and the Vikings' season top-scorer Julian King who both found the back of the net 19 times.

In the women's section three games took place between teams representing Newcastle Vikings and

Tyne and Wear. The Vikings took the first two 9-5 and 7-4.

However, Tyne and Wear gained a deserved 7-4 result in the final match.

Newcastle's Candice Strickbagen top-scored with eight goals.

ERK2's 15-year-old goalkeeper Ewan, who is 10 years old, was named the tournament's best goalkeeper.

The Vikings picked themselves with another 2-0 win (12-6 and 13-7) to take the women's



Tournament action at Temple Park Leisure Centre

# Vikings splashing in Poole

## GIRLS HAND-ED A CHANCE TO FACE BEST OF BRITISH

**HANDBALL**

AFTER missing last year's tournament, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's ladies returned to England's south coast to compete in their dual British Beach Handball Championships in Poole, Dorset.

The competition draw handed the Vikings a tough opening group match against champions London GD II.

With a point gained for winning each half in beach handball, and entertaining trick shots and goals by the goalkeepers counting double, the experienced Londoners overpowered the Tynesiders to win the two halves 21-12 and 20-9 and run out clear 2-0 winners.

However, the Vikings then fought well in their hometown club Poole Phoenix's first team 2-0 (16-12 and 14-9).

Despite playing well in their third game against Cambridge Honeybadgers, Newcastle lost 2-0 (12-9 and 15-7) before coming back to pick up a strong 2-0 (20-9 and 14-9) victory over London Angels II and finish the day third in Group One.

With the top two sides of each group progressing into the cup competition, Newcastle went into the Plate semi-final against West London Eagles.

The Vikings started really well to take the first half 13-5 but lost their momentum after the interval as the Eagles matched the second half 15-9 for a 1-1 result to take the tie into a running penalty shoot-out.

After missing their first three attempts, Newcastle captain Sandra Clarke-Lamb and player-coach Marlen Sinnung-outly both scored acrobatic 360-degree spin shot two-pointers to pull the Vikings level and effectively take it to sudden death.

However, the Eagles held their nerve to score a 5-4 shoot-out success.

The agonising semi-final defeat meant Newcastle then faced a re-match against group opponents London Angels II in the third-fourth place play-off.

The Vikings picked themselves with another 2-0 win (12-6 and 13-7) to take the women's



The Newcastle Vikings' squad which took part in the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole (above) and (below left and below right) the team in action



plate competition's third-place trophy for a beat-over seventh-place overall showing at the championships.

Their semi-final adversaries West London Eagles went on to beat Coventry Shurks in the women's plate decider, leaving Newcastle's ladies to wonder what might have been.

London Angels I defeated London GD II in the main women's cup final.

The third-place women's plate trophy nevertheless gave the Vikings their second piece of silverware in their most successful season. It added to their 2017 18 England Handball Women's North Regional League title winners trophy secured in April.



3 October  
2018

ort

# Hand-y performers

## VIKINGS' GIRLS WIN NORTH OF THE BORDER

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's women's team started the new campaign where they left off last season - by picking up their third trophy of a successful year at the Tom Cooper Handball Tournament in East Kilbride.

Newcastle's men's team, competing in this fourth annual pre-season tournament for the second time and giving a run-out to a few less regular players, had a tough morning - going down heavily 13-4 to Dundee, 16-4 to Livingston and 18-1 to Cumbernauld-based Tryst 77.

While they improved in the afternoon's matches, the Vikings' lads could not quite pull off a win - losing 12-6 to Edinburgh and 10-8 to hosts FK82.

In between, the Vikings' women, featuring two guest players from York City Hunters and the local Scottish sides due to a late withdrawal, also lost their opening match in the three-way ladies exhibition tournament 16-7 to a strong EK Select team featuring several Edinburgh and Dundee handballers.

However, a better performance and switch of attacking formation to two line players paid off as they came from behind to defeat Tryst 77 12-9 in their second game - putting them through to the final and a re-match against the EK Select team.

Another change of tactics to a 5-1 defensive formation to mark the EK Select team's play-maker out of the game worked wonders in the decider.

The Vikings stayed strong at the

Newcastle Vikings (dark strip) in action at East Kilbride and (below) the victorious squad celebrates



back and took their opportunities in attack to pull off an unexpected 8-6 victory.

Raising the Craig Walter Cup comes on the back of the Newcastle ladies' championship-winning season in the England Handball Regional League North and picking up the third-place plate trophy in this summer's British Beach Handball Championships.

Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams begin their 2018/19 English League campaigns with home fixtures against University of York on Saturday.

Throw-offs are at 2.30 for the women and 4.30 for the men at Newcastle's Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence.

■ WATCH out for regular Vikings reports in Grassroots Sport.

24 October  
2018



Newcastle Vikings' victorious men's team

# Vikings kick off season in style

### HANDBALL

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's men returned to winning ways with a morale-boosting 27-20 victory over the University of Leeds in their opening match of the England Handball Regional League North season in Bradford.

The two sides took their time getting into their stride in an evenly-matched first half.

Newcastle took an early lead before the students took advantage of a two-minute Vikings' suspension to pull back and level the game 10-10 at half-time.

Newcastle's back-court players Julien Eng and Pablo Docampo led

the way with five and three goals respectively.

Winger Adam Moberley, line Ben Andrews and half Fedi Boussema also found the net.

The half-time team talk helped the Vikings to pull together and address a few errors.

It clearly did the trick as they quickly opened up a four-goal advantage on the restart.

With the defensive line staying stronger at the other end, two two-minute suspensions for Leeds

players helped the Vikings push on further and extend their lead to seven points.

They then did well to hold on to that through to the final whistle.

Eng fired in another seven strikes on his way to claiming the first Kafeneon Player of the Match Award of the season from club sponsors.

Docampo added five more of his own, with Moberley and Andrews each picking up a brace and winger Robert Thompson also adding his name to the scoresheet.

NEWCASTLE VIKINGS: Pål Jakobsen (GK), Benjamin Andrews (3 goals), Mohamed Fedi Boussema (1), Adam Moberley (3), Mark Harrison, Robert Thompson (1), Julien Eng (12), Craig Swanson, Pablo Docampo (7).

6 December  
2018

■ A DECISIVE first-half offensive from University of Leeds left Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's women's side with too much to do as they slumped to a 24-13 defeat at Bradford.

The Vikings now lie in third place in the England Handball Regional League North table behind Liverpool and the University of Leeds.

## A depleted Vikings go out of the Shield

NEWCASTLE Vikings' depleted women's team was knocked out of the England Handball National Shield 24-17 by Midlands Regional League side Northampton.

Played at Cranfield University near Bedford, the hosts got off the mark first - but the Vikings soon pulled level through goals from line player María José González, right-half Alina Inta and young right-winger Katerina Gibson - only her second for the senior team.

Centre Marien Goultly suffered a broken thumb but, without any substitutes available, she had to battle on - switching out to the wing with Marie Thompson moving inside.

Inta's resulting penalty strike briefly edged the Vikings in front before Northampton regained the lead.

Thompson nevertheless revelled in the half position, quickly scoring a hat-trick to bring the game all square again.

Backed up by good saves from in-form goalkeeper Andrea King, the Vikings were frustrating the bigger, powerful home side.

Despite a shoulder injury to back-court player Rosa Larcy, the two teams continued to trade goals for

HANDBALL

13 December  
2018

the rest of the half, Inta deftly lobbing the opposing goalkeeper and Goultly defying her injury with a left-handed goal.

Thompson fired in her fourth and Inta did likewise from the penalty line to take the sides into the half-time break at 11-11.

The interval, however, affected Newcastle's momentum as Northampton started with four quick-fire goals before Inta and González had the Vikings' scoreline ticking over again.

However, the home side continued to extend their advantage from the penalty line and on the break as Newcastle began to tire.

Further strikes came from Goultly's second left-hander, Larcy breaking through and Inta's sixth as the Vikings sought to fight back.

However, by the time González rounded off the scoring with her third of the game it was Northants who had run out the winners.

Newcastle's ladies return to action after the festive break with a home league match against Manchester on Saturday, January 12.



## Depleted Vikings handed defeat by Manchester

AN under-strength Newcastle Vikings women's team slumped to a 20-12 home England Handball Regional League North defeat to Manchester at the Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence.

Hit by injuries, illnesses and

HANDBALL

18 January  
2019

unavailability, and with several players having to play out of their usual positions, Newcastle's ladies struggled as Manchester gradually

opened out a 10-3 first-half lead. Centre Maren Liane found the net twice, half Judyta Turulska also scoring in between.

The second half did bring about an improved performance from the Vikings, winger Blessing Ogbee scoring four penalties in a personal best-ever six-goal haul to pick up Newcastle's Kafeneon Player of the Match Award.

Two more back-court strikes from Turulska and one from Liane made for a more evenly-matched contest and helped give credibility to the final scoreline.

Newcastle's women will hope for a much more competitive all-round performance and to quickly gain revenge in the return fixture in a fortnight's time.



1 February  
2019

Friday, February 1, 2019 | The Chronicle 79

Grassroots Sport

### Sabres put the Vikings to the sword in Shield quarter-final

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team were knocked out of the English National Shield competition 33-25 by Gullford Sabres at the last-eight stage.

Half player Bart Piorowski and wingers Adam Moberley and Matthew Lamb teamed up for the five Newcastle goals.

Piorowski then netted his third in between a pair of double strikes from centre Julien Eng.

However, the Tyresiders were unable to hold the home side as the Sabres opened up a 17-10 half-time advantage.

Eng continued with another brace at the start of the second half, soon adding his seventh after further counters from Piorowski and Lamb and another sandwiched by two strikes from half Fadi Boussema as the Vikings

thought to claw their way back. Captain Moberley and Boussema each scored again, two breakaway goals from Lamb taking his tally to five.

Backed up by good defensive play in front of goalkeeper Daniel Walsh, Newcastle valiantly fought back to within three goals with 10 minutes to go.

However, two late two-minute suspensions, and an injury-forced reshuffle stifled the comeback.

First-half goalkeeper PJ Jakobsen had to play outfield and set up Newcastle's Kafeneon player of the match Eng to fire in his ninth and tenth goals of the match. Boussema then rounding off the Tyresiders' scoring.

Newcastle Vikings (black strip) and Gullford Sabres after their National Shield quarter-final clash

Grassroots Sport

## Revenge so sweet as Vikings hand out a defeat to Manchester

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings' ladies quickly avenged their recent home defeat to Manchester with a much-improved 17-14 victory in their return Regional League North fixture at the Trafford Sportsome.

The two sides level-peggged each other throughout a low-scoring first half dominated by solid defensive performances after half-back Alina Inta's opener - but the Vikings never let Manchester edge ahead.

Centre Maren Liane scored Newcastle's second, goalkeeper Andrea King saved a penalty shot



Newcastle Vikings' ladies team

and Inta fired in a hat-trick before left-winger Marie Thompson edged the Vikings ahead again 6-5 on the stroke of half-time.

Thompson struck again at the start of the second half, soon followed by one each for back-court players Rosa Larcy and Inta as

Newcastle stretched their lead. King, Inta and Larcy teamed up for two duplicate fast-break goals.

Inta and Liane then converted opportunities to add to their tallies from the penalty line and right-winger Blessing Ogbue also added her name to the scoresheet.

It was Newcastle's on-fire Kafeneon player of the match Inta whose eighth and ninth goals of the game rounded off the victory as the Vikings moved back up to second in the league behind Liverpool.

Newcastle's next home match is against third-placed University of Leeds later this month.

**HANDBALL**

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team jumped to the top of the England Handball North Midlands Regional League after drawing with the University of Loughborough II and beating the University of Lincoln.

With the university sides from Birmingham and leaders Warwick opting not to take part in this first of two centralised tournament-style days of shortened league matches between the North and Midlands teams at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford, the Vikings were already guaranteed two 10-0 forfeit wins.

Their first match on court against the Loughborough students was an evenly-matched affair throughout.

The teams were level 7-7 at half-time before the university side took advantage of two two-minute suspensions for Newcastle players to edge ahead - only for the Vikings to fight back well to gain a 15-15 draw by the final whistle.

Newcastle's goals principally came from the back court through Pablo Docampo (5), Julien Eng (4) and Bart Piorowski (3), captain Adam Moberley also adding a treble from the wing and line positions.

A dominant 12-3 first half against Lincoln then paved the way for an 11-15 victory for the Vikings in their second game of the day.

Line-player Craig Swanson (2) and half Fedi Boussema were on the scoresheet in the first half in addition to the scorers from the first match, winger Matthew Lamb also picking up two goals in the second period.

Eng led the way with six strikes for the game, Moberley finding the back of the net four times, Piorowski adding three and Docampo one.

The combined results meant

# Vikings prove in top form in league clashes



The in-form Newcastle Vikings' men's team

Newcastle's men remain undefeated in the league and jumped above University of Warwick to top spot ahead of their return home game against third-placed University of Leeds on Saturday, March 9 at Temple Park Leisure Centre.

Their league season is then set to climax with the final tournament-style matchday fixtures taking place in Bradford again on March 30.

NEWCASTLE WINGS: Pablo Docampo (5), Julien Eng (4), Craig Swanson (2), Fedi Boussema (2), Adam Moberley (3), Bart Piorowski (3), Maren Liane (1), Alina Inta (1), Andrea King (1), Rosa Larcy (1).

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Grassroots Sport

# Very hand-y performers

NEWCASTLE Vikings Handball Club's juniors and mini-Vikings took centre stage at an afternoon of fun matches at the city's Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence.

The mini-Vikings and Gosforth four to seven year-olds played three 2 x five-minute games either side of the ten junior 2 x 13-minute matches between the Vikings' Temple Park-based South Shields satellite club and its Benfield based eight-13-year-old players.

The Vikings Blues beat Gosforth's Moat Greens 10-6 in the opening mini game, having led 4-2 at half-time.

The second game produced the same scoreline at the break.

However, it eventually proved much closer as the Vikings just held on for a 5-4 victory.

Gaining in confidence from those first two games, Gosforth matched the Vikings in the final mini fixture - it was 3-3 at half-time before ending in a 6-4 draw.

In the first of the juniors' matches, Benfield let a 3-2 half-time lead slip as the Temple Park team fought back for an 8-3 success.

The second game was 1-1 at the

## A GREAT DAY ON THE COURT FOR VIKINGS' YOUNG STARS

**JUNIOR HANDBALL**

break before a tense finish saw Temple Park also prevail 5-4.

Newcastle Vikings' head coach Marlen Gouly said: "I was really pleased with the fantastic team spirit on show."

"All the children had lots of fun in a great atmosphere created by their watching families and friends, from toddlers to grandparents, cheering them all on."

"The supporters and coaches were especially impressed with the level of handball from both the junior teams."

"There were great shots from all positions and good goalkeeping too."

The Vikings would like to thank all those who took part and the volunteers for their hard work on the day.



Youngsters in action at Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's fun event at Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence (also bottom left)



1 April 2019

NEWCASTLE Vikings' women's and men's teams scored a win and a draw against the University of Leeds in their England Handball Regional League North fixtures at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

The men's teams were first on court and the Vikings quickly seized the opportunity to go ahead through goals from half Bart Piorowski, winger Matthew Lamb and a hat-trick from centre Julien Eng.

The game players added a further five counters before Pablo Docampo broke through from the half position for a brace to take the home side into the break 12-9 up.

Piorowski, Eng and Docampo continued to lead Newcastle's scoring in the second half as

## Vikings extend lead at top with draw against Leeds

**HANDBALL**

the Vikings extended their advantage to four, Eng's seventh strike of the game gaining him the honour of becoming the first male Newcastle player to score a century of league and cup goals.

However, Leeds clawed their way back as the Vikings faltered in the closing minutes and, despite Eng netting once more for his second treble of the game, the Gryphons

levelled the game 19-19 in a frantic finish. The draw extended Newcastle's lead at the top of the table to three points ahead of the final weekend of tournament-style fixtures.

The Vikings' women went into their match knowing a win would take them level on points with their opponents in second place and give them an outside mathematical chance of retaining their Regional League North title.

Early goals from winger Blessing Ogbue, line-player Sandra Christie-Lamb and half Ross Larcy gave them the perfect start.

Captain Christie-Lamb and wingers Katerina Gibson and Marie Thompson each added further strikes as Leeds stayed in touch before centre Maren Liane claimed five consecutive power strikes, Ogbue's second giving the hosts a 12-9 half-time advantage.

Liane's penalty and a brilliant back-court attacking play helped set up left-half Judyta Turuluka either side of Larcy's four-in-a-row to extend the Vikings' lead.

Thompson, Christie-Lamb and Liane (2) then struck to seal the 23-20 victory.

Grassroots Sport

# School squads are Game for action at Temple Park



Under-13 boys' winners Oxclose Community Academy (left) and under-15 champions Churchill Community College (right)



Under-13 girls' winners Wellfield Middle School (left) and under-15 champions Oxclose Community Academy (right)

# Very hand-y performers

THE Tyne and Wear Handball School Games featured 20 teams of girls and boys from nine schools representing each of the five Tyne and Wear districts competing for trophies at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

### SCHOOLS HANDBALL

Organised by Tyne and Wear Vikings Handball Club - with additional support this year from Tyne Metropolitan College's North East Sports Academy - the annual competition is now in its third year.

The winning schools all go through to the North East regional finals at Temple Park on May 9, with the opportunity to then represent the region in the England Handball Association's National Schools Handball finals.

Playing a series of quick-fire seven-minute round-robin matches, the under-15 and under-13 girls

competition on goals scored and goal difference.

Both they and South Tyneside's St Wilfrid's RC College were unbeaten - winning three and drawing one of their games and only conceding one

goal each, John Spence Community High School from North Tyneside picked up the bronze medals.

North Tyneside's Wellfield Middle School impressively claimed all of their matches in the under-13 competition to clearly win gold, only conceding two goals in their final game against Newcastle's Benfield High School.

Gateshead's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy were runners-up ahead of third-placed St Wilfrid's RC College.

The boys' competitions saw North Tyneside's Churchill Community College take the under-15 gold medals after coming back from an early defeat to triumph in their other three matches.

The day's top-scoring team Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy clinched silver on goals scored and goal difference from Newcastle's Walbottle Campus.

Oxclose Community Academy went unbeaten in winning the under-13 boys' contest ahead of Wellfield Middle School and St Wilfrid's RC College.



All the teams who took part in the Tyne and Wear Handball Schools Games at Temple Park Leisure Centre

17 April 2019

NEWCASTLE'S Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence will stage the seventh annual Tyneside Handball Tournament on Sunday, May 4.

Organised by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the competition will feature teams from North-East England and Scotland.

The Vikings are the reigning champions in the women's event, East Kilbride's EK82 the men's champions. Spectator entry is free.

26 April 2019

# Vikings gain upper hand in title battle

NEWCASTLE Vikings' men's team won their first England Handball Regional League North title by picking up the draw they needed in their second of three matches.

### HANDBALL

With the Universities of Warwick and Leeds opting not to take part in the final weekend of league competition - thus forfeiting their remaining fixtures - it was all set to be a straight shoot-out between leaders the Vikings and second-placed University of Birmingham to decide the league championship - the Vikings having two games in hand.

The two sides were up against each other in the opening match of the tournament style day at the Richard Dunn Sports Centre in Bradford.

Birmingham had the better of the first half, taking a 5-3 advantage into the break.

The Vikings narrowed the gap in the second half, led by six goals from half-player Pablo Docampo, but Birmingham held on for a narrow 12-11 win.

Newcastle's second match saw them build an 8-6 half-time lead against the University of Loughborough IL.

The student team edged ahead in the second half, before a frantic finish saw centre Julien Eng fire in his seventh goal of the game in the final second to snatch a 14-14 draw.

The two points were enough to ensure the Tynesiders could not be caught at the top of the league table and secure them their first

league title to emulate the achievement of the Vikings women's team last season.

In their final match against the University of Lincoln, the Tynesiders again took a two-goal 8-6 advantage into the interval.

Despite Lincoln pulling back to take a 14-12 win, it was Matthew Lamb's fourth goal at the start of the second half which was the highlight of the game for the Vikings.

In scoring his 100th league and cup goal, the winger became only the second Newcastle male player to reach the century milestone (just three weeks after Eng had done so) - on the day when he also became the first man to make 50 club appearances.

Meanwhile, Newcastle's women were also in action in Liverpool at

the Greenbank Sports Academy. The champions went into the final day of tournament-style matches sitting in third place and with an outside mathematical chance of retaining their title if results went their way.

However, a narrow 13-12 defeat to second-placed University of Leeds in their opening match soon paid to their slim hopes. The Gryphons led 7-5 at half-time and while the Vikings tried their best to fight back, led by four goals from half-player Rosa Larcy, the university side held on for the win.

Newcastle followed up with a 7-7 draw against Manchester and a 16-14 defeat to the new champions Liverpool to finish their campaign a point behind the University of Leeds in third place.



Newcastle Vikings' title-winning squad

21 May  
2019

Grassroots Sport



Under-13 boys' competition winners Oxclose Community Academy



Under-15 boys' competition winners Churchill Community College

# Schools' squads get hands on silverware

WASHINGTON'S Oxclose Community Academy secured a double win in the North East Regional Handball Schools Games finals at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

Featuring schools from Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Durham and the Tees Valley, the North East Schools Games event is now in its third year.

It was organised by the England Handball Association in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.

**HANDBALL**

Oxclose dominated the under-15 girls' competition with an opening 18-1 success against the relatively inexperienced Portland Middle School before beating Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science 7-1.

The Northumberland representatives also suffered a 13-1 loss to the Teessiders.

The Wearsiders' under-13 boys also won both of their matches - 7-3

over High Tunstall and 14-0 against The Durham Federation School; the Hartlepool school also keeping a clean sheet in seeing off Durham 11-0.

High Tunstall nevertheless took the under-13 girls' competition honours with two victories.

They overcame Whitley Bay's Wellfield Middle School 8-2 and the Durham Federation 9-2, while Wellfield narrowly defeated Durham 4-3.

Walsend's Churchill Community College triumphed after a close bat-

tle for the boys' under-15 title. The North Tyneiders followed a 2-2 draw with a 4-2 win over High Tunstall.

The winning teams will now represent the North East region at the England Handball Association's National Schools Games Finals next month.

Newcastle Vikings would like to thank all the schools for participating as well as Tyne and Wear Sport and students from TyneMet College's North East Sports Academy for helping to run the tournament.



Under-13 girls' competition winners High Tunstall



Under-15 girls' competition winners Oxclose Community Academy

GRASSROOTS SPORT: E-MAIL TONY HODGSON AT TONY.HODGSON@TRINITYMIRROR.COM OR RING HIM ON 0191 201 6348

15 August  
2019

Grassroots Sport

# Vikings pay the penalty in seaside shoot-outs



Newcastle Vikings' ladies' team at the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole

NEWCASTLE Vikings' ladies suffered the curse of multiple penalty shoot-out heartbreaks at the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole.

The annual tournament, now in its seventh year at Bournemouth's Chiswick beach, saw a depleted Newcastle team looking to better last year's third place in the plate competition.

**BEACH HANDBALL**

The Tyneiders were again handed a tough opener against experienced former champions London GD in their first group match.

The Londoners put the Vikings to the sword 24-6 in the first half, making the most of their acrobatic spinning and flying trick-shots for two point scores, and despite an improved second-half Newcastle performance and bonus

point goalkeeper goals of their own GD also took it 16-8 for an overall 2-0 win.

The Vikings soon put their game together for a 2-0 victory over Islington Rattas after easily claiming both halves against the North London side 14-4 and 13-7.

Newcastle's final two group matches against Chelsea and Poole Phoenix. Three were drawn, each side winning a half to take the games into running penalty shoot-outs.

In the Chelsea match the Londoners gained the first half 15-10 - only for Chelsea to prevail in the shoot-out 4-3 for an overall 2-1 victory.



The Vikings celebrate scoring (above) and (below and far left) in action at the championships



Against Poole's dynamic young side, Newcastle narrowly won the first half 12-11 - but the home side took the second 19-12 before snatching the penalty shoot-out in sudden death 6-5 to hand the Vikings another 2-1 defeat.

Those results meant Newcastle finished fourth in their group and dropped into the plate competition.

The Vikings grabbed a 13-12 first-half win with an extra-time golden goal against their first opponents Poole Phoenix. Two after the scores were level at the half-time whistle.

However, they agonisingly missed out on also taking the second period as the home team came back to grab a 12-11 success - Phoenix going on to take the penalty shoot-out 3-2 for a 2-1 match win.

The Vikings' second Plate match against Islington-on-the-Beach saw the Londoners secure the first half on a golden goal 12-11.

The Vikings then racked up their biggest half win of the weekend - 20-5 - to take the match into yet another penalty shoot-out.

However, for the fourth time over the weekend, luck evaded them and they faltered again as Islington won the shoot-out 3-1 to clinch the game 2-1.



## TyneMet Sport Students Get Elite Handball Coaching

28 Apr 2014 by Lisa Dawson



Students studying on the Level 3 Sport Performance and Excellence at TyneMet College were recently introduced to the fast paced game of Handball.

The new practical skills and techniques learned will be used as examples by the students to complete the element of the course that covers Technical and Tactical Skills in Sport.

Handball is an exciting and action-packed team sport which is great fun to play, it is recognized as the fastest ball sport in the world and has become a massive hit in Britain after the successful London 2012 Olympic Games.

The 19 students who were all new to the game were introduced to the rules, format and tactics of the game by Marlen Slinning, Head Coach and Robin Gevilette, Assistant Coach from the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.

The Newcastle Vikings are the first developmental Handball Club in Newcastle and were founded in 2012. Marlen is the Head Coach and the driving force behind the club, she originally comes from Norway and has years of experience playing and teaching handball. Passionate about developing young people and adults in the art of handball she was delighted to come to TyneMet College to deliver four training sessions to the Sports students.

Marlen said:

"Our mission is to grow Handball in Newcastle as a community development tool for the years to come, with an aim of creating sustainable handball teams in different age/gender groups taking part in the England and Scotland Handball tournaments and leagues.

"We really enjoyed the sessions we delivered at TyneMet College. We were able to showcase this amazing sport to the students, some of whom have expressed a keen interest in joining some of the Viking's training sessions."

Warick Stephenson, Head of Care, Sport and Leisure, TyneMet College, said:

"The Level 3 Sport Performance and Excellence course examines the role of the professional sports person as well as the key concepts within sports coaching so this activity was extremely useful to the students.

"We encourage the students to build up their portfolio of sporting activities so that they can adjust coaching procedures to fit the need of a whole range of sporting disciplines."

For more information about Sport courses at TyneMet College, call and speak to a student advisor on 0191 229 5000, email enquiries@tynemet.ac.uk or visit [www.tynemet.ac.uk/Sport](http://www.tynemet.ac.uk/Sport)

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club meet every Wednesday, junior sessions, 19:00 to 20:00 and adults sessions 20:00 to 22:00, at Percy Hedley Sports Academy, West Lane, Killingworth, Newcastle upon Tyne NE12 7BH. For more information visit <http://newcastlehandball.co.uk>

22 January 2014



Dundee Handball Club (blue) in action against Newcastle in a Scottish Division Two encounter at DISC. See below.

## Handball first for city

The DISC hosted the first-ever Scottish National Handball League games to be played in Dundee.

Dundee Handball Club had three teams in action — their Division One and Two men's teams, and Division One women's side.

The first game of the day was the Division Two encounter as Dundee took on Newcastle Vikings.

Dundee started strong, scoring three goals before Newcastle reorganised themselves and started matching Dundee's attacks.

Newcastle clawed their way back and actually had the opportunity to equalise midway into the first half with a penalty but a great save by Dundee goalkeeper Matt Gilhooly prevented it and Dundee eventually went into half-time leading 10-6.

The second half saw Dundee score six goals in a row on their way to a 22-13 victory.

### CRUCIAL PENALTY SAVE

The host club's women's team also took on Newcastle and Dundee goalkeeper Elena Eusterwiemann saved a crucial penalty in the first half as the home side turned around 6-5 up.

The second half saw Dundee incur two-minute suspensions and, with quarter of the second half spent a player down, Newcastle edged home 15-12.

# THE SHIELDS Gazette

## Olympic sport arrives in South Tyneside

2 May  
2014



*ON THE BALL ... Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's men's and women's teams.*

SPORTS fans in South Tyneside will be able to take in the Olympic game of handball for the first time this weekend.

The event, organised by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, will see male and female teams from England and Scotland competing in the tournament at the Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields, on Saturday. The tournament starts at 10am and entry is free to anyone who wants to go along and watch the matches throughout the day.

Coun Alan Kerr, deputy leader of South Tyneside Council with responsibility for culture and leisure services, said: "It's really good to see South Tyneside playing an active part in continuing to develop the Olympic legacy, and help inspire young people to keep fit and healthy by getting involved in playing exciting new sports like this.

"I hope this tournament is the start of something really promising for the North East."

The tournament will see Newcastle Vikings' men take on teams from Sunderland University, York, Bedfordshire's Cranfield University, Edinburgh, Glasgow and East Kilbride in Scotland.

In the women's competition, the Vikings will be playing against Edinburgh, York and Cranfield University.

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club is the first non-university handball club in the North East and was founded Marlen Slinning and fellow enthusiasts in September 2012.

Ms Slinning, who is from Norway – the home of the Olympic handball champions – is the head coach and chairwoman of the club.

She has played handball all her life and was inspired to set up the club in the wake of the London 2012 Olympic Games:

She said: "I've been playing handball since I was about five, it's really popular across continental Europe but less known in Britain.

"I wanted to build on the huge interest and legacy generated by the Olympics. Handball has really taken off and we're developing rapidly as a club with the help of Sport England, establishing promising senior and junior teams for both girls and boys. I also teach handball in local schools."

She added: "We've got a good mix of experienced and new players of all ages at the club now and our aim is to grow handball across Newcastle and the North East. This tournament in South Tyneside is a big step towards that, and hopefully we'll attract some new members to our club too.

"This is a great opportunity to come along and watch the fastest ball sport in the world."

South Tyneside Council worker and Vikings goalkeeper, Andrea King, was inspired to try her hand at the sport after going to watch the Olympic women's handball semi-final in London.

"A couple of months later a friend told me about a new handball club setting up in Gateshead so I went along, and through that I found out about the Newcastle Vikings.

"Coming third in our first league season has been amazing."

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club train on Wednesday evenings at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy, Killingworth, North Tyneside, – juniors from 7pm to 8pm and adults from 8pm to 10pm.

The club is also planning to start up additional junior and senior training sessions at Temple Park Leisure Centre from September.

Further information can be found at [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk) and on the club's Facebook page.

## Handball tournament aims to convert new fans

Tuesday 28 April 2015 – by PETER TENNICK

28 April  
2015



*LOOKING BACK ... competitors at last year's event.*

AN annual sporting event is getting on the ball to build on its past success.

The third Tyneside Handball Tournament will take place at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields on Saturday.

*"Our aim is to grow handball across Newcastle and the North East, so this second tournament in South Tyneside is another step towards that."*

*Marlen Slinning, Newcastle Vikings*

This will be the second time that the annual event has been held at the venue. Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the first non-university group of its kind in the North East and now playing its home matches at Temple Park, the event will see teams from England and Scotland compete in knockout cup and plate competitions.

Spectator entry is free for anyone wanting to go along and watch men and women's matches from 9am to 7pm in the main sports hall.

Newcastle Vikings head coach Marlen Slinning founded the club with a group of fellow handball enthusiasts in September 2012 after being inspired by that year's London Olympic Games.

She said: "Our aim is to grow handball across Newcastle and the North East, so this second tournament in South Tyneside is another step towards that, and, hopefully, we'll attract some new members to our club too.

"This is a great opportunity to come along and watch the fastest ball sport in the world." Anyone interested in getting involved and having a go at playing the Olympic sport can go along to one of the club's training sessions.

Its junior and adult teams train on Monday evenings at Temple Park and on Wednesday evenings at Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth, North Tyneside.

Further information can be found on the club's website, [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk), and on its Facebook page.

28 April  
2015

# CHANGE TO SEE CUP CONTEST IS AT HAND

**AN annual sporting event is getting on the ball to build on its past success.**

The third Tyneside Handball Tournament will take place at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields on Saturday.

This will be the second time that the annual event has been held at the venue.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the first non-university group of its kind in the North East, and now playing its home matches at Temple Park, the event will see teams from England and Scotland compete in knockout cups and plate competitions.

Spectator entry is free for anyone wanting to go along and watch men and women's matches from 5pm to 7pm in the main sports hall.

Newcastle Vikings head coach Marlen Slinning founded the club with a group of fellow handball enthusiasts in September 2012 after

being inspired by that year's London Olympic Games.

He said: "Our aim is to grow handball across Newcastle and the North East, so this second tournament in South Tyneside is another step towards that, and, hopefully, we'll attract some new members to our club too."

"This is a great opportunity to come along and watch the fastest ball sport in the world."

Anyone interested in getting involved and having a go at playing the Olympic sport can go along to one of the club's training sessions.

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Further information can be found on the club's website, [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk), and on its Facebook page.

Twitter: @shieldsgazette

By **PETER TENNICK**  
[p.tennick@shieldsgazette.com](mailto:p.tennick@shieldsgazette.com)



**LOOKING BACK ... competitors at last year's event.**

## Handball club gets a national mark of success

21 July  
2015



Jade Mackie (Tyne & Wear Sport) presenting the Clubmark award to Marlen Slinning and some other members of the Newcastle Vikings club.

A South Tyneside-based sports club has been handed a national accolade. Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, who train at Temple Park Centre, South Shields, is celebrating scooping a prestigious clubmark accreditation.

They are the first club in England to receive the honour, for which they needed to achieve quality standards in a range of categories, from coaching and club management to child welfare and protection.

Jade Mackie, who presented club members with the prize on behalf of Tyne and Wear Sport, said: "I want to commend all involved with the club on attaining this prestigious recognition.

"Everyone at the club works extremely hard to raise the profile of handball across Tyne and Wear and the club is committed to offering activity to all of its members irrespective of what level they are at."

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club has been training at Temple Park Leisure Centre since September 2014 and, along with the training sessions they hold in both in both South Tyneside and Killingworth, they also dedicate time to visiting schools to introduce the sport during PE lessons and at after-school clubs.

Marlen Slinning, who runs the club, said: "We are very proud to have achieved the Clubmark award. "We are a club for all members of the family and the award will show that we provide a safe and well run sport for anyone wanting to come and try it.

"We already have good adult male and female teams here, but would love to have more younger members here and hopefully this accreditation will encourage more parents to bring their children along to give it a try."



## Newcastle Vikings Ladies reclaim Tyneside Handball Tournament title

12 May  
2016



Newcastle Vikings Ladies are celebrating after reclaiming their Tyneside Handball Tournament crown,

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, the annual tournament, now in its third year, welcomed both men's and women's teams from across northern England and Scotland to South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre to compete in the group stages, play-offs and finals.

The Vikings women were up against Durham University, the University of Leeds and Edinburgh.

Edinburgh's draw with Durham University in the last of the women's group-stage fixtures saw them win through to the final on goal difference, as Durham had to settle for third place ahead of the University of Leeds.

However, Newcastle's ladies were too strong for Edinburgh in the final as they ran out 17-10 winners in the highest-scoring match of the day. Vikings half-player Alina Inta claimed the tournament top-scorer prize with 13 goals.

Newcastle Vikings' men took on the newly-established Sunderland side, combined teams from York Hunters-Durham University and Edinburgh-Newcastle, the University of Strathclyde and reigning two-time champions Glasgow,

A feisty derby saw Sunderland beat Newcastle 9-7 in the play-off for third place to gain revenge for the Vikings' group stage victory,

The Edinburgh-Newcastle team defeated York Hunters-Durham University 6-5 in the fifth place decider.

Glasgow's men had gone through the group stages unbeaten and seemed set for their third Tyneside win in a row,

But an evenly-matched final saw their Scottish student neighbours hold them to an 8-8 draw to take it to a nail-biting sudden-death penalty shoot-out to decide the title for the second year.

This time, however, Glasgow were to be denied as the University of Strathclyde goalkeeper's second save gave them a 6-5 shoot-out victory.

Strathclyde's Chris Mowat and Glasgow's Yohann Gloaguen were the clear top-scorers in the men's competition for the second year running with 26 and 21 goals respectively.

The club would like to thank all the teams for coming to take part and hope everyone enjoyed another great fun day.

## THE VIKINGS LAND .... IN NEWCASTLE!

13 November  
2012



Winners of Handball does Hollywood

Put a smile on your face on Monday afternoon with this great introduction to the game press on the picture to play -



## VIKINGS ON THE MARCH

16 February  
2015



Newcastle Vikings women's handball team achieved the rare feat of keeping a clean sheet in their 49-0 home victory against University of Leeds last weekend in the North Regional Development League – another example of how far the club has come.

In a great team performance, goalkeeper Andrea King admitted to growing nervousness the longer the game went on, followed by a mix of elation and relief after coming close to achieving the same feat a week earlier. On top of 29-1 and 26-5 away wins over Leeds Carnegie and University of Leeds, the Vikings ladies have scored 104 goals while only conceding six in a run that has sent them leap to the top of the league. It shows how the team has grown after playing their debut 2013/14 season in the Scottish Handball League where they finished in a creditable third place.

The men's team are also in good form with an unbeaten league run of seven games that sees them flying high. That represents an impressive turnaround under new coach Jason Lee after a winless first season.

Head coach Marlen Slinning founded the club in the wake of the legacy from London 2012 with a mission to grow and develop handball in the North East. With a multi-national mix of experienced handballers and beginners, the Vikings currently have nearly 50 players, including a talented mixed junior team. The Vikings are a club going places.

Anyone interested in playing for, supporting or sponsoring Newcastle Vikings Handball Club can find out more at [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk) or via their Facebook and Twitter pages.

6 June  
2015



England Handball @englandhandball 10h  
20 minutes gone it's @LondonGD II 7 @NVHandball 4. Andrea King having a great game in goal for @NVHandball



England Handball @englandhandball 9h  
Great performance from @NVHandball Never gave up but @LondonGD II just too strong



England Handball @englandhandball 10h  
@LondonGD beat @NVHandball 22-14 to win women's League Cup

## HAWKS BOOK SUPER-8 SPOT: CUP GLORY FOR GD AND CRANFIELD

8 June  
2015



NEM Hawks men team won the Championship play-offs to take their place in Super-8, while London GD II won the Women's League Cup and Cranfield Wolves won the Men's League Cup.

London GD II's women beat a Newcastle Vikings side which was missing a number of players 22-14. Sarah Putner scored six for the Capital side while Marlen Slinning found the back of the net seven times for the North East outfit. Andrea King also enjoyed a great game in the nets for Newcastle.

## VIKINGS GIVEN CLUBMARK STATUS

20 July  
2015



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club has been awarded Clubmark accreditation.

The award was presented by Tyne & Wear Sport at the club's training session at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. In order to become Clubmark accredited the Vikings club has achieved quality standards in child welfare and protection, coaching, club management and a range of other measures designed to ensure the club is well managed.

Presenting the award, Jade Mackie from Tyne & Wear Sport said: "I want to commend all involved with the club on attaining this prestigious recognition. Everyone at the club works extremely hard to raise the profile of handball across Tyne and Wear and the club is committed to offering activity to all of its members irrespective of what level they are at."

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club has been training at Temple Park Leisure Centre since September 2014 and – along with training sessions in both South Tyneside and Killingworth – they also spend a lot of time visiting schools to introduce the sport during PE lessons and at after-school clubs.

The club is run by Marlen Slinning, she said: "We are very proud to have achieved the Clubmark award. We are a club for all members of the family and the award will show that we provide a safe and well run sport for anyone wanting to come and try it.

"We already have good adult male and female teams here but would love to have more younger members here and, hopefully, this accreditation will encourage more parents to bring their children along to give it a try."

John Thomason from England Handball said: "Newcastle Vikings are a great example of a club that is promoting best practice on-and-off the court, and that is reflected in their achievement of being awarded Clubmark. The partnership approach with Tyne & Wear Sport that the club has adopted in reaching this goal has set an example to other handball clubs across the country."

To find out more about the Vikings Club please visit [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk)

## CLEAN SWEEP FOR VIKINGS AT NORTH-EAST TOURNAMENT

2 February  
2016



Newcastle Vikings won four-from-four in the second round of the North East Handball tournament.

The matches, between Newcastle Vikings, Durham University and York Hunters took place at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre on 30 January.

The friendly tournament got underway with mixed teams from Durham University and York playing each other, Durham winning 13-8.

Newcastle Vikings' women then scored a brilliant runaway 20-2 win over York Hunters, with both teams each giving a run out to a couple of Durham University players .

The Vikings men then beat York's mixed team 17-10, as the home side sought to give more game time to a number of newer and less regular league players.

In the second women's match of the day Newcastle switched things around a bit to allow players a chance to try less familiar positions. York took an early two-goal lead but the Vikings came back to win 9-3.

The final men's match saw the Vikings run out convincing 16-6 victors over the mixed Durham University side.

Together with Newcastle's league victory over the Huddersfield men's team earlier in the afternoon, the regional tournament wins were a welcome return to winning ways for the Vikings men's and women's teams.

Durham University hosts the third round of the North East tournament on 28 February 2016.

## VIKINGS CLAIM INAUGURAL NORTH EAST TOURNAMENT CROWN

29 February  
2016



Newcastle Vikings ran out winners of the inaugural North East Handball Tournament as their men's and women's teams claimed four wins from four in Sunday's final round of matches.

The scene was set for a competitive third round at the University of Durham Sports Centre in Stockton-on-Tees after York Hunters won the first round and Newcastle took the second round.

The opening tie saw Newcastle's men beat Durham 7-5 in a tight encounter.

The women's competition again saw Newcastle and York each giving a run out to a couple of Durham University girls, with the Newcastle-Durham team runaway 15-2 winners in their first match of the afternoon.

Durham's men then convincingly won 15-5 against York.

The second women's match saw the combined Newcastle-Durham side claim another victory over York-Durham, 8-3 this time.

The final men's match was another close contest as Newcastle and York traded goals throughout. The Vikings won out 12-10 to seal the overall tournament title.

Newcastle Vikings would like to thank all the players who took part in the three North East tournament days and look forward to another fun competition next season.

## ENGLAND HANDBALL LEAGUE CUP: DOUBLE JOY FOR GD

25 April  
2016



London GD2 enjoyed double success as their men's and women's teams booked their places in the League Cup final.

GD's women were pushed hard by Newcastle Vikings, who they beat in last year's final to win the trophy, edging past the North-East side 17-16.

They will play Poole Phoenix in the final after they beat Liverpool 19-17 in another close match.

GD's men also endured a nail-biter, overcoming Capital City rivals London Angels by a single point as the match finished 24-23. They will be looking to go one better than last year when they lost in the final to Cranfield Wolves. Their opponents will be Oxford, who ran out 24-16 victors at Manchester.

## ENGLAND HANDBALL

18TH JULY 2016

### VIKINGS SEEKING COACHES

18 July  
2016



Newcastle Vikings Handball club is seeking talented coaches to develop its junior and senior teams.

Applicants should:

- have a sporting background with coaching experience in a team sport
- be able to deliver effective coaching sessions and work as a team with our other volunteer coaches
- hold, or be willing to work towards (with our support):
  - Level 1 or Level 2 Handball Coach Qualification
  - First Aid in Sport
  - Safeguarding and Child Protection

A DBS check will be required.

To view the full advert including information on how to apply please [click here](#)

12TH DECEMBER 2016

## FIRST TYNE & WEAR HANDBALL SCHOOLS FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

12 December  
2016



The first Tyne & Wear Handball Schools Festival on 9 December saw over 150 under-15 and under-13 girls and boys take part.

The tournament was hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club at their home match venue Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields, in association with Marlen's Handball Coaching. It was funded through Tyne & Wear Sport's satellite club grant award.

Mortimer Community College and St. Wilfrid's RC College made it a victorious double for South Shields schools in the morning's girls' competitions. Mortimer won all three of their matches to take the under-15s title. In the under-13s tournament St. Wilfrid's won three and drew one match.

In the afternoon's boy's competitions Newcastle's Walbottle Campus 1 under-15s and Gateshead's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy under-13s were the winners. Both teams went undefeated.

The winning teams were presented with an England Handball Association bag of a dozen handballs. The best players from each of the competitions each received a Newcastle Vikings Handball Club t-shirt.

All the children who took part also received a Newcastle Vikings Handball Club wristband.

Scouting of the best talent from the under-15 competitions also saw 20 girls and 20 boys selected to take part in next month's Tyne & Wear county handball trials. The first round of trials will take place at Temple Park Leisure Centre on Saturday 14 January 2017 (10.00-12.00). The trials take place ahead of Newcastle Vikings ladies' home league match against Peninsula - and the second round of the North East men's and women's friendly league competitions between Newcastle, Sunderland, Durham and York. Entry to watch the matches is free.

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club would like to thank all the schools and children who took part in the festival.

Any young players wishing to join the club can go along to sessions at:

- Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields: Monday evenings 19:30-20:30
- Hedleys Sports Centre in Killingworth: Wednesday evenings at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields and on Wednesday evenings 19.00-20.00

For more information check out [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk)

7TH FEBRUARY 2017

## ENTRIES OPEN FOR TYNESIDE HANDBALL TOURNAMENT

7 February  
2017



Entries are open for the fifth annual Newcastle Vikings' Tyneside Handball Tournament that takes place on Saturday 6 May 2017.

The tournament will take place on Vikings' full-size handball court at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. It will consist of four women's teams and six men's teams (or a total of 10 teams subject to entries). There will be a minimum of three 16-minute group games per team, before placing play-offs and finals.

For more information, and to request a booking form, please email [info@newcastlehandball.co.uk](mailto:info@newcastlehandball.co.uk). The deadline to return booking forms, with a £50 entry fee per team, is Friday 31 March 2017. The first teams to return their booking form and payment are secured their places.

The tournament will be followed by our fun evening social event in Newcastle city centre.

13TH MARCH 2017

## TYNE AND WEAR HANDBALL SCHOOL GAMES COUNTY FINALS

13 March  
2017



Biddick Academy were crowned Tyne and Wear under-15 girls county champions, while fellow Sunderland school Oxclose Community Academy won the boy's title.

South Shields' St. Wilfrids RC College won the under-13 girl's competition and North Tyneside's Churchill Community College took the honours in the under-13 boy's tournament.

The competition was hosted by Tyne & Wear Sport in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and Sunderland Handball Club, at the Vikings' home match venue Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields.

More than 150 teams from schools from all of the five Tyne & Wear districts took part in an action-packed day. The top three sides in each competition were presented with gold, silver and bronze medals by Tyne & Wear Sport's School Games Co-ordinator Claire Lee. The winning teams will have the opportunity to progress to the regional and then national county handball championships.

Tyne & Wear Sport, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and Sunderland Handball Club would like to thank all the schools and children who took part in a great fun day.

Meanwhile, the best players scouted from the area's schools over the past season will take part in the third round of the Tyne & Wear county handball trials at Temple Park Leisure Centre on Saturday 18 March 2017 (10.00-12.00). The trials will be followed by a Newcastle Vikings juniors' match and the Vikings ladies' friendly against Edinburgh (1:30-3pm). Spectator entry for the day is free to watch all the action.

Newcastle Vikings hold junior training sessions for girls and boys on:

- Monday evenings 19:30-20:30 at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields
- Wednesday evenings 19.00-20.00 at Hedley's Sport in Killingworth

For more information go to [www.newcastlehandball.co.uk](http://www.newcastlehandball.co.uk)

26TH MAY 2017

## NORTH EAST SCHOOLS FINALIST DECIDED

26 May  
2017



The North East Handball Schools Games took place at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre.

In the under-13 competition South Shields' St. Wilfrid's RC College won the girl's cup. They defeated Ponteland's Richard Coates Middle School 2-1 and Chester-le-Street's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy 3-0. The two defeated sides drew 2-2, with Richard Coates Middle School taking the runners-up spot on goals scored.

The Under-13 boy's competition was ultimately won by Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy. The title was decided on goals scored after each of the three teams won one and lost one. Wallsend's Churchill Community College beat Richard Coates Middle School 2-1. Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy defeated Churchill Community College 4-0. Richard Coates Middle School then won 3-2 over Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy.

Washington's Oxclose Community Academy won the under-15 boy's cup with an extra-time 3-2 victory over Newcastle's Gosforth Academy. A last-minute equaliser by Gosforth had levelled the scores 2-2 at the end of normal time.

The girl's under-15 competition saw Gosforth Academy claim the title unchallenged after Washington's Biddick Academy were unable to make the day.

The winning schools will go on to represent the North East region at the Eng Scland Handball Schools Handball Finals on 10 and 11 June at Worcester University.

26TH MAY 2017

## GLASGOW AND EDINBURGH CLAIM TYNESIDE TOURNAMENT TITLES

26 May  
2017



Glasgow and Edinburgh took the men's and women's honours respectively at the fifth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament.

Hosted by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre 10 teams from across England and Scotland took part in quick-fire 20-minute group and placing matches. #

Glasgow beat East Kilbride's EK82 16-11 in a repeat of the 2014 final, to regain their title and be crowned champions for a third time. Maciej Trzos scored six times for Glasgow, while Jack Lees notched the same amount for East Kilbride.

Durham University claimed third place with a 12-7 win over Bedfordshire's Cranfield University.

Newcastle Vikings defeated York Hunters 12-5 in the fifth/sixth place play-off.

In the women's competition Edinburgh won for the first time since 2013, beating the University of Leeds 11-5 in the final. Emma Andersen led the way for Edinburgh with four strikes.

Having surrendered their title, Newcastle Vikings' ladies beat Cranfield University 7-5 to take third place.

The men's tournament top-scorer award went to Durham University half-player Lucas Palumbo with 21 goals. University of Leeds winger Magda Karwatka top-scored in the women's competition with 11 goals.

24TH APRIL 2018

## WOMENS' REGIONAL LEAGUE: READING 'INVINCIBLE' AND NEWCASTLE WIN TITLE DECIDER

24 April  
2018

Reading Lionesses and Newcastle Vikings women's teams have both enjoyed excellent seasons, winning their respective leagues.

Reading ended the season with a 100% record in the Womens' South West Regional League, while Newcastle won a title decider against Liverpool in the North Regional League.

Reading's title – which was confirmed following their victory over Poole Phoenix in their previous match - was the third time in succession they have been crowned south-west champions. With silverware confirmed Reading went into their final match of the season against bottom side Bath University looking to secure an 'invincibles' tag.

The first half was a tight affair, Reading holding a narrow 13-11 lead at the break, thanks in no small part to Alina Popescu who struck eight first-half goals.

In the second 30 minutes the champions showed their class. Catarina Silva and Zsanett Nagy were clinical in front of goal while the whole team showed great resilience in defence. Emese Racz resembled a quarter-back, throwing long, precise passes to set up Fannie Grondon and Barbara Flis to score. The final score read 28-18 to Reading Lionesses. It may not have been a vintage performance, but the Reading girls did not care as they celebrated going the entire season unbeaten for the first time.

Despite another trophy in the cabinet, the Lionesses are still hunting two more prizes. For the first time they have chosen to enter the play-off against Brighton Starlings on 29 April at Stoke Mandeville Stadium in Aylesbury. The winner of that match will go into the play-off finals to battle for a place in the Women's Premier Handball League. Following that the Lionesses will play Loughborough University in the National Shield on 5 May at Derby Arena.

Vikings' women's team were crowned North Regional League champions with an 18-13 win at title rivals Liverpool.

Centre Maren Liane got Newcastle off to the perfect start with an early goal from the back-court, but Liverpool took advantage of some defensive line infringements to score three consecutive well-taken penalties from Malgorla Janus. The Vikings soon pulled back to level through right-winger Marie Brevet's powerful shot into the top-corner and Liane's second from the line position. The two teams continued to trade blows throughout the first half as left-half Ingvild Misund and Liane broke through the home defence and Emily Bjerk fired into the bottom corner from the right wing to keep the Vikings on a par. Vikings' goalkeeper Andrea King pulled off two penalty saves, while late goals from Maria Gonzalez pivoting on the line and right-half Alina Inta sent Newcastle into the break with a narrow 8-7 lead.

The second half started in a similar vein with Liane netting either side of Misund's second. Head coach Marlen Slinning Gouly then got in on the act to beat the Liverpool keeper herself, while King saved her third penalty at the other end as the Vikings' defence held firm to thwart the home side's attacks.

Newcastle gradually opened up their advantage through further Inta and Liane back-court strikes. Bjerk's wing shot found its way under the keeper and player-of-the-match Gouly broke through for her second. Inta struck her third and season top-scorer Liane rounded off the scoring with her seventh of the match, before the final whistle sent the Vikings into elation.

The Vikings will now go into battle in the promotion play-offs at Oldham, against, Midlands Regional League champions Loughborough University. The victor will go onto face either Reading or Brighton in the play-off final for a place in the Women's Premier Handball League.



2ND JULY 2018

## HANDBALL STARS IN NORTHUMBERLAND SCHOOL GAMES

2 July  
2018



Six boroughs came together at the Northumberland School Games Festival which saw a Level 3 handball event, organised by young leaders from Ponteland High School.

In Northumberland teams from the six county areas (Ashington and Coquet; Blyth and Bedlington; Cramlington and Seaton Valley; Morpeth and Ponteland; North Northumberland and Tynedale) had already competed to become their area champion and arrived at Cramlington, where the Games were held, to compete to become county champions in their chosen sport.

Local handball club Newcastle Vikings have forged close links with Ponteland High School to develop handball at the school, and the results were fantastic to see at the School Games. Vikings was established in 2012 and is a club on the move. Last season the men's team played in the National League North and women in the Regional League North, and the club has also developed junior teams and participated in beach handball competitions.

Andy Clark, North West Development Manager, assisted at the Festival but left the running of the event to the Ponteland young leaders, who managed and officiated the handball competition.

More than 1000 school pupils between the ages of 6 and 15 participated in the Schools Games, across twelve different sports.

Former England netball player Leah Kennedy attended the festival to promote sport and encourage the pupils participating to persevere and more importantly, to have fun!

The School Games Festival is a celebration of sport which is designed to motivate and inspire young people to take part in competitive sport. It is a government led programme, funded by The National Lottery and delivered by the Youth Sport Trust.

25TH SEPTEMBER 2018

## ENGLAND HANDBALL ANNOUNCE TYNE METROPOLITAN COLLEGE PARTNERSHIP

25 September  
2018



England Handball has announced a delivery-partner agreement with Tyne Metropolitan College.

The aim of the project, which is initially for one year with the potential to extend to two years, is to:

- Grow handball in the North East, with a big focus on the wider Tyne and Wear area
- Grow youth handball across schools, colleges and universities
- Develop the handball workforce across the North East region
- Support the development of community handball in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

Funding is from European Handball Federation as part of England Handball's European Handball Federation smart plan project to grow handball in the North East and South West of England.

Tyne Metropolitan College Sport Development Manager Craig Robson said: "It is a really exciting opportunity to work with England Handball to support the development of the sport in the North East.

"It is a great experience as a college to work at a national level to create the next generation of players from primary, secondary and further education that could eventually lead to identifying talented players in the region.

"It is also a unique chance to support the development of a high-quality workforce to promote a positive environment for our learners and those in the North East keen to get involved in handball.

"We're looking forward to this year, hitting our targets and developing this partnership further."

England Handball National Partnerships Manager Stacey Andrews said: "I am delighted to announce this new partnership with Tyne Metropolitan College in Newcastle which will enable us to provide some local support to the growing handball community in the North East.

"It is exciting to be working with such a forward-thinking college which has sport at its core. The college already has fantastic links with its local community through its sport provision, so it is great to be able to add handball to their menu of opportunities and provide more opportunities for people in the North East to discover and engage in handball regularly."

5TH NOVEMBER 2018

## REGIONAL LEAGUE FOCUS: NEWCASTLE VIKINGS AND LIVERPOOL BATTLE TO A ONE- GOAL VERDICT

5 November  
2018



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's women opened their England Handball Regional League North title defence with a highly competitive 18-19 away win over last season's runners-up Liverpool at Chester's Northgate Arena on Sunday.

In an evenly matched first half in which the two teams traded goals throughout, Vikings centre Maren Liane opened the scoring before the Merseysiders nudged ahead. Right-half Alina Inta, right-winger Blessing Ogbee, line-player Marfa José González and left-half Rosa Larcy all fired in from close range to level the scoreline at 5-5, before back court players Liane and Inta both struck again with Larcy slotting a penalty shot.

Vikings Goalkeeper Andrea King brilliantly saved a Liverpool penalty with her outstretched foot, but could not prevent the hosts from continuing to find their way through the Newcastle defence to level again, and was thankful to captain Sandra Christke-Lamb's strike from the line position and another Larcy penalty to give the Vikings a narrow 9-10 half-time advantage.

Liverpool came out the more positive at the start of the second half, and despite another Inta goal they quickly opened a four-goal. However, backed up by another King penalty save, the Vikings women got their game together and fought back superbly with six unanswered goals from Liane and a double-brace from top-scorer Larcy sandwiching Christke-Lamb's second to really get the Newcastle players pumped-up going into the closing minutes.

The home side continued their well-practiced attacking plays, with Liverpool left-winger Judit Radnoti scoring her seventh goal and left-half Marta Tubacka adding her fifth as they sought to level again in a tense finish. But the Vikings defence held firm, with player-coach Marlen Goulty firing a brilliant shot into the top corner over the Liverpool defence at the other end, and Newcastle's player-of-the-match Liane appropriately rounded off the scoring with her fourth goal to secure the one-goal 18-19 victory.

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club would like to thank Liverpool Handball Club for a great game, with the Merseysiders gracefully acknowledging the close loss as a great advert for women's handball, played in the correct spirit with some excellent performances. Goulty was pleased with all of the Vikings girls to come back for the win from their opening match of the season, but nevertheless recognised there were clearly a few things to practice on before the next match in two weeks' time away to the University of Leeds on 17 November.

Handball is a sport played throughout five continents by over 180 countries and 19 million people all ages, worldwide. Combining speed, strength, stamina, agility, technical precision, skill and teamwork, handball has become one of the fastest-paced and exciting Olympic sports.



Founded in 2012, the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club is the first handball club in the region. The club is made up of a diverse group of people with a common objective: practice handball whilst contributing to the development of the community through sport.

Marlen Slinning is the head coach and the driving force behind the club. Hailing from Norway with years of experience playing and teaching handball, she is passionate about developing young people and adults in the art of handball. Marlen has joined forces with a group of other sports enthusiasts and founded the club that to date has over 40 participants, both juniors and seniors.

We spoke with Marlen to find out more about her club and this fascinating sport.

**What makes Handball such a great sport?**

Handball is an exciting and action packed team sport which is great fun for girls and boys of all ages. It is recognised as the fastest ball sport in the world and can be played both indoor and outdoor, even on the beach. Handball can be adapted to the equipment and space you have available and there are many simplified versions of the game which can suit different size groups and ability.



**How many club members do you have and how often do you hold training sessions ?**

Currently we have 48 members and we hold sessions twice a week.

Mondays at Temple Park Leisure Centre, South Shields: Juniors, age 10-16 from 6.30-7.30pm - Seniors Development (age 17+) from 7-8.30pm. Those who are playing in the league stay until 10pm on Mondays.

Wednesday at Percy Hedley Sports Academy, Killingworth: Juniors, age 10-16 from 7-8pm - Seniors Development (age 17+) from 8-10pm.

**Do you get many people coming along to the training sessions who are completely new to the sport?**

Our membership changes every year as we have a lot of students playing with us. This means every season we lose and gain new members due to people finishing or starting university. Around half of our members were completely new to handball when they joined us. So it is a great mix of beginners and experienced players.



**Do you have a Junior Team at the moment?**

We have a Junior Team training at Percy Hedley Sports Academy on Wednesdays. We have 10 players in the age between 10-16.

We are also working closely with South Tyneside Council to promote our new Temple Park Junior sessions. We are also working closely with Sunderland School Sport to promote our sessions through school visits and taking part in their handball school games. We also offer all schools one free taster session of handball to hopefully attract new members to our junior sessions.

**What has been the biggest achievement for the Newcastle Viking club?**

For our club the biggest achievement has been seeing how much the club has developed from when we started in September 2012. After only one year we had one women's team and one men's team playing competitive handball in the Scottish League and this year in the English League and we have one junior team. So after just one season we had over forty members.

**How can someone get involved with your club?**

If someone would like to try out handball they are very welcome to any of our handball sessions. We offer three free taster sessions and welcome beginners as well as experienced players.



If schools or other community clubs would like a taste of handball they can get in touch with us to arrange and we can come to their venue.

As we are playing in the English North Development league we host home matches at Temple Park some weekends during the year and we will be hosting our annual handball tournament on the 2nd May from 9am to 7pm. We also welcome spectators to come along and support us during our matches. This has free entry and it's a great way to get a taste of the sport. Details of our match dates can be found here on our website.

We'd like to thank Marlen and her team for all of their help.

For more information about Newcastle Viking Handball Club you visit their website, like their Facebook page and follow them on Twitter.

**Vikings First to Achieve National Clubmark Accolade**



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club have become the only handball club in England to achieve the prestigious Clubmark accreditation.

Clubmark is a national accolade for sports clubs, awarded in recognition of achieving high quality standards in child welfare and protection, coaching, club management and a range of other measures designed to ensure the club is well managed.

The award was presented by Tyne & Wear Sport at the club's training session at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. Presenting the award, Jade Mackie from Tyne & Wear Sport said, "I want to commend all involved with the club on attaining this prestigious recognition. Everyone at the club works extremely hard to raise the profile of handball across Tyne and Wear and the club is committed to offering activity to all of its members irrespective of what level they are at."

As well as training regularly at both South Tyneside and the Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club also spend a lot of time visiting schools to introduce the sport during PE lessons and at after-school clubs.

Head Coach Marlen Slinning said, "We are very proud to have achieved the Clubmark award. We are a club for all members of the family and the award will show that we provide a safe and well run sport for anyone wanting to come and try it. We already have good adult male and female teams here, but would love to have more younger members here and hopefully this accreditation will encourage more parents to bring their children along to give it a try."



John Thomason from England Handball said, "Newcastle Vikings are a great example of a club that is promoting best practice on and off the court, and that is reflected in their achievement of being awarded Clubmark. The partnership approach with Tyne & Wear Sport that the club has adopted in reaching this goal has set an example to other handball clubs across the country."



Handball is a team sport which involves two teams of seven players; it is played at an extremely high pace and is suitable for males, females and juniors of all levels. There are now approximately 19 million people playing the sport worldwide and it has been an official Olympic sport since 1936.

*Jade Mackie (Tyne & Wear Sport) presenting the Clubmark award to Marlen Slinning and some other members of the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.*

## Schools rival to compete for the School Games Handball title

Laura Watson March 30, 2017

30 March  
2017

The first School Games handball competition in Tyne and Wear was a great success with 20 teams in total taking part.

Oxclose Community Academy won the U15's boys' competition and Churchill Community College won the U13's boys' competition. The U15's girls' competition winners were Biddick Academy and the U13's girls competition winners were St Wilfrid's RC school. The competition was a culmination of qualifying rounds and was held at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. The winners will now progress to the regional qualifiers held in the next couple of months.



Claire Lee, School Games Co-ordinator at Tyne & Wear Sport said, "Handball is an up and coming sport in the UK and it was great to see so many young, talented people getting involved with the sport in our region. England Handball, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and Sunderland Handball Club were a big help in running the event."

Students expressed their excitement of getting involved with a new sport through School Games and commented on how handball is a fast pace, energetic team sport.

Megan, Caitlin and Lucy from Churchill Community College said, "We love the fast paced energy in handball which makes the sport really fun to play."

The pupils from Churchill Community College also commented on the positivities they achieve from being part of a team in sport.

"What like most about playing sport is the team work that is produced. You can also relieve stress when playing sport and the feeling like you are part of a team is great. It's also nice to spend time with your friends too."

Many of the students at the handball competition were very talented and some even play for sports clubs outside of school including football, rugby and boxing.

Jordan and Connor from Oxclose Community Academy said, "We all play many other sports including football and boxing. We play for clubs outside of school including, Riverside Panthers Football Club, Leam Rangers Football Club and District Youth Boxing Club."

The pupils from Oxclose went onto say, "What enjoy the most about taking part in sport is keeping fit and having fun at the same time. We enjoy playing together as a team as we encourage and support each other on and off the field."

The girls photographs from the competition can be found [here](#) and the boys photographs from the competition can be found [here](#).

### Results:

#### U13 Girls

- 1st – St Wilfrid's
- 2nd – Lord Lawson
- 3rd – Gosforth Central
- 4th – Kepier
- 5th – Churchill

#### U15 Girls

- 1st – Biddick
- 2nd – Gosforth
- 3rd – St Wilfrid's
- 4th – Churchill
- 5th – Lord Lawson

#### U13 Boys

- 1st – Churchill
- 2nd – Lord Lawson
- 3rd – St Wilfrids
- 4th – Oxclose
- 5th – Gosforth Central

#### U15 Boys

- 1st – Oxclose
- 2nd – Gosforth Academy
- 3rd – St Wilfrids
- 4th – Lord Lawson
- 5th - Churchill



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

June 2017

Inspirational coach Marlen Slinning Gouly and next generation coach Sandra Christke were nominated by Andrea King at Newcastle Vikings Handball Club to receive the #PassOnYourPassion baton.

Andrea said she had nominated Marlen because: "Marlen founded Newcastle Vikings Handball Club in September 2012 and through her devotion to handball has driven the successful development of the club and the sport in Tyne & Wear and the North East region over the past five years from virtually nothing, including enabling the Vikings to become the first handball club in the country to achieve Clubmark recognition in 2015.



As the club's head coach she has led the development of both our senior men's and women's teams and been inspirational in our women's team's successes in particular, as well as working non-stop to encourage youngsters to play handball through her independent coaching in the region's schools, developing junior teams both within the club and now at county level having initiated county-wide handball schools events. Clearly a huge achievement in a relatively unknown sport and an area where handball has been little practiced before she came to the fore."

Marlen is passing her passion for coaching on to Sandra Christke, who has also been a member of the club since it was

established. She has successfully captained the women's team through all of their four league seasons to date.

Andrea said: "Sandra has been keenly helping out with coaching the junior players both within the club and for the emerging Tyne & Wear County teams, Sandra would be an ideal candidate to support towards gaining her formal handball coaching qualifications."

We will now be working with both Marlen and Sandra to support them to achieve their goals in coaching and personal development.

To find out more about Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, visit their:

- Website: <http://newcastlehandball.co.uk/>
- Facebook: [@NewcastleVikingsHandballClub](#)
- Twitter: [@NVHandball](#)

Club: Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

Nominated: Craig Swanson

Role: Volunteer coach and referee

June 2018

Craig has been a part of the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club since 2013; starting out as a player and then becoming an enthusiastic volunteer, helping during handball events in community parks and school competitions.

Being a great communicator, it was a natural progression for Craig to try his hand at refereeing and he has spent the last few years completing refereeing courses, making him one of the top handball referees in the country.

Not only does he officiate for the Vikings' home matches, he also travels around the world, refereeing handball at the highest level; recently travelling to Spain and Norway for youth competitions.



Marlen Slinning Goult of Newcastle Vikings Handball Club said, "Craig is a fantastic role model and inspires many people to take up refereeing. Craig is such a valuable member of our club; being a member of the club board, as well as the club welfare officer. The club's community including players, parents, coaches and club staff have great respect for Craig, and the time he gives up helping to develop handball in our region, is priceless."



For further details about the club, please visit:

Facebook: [@newcastlevikingshandballclub](https://www.facebook.com/newcastlevikingshandballclub)  
Twitter: [@NVHandball](https://twitter.com/NVHandball)  
Website: <http://newcastlehandball.co.uk/>



## GCS & Marlen's Handball Coaching

23 April  
2016

GCS is proud to be partnering with Marlen Slinning from Marlen's Handball Coaching to ensure that delivery of the Global Sport ~ Global Learning Handball Program continues in England's North East.

Marlen, originally from Norway holds a combined Sport Sciences and Physical Education degree with focus on both Primary and Secondary Physical Education. She has always had a great passion for sporting activities and has 12 years of handball coaching experience. Marlen is also involved in national tutoring for Handball coaches and runs the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.

The Global Sports ~ Global Learning Handball Program consists of 6 sessions. Each session includes 1 practical lesson and 1 theory lesson. After each practical handball lesson the group then participates in classroom activities whereby they record their experiences in the form of a sports coaching manual. The manual is a collection of their work which includes their wording of the rules and equipment required to play as well as detailed instructions for how to perform the skills. It also includes information about their school and their daily routines and lifestyle. This is then published and sent to a school in India where it is used to teach the Indian children how to play Handball. A letter/report full of pictures and photos is then sent back to the school from the children in India explaining how they used the manual. It also includes details of where they live and their culture. This relationship can continue post program.

Since 2010 the Global Sport ~ Global Learning program has been successfully delivered to over 60 schools and young offender institutes in England. The program is now currently being launched in Australia expanding the opportunities for schools to engage in global collaborations. For more information about how your school can get involved in the Global Sport ~ Global Learning Handball Program please contact Rick at [rick@gcsprojects.org](mailto:rick@gcsprojects.org) or [+61 \(0\) 4589 33115](tel:+610458933115).

July 2016

### Newcastle Vikings



The club is the first developmental handball club in Newcastle and North East England. It was established following the London 2012 Olympic Games by a diverse group of people with the common objective of practicing handball whilst contributing to the development of the community through sport.

Head coach Marlen Slinning is the driving force behind the club, having joined forces with a group of other sports' enthusiasts and founded the club. The multi-national club currently has more than 40 adult and junior players (men & women).

The club's board of directors is working hard to provide the right structure to the players and to develop the club further. The Vikings' men's and women's teams currently compete in the England Handball North Regional Development Leagues and in national tournaments, as well as hosting regional handball tournaments.

All adults and children are welcome to get involved – training sessions take place at both the Percy Hedley Sport Academy in Killingworth, as well as at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields which is also the club's home match venue. Please get in touch for more info or visit the club website

For full timetables, membership fees and more information please visit the clubs website or phone using the number provided

& remember **1st 3 sessions free!**

### Contact Details

**Marlen Slinning**

**Tel:** [07838 542 601](tel:07838542601)

[Send an email](#)

[Visit website](#)

### Activities

**Handball**



**This Girl Can** @ThisGirlCanUK · 1d  
Sweat + smiles. Sounds like a great way to get active @MarlensHandball #FitGotReal

23 June 2019



Ever tried Handball? | This Girl Can  
thisgirlcan.co.uk

1 comment 7 retweets 17 likes



**This Girl Can** @ThisGirlCanUK · 2d  
As it's #NationalSelfieDay we want to see your #FitGotReal selfies. Sweaty, knackered, w...  
Use the This Girl Can tool and tag us in yo...  
app.thisgirlcan.co.uk

**This Girl Can**  
23 Jun at 15:00 · 🌐

It's all about having fun while you get active. Sweat + smiles sounds like a winning combination to us. 😊  
#FitGotReal



You and 19 others

1 Share



140 likes

thisgirlcanuk Marlen set up a handball club in her area and combines being there for the team with spending time with her children, often bringing them along to matches around the country.

Have you ever tried handball before?  
#FitGotReal #ThisGirlCan #Handball

## Student keen to bring handball to Sunderland

2 August  
2012

Released: Thursday 2nd August 2012

Sunderland University student Jack Woods has been inspired by Great Britain's Handball teams and is determined to set up a club at the University.

Great Britain are making their competitive Olympic debut at the Copper Box at London 2012 and despite neither the Men's or Women's teams managing to secure a victory yet, the sport is proving to be a popular choice for spectators and the media and Woods is keen to capitalise on this growing interest.

Woods, from South Shields, said: "I first discovered Handball when I went to Germany on holiday when I was 14. I was on a school trip and it looked amazing.

"I held an interest from there really, but there is nothing in the North East."

Undeterred, the 19 year old maintained an interest in the sport until a British Handball UK Tour back in May offered him the chance to try the sport.

The tour visited Eldon Square in Newcastle where Woods, who has his Handball coaching certificates, took part in a taster session.

After impressing the organisers, he was invited to train with Newcastle University and travelled with them to compete in a handball tournament in Eindhoven in June.

Woods said: "There were students from all over the country: Loughborough, Lincoln, Brighton and Newcastle and we took four teams including a women's team.

"It was a huge tournament, the sport is massive in Europe. People I spoke to didn't even know that Britain had a team and they seemed surprised by that."

Woods is perplexed as to why Handball isn't more popular in the UK but believes that the Olympics is the perfect opportunity to build interest and participation in the sport.

"Handball is such a good sport but it needs exposure and the Olympics is perfect for that so the time is now," said Woods.

"I don't understand why it's not bigger here – its definitely more continental but I don't know why it hasn't made it over the channel.

"Maybe as an island we are excluded as to what goes on in mainland Europe where there are competitive league and the opportunity to play more teams?"



*Jack Woods (back row, second left) with a group of British students at a Handball competition in Eindhoven.*

After his experience in Eindhoven, Woods has wasted no time in looking to establish a club at the University.

Sunderland University are now affiliated with the Association of British Universities Handball Clubs (ABUH) and Woods has a list of over twenty names of interested people who want to get involved.

"If you look at GB team, four years ago they didn't have a team and now they are in the Olympics," said Woods.

"Newcastle University are desperate for some local competition. This year I want to enter a team in as many competitions as we can and have friendly matches.

"I know there is interest around the country from the students I met in Eindhoven and hopefully by 2013 we can establish a BUCS Handball league. That's the goal.

"I'd encourage anyone looking for a new and interesting sport to get involved. It's a really fast paced game, really good fun. I'm glad its getting some exposure at the Games and I just hope I can build on that, and the sport in this country can build on that after the Games."

Anyone interested in helping establish the Sunderland University Handball Club should contact the Sports Officer on 0191 515 3696 or email: [su.sports-officer@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:su.sports-officer@sunderland.ac.uk)

*Picture Credit: Team GB celebrate a goal against Montenegro at London 2012. AP Photo/Matthias Schrader*

## Handball match to be held in CitySpace

Released: Wednesday 6th February 2013

6 February  
2013



Following on from the National University Handball Championships in London which was the biggest event ever recorded for university handball in the UK, the Institute of Sport are holding their own showcase game and try it out session this coming Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 in CitySpace.

Come to Cityspace at 3pm to see a University of Sunderland squad play against a Newcastle team made up of the Vikings and Gateshead on our show court. There'll then be an opportunity to try handball yourself after the game.

Team training will be held in CitySpace on a Sunday from 6pm – 8pm for anyone interested in joining the newly formed University of Sunderland team. Both men and women are welcome and players will be given the chance to play competitively in a local league.

For more information contact Sports and Activities Officer Danielle Farrell on 0191 515 3696 or email [su.sports-officer@sunderland.ac.uk](mailto:su.sports-officer@sunderland.ac.uk)

*Image: Great Britain's Women's Handball team celebrate a goal against Montenegro at London 2012. Picture Credit: AP Photo/Matthias Schrader*



18 October  
2012

## Student keen to bring Handball to Sunderland

2 August  
2012



Great Britain's Women's Handball team celebrate a goal against Montenegro at London 2012. Picture Credit: AP Photo/Matthias Schrader

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Jack Woods (back row, second left) with a group of British students at a Handball competition in Eindhoven.

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Team GB have lost all of their matches at London 2012 so far but there have been encouraging displays against quality and experienced opposition.

The Men's team are scheduled to play their third game of the tournament against Argentina this afternoon.

Anyone interested in helping establish the Sunderland University Handball Club should contact the Sports Officer on 0191 515 3696 or email: su.sports-officer@sunderland.ac.uk.

## Woods hoping London 2012 will boost the popularity of Handball at BUCS level



Great Britain's Women's Handball team celebrate a goal against Montenegro at London 2012. Picture Credit: AP Photo/Matthias Schrader

**Sunderland University's Handball teams are hoping that the London 2012 Olympic games will encourage more people to become involved in the sport.**

At the Freshers Fayre, over 100 students signed up to take part in Handball, leaving the University with two men's teams and potentially the only women's team in the North East.

At the 2012 Olympic Games neither of the GB teams picked up a victory. However, Jack Woods, President of the University team, is confident that with the talent at his disposal this will not be repeated for Sunderland at British Universities and College Sport (BUCS) level.

"The Olympics has really showcased what Handball actually is," said Woods. "Students have been saying 'I saw it at the Games and I needed to play it', that's the legacy of the Games."

He added: "I have seen quite a few guys who have real potential to go somewhere in this sport, and that's just from looking at their ability in the taster sessions, with some coaching they could go pretty far".

Although no fixtures have currently been arranged for the Handball team, Woods has connections at Universities nationwide, with future fixtures against Loughborough, Bangor and Leeds a distinct possibility.

Talks are currently underway with representatives from both Northumbria and Newcastle Universities, to arrange future friendly matches.

In addition to friendly games, the establishment of a Northern Tournament is collaboratively underway and is planned to take place in early November, at CitySpace.

Students interested in getting involved with Handball should email Jack Woods at: jackfranciswoods@yahoo.co.uk and training sessions are held at CitySpace at 6-8 every Sunday evening.

24 October  
2012

## Handball on the rise in Sunderland

University of Sunderland Handball captain Jack Woods believes the London 2012 Games has had a positive effect on the sport. Jack also goes on to tell us about his hopes for handball at the University.

12 November  
2012

## Sunderland Handball Club suffer consecutive defeats in tournament debut

**The only way is up for Sunderland Handball Club after they suffered defeats to both Northumbria and Newcastle Universities in the Northern Tournament at Eldon Leisure on Sunday.**

In the first ever game for Sunderland HC, they were comfortably beaten by an experienced Northumbria side 29-15.

However, in the second and final match of the tournament Sunderland were more convincing, only losing by nine points to a very impressive Newcastle team, 19-10.



Captain Jack Woods knew that both games against seasoned teams would be difficult and said his side had to be realistic in their expectations from their opening games.

He said: "Against Northumbria we were all over the place, but that's acceptable because it was the first game more than half the guys had played.

"After the game I sat them down and they really took what I had to say on board. In the second game we held off Newcastle for a long time and the scoreline was acceptable.

"I'm proud of the guys, especially in the last game; losing by less than 10 points to Newcastle is progress as they are a really strong team."

Woods highlighted the performance of James Errington in goal as the best of the day, making clear that Errington's quality was one of the key factors that kept Sunderland in the second game.

Sunderland HC will be looking for their first competitive win in yet to be confirmed future friendly matches, likely to be played at CitySpace.

6 February  
2013

## Give it a go Handball session to be held at CitySpace



*Great Britain's Women's Handball team celebrate a goal against Montenegro at London 2012. Picture Credit: AP Photo/Matthias Schrader*

**The University of Sunderland Handball team are hosting a free session on Saturday to boost the popularity of the sport in the North East.**

The event will take place in the main hall of CitySpace between 3-5 pm and will be hosted by the Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, Gateshead Handball Club and the University of Sunderland Handball team.

A showcase exhibition match will be played as a select team of Vikings and Gateshead players face the university side to offer a taste of a live Handball game.

President of the University Handball team Jack Woods is looking for more players to bolster the squad, with the Handball players offering coaching after the match in the hope that people will turn up to training the week after and join the university team.

"Handball is an extremely fast paced and thrilling game and we here at the club really want to showcase what the sport has to offer people," said Woods.

"There's still an Olympic buzz about the sport and I encourage anyone interested to come down and try it."

The university also hope to get enough female's down to CitySpace on Saturday to put on a mini women's game.

Woods added: "The session is open to everyone, students and members of the public, and it's a great opportunity for people to come and enjoy one of Europe's most popular sports."

One of the reasons that the university team have struggled to get enough players signed on in recent years is that there hasn't been a Handball league for them to compete in, but now plans are being put in place to form a North East league.

University of Sunderland Sports and Activities officer, Danielle Farrell, believes the introduction of a league will help generate interest in the sport.

Danielle said: "It is hard to get enough players to sign on because there is not a league for them to play in at the moment so we have a very small squad.

"We have a format for a league down on paper so hopefully it will be up and running soon."

As well as the promise of a new league, it is hoped that the showpiece event on Saturday will inspire people to get involved in the sport, and Danielle believes that Handball offers a great variation on most other sports.

She added: "I think people should try Handball because it is a really really fun and energetic game, to watch and play. You are indoors so it can be played all year round and it just gives you a bit of variety to play a different sport."

## Handball: "More things to come", says captain Woods

10 February  
2013

**University of Sunderland Handball captain Jack Woods thinks that the sport can grow in the North East following an exhibition day against a Newcastle side at CitySpace.**



Sunderland lost 15-9 against a men's side comprising of Newcastle Vikings and Gateshead, and then lost 11-9 to the Viking's women's side, but Woods said: "This, hopefully, is the springboard for more things to come."

There hasn't been a local league for Sunderland to join this year, meaning the team has been restricted to merely training sessions but there are high hopes for Handball, which has grown in popularity since the London 2012 Olympics.

As well as the two exhibition matches, there was also a 'give it a go' session where anyone could come on to the court and play the game as the University seeks to get more people involved in the sport.

Woods said: "Handball at the university is a really new thing. It's a new club this year; I think we're the newest sports society (at University of Sunderland).

"We're trying to get a local league together, especially with the guys from Newcastle Vikings. They'll be a league for us to play in and opportunities for people to play so it isn't just training, it'll be games as well."

The Vikings were set up in September 2012 and, along with Gateshead and a university team from Newcastle, are keen to join a league and star player Charlie Goulty said that they wanted to capitalise on the popularity of Handball from London 2012..

Goulty said: "With the interest that's been generated from the Olympics, that's been the idea, to really try and promote the sport.

"The point of today was to really start the ball rolling in terms of competition, that was one of the main goals: to get a competitive league going in the North East."

Sunderland were largely outclassed in the opening game although did get more into it as the tie wore on, and they matched the women's team throughout the second game. They improved defensively as Woods' organisational skills came into play, and they put together some fluent attacking play too.

Woods said of the performances: "I think we did really well. We played the girls in the second game but even the Vikings say that their girl's team are their strongest team.

"I'm really quite proud of the guys. Two of them had never played handball before, and the rest of the team had only played two competitive games.

"It's really good for the team, they've really enjoyed it and it's been a real big morale boost that they've held the score quite low."

The Handball team trains from 6-8pm every Sunday for men and women at CitySpace, and Woods added of the sport: "It's a really good workout, it's a very physical game, it's really fast and it's really fun to play."

12 February  
2013

## High hopes for Handball in Sunderland

**The Newcastle Vikings came down to Cityspace to play an exhibition match against the University of Sunderland side.**

A taster session was also put on afterwards as Handball continues to receive interest after bursting into public consciousness during the Olympics.

## Handball Exhibition Match in Sunderland – In Pictures

13 February  
2013

**A selection of images from the Handball Exhibition at Cityspace in Sunderland.**

To read more about the day and the hopes for Handball in Sunderland, click here.

All pictures taken by Zoe Vicarage, email: zoevicarage@outlook.com

## Woods positive about new-look Handball team

23 October  
2013

**Sunderland University's handball coach is optimistic about his team's prospects for this year.**

Jack Woods has long been interested in handball, a sport with a large following in mainland Europe but not in the UK.

However, the success of London 2012 provided a springboard for this "new" sport and Woods, part of the GB students' side, chose to set up a team for the University.

Last year, lacking experience, the team struggled in their first two tournaments, but some continental help drastically improved performances.



"We had a few Germans playing and we were suddenly unstoppable," Woods recalls. "Instead of losing, we weren't even letting teams score this time."

But the nature of University limits the lifespan for players, as proven with this year's all-new line-up.

"This year we've got three Cypriots, two Greeks and a Polish guy as well," Woods said of his cosmopolitan team.

"We've been blessed because finding a good pivot player is extremely hard, yet there's someone here who has played pivot for six years. His job is to create gaps so your players can have free shots on goal."

Woods, with his Level 1 coaching badge, knows he needs to get his team toughened up for this contact sport, adding: "I want them prepared for what they're going to feel.

"In a handball game, there'll be people throwing you and clattering you – I've broken my jaw twice! I play American Football for the University and it hurts less. In handball there's no pads, it's a very physical game."

Coaching takes place at CitySpace on Sunday evenings but Sunderland isn't participating in a BUCS (British Universities & Colleges Sport) handball league, forcing Woods into using his contacts to arrange matches. "A lot of players on my GB students' side run the handball programmes at Universities like Bangor, Loughborough, Bath, Leeds and Sheffield Hallam, so we've got options.

"Nationals are in February too, if we can get ourselves there. But we won't have a match for at least six weeks."

In the meantime Woods, as player-coach, has to teach a whole new sport to many of his teammates. The London legacy lives on.

12 June  
2015

## **Farringdon girls eye national handball glory**

Farringdon Community Academy's Year 10 girls are aiming for glory this weekend – after reaching the National Handball Championships.

The team, made up of Year 9 and 10 pupils, are off to the University of Worcester for their big day, having won the Sunderland and Northern regional qualifiers.

The Farringdon girls have been given the ideal build-up, with coaching from the Newcastle Vikings handball club to hone their skills further.

Megan Elliott, Tiegan Mason, Terri Gilmour, Emily Herron, Sarah Blackhall, Issy Auty, Alice Jewitt, Amelia Agnew, Juliet Humphrey and Katy Hutchinson will represent Farringdon, whose head teacher, Howard Kemp, said: "We are delighted that our students have qualified for the National Handball Finals.

"This represents the culmination of a lot of hard work from staff and students alike.

"Handball really took off at Farringdon following the 2012 Olympic games and is part of our PE syllabus in Key Stage 3. I know that our girls will do the school, the city and the region proud – good luck!

"Alice Jewitt will not travel south with the squad today, as she is taking part in an England Karate training session, but she will head to Worcester in time for the quest for national success.

## Handball



Members of Sunderland Handball Club

The fast-paced, exciting game of handball is new to Sunderland and growing fast!

Active Sunderland provides advice about how you can get involved in sport and physical activity, joining a sports club, coaching, volunteering or accessing sport funding. We also work with a number of clubs and organisations to create and promote opportunities for residents to be active. Below you can find opportunities to get involved in handball in Sunderland

If you would like for further details of the sports available in your area please [contact Active Sunderland](#)

### Sunderland Handball Club

The Sunderland Handball Club is the only adult handball club in Sunderland. The club offer recreational and competitive opportunities to play this increasingly popular sport, with beginners and more experienced players all welcome. Sessions take place at Sunderland College's Bede campus.

For further information please [email the club directly](#)



## Sunderland Handball

23 May  
2016

Mon, 05/23/2016 - 18:39 — Daniel

pilka reczna | pilka plazowa | gra | fun | play | pilka reczna | pilka plazowa | gra | fun | play

What a way to make sports fun! We had such a fantastic time playing a range of games and working in teams, proving sports doesn't always have to be hard work. Can't wait to do it again!





## 2014-15 Archive

Lastly, to our newest sport as handball went to their final tournament of the year. This is still not a BUCS sport but we believe it will be in the not too distant future. We managed to make it through the group stages in Birmingham beating MMU 8-2 and Liverpool John Moores 9-3 but lost to Loughborough 8-6. We eventually lost out in the last sixteen going down to Nottingham 9-4 but we look to be ready for the sport's change of status.

9 March  
2015

## Durham Handball Put to the Test

(6 December 2015)

9 December  
2015



The qualifying rounds of the ABUHC Championship for the north region was the first test for the DU Olympic Handball Club. Never have any of the teams played together against any opposition, so naturally the whole team was both nervous and excited to see how they would play together.

The Mens A Team met one of the stronger teams in their first match, and played solid in defence and attack. Unfortunately, already half-way through their first match, the GB national player Niall Flanagan popped his shoulder after being tackled from two of Lancasters players. However, regardless of the injury, Durham kept on fighting to the end with a good result.

The momentum built up in the first game was kept throughout all the mens A team matches, meaning Durham secured 5 wins.

The Womens Team started off in the same manner, beating Loughborough with two goals. After a loss against Lancaster, the girls were ready to take on Dundee to go home with the victory. Due to the tournament running one hour late the Durham to forfeit the match after only two minutes.

Altogether it was a successful weekend for Durham handball who will look to push on from here. Next up the Mens A team will go to the ABUHC Finals in March, the Womens Team is still questionable (qualifications and fixtures are yet to be realised). The DUOHC will also participate in a North East Friendly cup with York- and Newcastle Handball Clubs in December, January and February.

### Results:

#### Mens A Team - 5 Wins:

- Durham vs Lancaster (12 - 7)
- Durham vs. Bangor II (10 - 2)
- Durham vs. MMU Cheshire (11 - 1)
- Durham vs. Loughborough II (11 - 1)
- Durham vs. Liverpool (11 - 8)

#### Womens A Team - 1 Win, 2 Loss (one forfeit):

- Durham vs. Loughborough II (5 - 3)
- Durham vs. Lancaster (2 - 6)
- Durham vs. Dundee (1 - 0) - Forfeit



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