

Go Vikings!

An Officially Incomplete History of

Handball

in Newcastle
and North East England



2025 Edition

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

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The Vikings Vault - Scrapbook Archive

Catalogue of Press and Newspaper Articles from the 1960s to the Present
(published separately)

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A Short History of Handball

The fantastically fun and fast-paced, action-packed sport of team handball has its modern roots in late 19th century northern Europe, primarily in Scandinavia and Germany where it is thought to have developed as a way to help keep footballers fit during the off-season.

Handball's origins nevertheless go back a long way, with early variations of the game believed to date from ancient Greek and Roman times. Ball-throwing games called *urania* and *cheirosphaira* were played by the ancient Greeks, while the Romans played games of *expulsim ludere* and *harpaston* which involved throwing a ball over a line. Games not unlike handball were also thought to be played by the Inuit people of Greenland, while drawings of Egyptian girls in pairs playing a form of handball decorate five-thousand year old tombs at Saqqara in ancient Egypt. Handball players are also depicted on pieces of pottery, in sculpture and on wall paintings found at archaeological sites in Mexico and Central America.



During the Medieval period, Germans developed the 'catch ball game' of *fussballspiel*, while a 'palm play' game known as *jeux de paume* was popular in Middle Ages' France (although this was probably more similar to what developed over time into tennis). By the 19th century, forms of handball were played across Europe, including Danish *håndbold*, German *torball*, Ukrainian *gandbol*, Czech *házená* and Slovakian *hádzaná*.

Denmark is widely recognised as the birthplace of modern team handball, where the rules for handball were first drawn up by gym teacher Holger Nielsen in 1889. Fellow Dane Rasmus Nicolai also drew up similar rules in 1897. Germans Max Heiser, Karl Schelenz and Erich Konigh then published revised rules in October 1917. Further amended and improved by Schelenz, these adjusted rules were used for the first international men's field handball game between Germany and Belgium in 1925.



Photo is of Holger Nielsen
originator of Handball Rules

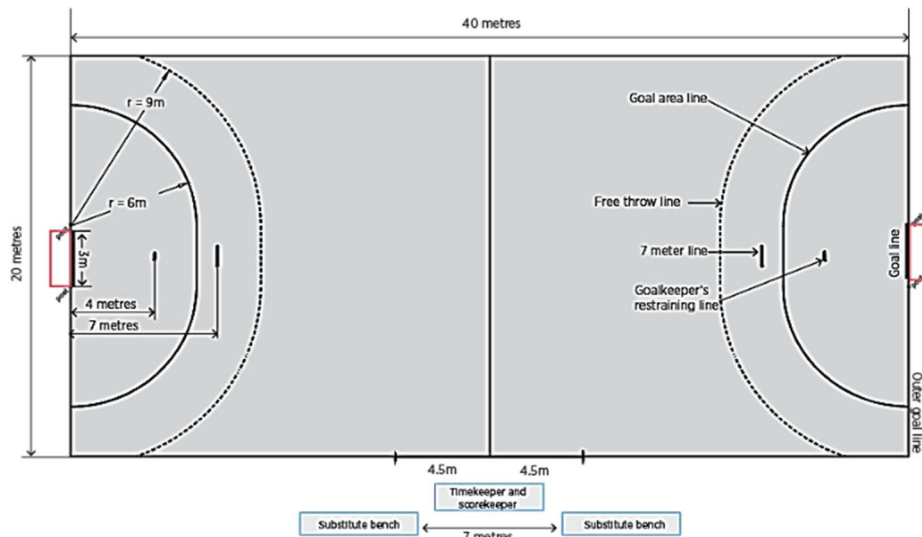
The Federation Internationale Handball Amateur was established to govern the sport on 4 August 1928, set up in Amsterdam, Holland. The first women's international match took place in 1930 between Germany and Austria.

Field handball, played as an 11-a-side outdoor sport on grass football pitches, was showcased at Germany's 1936 Olympics where six men's teams competed at the summer Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin. The only other time field handball featured in an Olympic Games was in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952, again as a demonstration sport.



German Handball team in 1936 Olympics

Handball as we know it today emerged in Scandinavia, where it was scaled down to a 7-a-side indoor game to escape the cold wintry weather and proved to be increasingly popular. Played on a 40m x 20m court with 3m-wide goals at either end, indoor handball features two teams of seven players (goalkeeper plus six outfield players) from match squads of up to 14 players.



The International Amateur Handball Federation celebrated its 10-year anniversary by holding inaugural men's indoor and field handball World Championships in 1938, with hosts Germany winning both the winter and summer competitions.

Following a hiatus due to World War II, Denmark and Sweden initiated establishing the International Handball Federation (IHF) as the sport's new governing body, founded on 12 July 1946 in Copenhagen. The other founding members were Finland, France, Holland, Norway, Poland and Switzerland. Sweden defeated Denmark in the first international match under the new Federation's auspices. Absent at the IHF's launch, Germany became birthplace of the European Handball Federation (EHF) later in November 1991 in Berlin.

Both field and indoor forms of the game were played at separate World Championships between 1938 and 1966, with the first women's indoor handball World Championship taking place in Yugoslavia in 1957. The initial dominance of the Scandinavian and Germanic nations was soon challenged by the Eastern European countries as the likes of the Soviet Union, Romania, Yugoslavia, East Germany and Hungary became increasingly competitive.

Handball re-emerged onto the world stage when men's indoor handball first became an Olympic sport at the 1972 Games of the XX Olympiad in Munich, Germany. Yugoslavia were victorious in a 16-team competition. Women's handball then joined the Olympic fold at the next 1976 Games of the XXI Olympiad in Montreal, Canada, when the Soviet Union won both the 11-team men's event and the inaugural 6-team women's tournament. Both men's and women's indoor handball have featured with increasing popularity at every Olympic Games since.



Since 1995 the handball world championships have taken place every two years, with several north African, Asian and South American countries gradually starting to challenge the traditional dominance of continental Europe.



A new outdoor version of the game emerged in 1994 in Holland. Beach handball is played as a 4-a-side sport on a smaller 27m x 12m court. Also known as 'sandball', it debuted as a demonstration sport at the 2001 World Games in Akita Japan, gaining full status in 2013 in Cali, Columbia.

Handball's Emergence in Great Britain

The earliest evidence of handball being played in Britain dates back to the time of World War II, when British Pathé footage from 19 June 1944 records an exhibition 11-a-side 'Norwegian handball' match played in London's Hyde Park between netball ladies of the Royal Canadian Air Force and their counterparts of the Royal Norwegian Air Force. Described as a mixture of volleyball and football, the Norwegians won 2-0.



An IHF-recognised Hull Handball League is recorded as playing 11-a-side field handball between 1958-62. The league's organiser Dr L M Seewald was also the author of *Continental Handball: Official International Rules* published in 1958. A first representative Great Britain field handball side lost to Holland on 28 June 1959 at the Costello Stadium in West Hull, followed by matches taking place against Germany and in Freiburg in 1960.



Great Britain team v Freiburg, August 1960

Indoor 7-a-side handball gradually emerged through universities and colleges in the mid-1960s. A British Universities Handball Championships is reported as first taking place at Glasgow's Strathclyde University in late 1966, soon followed by another tournament at Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University in February 1967.



The British Handball Association (BHA) was founded in Liverpool in 1968 by teachers Jeff Rowland, Chris Powell, Phil Holden and Andy Smith, supported by local sports shop proprietor Ken Watson. Head of sports at the city's Cardinal Allen Grammar School, Rowland had been introduced to handball by young West German trainee teacher Wolf Schneggenburger in 1967, and together they had introduced the sport to the school's pupils. Having quickly initiated the founding of the BHA with his four friends, Rowland soon organised the first unofficial national 7-a-side handball match between representative teams of Great Britain and West Germany on 22 June 1968 at the St. Bonaventures School Fields in Liverpool, the experienced German students winning the game by a big margin.



Great Britain was soon accepted into membership of the International Handball Federation at the end of August 1968, and played their first official international indoor team handball match later that year, suffering a 13-27 defeat to Italy at Edge Hill College in Ormskirk, Lancashire. BHA chairman B J Rowland subsequently published the first book on handball in Britain, entitled *Handball: A Complete Guide*, in June 1970, shortly before the British Handball Association become a full IHF member on 18 September 1970 and soon formed the first Great Britain team. In recognition of its contribution to the development of handball in the country, the IHF awarded the British Handball Association as the first recipients of the Federation's Hans Bauman trophy in 1972.

Great Britain & Northern Ireland competed in the men's Olympic qualification tournament for the first time in Spain between 15-25 March 1972. However, the British team lost heavily 40-5 to the Spaniards, 37-2 to Switzerland and 37-12 against Luxembourg in the preliminary round, before being beaten 31-1 by Belgium and 23-13 by Italy in the main round to finish 16th and last of the European nations.



The Scottish Handball Association (SHA) was formed in August 1972, with the first women's game in the UK being played that year between East Kilbride and Hamilton's Bell College. Edinburgh's Heriot-Watt University meanwhile won the inaugural 1972 men's British National Handball League Championships. The English National League began in 1976/77 under the auspices of the England Handball Association (EHA). Merseyside's Birkenhead became the first men's league champions, claiming a league and cup double by also winning the inaugural British Cup in 1977.



The first British handball victory at senior international level came in defeating the Faroe Islands 21-19 in Rovereto during the February 1984 men's World Championships in Italy, where they finished 10th out of the 12 teams.

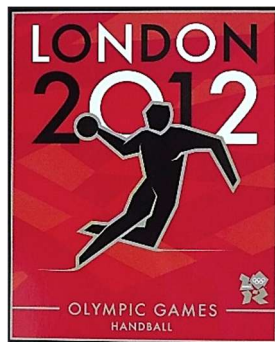


The England and Scottish Handball Associations, together with Canada, Kenya, Pakistan and Nigeria, were instrumental in setting up the Commonwealth Handball Association (CHA) in 1985 in Salford, with an aim to try to get handball into the Commonwealth Games.

The British Handball Association was later an early member of the European Handball Federation in November 1991. England and Scotland became separate affiliated EHF member nations in 2004, only to re-unify for international competition purposes under the British Handball Association banner in June 2012, just ahead of the London 2012 Olympic Games.



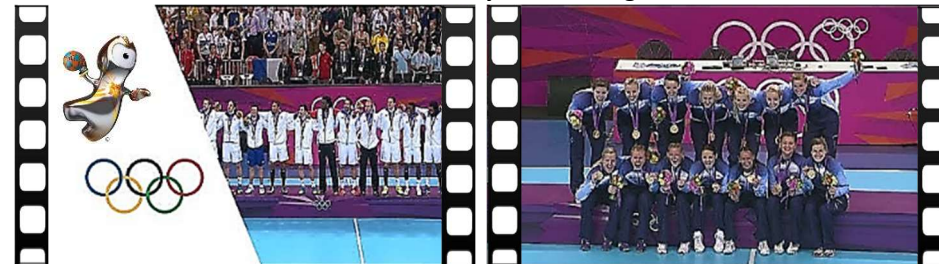
While national television sports programmes had featured brief highlights of Great Britain handball matches in the 1970s, handball's popularity only really rose to national recognition in the UK when the Games of the XXX Olympiad came to London in summer 2012. As hosts, Team GB were automatically able to enter teams in both the men's and women's 12-team competitions, held primarily at the new Copper Box Arena in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park.



Team GB made their Olympic handball debut on 28 July 2012 when the women's team lost 19-31 to Montenegro. They then also lost 16-37 to Russia, 17-30 to Brazil, 25-31 to Angola and 14-37 to Croatia, while Norway won gold. Great Britain's men lost their opening game on 29 July 44-15 to eventual gold medallists France, before also losing 19-41 to Sweden, 21-32 to Argentina, 34-17 to Tunisia and 41-24 against Iceland.



London 2012 Olympic Games Handball Gold Medal Men's and Women's Matches – Men: Sweden v France / Women: Norway v Montenegro



Despite the Great Britain handball teams both losing all of their Olympic Games group matches, the sport had received a huge boost of interest. However, the loss of UK Sport funding for handball after London 2012 caused the Great Britain handball teams to be dissolved, before being eventually revived in 2016.



The first British Beach Handball Championships were held in August 2013 at Branksome Chine Beach in Poole, Dorset, with London GD men and London Angels women becoming the first champions. The tournament became part of the EHF's European Beach Handball Tour in 2016.



North East England's Early Handball Heyday



The University of Newcastle's archives of its weekly Students' Union newspaper, *The Courier*, show that North East England was at the forefront of the emergence of British handball in the late 1960s.

Despite the game struggling to get properly introduced in the university, and evidently hindered by competition from other more traditional sports and the availability of the Lightfoot Sports Centre training base, Newcastle University were one of the country's top handball teams of the late 60s and early 70s, with Sunderland and Teesside also featuring prominently too.

Reports show that one of the major aims of the Newcastle University Handball Club was the introduction of the sport of handball to England. It was introduced

2.1



to the university in 1966 by a group of Norwegian students, and within a year the club boasted around 40 players with 1st, 2nd and potentially 3rd teams. It was a recognised member of the university's Athletic Union as well as of the British and English Amateur Handball Association.

Success came quickly as Newcastle's all-Norwegian men's team became handball champions of the British Universities at the first attempt in the final term of 1966 up in Scotland at

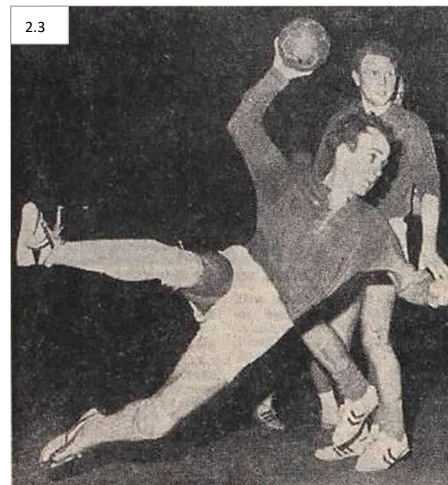
Glasgow's Strathclyde University. Newcastle opened the five-team tournament with an 8-4 victory over Heriot-Watt University, before beating home side Strathclyde University 10-6, then Glasgow University 15-6 and finally Sunderland Technical College 6-3. The seven jubilant players returning unbeaten with the large silver Heriot-Watt Trophy cup were Knut Waagenes, Lars Fossum, Esben Poulsen, Harald Harung, Dag Nilson, Stuvig Eidsgaard and Geir Eidsgaard.



2.2

Ten Newcastle University players went up to Edinburgh for the next contest over the weekend of 18-19 February 1967. That tournament saw seven teams playing outdoors on two tarmac tennis courts, so the players had a rather rough time. Newcastle nevertheless successfully defended their trophy, despite Esben Poulson fracturing his right foot in the game against Strathclyde.

2.3



The University Handball Club had another very good record in the 1967/68 season. The British Universities Championship was this year held at Newcastle's Lightfoot Sports Centre for the first time on 2-3 March 1968. The reigning champions went into the six-team tournament as joint favourites to win the Handball Challenge Cup alongside Sunderland Technical College. Newcastle gained close-fought 9-7 victories over Glasgow University, Heriot-Watt

University and Queen's University Belfast, before putting on their best performance of the first day to beat a Sunderland side that had also won their first three matches but with a better goal average. With the cup more-or-less won, the home side confirmed their strong position on the second day in thrashing Strathclyde

		P	W	D	L	Pts.
1	Newcastle U.	5	5	0	0	10
2	Sld. Tch. Col.	5	4	0	1	8
3	Q's Un., Blfat.	5	3	0	2	6
4	Heriot W'tt U	5	2	0	3	4
5	Strathclyde U.	5	1	0	4	2
6	Glasgow Uni.	5	0	0	5	0

University 16-1, while Sunderland came through to beat Queen's University Belfast 7-5 and pip them to 2nd place in the tournament.



2.4

Having won nine of their 11 matches and retained their British Universities Championship title, that season culminated on 13 March 1968 with Newcastle coming from behind in the final minutes of a local derby match to claim a 27-25 victory over Sunderland Technical College. Newcastle University handball team members that year are recorded as including goalkeeper S Torp, S Eidesgaard, F Aschim, K Vaagnes and H Harung.

Despite the loss of three of their best players for the next season, Newcastle had a surprisingly successful and promising inter-University Championships weekend at Strathclyde University on 9-10 November 1968. Newcastle lost their opening match 13-10 to a strong Belfast side, before easily winning 16-10 against Heriot-Watt II, and then showing their fighting spirit on the second day to claim a 15-12 victory over Strathclyde and then thrash Glasgow 22-7 in their last match. Newcastle's players were captain Sturis Eidsgaard, Knut Vagnes, Dag Nilsen, Nils Arne Ottesen, Tor Ovrevik, Truls Jahnsen, Robert Jorgensen, Kjell Svendsen and Bjarte Svenheim. Sunderland had meanwhile lost out to eventual tournament winners Heriot-Watt I in the other group of the eight-team tournament.

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.

Glasgow were expecting to host the official British University Championships the next term, but it turned out to be a disappointingly quiet one. Newcastle University nevertheless rounded off the term by once again winning the local derby fixture on 15 March 1969. After a slow start gave Sunderland Technical College a 5-7 half-time lead, Newcastle showed their superiority in the second half with some high speed plays matched with good technique, including good goalkeeping, safe defence, brilliant wing play and startling jump-shots, to round the term off with a convincing 22-14 win. Newcastle's players were recorded as goalkeeper Creon Olav Ottesen, captain Sturis Eidsgaard, Svein Jacobsen, Truls Jahnsen, Robert Jorgensen, Dag Nilsen, Peter Smedvig, Per Straumen and Tron Ourevik.

The following season saw Newcastle University Handball Club travel up to Edinburgh again for a successful start at the annual handball weekend tournament on 18-19 October 1969. Having won all of their three group matches and beating Belfast's Queens University 9-4 in their semi-final, Newcastle's only defeat came in the final of the eight-team competition, losing 5-9 to Heriot-Watt University. The Newcastle team were Byorn Alveburg, Lars Grosted, Geir O Ottesen, Peter Smedvig, Tor Ovrevik, Sturla Eidsgaard and new German players Jochen Thomma and Gunjen Kalbacher.

By the early 1970s both Newcastle's and Sunderland's student handball clubs had grown enough to each enter two men's teams for Heriot-Watt University's

Challenge Cup weekend in Edinburgh on 13-14 November 1971. The participating teams came from all of the British universities and colleges where handball was practiced – Newcastle, Sunderland, Heriot-Watt, Strathclyde and Queens Belfast. Both Newcastle teams successfully came through their groups to qualify for the semi-finals, along with Sunderland I. However, the two Newcastle sides were drawn against each other in the first semi-final, Newcastle I beating their compatriots to reach the final once again, while Heriot-Watt I beat Sunderland I in the other semi-final. Newcastle I then played their best match in the final for a 14-11 victory against perennial cup holders and pre-tournament favourites Heriot-Watt I. Sunderland I beat Newcastle II in the fight for 3rd and 4th places, while Sunderland II came 7th in the eight-team competition.

Newcastle played an exhibition match against Teesside Fliers Handball Club at the city's Lightfoot Sports Centre on 31 January 1972, as part of a handball lecture-demonstration by the Fliers' Colin Gerrard who was also Senior Area Coach of the British Handball Association and captain of the Great Britain squad

preparing to compete in the forthcoming Olympic Games qualification event. Gerrard would be one of five Teesside Fliers players, along with Robert J Kay, David Mills, Eric Pearson and Thomas Cowley, who were selected to form the core of the first Great Britain men's team to travel to Spain to compete in the 16-nation European qualification tournament for the 1972 Munich Olympic Games, which took place in Spain during March that year. The British team were, however, heavily beaten in all five of their matches, finishing in last place.

GRAN BRETAÑA					
Nombre y apellido	Club	Edad	Altura	Peso	Número de veces internac.
PORTEROS:					
Raymond P. CLARKE	ST. ANDREWS HC	19	1,79	72	3
James Mc. DOUGALL	STRATHCLYDE UNIVERSITY HC	24	1,85	75	—
JUGADORES DE CAMPO:					
Stephen E. CARROLL	HUYTON HC	18	1,85	89	3
John DAVIES	ST. ANDREWS HC	25	1,75	76	4
Francis G. DENHAMORE	ST. ANDREWS HC	17	1,72	66	—
Colin GERRARD	TEESSIDE FLIERS	24	1,73	70	3
Norman HEINER	BIRKDALE SOUTHPORT HC	26	1,78	76	—
John C. JACOBSON	ST. ANDREWS HC	18	1,84	77	3
Robert J. KAY	TEESSIDE FLIERS	25	1,82	79	—
David MILLS	TEESSIDE FLIERS	25	1,83	71	—
Eric PEARSON	TEESSIDE FLIERS	23	1,91	92	—
Bernard J. ROWLAND	BIRKDALE SOUTHPORT HC	31	1,75	68	3
Michael J. VRIERS	C.F. MOTT COLLEGE HC	29	1,75	77	3
Thomas COWLEY	TEESSIDE FLIERS	24	1,76	68	—
Stanley HORNE	HUYTON HC	17	1,78	73	—
Steven WILLIAMS	AJAX COPENHAGEN	21	1,75	73	—





Meanwhile, the University Handball Club again proved its quality in their own Geordie Cup tournament at Walker's iconic domed Lightfoot Sports Centre on 12-13 February 1972. The competition saw two Newcastle teams take on Great Britain A and B teams, alongside Heriot-Watt University and local rivals Sunderland Polytechnic. After beating Sunderland 14-7 and the Great Britain B team 9-7 on the Saturday, Newcastle's A team played their best match of the season to also dispose of Great Britain's A team 10-6 in Sunday's semi-final. In the final, facing Heriot-Watt University, they then staged a tremendous comeback to score two late goals in the final minute to win the tournament. Meanwhile, Newcastle University's B team also showed their strength by beating Sunderland 8-7 in the play-off for 5th place.

Sunderland, however, got the upper hand over their local rivals the following season, defeating them 5-6 in the December 1972 Edinburgh tournament.

The following year's Geordie Cup tournament on 24-25 February 1973 saw only four of the seven invited teams show up to take on the reigning champions at the Lightfoot Sports Centre – Sunderland, Teesside Flyers, Heriot-Watt University and Essex club Brentwood. Newcastle University's team of mainly Norwegian, French and German students quickly made up for their recent derby loss with a 6-4 victory over Sunderland in the opening match. They then went on to beat Teesside 10-5, draw 5-5 with Brentwood and fight back from 0-4 down to defeat Heriot-Watt 5-4 to top the group just above the Wearsiders. Sunderland faced Heriot-Watt in the first semi-final, but despite having beaten them 7-4 in the group matches they lost out 4-6. Teesside had beaten Brentwood 9-7 to progress to the other semi-final against Newcastle, but once again lost to the hosts 11-5. Sunderland then defeated the Flyers 12-9 in the match for 3rd place, before Heriot-Watt (recently crowned winners of the inaugural British National Handball Championships) beat a tiring and somewhat unlucky Newcastle team 5-15 in the cup final.

Final table :

1.	Heriot Watt
2.	Newcastle
3.	Sunderland
4.	Teesside Flyers
5.	Brentwood

Newcastle University's handball team travelled to London over the weekend of 17-18 November 1973 to compete in the National Handball Championships at Edmonton's Picketts Lock Centre. They gained a 6-6 draw with Brentwood in their first match, before winning 9-8 against Heriot-Watt University. Eventual champions Brentwood took an undisputed lead on the Sunday, but Newcastle picked up the 2-2 draw they needed in their final game against Merseyside's Huyton to take 2nd place in the six-team tournament on goal average.

After finishing runners-up at the British Championships, Newcastle University was once again successful a few weeks later in the Heriot-Watt University Challenge Cup tournament in Edinburgh on 1-2 December 1973. The 10 competing teams played in two pools of five, with Newcastle playing against Heriot-Watt University, Glasgow's Bellahouston, Strathclyde and Sunderland. They only lost one game against Bellahouston in winning group B, before managing to beat the group A 2nd-placed team Wolverhampton in the semi-finals. In the final against East Kilbride, Newcastle raced into a 6-1 half-time lead before ending up with a 10-8 win. The victory ensured they kept the cup for a fourth time and once again confirmed Newcastle University as one of the best handball teams in the county.

Handball News, the then official journal of the British Handball Association, reports that in February 1974, the North East Open tournament in Newcastle was won by Merseyside team Birkenhead, a title which they retained a year later in February 1975. Former Great Britain player, coach and England Handball Association Performance Director, Mick Hegarty, recalls his old team Halewood Forum, the forerunner of Liverpool Handball Club, also playing in Newcastle's annual Geordie Cup tournament at the Lightfoot Sports Centre in 1975. Hegarty reminisced that back in the mid-1970s Newcastle University had a fantastic team of Norwegian students using a 'magic' resin stuff that made the ball stick to their hands. He recalls that both Newcastle University and Sunderland had teams playing in the 1974 British National Handball Championships tournament held at the Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton Keynes, where Newcastle lost in the final to a Birkenhead team who were then coached by former Great Britain international and England Handball Association chairman Mike Briers. That defeat saw Newcastle University just miss out on European competition as the Merseysiders took the honour of going on to play in the old European Cup.

Twenty years later, Newcastle University entered both men's and women's teams at the first revival British Student Handball Championships at Nottingham University on 5 March 1995. The men beat Northampton's Nene College 7-3 before drawing against both Staffordshire's Keele University and Loughborough University, but hosts Nottingham University just won the trophy on goal difference. However, two big wins for Newcastle's women, 10-2 against a combined Nottingham/Nene side and 11-2 against Loughborough, meant that despite losing 2-5 to Keele in their last match they had done enough to win the championships overall, becoming the first women's British university handball champions. Newcastle's all non-British men's team were B Ribesen, R I Jonassen, K Vassbotn, P O Baalerud, S Langsethagen, K Knutsen, K Fersum and T Holst, while the victorious women's team were E. Sjoelie, R Mardalen, C Clark, L Skughei, J Risa, M Anderson, E Bakken, K Gronvold and M Rekvik. Organiser Colin Wills (who had set up Nottingham University's handball club a few years earlier) recalls that Newcastle's men had gone into this revival competition as the reigning British University title holders (from back in the 1970s), and continued to do really well in the subsequent year's championships as well as they had mostly Scandinavian players who knew what to do. He adds that they probably still have the trophy somewhere!

Braves New World for North Tyneside Juniors

The Killingworth Braves Handball Club, also sometimes known as the Newcastle Braves, was formed in 1997 by school teacher and scout leader Dave Clay, whose interest in the sport developed after seeing handball played while on holiday in Poland. Based at the Killingworth Leisure Centre in North Tyneside, on the outskirts of Newcastle, the Braves were a junior club with under-16 and under-12 boys teams, the majority of whom were school friends from the local George Stephenson High School.



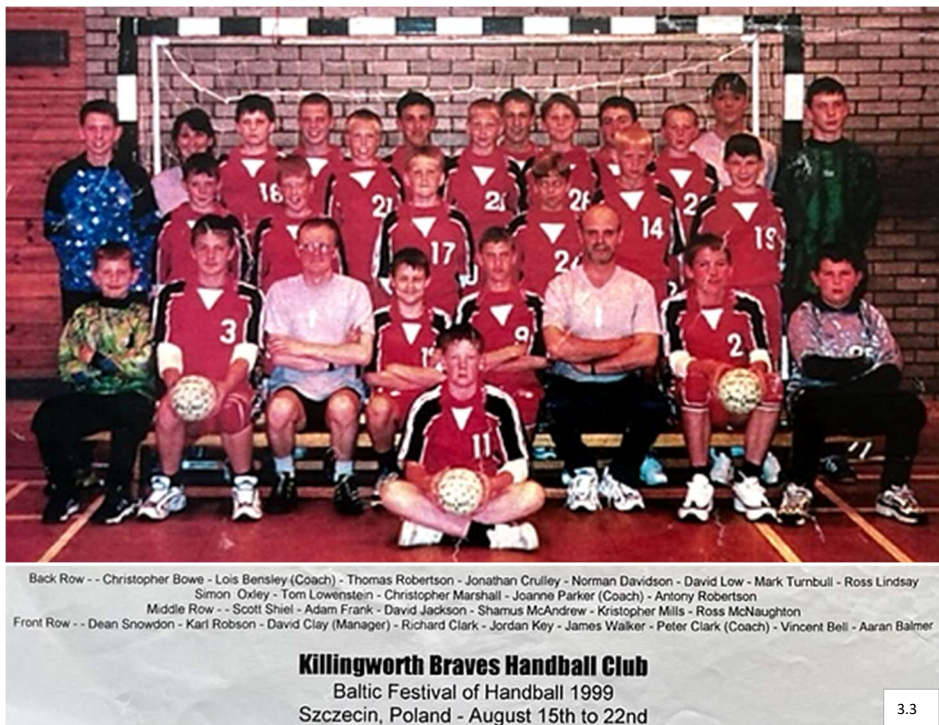
The Killingworth Braves teams took part in several junior handball tournaments across the country, including in Leeds, Ashford in Kent, and in the Isle of Man Festival in both 1998 and 2000. Perhaps most notably, however, in 1999 they became the first junior English handball club to compete abroad when they travelled to northern Poland to play in the *Baltic Festival* handball tournament in Szczecin (Stettin) between 16-21 August 1999, where they joined over 150 other junior teams from across the Baltic region, Eastern and Central Europe.

The 24-player Braves squad had teams playing in both the under-14 (birth years 1985-86) and under-11 competitions. While they returned winless, former player Chris Bowe recalls that in one of their matches they only narrowly lost against a strong Polish club team after frustrating them with a tactic of man-marking their best player out of the game.



Grupa MC - rocznik 1985-1986

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1. Braves Handball Club Newcastle - ANGIA | 7. SP 3 Oborniki |
| 2. Portovik Odessa - UKRAINA | 8. UKS "Drawianka" Drawno |
| 3. Protvino - ROSJA | 9. MKS "Kusy" 22 Szczecin |
| 4. KS "Górnik" Sosnowiec | 10. MKS "Kusy" 55 Szczecin |
| 5. MKS "Zryw" Zielona Góra | 11. MKS Biłgoraj |
| 6. UKS "Czwórka" Oborniki | |



With the experience of Poland having moved the squad to a new level in their understanding of the game, back home the Killingworth Braves went unbeaten in all leagues and competitions during the following 1999/2000 season. Clay recalls that twice competitions ended with the Braves' A and B teams facing each other in the finals, including claiming both the winners and runners-up trophies at the Isle of Man Festival in 2000.



Successes continued until the club folded in 2001 following Clay's move to a new full-time job. Killingworth Braves youngsters Ross McNaughton and Chris Bowe would later go on to become original members and the first men's team captains of Newcastle Vikings Handball Club in 2012/13.

The late 1990s had also seen Clay seek to form a spin-off junior handball club in the Walker suburb of Newcastle. Walker Warriors took their name from the Wharrier Street address of their Lightfoot Sports Centre base.



Further success came with another revival of handball in North Tyneside in the mid-2000s, again at the junior level of the game with Dave Clay once again at the forefront, supported by Lois Bensley (now Lois Clay), Tom Robertson, Ross Lindsay and other former members of the Killingworth Braves family. Monkseaton Middle School formed boys and girls handball teams in 2003 to play in the Scottish under-12 and under-14 junior leagues. Their debut 2003/04 season began with some heavy defeats before rallying to gain victories over Cumbernauld side Tryst and Edinburgh's Gracemount High School. The U12 team finished fourth in their four-team league while the U14s finished third out of five teams in their league.

They were then invited to attend an end-of-season international *Focus Europe* handball event in Sligo, Ireland, where three teams competed against Irish and German opposition. Monkseaton's boys finished 8th and 9th out of 11 teams in the boys competition, while a joint Monkseaton/Solingen squad took the girls title after going undefeated in their eight games.

Monkseaton Middle School were joined by Whitley Bay and Monkseaton High schools for the following season to form Monkseaton Handball Club. While their older squad played in the English junior competition, the newly-formed under-12 squad suffered only one defeat all season on their way to winning the U12 2004/05 Scottish league title. They then went on to beat Gracemount High

School again in the U12 Scottish Cup final at the Tryst Sports Centre in Cumbernauld. The match finished 9-9 and then 12-12 after extra time, before Monkseaton captain Jonathan Armstrong scored the cup-winning golden goal decider. The victorious North Tyneside squad were represented by

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.



In 2006, Monkseaton Handball Club travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden to compete in the Partille Cup, the world's largest youth handball tournament. Despite their three teams putting up a good fight in the under-13 and under-14 competitions, they were unable to progress beyond the group stages, and Clay notes that this 'international training camp' showed the gap between junior handball in Britain and continental Europe. The experience nevertheless enabled the squad to develop further for the following season, when the club's junior teams once again challenged for the Scottish U14 and U16 league titles. A friendly match against a Belgian under-16 team nevertheless saw them lose



heavily while scoring only one goal. But with the departure of their coaches in 2006, the impetus for junior handball in the North East died away, Clay moving south and going on to coach Bedford Hawks while Robertson went on to coach Cheshire-based Deva Handball Club.

North Shields-based Northumbria University graduate Steve Swinyard nevertheless established *Access Coaching* in 2007 in partnership with friend James Carron. Both qualified handball coaches, the North Tyneside-based sports coaching provider became the first company in the North East able to deliver handball coaching to school children as part of a multi-sports package aimed at developing more diversity in sports in the region.

The Pre-2012 Olympics University Revival



Newcastle University's handball club was revived in September 2011 by school-friends Mark Harrison and Jack McKay. Northumberland-born Harrison had been playing handball for Loughborough University the previous season and had represented Great Britain Students before returning to the North East to study at Northumbria University, while McKay was at Newcastle University. Supported by the University Students' Union's popular *Go Play* initiative aimed at encouraging students to try new sports, they ran weekly mixed training sessions and developed a competitive team. McKay took on the role of club President while Harrison became coach due to being unable to represent Newcastle University in a playing capacity.



The largely beginner men's team showed great potential in their debut competitive showing at the newly-formed Association of British University Handball Clubs' (ABUHC) first University Handball Championships, held in Manchester on 25-26 February 2012. The multi-cultural team of Spanish, French, German, Mexican and British students scored a good 6-4 opening win over Bangor, although that was followed by a 5-13 defeat to group winners Oxford and an unfortunate 4-9 loss to Lincoln A – a team they had drawn against only a couple of weeks earlier. They then narrowly beat Lincoln B 4-3 to secure third place in their group and a play-off against Brighton. Goals from Geoffrey Laborde and Juan Carlos Sachez, combined with a strong defensive display, then helped Newcastle pull off a fantastic 7-6 victory in one of the games of the tournament to finish in a creditable joint 9th place out of 24 teams.



Several of Newcastle's British university students were subsequently invited to attend trials for the Great Britain Students' squad. Further boosted by a pre-Olympics British Handball UK tour visit to Newcastle in April 2012 offering handball taster sessions at the city's Eldon Square Leisure Centre, they joined compatriots from Loughborough, Lincoln and Brighton to compete for Great Britain Students in the Oktopus International Handball Tournament in

Eindhoven, Holland, in June 2012. Northumbria University's Mark Harrison was part of the men's 1st team, while Newcastle University students Jack McKay and Sam Boyd were in the 4th team along with Sunderland University's Jack Woods. For Harrison it was his second experience of the Oktopus tournament having represented Great Britain Students the previous year, as well as at another international tournament in Krakow, Poland. After heavily losing all their 2011 games, the British students had an improved experience in 2012 with the 1st team winning twice and the 4th team also picking up a win.



Mark Harrison was then selected for an Irish handball training camp, before going on to play for Ireland in friendly matches against Merseyside club Deva and Spain's Barcelona B in a friendly tournament in Dublin in August 2012.



On the back of this growing promise, Harrison and Jonny Purkiss started up a new Northumbria University handball club in September 2012, training with their Newcastle counterparts but with an intention to enter separate teams in the University Championships. However, both clubs soon struggled to attract enough new student players to sustain regular training sessions, so towards the end of 2012 they opted to join with the newly formed Newcastle Vikings Handball Club.

McKay and Harrison nevertheless still managed to assemble enough Newcastle University players to compete in the ABUHC University Handball Championships in London on 2-3 February 2013. Following their achievements in the 2012 competition they were one of 16 seeded teams in the expanded 40-team men's tournament. After coming third in their initial group stage matches against Leeds University, Dundee, Bangor II and Loughborough I, they then played Kent, Liverpool John Moores University and Lincoln II in the second group phase. They finished an improved joint 7th place overall after getting knocked out at the quarter-final stage. However, having by then integrated with the Vikings they chose not to re-register the University's club for the following academic year.



The 2012 Olympic Legacy and Vikings Invasion

The London 2012 Olympic Games was the trigger for considerable growth in handball interest both nationally and in North East England. So much so that within a couple of months of those summer Olympics the North East suddenly had three new handball clubs establishing themselves in Newcastle, Gateshead and Sunderland, as well as interest in Middlesbrough, all seeking to capitalise on that growing popularity and opportunity to build participation in the sport.



NEWCASTLE
VIKINGS
HANDBALL CLUB

Experienced Norwegian handball teacher and former London GD player Marlen Slinning got together with Brazilian Mariana Saba and a diverse group of fellow sports enthusiasts to found Newcastle Vikings Handball Club in September 2012. Weekly training sessions for men and women were held at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy in Killingworth – where the London 2012-accredited disability and para-sports centre also offered *wheeltastic* wheelchair handball. Newcastle Vikings was the first developmental handball club in the North East, with a mission to practice handball while contributing to the development of the community through sport. Early promotion of the club saw the Vikings selected as joint winners of the England Handball Association's *Handball does Hollywood* competition in October 2012 with a fun video introduction to the game.



Handball Does Hollywood – Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's Promotional Video



Over on the south side of the River Tyne, regional rugby league development officer Jo Drapier also set up Gateshead Handball Club in late September 2012. However, after a few months of highly popular weekly training sessions at the Gateshead International Stadium, together with men's and women's friendly matches with Newcastle Vikings on 12 December



2012, interest unfortunately waned in the New Year following a change of training evening and venue to Gateshead Leisure Centre, and then Drapier's departure from the region. Many of the remaining players had already started joining the Vikings for further training and to take part in local friendly tournaments. Gateshead Thunder RLFC development officer Rob Jones sought to keep the club going with the help of Vikings' head coach Marlen Slinning, but by summer 2013 numbers had declined to just a handful of keen men and women. Despite attempts to encourage new interest after a summer break from training, the club quietly died by the wayside.



Meanwhile down on Wearside, student and long-time handball fan Jack Woods had been inspired by the London Olympics and after playing with Newcastle University colleagues in the Eindhoven tournament in June 2012, and sought to set up a club at Sunderland University. Newly affiliated with the Association of British

Universities Handball Clubs (ABUHC), they played their first friendly matches against Northumbria and Newcastle Universities in a mini Northern Tournament at Newcastle's Eldon Square Leisure Centre on 11 November 2012. Sunderland lost 10-29 to Northumbria and 7-19 against Newcastle, with Newcastle also defeating Northumbria 20-13 to win overall. Newcastle and Northumbria Universities dissolved into Newcastle Vikings soon afterwards.

The University of Sunderland's CitySpace then hosted showcase exhibition friendly matches against combined Newcastle Vikings and Gateshead men's and women's squads on 9 February 2013. The Newcastle-Gateshead side beat Sunderland 15-9 in the men's match, before the Vikings' strong women's team also beat Sunderland's men 11-9. Despite the loss of a few experienced German players the following season, Sunderland University were beginning to develop a cosmopolitan men's team of British, Cypriot, Greek and Polish players. However, the lack of a British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) handball league continued to limit match opportunities.



Newcastle Vikings hosted a North East Handball Tournament on 9 March 2013 at Percy Hedley Sports Academy, featuring three men's teams – Newcastle Vikings, Newcastle-Gateshead and Sunderland University – plus Newcastle Vikings women and a mixed women's team from the Vikings, Gateshead and Sunderland. Newcastle Vikings women and Sunderland University men faced each other in the final having scored the most points from their matches, with Sunderland coming through 13-7 winners.



Another North East tournament took place at Sunderland University's CitySpace on 20 April 2013, featuring Sunderland University, Newcastle University's reassembled University Championships team and Newcastle Vikings' men's and women's teams. The Vikings men were this time victorious after winning all of their matches, while the Vikings women again performed well against the all-male opposition.



Newcastle Vikings hosted their first national handball tournament on 4 May 2013 at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy, involving men's and women's clubs from Newcastle Vikings, Sunderland University, Edinburgh and Dundee. Six men's and three women's matches took place, with Edinburgh going home with a double victory. Nationalities represented included English, Scottish, Norwegian, Swedish, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Brazilian and Greek.

Vikings players Mark Harrison (centre) and Sofie Vaala (line) were invited to take part in ABUHC trials on 20-21 April 2013 at Leeds Futsal Arena, and were successful in being chosen for the British University teams for the 2013 Oktopus International Handball Tournament in Eindhoven, Holland only for the trip to be cancelled.



The Vikings' Scottish Invasion – 2013/14

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's rapid development during their first year had seen them improve to a sufficient standard to embark on their first competitive season in autumn 2013, as well as begin developing a junior side. Having gained special dispensation from the England Handball Association, they joined the Scottish Handball Association, due to the closer proximity for travelling to Edinburgh and Glasgow where most of their games were to be played given the centralised venues approach to handball in Scotland, coupled with the absence of any handball-size courts in North East England – the Percy Hedley sports hall being too small to host competitive handball matches.

The season's curtain-raiser tournament at Edinburgh's Meadowbank Sports Centre on 28 September 2013 saw the Vikings taking on teams from Scotland and Ireland. Newcastle's women beat Dublin's Lughnasa handball club 9-5 in their opening game, before being cruelly edged out 8-9 by hosts Edinburgh and then going down 5-12 to a 'Rest of the World' team in their final group match. In what was to become frustratingly symptomatic of their season to come, the Vikings men lost each of their group games 5-21 to Glasgow, 12-20 against Edinburgh and then 6-13 to eventual winners Dundee. Edinburgh won the women's competition.



The Vikings travelled north of the border for their debut league matches on 19 October 2013 at the Blackburn Community Centre near Bathgate. Sporting their new Hummel team kit, Newcastle's women opened their league account with an impressive 21-10 win over Dundee, before the men's team lost their Division 2 match 12-34 to a powerful EK82 side from East Kilbride.



Newcastle's multi-national women's team, including four Norwegians, would go on to win five and lose five of their matches that season, including double victories over both Dundee and Glasgow, to finish a very creditable 3rd position in the women's league and with the second-best defensive record just behind unbeaten Cumbernauld-based champions Tryst 77. Norwegian half-player Selina Stenberg top-scored with 33 goals, just pipping Dutch winger Nina van Ruijven's 30 goals in only four early season games (a fantastic strike rate of 7.50 goals per game) including 10 goals in the first match against Glasgow. Arguably the highlight of their season was the return fixture against Glasgow on 8 February 2014 at the Dundee International Sports Centre, where a depleted team of just six Newcastle women – goalkeeper Andrea King, player-coach Marlen Slinning, Tonje Olsen, Selina Stenberg, Lea Vestergaard and captain Sandra Christke – scored a brilliant adrenalin-fueled 20-12 victory.



However, it proved to be a much tougher season for the Vikings men who lost all of their nine matches in the four-team development league, including a heavy 20-50 defeat to East Kilbride's EK82 on 15 February 2014. French half-player Jonathan Bastit top-scored with 29 goals, while centre Mark Harrison scored 11 of his 23 goals in their first match against Motherwell Heat, a game in which both Scott Garrow and captain Chris Bowe were sent off.



Scottish Handball Association National Leagues 2013/14

Men's Division 2		Results	
12 Oct.	EK82	L	34-12
19 Oct.	Motherwell	L	33-23
17 Nov.	Dundee II	L	15-39
23 Nov.	EK82	L	18-42
14 Dec.	Motherwell	L	17-28
18 Jan.	Dundee II	L	22-13
15 Feb.	EK82	L	50-20
9 Mar.	Motherwell	L	14-17
22 Mar.	Dundee II	L	16-24

Women's League		Results	
19 Oct.	Dundee	W	21-10
26 Oct.	Edinburgh	L	26-23
17 Nov.	Glasgow	W	7-23
30 Nov.	Tryst	L	36-21
8 Dec.	Aberdeen	L	19-17
18 Jan.	Dundee	W	12-15
26 Jan.	Edinburgh	L	21-30
8 Feb.	Glasgow	W	20-12
1 Mar.	Tryst	L	14-34
15 Mar.	Aberdeen	W	29-12

Men's League Division 2		W	D	L	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
				(by <-10)	(by >-11)				
1	EK82	7	0	0	2	+317	-199	+118	21
2	Dundee II	5	1	2	1	+245	-223	+22	19
3	Motherwell Heat	5	1	1	2	+205	-204	+1	18
4	Newcastle Vikings	0	0	4	5	+148	-289	-141	4

Women's League		W	D	L	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
				(by <-10)	(by >-11)				
1	Tryst 77	10	0	0	0	+411	-189	+222	30
2	Edinburgh	7	1	1	1	+280	-233	+47	24
3	Newcastle Vikings	5	0	3	2	+204	-198	+6	18
4	Aberdeen RGU	5	0	1	4	+189	-277	-88	16
5	Dundee	1	0	6	3	+189	-257	-68	9
6	Glasgow	1	1	2	7	+146	-265	-119	7

The Vikings men's team travelled to Manchester for an end-of-season friendly match at the National Cycling Centre on 26 April 2014. Playing on a court in the middle of the velodrome while the British cycling team were in training was something of a surreal experience, and while Newcastle made a strong start it was the home side who ran out comfortable 27-14 winners.



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's Scottish League Players 2013/14

Men		Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)		7	-
Mike Cooke (GK)		4	-
Kole Viejo-Cabellero		7	20
Chris Bowe (C)		7	17
Craig Swanson		7	2
Gareth Bowden		4	9
Charles Goulty		6	1
Scott Garrow		4	5
Robert Thompson		8	10
Matthew Lamb		8	20
Neil Bhandary		6	11
Kamran Saeed		6	-
Jonathan Bastit		9	29
Mark Harrison		6	23
Sam Turner		5	1

Women		Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)		10	-
Laetitia Renard-Watson		1	1
Marlen Slinning		9	29
Annabelle Guinouard		3	11
Nina van Ruijven		4	30
Sofie Vaula		8	24
Tonje Olsen		4	5
Selina Stenberg		9	33
Lea Vestergaard		10	28
Eiman El Banhawey		5	9
Kathryn Powell		4	5
Michelle Anderson		3	-
Sandra Christke (C)		10	29

Newcastle Vikings' new mixed junior handball team of mainly British 10-16 year-olds made an impressive overall 22-10 winning debut in their first competitive match on 24 April 2014 against Wallsend's Churchill Community College at the Percy Hedley Sports Academy. A follow-up fixture against the Churchill school on 2 July 2014 saw the Vikings' juniors claim a further double victory, 8-6 and 6-2. Newcastle Vikings' junior teams were represented by goalkeeper Cameron Reaveley, Ethan Patterson, Thomas Harrison, Raymond Latcham, James Porter, Morgan Monaghan, Jamie Clarke, Krystina Coulson, Rebecca Johnson, Charlie Pears and Romanian Ana Botezatu.



The second annual Tyneside Handball Tournament took place on 3 May 2014 on the newly marked-out full-size 40m x 20m handball court at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. Twelve teams from across England and Scotland took part including two Newcastle Vikings men's teams competing against Sunderland

University, York Hunters, Bedfordshire's Cranfield University, Edinburgh, Glasgow and East Kilbride's EK82. In the women's competition the Vikings took on York Hunters, Cranfield University and Edinburgh. In men's Group A, Newcastle I beat Sunderland 14-10 in the opening local derby match, before losing 6-12 to Cranfield and 2-21 to Glasgow. Sunderland also lost their other games 3-16 against Glasgow and 3-22 to Cranfield. Newcastle II won 13-7 against York in their first Group B match, but lost 9-21 to EK82 and 4-20 to Edinburgh, meaning both Vikings sides finished third in their groups. Glasgow went on to narrowly beat EK82 10-9 in a thrilling final. In the women's tournament Newcastle Vikings women beat York Hunters 10-5 and Cranfield 9-3 before losing out 7-9 to group-winners Edinburgh. However, the Vikings women were victorious 10-4 in the final re-match against their Scottish rivals to claim their first competitive trophy and first win over Edinburgh.



The Vikings Impress on English League Return – 2014/15

With the benefit of a new home match venue at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre – one of only a dozen full-size handball courts in the country – Newcastle Vikings joined the England Handball Association's expanded North Regional Development League for the 2014/15 season. Training sessions also became twice-weekly making use of both the Percy Hedley and Temple Park venues, the latter also operating as 'satellite club' South Shields Handball.

But before the English league season commenced, the Vikings renewed acquaintances with many of the Scottish teams at the annual pre-season Edinburgh tournament on 20 September 2014. Newcastle's women opened with a close-fought 5-3 win over the hosts, before narrowly losing 8-9 to a 'Rest of the World' team, beating St. Andrew's University 13-4 and then suffering a 6-8 defeat to guest Norwegian side Gulset/Heerkules. An 8-5 revenge win over the 'Rest of the World' side nevertheless took the Vikings through to the tournament final against Gulset/Heerkules, but after levelling at 5-5 the Norwegian side broke away for a 7-5 win to lift the trophy. The Vikings men lost 2-12 to Edinburgh, 4-8 to guest French team Paris St. Germain, an agonisingly close 3-4 against EK82 and 4-8 to Dundee University. However, they did claim a morale-boosting 10-4 win over York, as Tryst won the competition.



It was to be a much improved and far more enjoyable season for the Newcastle Vikings men as they benefited under new player-coach and former England Handball international Jason Lee, together with an influx of new multi-national students including a few players from Sunderland University and the newly-formed Durham University Handball Club adding extra experience to their line-up.



Despite an opening loss away to Liverpool, they then drew at Manchester II before picking up their first league victory on 29 November 2014 with a 26-19 home win over Leeds Carnegie. It was to be the first of five league wins in a row sandwiched by two draws in a mid-season seven match unbeaten league run, punctuated only by an EHA League Cup first round 36-15 defeat away at London GD II on 24 January 2015. However, despite gaining a well-deserved first win over Manchester II, three end-of-season defeats saw them finish a still creditable 4th in the seven-



team league, only just missing out on third place by goal difference to Liverpool. The turnaround in fortunes this season was nevertheless a huge boost for the Vikings men, helped in no uncertain terms by flying French winger Simon Heintz's 67 goals (6.70 per game) including 13 in their second win of the season away to Leeds University.

The Vikings women also had a good first English season, winning seven of their 12 league matches to also finish 4th in the league, and once again with the league's second-best defensive record.

A mid-season treble over the two Leeds teams saw them score 104 goals in three games while conceding only six, including a massive 49-0 home win in a great team performance without any substitutes over the University of Leeds on 7 February 2015. Goalkeeper



Andrea King's clean sheet was an achievement rarely seen in competitive handball, having also only just missed out on the same feat a week earlier. The record-breaking team were Andrea King, Marie Brevet, Marlen Slinning, Sofie Vaula, Blessing Ogbie, Judyta Turulska and Sandra Christke, with player-coach Slinning, Vaula and Turulska all scoring 11 goals apiece. Having broken through the 30-goal barrier for the first time in the Vikings' history, they went on to score another big 7-48 win away at Peninsula in their penultimate game of the league season in Wrexham, Slinning and Turulska each firing in 13 goals with captain Christke also scoring 10 of her own.



The mid-season achievements of the Vikings women's and men's teams that had catapulted them both to the top of their respective Regional Development League tables gained national recognition, featuring in the England Handball Association's highly popular *Vikings on the March* website article published on 16 February 2015 promoting the club's progress.

But the Newcastle Vikings women's season did not end there. Having gained a bye through to the EHA League Cup semi-final, they took on Bristol in a home tie at the Temple Park Leisure Centre on 25 April 2015 seeking to reach their first national cup final. And that they did with a hard-fought 15-11 victory. However, due to the unavailability of several players, it was a depleted team of only seven Newcastle women who travelled to Manchester's Trafford Soccerdome for the EHA League Cup Final on 6 June 2015 to take on a strong London GD II side. Despite a poor start to the game, the Vikings fought well and put in a good team display, Marlen Slinning leading the way scoring seven to take her season's tally to 75 and fittingly become the first to pass 100 Vikings goals in the process against her former club. But it was the London side's day as they beat Newcastle 22-14 to win the trophy. The Vikings' cup final runners-up team were Andrea King, Marie Brevet, Marlen Slinning, Simone Smith, Gesa Junge, Blessing Ogbie, Fienke Nanne and Sandra Christke.





England Handball Association North Regional Development Leagues 2014/15

Men's North RDL		Results	
12 Oct.	Liverpool	L	29-17
26 Oct.	Manchester II	D	20-20
29 Nov.	Leeds Carnegie	W	26-19
18 Jan.	Uni. of Leeds	W	20-27
25 Jan.	Huddersfield Uni.	W	23-14
1 Feb.	Leeds Carnegie	W	22-27
7 Feb.	Uni. of Leeds	W	27-8
15 Feb.	Bolton Hussars	D	18-18
21 Feb.	Huddersfield Uni.	L	26-14
1 Mar.	Manchester II	W	28-19
7 Mar.	Liverpool	L	15-22
29 Mar.	Bolton Hussars	L	14-23

Women's North RDL		Results	
26 Oct.	Manchester	L	13-11
8 Nov.	Peninsula	W	21-9
29 Nov.	Leeds Carnegie	W	25-3
14 Dec.	Liverpool	L	12-26
18 Jan.	Uni. of Leeds	W	5-26
1 Feb.	Leeds Carnegie	W	1-29
7 Feb.	Uni. of Leeds	W	49-0
1 Mar.	Manchester	L	17-18
7 Mar.	NEM Hawks	W	10-0 *
15 Mar.	NEM Hawks	L	23-21
18 Apr.	Peninsula	W	7-48
19 Apr.	Liverpool	L	4-26

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Bolton Hussars	12	10	1	1	+280	-158	+122	33
2	Huddersfield University	12	9	1	2	+283	-213	+70	31
3	Liverpool	11	7	1	3	+260	-196	+64	26
4	Newcastle Vikings	12	6	2	4	+256	-240	+16	26
5	Manchester II	12	3	1	8	+218	-267	-49	19
6	University of Leeds	11	1	1	9	+168	-269	-101	14
7	Leeds Carnegie	10	0	1	9	+155	-277	-122	11

Women's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Liverpool	12	12	0	0	+398	-90	+308	36
2	Manchester	12	9	0	3	+302	-161	+141	30
3	NEM Hawks	12	8	0	4	+302	-178	+124	27
4	Newcastle Vikings	12	7	0	5	+273	-131	+142	26
5	University of Leeds	11	2	0	9	+59	-345	-286	15
6	Leeds Carnegie	10	0	0	10	+52	-348	-296	10
7	Peninsula	9	1	0	8	+98	-231	-133	9

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2014/15

Men	Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)	8	-
Faisal Albathali (GK)	7	-
Mike Cooke (GK)	4	-
Kole Viejo-Cabellero	4	2
Amaury Michelant	6	26
Peter Schichtel	6	14
Chris Bowe (C)	10	11
Craig Swanson	6	2
Simon Heintz	10	67
Jason Lee	7	7
Dan Hudachek	1	-
Scott Garrow	8	13
Robert Thompson	7	4
Dawid Miozga	7	24
Mark Harrison	8	13
Tom Harrison	5	1
Neil Bhandary	8	1
Matthew Lamb	10	15
Jack Woods	7	14
Jonathan Bastit	13	32
Stephan Stricker	6	17
Sam Turner	11	8

Women	Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)	13	-
Marie Brevet	12	37
Marlen Slinning	13	75
Sofie Vaula	5	26
Simone Smith	1	-
Gesa Junge	8	11
Blessing Ogbee	12	6
Judyta Turulska	11	60
Josefine Fienke Nanne	8	13
Kathryn Powell	6	5
Sandra Christke (C)	13	59





Meanwhile, down on Wearside, the new Durham University Handball Club, founded in August 2014, saw their men's team reach the national finals of the ABUHC University Championship in Birmingham on 14-15 February 2015. Led by club captain Leif Hübert, they gained early wins over Manchester Metropolitan University 8-2 and Liverpool John Moores University 9-3 to help ensure they made it through the group stages, despite then losing 6-8 to Loughborough. However, they were then knocked out 4-9 against Nottingham in the last 16 round.



Sunderland's Farrington Community Academy junior handball team of Year 9/10 girls, part-coached by *Marlen's Handball Coaching*, won the Sunderland and North regional qualifiers for the English Schools Under-15 National Handball Championship finals. They finished an impressive 4th in the 13-14 June 2015 finals tournament at the University of Worcester.



Newcastle Vikings' juniors meanwhile gained their third straight victory over Wallsend's Churchill Community College on 4 March 2015. After a tight start, the Vikings broke away and kept a clean sheet in the second half of the game to run out convincing 11-2 winners. The largely British junior mixed Vikings team were Cameron Reaveley, Krystina Coulson, Charlie Pears, Rebecca Johnson, Jamie Clarke, Raymond Latcham, James Porter, Matthew Fairgrieve and Romanian Andrei Inta.



Newcastle Vikings took the opportunity to give a run-out to several new and less experienced players in the annual Tyneside Handball Tournament on 2 May 2015 at the Temple Park Leisure Centre. The three visiting Scottish teams – Glasgow, Edinburgh and East Kilbride's EK82 – dominated the men's group with some big scores, but Newcastle I nevertheless gained a 10-8 play-off win over EK82 to take 3rd place overall. Newcastle II also improved on their group position to beat York Hunters 13-7 in the play-off for 5th place, while Glasgow



retained their title in a thrilling penalty shoot-out win over Edinburgh after the final had finished 10-10. Cranfield University were victorious and unbeaten in the women's competition, scoring in the dying seconds to beat a combined York-Durham team 9-8 in the final, while a tiring Newcastle side lost 2-8 to Glasgow to finish fourth.

In July 2015, Newcastle Vikings Handball Club became the first handball club in the country to be awarded Sport England's prestigious Clubmark accreditation, gained in partnership with Tyne & Wear Sport. The Clubmark status recognised the club's high quality standards in club management, including coaching and child welfare as well as promoting best practice on- and off-court in introducing handball to school children and the wider community.





The Vikings ladies, together with qualified handball referee Craig Swanson from Newcastle's men's team, went on tour to England's south coast in the summer to compete in the third annual British Beach Handball Championships, held 8-9 August 2015 at Branksome Chine beach in Poole, Dorset. One of 14 women's teams taking

part, they narrowly lost their opening group match 0-2 to London-based Olympia, the first half only by a 'golden goal', and then also 0-2 against London GD I. Newcastle won their first half-match point against Coventry, but their opponents won the deciding running penalty shoot-out for a 1-2 defeat. They then also went down 0-2 to guest team TV Ettlingenweiler I from Germany. The next day's Plate competition play-off against Cambridge saw the Vikings win their first beach handball match, taking the first half 9-3 and then battling back from six down in the second half with some well-taken two-point goals to win 11-10 for an overall 2-0 match victory. However, Oxford Blues knocked them out 0-2 with a second-half 'golden goal' in a close Plate quarter-final. Newcastle Vikings were represented by Andrea King (GK), Marlen Slinning (GK2), Nina van Ruijven, Gesa Junge, Blessing Ogbie, Ed Ogbie, Kathryn Powell and Sandra Christke. The women's Plate was won by local club Sandbanks, while TV Ettlingenweiler won the women's Cup final. In the men's competitions, London GD won the Cup final with Poole Phoenix winning the Plate final.



British Beach Handball Championships 2015 – Newcastle Vikings v Olympia



The Vikings' North East Development Season – 2015/16

Newcastle Vikings' second English League season began with both the men's and women's teams suffering tough away defeats to Manchester, before winning their first games of the season at home to Leeds Carnegie a week later.

With the Edinburgh International Handball Tournament taking place a month later than in previous seasons, a clash with league fixtures meant only the Newcastle Vikings men travelled up to Scotland on 24 October 2015. After a 7-4 opening group win against Dundee, they then lost 6-8 to Dublin, 6-10 against Cumbernauld-based Tryst and 4-7 to eventual tournament winners Glasgow. A battling 8-8 draw with EK82 in their final play-off match between the two fourth-placed teams ensured Newcastle a joint seventh place finish overall.

Vikings brothers Mark and Thomas Harrison also travelled to Dublin in October 2015 to train with the Ireland men's squad. Both made good impressions, but Mark ruptured a knee ligament a week later, an injury that would prevent him playing outfield – he would return to action as a goalkeeper the next season.

Returning to league action, the Vikings men broke through the 30-goal barrier for the first time in the team's history on 7 November 2015, defeating Merseyside club Peninsula 25-32 away in Wrexham. Their biggest margin of victory came later in the season in another high-scoring 19-31 away victory against Leeds University on 12 March 2016.



EHA Men's Regional Development League 2015/16 – Manchester v Newcastle Vikings





However, despite these achievements, it proved to be an inconsistent season for Newcastle's men under new player-coach Jonathan Bastit as victories were interspersed by hard defeats to leave them with another mid-table finish. In the EHA League Cup, a heavy 15-35 home defeat to London side Fulham Hawks on 25 January 2016 saw Newcastle once again knocked out of the men's competition at the first round stage. Polish winger Wiktor Laczny top-scored with 40 league and cup goals across the season, while Danish half-player Nichlas Foldager had the highest strike rate with 18 goals in his three Vikings games during the first half of the season.

Despite losing player-coach Marlen Slinning to an early season training injury, the Vikings women went on a four-game winning run that briefly propelled them to the top of the league. Their 7-33 away victory over



Peninsula on 7 November 2015 proved to be their biggest win of the season, a game in which Polish half-player Judyta Turulska scored 13 goals to add to her 12 strikes against NEM Hawks in the previous match. German line-player and team captain Sandra Christke became the second Vikings player to pass 100 league and cup goals for the club in that Peninsula win. Turulska soon passed the same century landmark in the following league match against the University of Leeds' A team on her way



to a season top-scoring 62 goals. However, three tough defeats then saw the Vikings slip down the table, and with it having been decided to split the nine-team league in two at the half-way stage of the season a frustrating home defeat to Leeds Hornets meant they pipped Newcastle for fourth spot and an opportunity to challenge for a higher league finish. The resulting hiatus of league action, coupled with



Leeds University B and Peninsula opting to drop out of the league having been unable to fulfil all of their matches, however left the Vikings with just two more league fixtures to play. Nevertheless, they duly won both games with 30-or-more goals to seal 5th place in the league, Romanian half-player Alina Inta scoring 11 in their home victory over North-East Manchester's NEM Hawks.

The Vikings women once again gained a bye through to the semi-final of the EHA League Cup and were drawn in a re-match of last season's cup final against London GD II. But with their home Temple Park venue unavailable the tie on 23 April 2016 took place at the Leeds Futsal Arena instead. Newcastle fought back from behind in the early stages to open up a four-goal advantage in the second half, but the London side clawed their way back and agonisingly snatched the lead away in the dying seconds for a 16-17 knock-out.





England Handball Association North Regional Development Leagues 2015/16

Men's North RDL		Results	
11 Oct.	Manchester II	L	18-22
17 Oct.	Leeds Carnegie	W	17-18
7 Nov.	Peninsula	W	25-32
14 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	D	22-22
22 Nov.	Leeds Hornets	L	20-17
10 Jan.	Liverpool S-G	L	19-34
30 Jan.	Leeds Hornets	W	22-15
14 Feb.	Manchester II	L	23-15
12 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	W	19-31
19 Mar.	Leeds Carnegie	W	17-16
2 Apr.	Peninsula	W	10-0 *
17 Apr.	Liverpool S-G	L	23-22

Women's North RDL		Results	
11 Oct.	Manchester	L	22-23
17 Oct.	Leeds Carnegie	W	8-22
24 Oct.	NEM Hawks	W	19-28
7 Nov.	Peninsula	W	7-33
14 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds B	W	10-0 *
12 Dec.	Uni. of Leeds A	L	24-15
10 Jan.	Liverpool	L	12-24
16 Jan.	Leeds Hornets	L	11-23
2 Apr.	NEM Hawks	W	33-20
16 Apr.	Leeds Carnegie	W	30-12

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
Newcastle Vikings		12	6	1	5	+243	-213	+30	25

Women's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
5 Newcastle Vikings		10	6	0	4	+216	-160	+56	22



In friendlies, the Vikings men and women both suffered early season defeats away to Warrington Wolves on 8 November 2015, losing 37-16 and 21-10 respectively. Newcastle's ladies however beat a makeshift University of Leeds side 23-9 in their next game on 14 November 2015 after the students' B team had defaulted their league match. They also defeated Edinburgh 22-18 at home on 6 March 2016 during their mid-season lull of league action, but injuries led an end-of-season friendly game at Manchester on 1 May 2016 to be abandoned.



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2015/16

Men	Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)	9	-
Faisal Albathali (GK)	2	-
Robin Devilette	4	15
Athbi Almarzouq	6	32
Gracjan Joppek	9	19
Tom Harrison	5	1
Craig Swanson	9	4
Matthew Lamb	8	13
Niall Flanagan	1	3
Kole Viejo-Cabellero	6	8
Sam Turner	1	-
Wiktor Laczny	8	40
Kasper Ottosen	3	-
Adam Mobberley	5	1
Robert Thompson (C)	6	-
Nichlas Foldager	3	18
Kamran Saeed	2	-
James Porter	9	6
Mark Harrison	1	-
Jonathan Bastit	10	5
David Topacho	1	2
Stephan Stricker	8	29
Holger Schulz	10	10
Peter Schichtel	6	25
Johannes Bellm	4	17

Women	Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)	10	-
Meghan Acres	5	5
Marlen Slinning	5	11
Judyta Turulska	10	62
Krystina Coulson	5	3
Sofie Vaula	2	8
Gesa Junge	4	5
Sina Linsenmann	7	23
Lea Muething	3	5
Blessing Ogbiee	10	15
Kathryn Powell	5	3
Paulina Szulc	4	-
Alina Inta	8	48
Sandra Christke (C)	10	34





The inaugural North East Handball tournament, seen as a friendly precursor to establishing a new North East league, took place over three rounds between York Hunters, the University of Durham and Newcastle Vikings. However, with Durham unable to make the trip to York on 13 December 2015, the hosts took the first round after beating Newcastle 16-12 and 10-6 in the men's matches, although the Vikings won the first of two mixed friendly matches 9-5 with the final game drawn 12-12. The second round in South Shields on 30 January 2016 saw Durham defeat York 13-8, before a combined Newcastle/Durham women's team thrashed York/Durham women 20-2 and later 9-3, while the Vikings men beat York 17-10 and Durham 16-6. Newcastle ultimately wrapped up the overall North East tournament title with another clean sweep of victories in the third round of matches on 28 February 2016 at the University of Durham Sports Centre in Stockton-on-Tees. The Vikings men beat Durham 7-5 and York 12-10, with Durham's men beating York 15-5 in the other game, while Newcastle/Durham women defeated York/Durham 15-2 and 8-3.



Durham University Handball Club's men's and women's teams, led by club captain Lucas Palumbo, once again took part in the national ABUHC University Championship finals in Birmingham on 5-6 March 2016. The men's team lost their first match 6-10 to Nottingham before beating Liverpool 9-6, but a 5-5 draw with Essex saw them just miss out on qualifying for the latter stages. A depleted women's team lost all three of their matches, 8-10 against Kent, 3-6 to Middlesex and then 6-11 against Bournemouth.



After an intermittent start to handball club development in Sunderland through Sunderland University, and evolving out of beach handball team BHT Albatross Sunderland formed by a group of local Polish handball fans in June 2015, former Newcastle Vikings players Paulina Szulc, Gracjan Joppek and Wiktor Laczny got together with the university's Jack Woods to establish Sunderland Handball Club in February 2016.



The fourth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament took place at Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields on 7 May 2016. Having opened with an 8-6 win over a combined York Hunters/Durham University side, Newcastle Vikings' men



lost 6-10 to Glasgow before beating Edinburgh 12-4 and defeating Sunderland 5-4, followed by a 6-12 loss to the University of Strathclyde. Meanwhile, Sunderland also beat Edinburgh 5-1 and York/Durham 10-8 before going down 5-9 to Strathclyde and 3-8 to Glasgow in their other group fixtures. Sunderland then gained revenge for their group defeat with a 9-7 win over Newcastle in the play-off for 3rd place, while unbeaten reigning two-time champions Glasgow eventually succumbed 5-6 on penalties to Strathclyde after the final had finished 8-8. In the women's competition, the Vikings defeated Edinburgh 5-3, lost 4-7 to Durham University and beat the University of Leeds 8-2 to top the group, while Durham lost their other matches 6-7 to Leeds and drew 8-8 with Edinburgh



to finish in 3rd place. Newcastle then ran out clear 17-10 winners over Edinburgh in the final to reclaim their title, with 10-year-old Romanian Alexandra Inta scoring twice.



The Vikings entered both a women's team and a combined Newcastle-Sunderland *Sandcastles United* men's team in the summer's fourth annual British Beach Handball Championships, played 6-7 August 2016 at Branksome Chine beach in Poole, Dorset. Following an opening 0-2 defeat to Cambridge, Newcastle's women gained a 2-1 penalty shoot-out win over Reading Lions having won the first half 8-3 before unluckily losing the second half 10-12. But a 0-2 loss to Oxford Blues left the Vikings in third place in their group. A tough 0-2 defeat to London team Olympia in their next Cup qualifier match meant they dropped into the Plate competition. However, they then ran out convincing 2-0 winners (8-5 / 19-7) in the quarter-final against Poole Phoenix I, before going down 0-2 to eventual Plate winners Oxford Blues once again in the semi-final. 10th-placed Newcastle were represented by Andrea King (GK), Marie Brevet, Marlen Slinning (GK2), Krystina Coulson, Sofie Vaala, Blessing Ogbee, Ed Ogbee, Eiman ElBanhawy, Kathryn Powell and Sandra Christke. London GD retained their Cup title in the 13-team women's competition.



Meanwhile, in the 18-team men's tournament the *Sandcastles United* team lost their first match 0-2 to Ruislip West London Eagles, but surpassed expectations to win 2-0 against reigning champions Brighton I before also defeating both Southampton and Coventry 2-1 in penalty shoot-outs after the games were drawn (23-12 / 10-13 and 14-13 / 7-15). However, they were then knocked out 0-2 in their cup quarter-final against Oxford Blues, finishing 7th. The *Sandcastles United* team were Wiktor Laczny (GK), Chris Bowe (GK2), Gracjan Joppek, Jamie Lau, Matthew Lamb and Robert Thompson. Guest Dutch team Hiekka Hauskaa won the men's Cup with Brighton claiming the Plate, while Hauskaa also won the boys under-18 crown.



Having refereed numerous English development league matches and also at the British Beach Handball Championships in 2015, Newcastle Vikings line-player Craig Swanson gained his first experience of referring senior international club handball at the Copper Box International Handball Cup in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park on 27-28 August 2016. Swanson, also a qualified rugby league referee, was in joint charge of the women's match between HV Ventura (Netherlands) and Hammel GD (Denmark), before being appointed to referee the men's semi-final between Castanet-Ramonville Auzerville (France) and Hammel GD and then the men's third place play-off between Castanet-Ramonville Auzerville and Sport Club Frauenfeld (Switzerland).



The Tyne & Wear League Rivalry Resumes – 2016/17

The 2016/17 North Regional Development League season appropriately began with the first English handball league Tyne & Wear derby match between the Newcastle Vikings and Sunderland men's teams on 1 October 2016 at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields. The Sunderland side, featuring four former Vikings players, led the way throughout most of a tense closely-fought match, but it was ultimately Newcastle's day as they battled back late on for a 16-13 home victory following the sending-off of Sunderland's goalkeeper Gracjan Joppek in the dying minutes. Sunderland's first league win came in their next match on 16 October 2016, beating the University of Leeds 29-27 at Sunderland College.



Newcastle's men then travelled up to Scotland for the annual Edinburgh International Handball Tournament on 22 October 2016. After an initial 2-10 loss to London's Olympia, the Vikings drew 5-5 with Edinburgh before defeating Dublin International 8-6 in their group matches. A quarter-final 6-4 win over Strathclyde-Glasgow University saw them progress to the semi-finals, where they lost 5-10 to Dublin. A play-off against hosts Edinburgh resulted in a 4-12 defeat as the Vikings finished 4th overall.



Following selection for an 18-man British Handball training camp in Nottingham in October 2016, Newcastle Vikings and Durham University winger Niall Flanagan was named as a reserve for the newly re-established Great Britain men's Under-21 squad for the IHF Trophy to

be held in Kutaisi, Georgia, between 8-13 November 2016. Having previously represented England Handball at Under-19 level in the August 2015 international Cell Cup competition in Hungary while with previous club Peninsula, Flanagan had then been selected in November 2015 for an English Under-20/21 handball training camp before injury in his first Vikings league match away to Leeds Hornets/Huddersfield the following weekend cruelly ended his season prematurely. His first British Handball call-up saw him join



the 14-man Great Britain squad for their pre-tournament holding camp in Portugal between 31 October - 6 November 2016, and play for the British team in a training match against Porto.

After three early season wins each, both Vikings teams sat in 2nd place in their respective league tables come the Christmas break. Following a good double victory away to Manchester on 5 November 2016, the men beat Sunderland again 27-35 in their return fixture at Sunderland College on 4 December 2016 and the women also did the double over Leeds Carnegie. However, wins largely eluded them in the second half of the season as they slipped down to both finish in 4th place by the end of their seasons, the women's team being unfortunate in losing four games by just one goal, including three in a row.



Judyta Turulska became the first Newcastle Vikings player to pass 150 league and cup goals in the narrow loss to Peninsula on 14 January 2017, soon followed by captain Sandra Christke a month later against Liverpool. Men's captain David Topacho top-scored with 41 league goals, while Alina Inta and Turulska each netted 40 for the women. Rebecka Östergren racked up the best strike rate of 5.40 goals per game in her five matches, with Niall Flanagan averaging the men's best strike rate of 4.75 across his four appearances.



England Handball Association North Regional Development Leagues 2016/17

Men's North RDL		Results	
1 Oct.	Sunderland	W	16-13
30 Oct.	Leeds Carnegie	L	23-25
5 Nov.	Manchester II	W	12-18
13 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	31-18
4 Dec.	Sunderland	W	27-35
11 Dec.	Leeds Carnegie	L	27-19
22 Jan.	Liverpool S-G	L	29-26
5 Feb.	Manchester II	L	16-17
12 Feb.	Liverpool S-G	W	24-11
18 Feb.	Uni. of Leeds	W	10-0 *

Women's North RDL		Results	
23 Oct.	Peninsula	L	34-16
5 Nov.	Manchester	W	16-25
6 Nov.	Leeds Carnegie	W	26-10
13 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	23-22
10 Dec.	Leeds Carnegie	W	8-29
14 Jan.	Peninsula	L	19-20
5 Feb.	Manchester	L	15-16
12 Feb.	Liverpool	L	17-18
18 Feb.	Uni. of Leeds	W	10-0 *
11 Mar.	Liverpool	L	21-14

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Leeds Carnegie	10	6	2	2	+245	-211	+34	24
2	Manchester II	10	5	1	4	+243	-226	+17	21
3	University of Leeds	10	5	2	3	+177	-169	+8	21
4	Newcastle Vikings	10	5	-	5	+205	-192	+13	20
5	Liverpool Speke Garston	10	4	1	5	+227	-239	-12	19
6	Sunderland	10	2	-	8	+226	-286	-60	13

Women's North RDL		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Peninsula	10	9	-	1	+264	-140	+124	28
2	Liverpool	10	7	1	2	+218	-157	+61	24
3	Manchester	10	5	-	5	+210	-226	-16	20
4	Newcastle Vikings	10	4	-	6	+193	-166	+27	18
5	University of Leeds	10	4	1	5	+181	-177	+4	17
6	Leeds Carnegie	10	-	-	10	+106	-306	-200	9

In the EHA League Cup, Newcastle's men and women were both drawn away to Reading Lions, although only depleted teams were able to make the long journey south on 4 March 2017. Following a first round bye, the Vikings men went down 31-17 in their semi-final tie, despite 10 goals from Johannes Bellm and a first goal for usual goalkeeper Daniel Walsh playing outfield. After a good start the Vikings women then lost out in their quarter-final match 22-14 to eventual cup winners Reading Lionesses, with goalkeeper Andrea King also shooting her first Vikings indoor goal from the half-way line in the last minute of the game.



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2016/17

Men		Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)		8	1
Mark Harrison (GK)		7	-
Kole Viejo-Cabellero		6	5
Vlad Cocos		5	4
Craig Swanson		9	6
Matthew Lamb		10	22
Peter Schichtel		5	10
Mohammed Ghuloum		9	37
Adam Mobberley		10	7
James Porter		3	2
Robert Thompson		1	-
Niall Flanagan		4	19
Jonathan Bastit		8	6
Tom Harrison		7	3
Johannes Bellm		5	19
David Topacho (C)		9	41
Holger Schulz		8	9
Stephan Stricker		8	21

Women		Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)		10	1
Malin Walle		4	1
Judyta Turulska		9	40
Krystina Coulson		9	5
Rebecka Östergren		5	27
Maren Liane		9	30
Blessing Ogbee		8	15
Emmanuelle Chandler		4	-
Eiman El Banhawy		1	3
Meghan Acres		3	3
Claire Guyon		1	-
Alina Inta		8	40
Sandra Christke (C)		10	31
Rebecca Johnson		4	1

Meanwhile, it proved to be a tough debut league season for Sunderland's men who finished bottom of the table after picking up just two victories all season – both by the same 29-27 scoreline at home to the University of Leeds and then away to Liverpool Speke Garston on 13 November 2016.

Sunderland Men's North RDL		Results
1 Oct.	Newcastle	L 16-13
16 Oct.	Uni. of Leeds	W 29-27
6 Nov.	Leeds Carnegie	L 17-24
13 Nov.	Liverpool S-G	W 27-29
4 Dec.	Newcastle	L 27-35
11 Dec.	Uni. of Leeds	L 10-0 *
29 Jan.	Manchester II	L 28-34
5 Feb.	Leeds Carnegie	L 36-23
12 Mar.	Liverpool S-G	L 32-41
19 Mar.	Manchester II	L 36-28



The season's North East friendly competition took place over three rounds in Sunderland, South Shields and York. Durham University's men won the first round on 20 November 2016 at Sunderland College's Bede Campus with four victories, defeating Sunderland 8-5 and 14-12, and Newcastle 12-7 and 8-6. Sunderland beat an experimental Newcastle side 10-5 before the two sides fought out a 12-12 draw. The second round at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre on 14 January 2017 saw Durham's men again dominate, beating



Newcastle 16-11 and 11-7, while losing 7-10 and winning 10-9 against York Hunters. Newcastle won 14-9 and 8-7 over York. The third round on 26 February

2017 at York St. John's University formed part of York Hunter's first handball festival, with the hosts' men opening with a 6-5 win over Newcastle before losing 4-7 to a combined Sunderland-Durham University side and then beating the University of York 6-1. Newcastle's men won their other matches 8-6 against the University of York and 8-4 over Sunderland-Durham, while Sunderland-Durham defeated the University of York 8-3 in their other game. Newcastle Vikings dominated the two women's matches by beating the University of York 10-1 and 11-1. With all the results combined, Durham University had nevertheless done just enough to take the overall title.



Durham University's men also enjoyed another positive showing in the British University Championship finals held at Medway Park in Kent on 18-19 March 2017. Club captain Lucas Palumbo led his team to 2nd place in their group after a 7-4 win against Imperial College London, a 9-12 loss to the University of Manchester and a 15-5 victory over the University of Kent. However, they then went down 7-12 in the round-of-16 match against eventual finalists the University of Warwick.



Glasgow and Edinburgh took the men's and women's honours respectively in the fifth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre on 6 May 2017. Glasgow went unbeaten to become three-time champions with a 16-11 victory over East Kilbride's EK82 in a repeat of the 2014 final. Durham University claimed third place with a 12-7 win over Bedfordshire's Cranfield University, having previously defeated Newcastle



Vikings 10-8, York Hunters 10-4 and Cranfield University 6-4 in their group matches, in between losing 4-7 to Glasgow and 7-11 against EK82. Newcastle Vikings meanwhile defeated York Hunters 12-5 in the 5th/6th place play-off, having opened with an 8-6 win against the Hunters before also suffering defeats to Cranfield University 3-7, EK82 3-11 and then Glasgow 7-11.



In the women's competition Edinburgh won for the first time since 2013, beating the University of Leeds 11-5 in the final. Newcastle Vikings' ladies beat Cranfield University 7-5 to take third place, having previously also defeated them 7-4 in the group stage in between losing 7-8 to the University of Leeds and 5-8 to Edinburgh.

Newcastle's women also played Edinburgh in an end-of-season home friendly match on 18 March 2017, losing 11-23 while giving a run-out to a couple of their junior players. The junior Vikings meanwhile competed in two mixed mini-tournaments on 18 March and 10 June 2017.



The 2016/17 season saw a strong growth in junior handball action in the North East. The first Tyne & Wear Handball Schools Festival, organised by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club took place on 9 December 2016 at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre. Over 150 boys and girls from seven local schools took part in the Under-15 and Under-13 competitions. The U15 winners were Newcastle's Walbottle Campus 1 boys and South Shields' Mortimer



Community College girls, while Gateshead's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy boys and South Shields' St. Wilfrids RC College girls won the U13 competitions.

The most promising young handballers were scouted to take part in a series of monthly trials to represent the first Tyne & Wear County U16 boys and girls handball teams ready for competing in future national handball competitions.



Tyne & Wear Sport's first Handball School Games County Finals, held in partnership with Newcastle Vikings and Sunderland handball clubs, took place on 9 March 2017 at Temple Park Leisure Centre. The U15 winners were Sunderland's Oxclose Community Academy boys and Biddick Academy girls. In the U13 competitions, North Tyneside's Churchill Community College won the boys tournament and St. Wilfrids RC College girls again went unbeaten in all of their matches. The Vikings also helped run the first Northumberland Schools Games mixed handball competition at Cramlington Learning Village on 22 June 2017, which was won undefeated by the Morpeth & Ponteland sub-area team.



5.2



5.3



England Handball's first North East Regional Handball Games on 15 May 2017 at Temple Park brought together the top schools teams from Tyne & Wear, Northumberland and Durham. Oxclose Community Academy U15 boys, St. Wilfrids RC College U13 girls and Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy U13 boys all picked up the honours. Only Oxclose Community Academy took up the opportunity to represent the North East region at the English Schools Handball Finals on 10-11 June 2017 at the University of Worcester. However, with no wins coming their way their first national finals proved to be a tough lesson.



Newcastle Vikings referee Craig Swanson gained further big match experience by taking charge of his first England Handball League Cup Final games at Manchester's Trafford Soccerdome on 13 May 2017, involving London GD2 v Reading Lions men and Reading Lionesses v Liverpool women. He also refereed one of the women's semi-finals in the EHA National Cup, the women's final and a men's semi-final at the British University Championship finals at Medway Park, Kent in March 2017, and at the Liverpool International Tournament on 27-28 May 2017.

The summer's British Beach Handball Championships saw reduced North East representation, although Newcastle Vikings and Sunderland players did take part in the annual event in Poole, Dorset, on 5-6 August 2017. Vikings ladies Blessing Ogbee and Krystina Coulson featured as guest players for Liverpool Handball Club, who



reached the semi-finals of the women's Plate competition. Sunderland's Gracjan Joppek made a guest appearance for Brighton Handball Club, while former Viking Annabelle Guinoud played once again for her London-based club Islington.



Meanwhile, over the same August weekend, Sunderland's Wiktor Laczny was part of the Gdansk Foundation Academy of Sport's beach handball team that came third at the Polish National Beach Handball Championships in Warsaw.

Ahead of the new season, the withdrawal of Bolton Hussars from the Championship North led to the EHA inviting Newcastle Vikings men's team to fill the second-tier division's vacancy since the club satisfied the fit-for-purpose and



quality criteria. The Vikings men accepted the opportunity for promotion so would play up a level in the newly renamed National League North for the 2017/18 season. However, having struggled to field teams in some games over the past season, Sunderland opted not to re-register their men's team for the new Regional League season.

Vikings Get their Hands on First Silverware

These Vikings Girls Can – 2017/18

The traditional pre-season journey north of the border this season took Newcastle Vikings' men up to East Kilbride in western Scotland to take part in the local EK82 club's third annual Tom Cooper Trophy Tournament on 9 September 2017. Their opening match saw a depleted and somewhat inexperienced Vikings team lose heavily to the home side 35-7, before further defeats 26-38 against Tryst77 and 16-39 to Livingston meant they went out at the group stage.



That tournament would unfortunately set the tone for a tough league and cup season for Newcastle's men. Their first match playing up in the National League North on 24 September 2017 saw them face Coventry Sharks, who had been relegated from the top Super-8 league at the end of last season. Despite matching them in

the second half and an impressive 11-goal haul for Great Britain Under-20 international centre Adam Harwood, a new Vikings acquisition from Milton Keynes club Oly Cats following his move to study at Durham University, the match resulted in a 33-24 away defeat. Harwood's season was, however, cruelly cut short by injury in the next match. Struggling to contain the more experienced teams, Newcastle's men went on to endure several heavy defeats throughout a winless season as they finished bottom of the league table.

As a National League side, the Vikings' men were obliged to enter the EHA's top-level National Cup competition for the first time. However, a first-round 13-29 loss to fellow National League North side



Manchester I featuring former Viking Mohammed Ghuloum on 18 November 2017 meant they dropped into the rebranded National Shield competition. That Shield quarter-final tie brought a home rematch in the same competition against Reading Lions on 17 February 2018, but despite leading at half-time and led by 11 goals from back-court player Julien Eng in a much-improved team performance, they were knocked-out 22-28.

Frenchman Eng went on to net a top-scoring 61 league and cup goals over the season at an average 5.55 goals-per-game strike rate, only missing out on the opportunity to challenge Simon Heintz's 2014/15 men's goalscoring record of 67 due to Deva forfeiting the final league match of the season. Harwood's 12 goals in his two games played nevertheless gave him the best strike rate of 6.00.



Newcastle's women, meanwhile, had a starkly contrasting season. Opting not to enter the national knock-out competitions and focus on the league, an opening win at Manchester was followed by two defeats. But the new year brought a run of consecutive victories, and when the University of Leeds forfeited the penultimate match of the season the Vikings ladies suddenly found themselves guaranteed a best-ever top-two finish and in with an opportunity of winning the club's first league title if they could beat Liverpool for the first time in their final match. A brilliant hard-fought 13-18 victory away to the Merseysiders at the Greenbank Sports Academy on 22 April 2018 duly jumped Newcastle into an unassailable position at the top of the table as they were crowned England Handball Regional League North women's champions for the first time.





The Vikings girls subsequently raised their championship trophy at the club's end-of-season beach party. However, a frustrating performance in the northern region promotion play-off match a week later at Oldham Leisure Centre on 29 April 2018 saw Newcastle narrowly lose out 14-16 to Midlands league champions

the University of Loughborough I, who went on to gain promotion to the top Premier League despite losing their play-off final to Reading Lionesses. Norwegian centre Maren Liane top-scored for the season with 34 goals, just pipping half-player Alina Inta who had the best 5.50 goals-per-game strike rate.



England Handball Association North National and Regional Leagues 2017/18

Men's National North		Results	
24 Sept.	Coventry Sharks	L	33-24
21 Oct.	Manchester I	L	32-14
12 Nov.	Deva	L	41-17
25 Nov.	Loughborough I	L	40-13
10 Dec.	Loughborough. I	L	18-31
7 Jan.	Coventry Sharks	L	19-39
21 Jan.	Leeds Beckett	L	24-18
3 Feb.	Manchester I	L	13-27
24 Mar.	Leeds Beckett	L	16-24
14 Apr.	Deva	W	10-0 *

Women's Regional North		Results	
21 Oct.	Manchester	W	15-17
11 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	16-9
10 Dec.	Liverpool	L	22-24
21 Jan.	Leeds Beckett	W	14-35
3 Feb.	Manchester	W	21-14
24 Mar.	Leeds Beckett	W	28-16
14 Apr.	Uni. of Leeds	W	10-0 *
22 Apr.	Liverpool	W	13-18

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's National North		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Coventry Sharks	10	10	-	-	+344	-216	+128	30
2	Loughborough Uni. I	10	6	1	3	+282	-224	+58	23
3	Manchester I	8	5	1	2	+196	-154	+42	19
4	Deva	9	4	-	6	+197	-209	-12	13
5	Leeds Beckett Uni.	9	3	-	7	+200	-287	-87	13
6	Newcastle Vikings	10	1	-	9	+162	-291	-129	12

Women's Regional North		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Newcastle Vikings	8	6	-	2	+160	-112	+48	20
2	University of Leeds	8	5	1	2	+172	-132	+40	17
3	Liverpool	7	4	1	2	+117	-99	+18	16
4	Manchester	8	3	-	5	+173	-168	+5	14
5	Leeds Beckett University	7	-	-	7	+109	-220	-111	6

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2017/18

Men		Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)		10	-
Pål Jakobsen (GK)		5	-
Mark Harrison (GK)		5	1
Andrei Bogdan Ciurea		7	16
Robert Thompson		5	1
Cedric Le Lay		7	19
Etienne Lisse		7	9
Craig Swanson		1	-
David Topacho (C)		10	25
Matthew Lamb		9	16
Adam Harwood		2	12
Adam Mobberley		11	8
Mohammed Boussema		9	8
Tom Harrison		1	-
Jonathan Bastit		9	1
Stephan Stricker		6	10
Julien Eng		11	61
Pablo Docampo		1	-

Women		Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)		8	-
Marie Brevet		7	22
Marlen Slinning Goulty		6	23
Krystina Coulson		1	2
Katerina Gibson		7	1
Maren Liane		7	34
Blessing Ogbee		5	9
Emily Bjerk		6	15
Ingvild Misund		3	3
Alina Inta		6	33
Sandra Christke (C)		6	18
Maria José González-A.		7	4



In a season of landmarks and achievements, early 2018 saw both Newcastle Vikings teams pass 1,000 league and cup goals since the club began competing in the Scottish league five years ago. The Vikings men reached the landmark

first in their away match to Leeds Beckett University on 21 January 2018 in their 52nd competitive match, representing an overall average strike rate of 19.52 goals per game. Newcastle's women then passed the same milestone just two weeks later on 3 February



2018 in their 48th competitive game, their home win over Manchester, achieved at an average 21.23 goals per game strike rate. Fedi Boussema and Alina Inta had the honours of being the respective men's and women's 1,000th goal scorers. The women's title-winning match against Liverpool on 22 April 2018 also suitably marked ever-present goalkeeper Andrea King becoming the first Vikings player to reach 50 league and cup



appearances, with the added accolade of being the only player to have played every minute of every women's match since the club started.



The 2017/18 season also marked the debut in national league competition of Newcastle Vikings' juniors representing a Tyne & Wear County team in the English Under-16 Girls North Regional League. With all fixtures taking place over four weekends at the



Northgate Arena in Chester, their first game was on 7 October 2017 against Staffordshire team Olympia Cannock, which resulted in a 7-35 defeat. A friendly match against Shropshire that same day also brought a heavy 24-2 loss. But despite the steep learning curve, the Tyne & Wear



girls' performances as a team improved notably over the season, although they could not quite manage a competitive win. However, benefiting from several forfeit wins meant their commitment in fulfilling their fixtures ultimately gained them a creditable 3rd place league finish. Romanian youngster Alexandra Inta top-scored with 15 goals over the four league matches played at an average 3.75 goals per game, plus a further nine goals in friendly games.



England Handball Association Under-16 Girls North Regional League 2017/18

U16 Girls Regional North			Results
7 Oct.	Tarporley	W	0-10 *
	Olympia Cannock	L	7-35
18 Nov.	Shropshire	L	6-15
	Peninsula	W	10-0 *
	Nottingham	W	10-0 *
9 Dec.	Nottingham	L	20-13
	Tarporley	W	10-0 *
	Olympia Cannock	D	0-0 *
20 Jan.	Shropshire	L	4-14
	Peninsula	W	10-0 *












* forfeited walk-over win

U16 Girls Regional North		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Olympia Cannock	10	8	2	-	+128	-45	+83	28
2	Shropshire	10	7	2	1	+97	-28	+69	26
3	Tyne & Wear	10	5	1	4	+80	-84	-4	21
4	Peninsula	9	3	1	5	+48	-77	-29	13
5	Nottingham	8	2	-	6	+48	-77	-29	9
6	Tarporley	9	-	-	9	+0	-90	-90	0

The other friendly matches played in place of the forfeited league games brought two losses against Olympia Cannock, 6-14 on 18 November 2018 and 13-7 on 20 January 2018, either side of a narrow 14-12 defeat to Merseyside club Peninsula on 9 December 2017.

Tyne & Wear County Handball Under-16 Girls' English League Players 2017/18

Under-16 Girls		Played	Goals
Bryony Coldwell (GK)		4	-
Alexandra Inta		4	15
Jess Hegarty		2	-
Esther Moffit		4	1
Alice Atkinson (C)		3	1
Zoe Barber		4	4
Nazish Amin		2	2
Ana Botezatu		2	7
Tahura Uddin		4	-



A Newcastle Vikings mixed juniors team then took on Scottish club Tryst 77 girls' 02 and 04 age-group teams in a friendly round-robin tournament on 27 January 2018 at Temple Park Leisure Centre. After losing their opening game 6-8 to Tryst 04 under-14s, the Vikings then beat them 3-7, while losing 14-5 and 3-12 to Tryst 02 under-16s. The junior Vikings players also played two mini tournaments on 2 December 2017 and 24 March 2018.



In schools handball competition, the second Tyne & Wear Handball Schools Games took place at Temple Park on 7 March 2018. Sunderland's Oxclose Community Academy went unbeaten in winning both the Under-15 girls and Under-13 boys titles, while St. Wilfrid's RC College from South Shields won all three of their games in the Under-13 girls competition. The Under-15 boys title was narrowly won on goal difference by Washington's Biddick Academy. The Northumberland Schools Games' Under-13 handball competition in Cramlington on 28 June 2018 was won by Bedlington's Meadowdale Academy.

The North East Handball Schools Games, organised by the England Handball Association in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club, followed on 26 April 2018 at Temple Park Leisure Centre, also featuring schools from Northumberland and the Tees Valley. Tyne & Wear's county champions Oxclose Community Academy girls and Biddick Academy boys won the regional Under-15 competitions, with St. Wilfrid's RC College winning the Under-13 girls tournament for the second year running. Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science came out top of the Under-13 boys. Oxclose Community Academy's Under-15's subsequently took up the opportunity to represent the North East region in the English national schools finals at the University of Worcester on 9-10 June 2018, but once again were unable to win any of their matches.



Meanwhile, in senior North East friendly matches, York Hunters took the season's regional honours. They began with aggregate 31-17 wins over the University of York on 15 and 21 November 2017, before narrowly losing out 24-20 to



Newcastle Vikings' men on 3 February 2018. The Vikings teams then both played the University of York on 17 February 2018 with Newcastle's women thrashing the students 18-1 before the men picked up a 33-13 win. The Hunters again defeated their York city university rivals 31-19 on 27 February, before losing 24-38 to in-form Durham University on 17 March 2018.

Durham University had their focus on the University Championships this season. The first round on 18 November 2017 in Leeds saw them beat the University of Central Lancashire (UCLAN), before a last-minute penalty sealed a comeback 28-28 draw with Liverpool John Moores University. A 28-25 win over Leeds Beckett University on 2 December 2017 in Chester put them top of the table, sealing the regional trophy with another victory over UCLAN in Chester on 10 February 2018. The University Championships Finals took place on 10 March 2018 at Medway Park in Kent, where Durham performed beyond expectations in picking up group wins over University College Dublin, Bath and



Nottingham Universities, before beating Loughborough University in semi-final extra time. However, in a dramatic last minute of the cup final they agonisingly missed the opportunity to equalise as Cranfield University counter-attacked to win 10-12, leaving Durham (featuring Newcastle Vikings' Etienne Lisse) taking home the silver medals.



matches being live-streamed on the BBC Sport website for the first time. He was also selected as part of an EHA officiating exchange to referee at the Spanish 'Last Four' tournament in Logroño in April, as well as refereeing Under-11's in Lillehammer, Norway, before again at the Liverpool International Handball Tournament and the British Beach Handball Championships.

The end-of-season tournaments saw Newcastle Vikings goalkeeper Andrea King guest for Liverpool's ladies in their club's 19th annual Liverpool International Handball Tournament on 26-27 May 2018, where she picked up another trophy as they came back from a winless opening day's group games to win the final of the women's Plate competition against Bristol. Former Vikings player Sam Turner also competed in the men's competition for Bristol.



The sixth annual Tyneside Handball Tournament was held later than usual on 9 June 2018 at Temple Park Leisure Centre. With reigning three-time men's champions European qualification having just won the first British championship play-offs,



Glasgow focusing on two-time runners-up EK82 took the opportunity to claim their first Tyneside title and in doing so maintain the Scottish stranglehold on the men's



competition. The East Kilbride club's only two defeats in the group games came at the hands of a revived Newcastle Vikings team, but while the Vikings had topped the group the Scots gained revenge in winning the tournament final 11-16. The Vikings men had opened with an 8-11 loss to Durham University before drawing 9-9 with York Hunters. However, they came back to beat Durham 8-7 and York 8-4 alongside their 9-11 and 8-12 victories over EK82, on their way to sealing a morale-boosting best-ever runners-up tournament placing after a tough league and cup season. Durham had finished the group in third place, but lost out 4-8 to York Hunters in the 3rd/4th place play-off. The day's women's matches saw three games taking place between teams representing Newcastle Vikings and Tyne & Wear, with the Vikings winning the first two 5-8 and 4-7, before Tyne & Wear gained a 7-6 win in the final match.



Newcastle Vikings' ladies returned to the south coast to round off their season at the British Beach Handball Championships in Poole, Dorset on 3-4 August 2018. They were handed a hard opening group match against reigning champions London GD I, losing both halves 21-12 and 20-9 as GD took a



clear 2-0 victory. The Vikings then fought well to beat home side Poole Phoenix I 0-2 (12-16 / 9-14), before losing 0-2 to Cambridge Honeybadgers (9-12 / 7-15) and rounding off day one with a strong 2-0 win over London Angels II (20-8 / 14-9) to finish third in their group of five. Day two's Plate competition saw Newcastle drawn against West London Eagles in the semi-final, but after starting well to win the first half 13-5, the Eagles took the second half 9-15 for a 1-1 result and take the tie into a running penalty shoot-out which the West London side won 4-5. That defeat left the Vikings with a 3rd/4th place play-off re-match against London Angels II, and they came away victorious with another good 2-0 win (12-6 / 13-7) to take the women's Plate competition third-place trophy for a best ever seventh-place overall showing at the British Beach Handball Championships. Newcastle Vikings were represented by Andrea King (GK), Marlen Slinning Goulty, Krystina Coulson, Caroline Steinhagen, Maria José González-Alvarez, Ed Ogbie, Birgitte Folkvord and Sandra Christke-Lamb. Their semi-final adversaries West London Eagles went on to win the women's Plate final, while London Angels I defeated London GD II in the women's Cup final.



The Vikings Boys are Back in Toon – 2018/19

The 2018/19 season began in much the same vein as the previous one ended with Newcastle Vikings' women picking up their third trophy of their most successful year so far. The club also signed their first sponsor partnership agreements with local Greek restaurant Kafeneon and sports outlet Decathlon.

Both Newcastle's men and women's teams travelled up to Scotland on 1 September 2018 for the 4th annual pre-season Tom Cooper Trophy tournament at the Alistair McCoist Leisure Centre in East Kilbride. A hard day for the Vikings men opened with a 4-13 defeat to Dundee, followed by going down 4-16 to Livingston, 1-18 to Tryst 77 and 6-12 to Edinburgh, before rounding off their group games with an improved performance in a narrow 8-10 defeat to hosts EK82. Newcastle's women also



lost their opening game 16-7 against a strong EK/Edinburgh Select team, but a 9-12 win over Tryst 77 put them through to the final of the three-team women's competition where a solid defensive display helped the Vikings gain a revenge 8-6 victory over the EK/Edinburgh Select team to raise the Craig Walter Trophy.



The Vikings' league season was set to open with the debut of the University of York in both the men's and women's regional leagues. But unfortunately they and Manchester II men had to withdraw late on, with the EHA consequently opting to merge the remaining men's North teams with the Midlands regional league, while adding centralised tournament-style days of shortened matches to both the men's and women's league fixtures at the end of the season.

The Vikings men got off to a delayed winning start with a 20-27 victory away at the University of Leeds, led by 12 Julien Eng goals. But a three-month gap in their fixture list due to the disrupted league set-up then left them having to wait until into the new year to continue their competitive season. A series of three friendly matches nevertheless kept them going, with a 28-25 away defeat to the University of Leeds followed by a comprehensive 9-37 win away at the University of York and a 24-14 home win over York Hunters.



Meantime, Newcastle's women opened their league account with their second away victory of the year over Liverpool as they looked set to continue their winning form. However, they struggled for consistency throughout the season and in a subsequent run of defeats the Merseysiders soon reversed the same 18-19 scoreline in the return fixture a month later, as both Marie Thompson and Judyta Turulska received late red cards in a tense finish. The Vikings were also knocked out 24-17 away to eventual winners Northampton in the first round of the EHA Shield competition on 9 December 2018, despite playing well to match the powerful Midlands side 11-11 at half-time, including two left-handed wing goals from player-coach Marlen Slinning Goulty bravely playing on after breaking her thumb, an injury that would prematurely end her season. Eventually getting back to winning ways with two wins over





Manchester and the University of Leeds, the Vikings' ladies went into the final match day's shortened games still with an outside mathematical chance of retaining their title if they could win all three games and other results went their way, but a draw and two narrow defeats ultimately left them having to settle for 3rd place, albeit with the best defensive record. French back-court player Rosa Larcy top-scored with 33 league and cup goals over the season at a best strike rate of 3.67 goals per game.



In the men's Shield competition, after benefiting from a first-round bye, Newcastle were then drawn away for a long trip south to face Guildford Sabres

in the quarter-final on 19 January 2019. However, despite another 10-goal haul for Julien Eng, the South East regional league leaders proved too strong, winning 33-25 on their way to a second consecutive EHA Shield final.



Newcastle's men eventually resumed their league season in late February with the first of two tournament-style match days against the Midlands teams in Bradford. And their two wins and a draw, together with a forfeit win, suddenly jumped them straight to the top of the table. Having then consolidated their unbeaten position with a home draw against the University of Leeds, the Vikings

men went into the final multi-match day on 30 March 2019 knowing that, with the universities of Warwick and Leeds both forfeiting their remaining matches, they just needed to avoid losing all three games to seal their first silverware and emulate the title-winning achievement of Newcastle's women's team the previous season. And despite narrowly losing by one goal to second-placed University of Birmingham in their first game of the day, a Julien Eng equaliser in the dying seconds against University of Loughborough II for a 14-14 draw was enough to secure the extra point they needed to ensure they could not be overhauled and became England Handball Regional League North men's champions for the first time. The Vikings were presented with their trophy by EHA Chair Tracy Wilkinson at the end-of-season clubs conference.



Julien Eng once again topped the season's scoring charts, his 51 league and cup goals coming at an impressive 6.38 goals per game strike rate. In doing so, the high-scoring Frenchman became the first male player to score 100 Vikings league and cup goals, notched up in the home draw against the University of Leeds, just pipping English winger Matthew Lamb who also reached the century landmark





three weeks later in their final match of the season against the University of Lincoln. Fittingly for one of the club's founding members, Lamb's 100th goal came on their title-winning day when the first game against the University of Birmingham also saw him become the first of the Newcastle Vikings men to make 50 club appearances.

The Vikings teams both struck their 1,000th English league and cup goals this season too, the men getting there first with Julien Eng's fourth goal in their win over University of Lincoln on 23 February 2019, and the women following on 30 March 2019 with Marie Thompson's goal against University of Leeds.



England Handball Association North National and Regional Leagues 2018/19

Men's Regional North		Results	
20 Oct.	Uni. of Leeds	W	20-27
23 Feb.	Loughborough II	D	15-15
	Birmingham Uni.	W	10-0 *
	Uni. of Lincoln	W	11-19
	Warwick Uni.	W	10-0 *
9 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	D	19-19
30 Mar.	Birmingham Uni.	L	12-11
	Loughborough II	D	14-14
	Uni. of Lincoln	L	12-14
	Warwick Uni.	W	0-10 *

Women's Regional North		Results	
4 Nov.	Liverpool	W	18-19
17 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	24-13
2 Dec.	Liverpool	L	18-19
12 Jan.	Manchester	L	12-20
27 Jan.	Manchester	W	14-17
9 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	W	23-20
30 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	L	13-12
	Manchester	D	7-7
	Liverpool	L	16-14

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's Regional North-Midlands		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Newcastle Vikings	10	5	3	2	+147	-105	+42	23
2	University of Birmingham	10	7	-	3	+173	-135	+38	22
3	Uni. of Loughborough II	10	3	2	5	+176	-174	+2	18
4	University of Leeds	10	4	2	4	+99	-102	-3	15
5	University of Lincoln	10	3	-	7	+141	-205	-64	15
6	Warwick University	10	4	1	5	+162	-177	-15	14

Women's Regional North		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Liverpool	9	8	-	1	+185	-163	+22	25
2	University of Leeds	9	4	-	5	+193	-166	+27	17
3	Newcastle Vikings	9	3	1	5	+135	-151	-16	16
4	Manchester	9	2	1	6	+144	-177	-33	14

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2018/19

Men		Played	Goals
Daniel Walsh (GK)		6	-
Pål Jakobsen (GK)		8	-
Craig Swanson		7	6
Benjamin Andrews		1	3
Matthew Lamb		7	14
Adam Mobberley (C)		5	12
Mark Harrison		4	4
Benoît Barthel		6	-
Mohammed Boussema		7	10
Robert Thompson		1	1
Julien Eng		8	51
Bart Piorkowski		4	16
Pablo Docampo		7	25

Women		Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)		10	-
Marie Brevet		10	16
Marlen Slinning Goulty		4	5
Judyta Turulska		7	15
Katerina Gibson		10	3
Rosa Larcy		9	33
Maren Liane		7	22
Blessing Ogbee		8	20
Alina Inta		6	21
Sandra Christke (C)		5	8
Maria José González-A.		9	9



Vikings goalkeeper Andrea King additionally got the opportunity to train with the Great Britain women's handball squad while attending an EHA goalkeeper masterclass course at Stoke Mandeville over the weekend of 23-24 March 2019.

In addition to being part of Newcastle's title-winning men's team, Craig Swanson's season included refereeing the English national Under-19 girls final between Stroud and West London Eagles at the Derby Arena on 11 May 2019, as well as at the London Beach Handball International Tournament on 21-22 July 2019. He also returned to Lillehammer, Norway to once again referee at April's Baldus Cup Under-11 tournament, and travelled to Gothenburg, Sweden in July to officiate at the annual Partille Cup, the world's largest youth handball tournament.



Newcastle's own growing cohort of juniors and younger mini-Vikings enjoyed three fun tournament days on 2 December 2018, 10 February and 28



April 2019. But with insufficient junior players in the age group categories, no Tyne & Wear County girls or boys teams were able to be entered into the English leagues this season.

Tyne & Wear Sport's third annual Handball Schools Games took place on 7 March 2019 at Temple Park Leisure Centre, run in partnership with Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and supported by Tyne Metropolitan College's North East Sports Academy (NESA) as part of their EHA funding agreement to help grow



junior handball in the region. Sunderland's Oxclose Community Academy went unbeaten to narrowly win the Under-15 girls competition on goals scored and goal-difference, while North Tyneside's Wellfield Middle School won all of their matches in the Under-13 girls competition. In the boys competitions, North Tyneside's Churchill Community College took the Under-15 honours and Oxclose Community Academy went unbeaten in winning the Under-13 contest.

The North East Schools Games Finals at Temple Park Leisure Centre on 9 May saw Oxclose Community Academy go on to score a double win in the Under-15 girls and Under-13 boys competitions. Wallsend's Churchill Community College won a close battle for the boys Under-15 title, while Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science claimed the Under-13 girls honours.

The Oxclose and Churchill teams all took up the opportunity to represent the region at the English Schools Games Finals at the University of Worcester over the weekend of 15-16 June. In the Under-15 competitions, Churchill Community College's boys lost three of their matches but did pick up a 4-4 group-stage draw against Sutton Coldfield's (Birmingham) Fairfax Academy, while Oxclose Community Academy's girls lost all four of their games, both



schools finishing in 8th place. The Oxclose Under-13 boys then came back from three group match defeats to record the school's first victory at the national finals in convincingly winning their 7th/8th place play-off match against Halstead's (Essex) Ramsey Academy 8-0, thus finishing in their best ever 7th place.

Northumberland's outdoors Schools Games Festival took place later in the summer on 27 June 2019 at Cramlington Learning Village, with Tynedale's Ovingham Middle School winning the Under-13 handball competition.



Durham University began their British University Championships campaign with a shaky start to the first round on 24/25 November 2018, losing 19-14 to Bangor I. However, they then beat Leeds Beckett 27-11, Liverpool John Moores II 24-4 and Manchester 23-9 to win their group. In the second round of

matches on 16 February 2019 they went unbeaten in defeating Bangor I 23-9, Liverpool John Moores II 12-9 and Manchester 18-12, before drawing 14-14 with Lancaster in the regional final. However, despite looking forward to competing at the University Championship finals, Durham's team were ultimately unable to make the long trip down to Kent this season.

The annual Tyneside Handball Tournament returned to its traditional early May slot for the seventh edition on 4 May 2019, but relocated for the first time to Newcastle's Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence.



Edinburgh dominated the group stage matches, winning all of their games in both the men's and women's competitions. However, a pulsating men's final saw Tyneside debutants Coventry Sharks, featuring former Newcastle and Sunderland winger Wiktor Laczny, fight back to snatch a thrilling 9-10 win from Edinburgh's grasp, and in so doing become the first English club to win the men's title. East Kilbride's EK82 finished in 3rd place, while York Hunters beat Durham University 5-8 and drew 6-6 with Newcastle Vikings and 5-5 with EK82 to win the battle of the North East clubs, their only defeats being 3-9



against both Edinburgh and 4th-placed Team Picon which featured several French players from Newcastle and Durham. The Vikings nevertheless beat the Frenchmen 6-3 in their last game of the day, but the opening draw with York together with losses to Edinburgh 10-3, Coventry 8-5 and EK82 6-7 left them down in 6th place, ahead of Durham University who also lost their other games 10-6 to Team Picon, 3-9 to Coventry, 7-9 to EK82 and 13-11 to Edinburgh.

In the three-team women's competition, Edinburgh's dominance in attack helped them to their third Tyneside title unbeaten. Coventry Sharks narrowly beat Newcastle Vikings to the runners-up spot, the Vikings ladies drawing 5-5 with the Midlands before a 2-3 loss added to three defeats against the Scots 2-6, 6-4 and 4-9.



Newcastle Vikings' women rounded off their season once again with a trip to the south coast to compete in the British Beach Handball Championships at Branksome Chine beach in Poole, Dorset on 2-4 August 2019. Joining up with friends from Nottingham Handball Club once again, the Vikings team warmed up with a friendly match against home side Poole Phoenix on the Friday evening, only narrowly losing the two halves 19-18 and 20-18. Saturday's group games saw them taking on experienced former champions London GD in



their opening match for the second year running, GD easily winning 2-0 (24-6 / 16-8). The Vikings then ran out 0-2 (6-14 / 7-13) victors over Islington Ratitas, before their final two group matches against Chelsea and Poole Phoenix 3 were both drawn with each side winning a half to take the games into penalty shoot-



outs. Chelsea won the first half 4-15 before the Vikings battled back to take the second half 15-10, only for Chelsea to win the shoot-out 3-4 for an overall 1-2 win. Newcastle narrowly won the first half against Poole 12-11, but Phoenix took the second half 12-19 before snatching the penalty shoot-out in sudden death 5-6 to hand the Vikings another 1-2 defeat.

Fourth-placed in their group, Newcastle began Sunday's round-robin Plate competition matches against Poole Phoenix 2, winning the first half 13-12 with an extra-time golden goal after the scores were level at half-time, but Phoenix came back 11-12 before taking the penalty shoot-out 2-3 for a 1-2 match win. The Vikings' next match against Islington-on-the-Beach saw the Londoners take the first half on a golden goal 12-11, but Newcastle then racked up their biggest half win of the weekend 5-20 to take the match into yet another penalty shoot-out. However, for the fourth time in the weekend luck evaded them as Islington took the shoot-out 3-1 to win the game 2-1. Newcastle Vikings thus finished 13th overall and were represented by Andrea King (GK), Krystina Coulson, Blessing Ogbee, Ed Ogbee, Birgitte Folkvord, Eiman El Banhawy and Bruna Falgueras Vallbona. Bristol beat Poole Phoenix 2 in the women's Plate final, while London GD went on to regain the women's Cup.



Former Newcastle and Sunderland player Wiktor Laczny also competed in the British Beach Handball Championships once again, this year playing for an all-Polish Hussars Beach Handball team that finished 5th in the men's Cup competition.

Meanwhile, Newcastle Vikings' Spanish line player Maria José González-Alvarez took the opportunity to guest in defence for the B team of her sister's Madrid club Balonmano Playa Alcalá in the end-of-season XXI Beach Handball Spanish Championship tournament in Alicante over the same August weekend. However, despite fighting back to level their first match they ultimately suffered the same fate in the penalty shoot-out as the Vikings' ladies back in Poole, before also losing both of their other group matches, and so did not progress to the knock-out stages.



Off the court, Newcastle Vikings became one of the first clubs in the country to gain the England Handball Association's new *Pro-Active Clubs* affiliation in July 2019. Similar to Sport England's soon-to-be-ending Clubmark accreditation, this status recognised the club as being well structured, governed and managed, a safe place for young people to engage regularly with handball where their welfare is paramount, and that it engages regularly with its members and local community with an appropriate activity and playing programme.

Newcastle Vikings were also one of three clubs selected by the EHA in February 2019 to be part of their 12-month *More Than a Handball Club* support and mentoring programme in partnership with Danish adviser Svend Elkjaer's Sports Marketing Network, aimed at helping the club to become more vibrant, visible and viable. This initiative saw the club seeking to build upon previous community activities such as fun 'Try Handball' opportunities at local multi-



sports events, International Women's Day handball mini-tournaments, and several players participating in the annual Decathlon 5k fun run and Great North Run half marathon.

The Covid Years

The Season That Never Was – 2019/20

The 2019/20 season began in as almost as surreal fashion as it ended. Newcastle Vikings' men, now with Dutchman Frank Smelt at the coaching helm, were set to begin the defence of their Regional League North title away to the newly-launched second team of experienced Premier League club Warrington Wolves in mid-October. However, the lack of any handball goals available at

the previously untried venue meant that the home side had to forfeit the game and gift the Vikings a default opening win, a friendly game being played using 5-a-side football goals instead. Hence their first competitive fixture of the season did not take place until 2 November 2019, although that match resulted in a 20-17 loss to the University of Manchester who featured former Newcastle player Vlad Cocos in their side.



Disrupted by injuries, player unavailability and without a regular goalkeeper in the squad, the Vikings men struggled for the first half of the season, suffering a run of five consecutive defeats in which frustrations were compounded as three players, Adam Mobberley, Julien Eng and Robert Thompson picked up red cards in different matches. Usual winger Matthew Lamb ended up donning the goalkeeper's shirt for the league campaign, while in his



finding some winning form in the new year as home and away league victories over the University of Leeds suddenly jumped them to the top of the league, Spanish centre Pablo Docampo dominating at the other end of the court with a 10-goal haul in the 19-24 away win on 1 March 2020.



with an 11-17 victory. Peninsula subsequently forfeited the return fixture in Newcastle at the start of the new year, but other than that additional default win and a first round bye in the National Cup the Vikings women also suffered a run of five frustrating losses, including a 21-14 second round cup defeat away to Regional League North rivals Liverpool on 18 January 2020. Newcastle's ladies were not to go away empty-handed though, the Merseysiders having the grace to surprise them ahead of that cup match with an excellence in fair

absence captain Mobberley took it upon himself to stand in between the posts for a home National Cup first round match on 10 November 2019 which saw them knocked out heavily 15-41 to National League North side Manchester once again. However, Lamb's improving performances were a big factor in the Vikings



Meanwhile, the Vikings ladies had opened their season with an away trip to Chester on 20 October 2019 to play a Peninsula side that had dropped down from last season's Premier league. A solid defensive display helped them get the season underway in positive fashion



play award presentation by their club president Paul Forester in recognition of the Vikings offering to begin December's home league fixture 6-a-side until the rest



of Liverpool's delayed team arrived at the match venue,



rather than taking advantage of having an extra player on court, a game that the league leaders narrowly won by just two goals. Right-half Alina Inta had become the third Newcastle player to score 150 league and cup goals for the club in that home game against Liverpool, with player-coach Marlen Slinning Goulty soon passing the same milestone in the subsequent cup defeat.



Mid-season had also seen Newcastle's men and women's teams both pass the 1,000 goals landmark in English league matches on the same day on 14 December 2019, through Frank Smelt's opener



against Warrington Wolves II and then just a couple of hours later by Ed Ogbee scoring the Vikings ladies' fourth goal in their match against Liverpool.



However, the onset of the Covid-19 coronavirus health pandemic in March 2020 led to Newcastle Vikings taking the proactive decision to postpone their scheduled penultimate fixtures against the University of Manchester's men and Trafford women, ahead of the England Handball Association formally postponing all handball matches a few days later on 16 March 2020. Ultimately, with uncertainty over when sporting action might be able to resume due to the ongoing social distancing lockdown and restrictions on mass gatherings, the EHA announced confirmation on 4 May 2020 that the season's league and cup competitions would be voided with all remaining unplayed fixtures cancelled.

At the point of lockdown, Newcastle's men were sitting top of their league, just one point ahead of Warrington Wolves II and the University of Manchester, with the Vikings women fourth in their league, six points behind leaders Liverpool. Another men's title may have been unlikely with most other teams having one or more games in hand, but the Vikings nevertheless remained reigning league champions. Pablo Docampo topped the Vikings' men's goalscoring with 23 goals, while Marlen Slinning Goulty led the women's scoring with 16 goals.



England Handball Association North National and Regional Leagues 2019/20

Men's Regional North		Results	
19 Oct.	Warrington W. II	W	0-10 *
2 Nov.	Uni. of Manchester	L	20-17
16 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	14-19
30 Nov.	Uni. of Manchester	L	17-15
14 Dec.	Warrington W. II	L	10-20
25 Jan.	Uni. of Leeds	W	19-16
1 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	W	19-24
14 Mar.	Uni. of Manchester	P-P	
4/5 Apr.	Warrington W. II	P-P	

Women's Regional North		Results	
30 Oct.	Peninsula	W	11-17
16 Nov.	Uni. of Leeds	L	13-20
30 Nov.	Trafford	L	21-15
14 Dec.	Liverpool	L	15-17
25 Jan.	Peninsula	W	10-0 *
1 Mar.	Uni. of Leeds	L	20-16
14 Mar.	Trafford	P-P	
4 Apr.	Liverpool	P-P	

* forfeited walk-over win

Men's Regional North	P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
- Newcastle Vikings	8	3	1	4	109	111	-2	13

Women's Regional North	P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
- Newcastle Vikings	7	2	-	5	86	99	-13	10

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's English League and Cup Players 2019/20

Men		Played	Goals	Women		Played	Goals
Matthew Lamb (GK)		6	-	Andrea King (GK)		6	-
Robert Thompson		5	7	Marie Brevet		5	14
Adam Batley		5	16	Marlen Slinning Goulty		4	16
Christos Illadis		1	1	Judyta Turulska		5	13
Craig Swanson		3	1	Katerina Gibson		6	1
Thomas Harrison		3	5	Ed Ogbee		5	9
Milan Anilkumar		3	1	Maren Liane		4	8
Adam Mobberley (C)		7	17	Blessing Ogbee		6	15
Mohammed Boussema		5	11	Maria González Pascual		1	-
Julien Eng		1	6	Alina Inta		4	11
Mark Harrison		2	6	Sandra Christke (C)		1	-
Pablo Docampo		4	23	María José González-A.		4	3
Bart Piorkowski		1	6				
Frank Smelt		4	14				

The coronavirus pandemic lockdown also led to the cancellation of May's Tyneside Handball Tournament, as well as the summer's British Beach Handball Championships. Other than the men playing Warrington Wolves II at the start of the season, Newcastle Vikings' only other senior friendly games had been pre-season and in a mini-tournament against York City Hunters and the University of York on 8 February 2020.



In the first of the season's mini-tournaments for the Newcastle Vikings' younger handballers on 23 November 2019 at Benfield Sports Centre, the Temple Park juniors convincingly swept the board unbeaten with 2-4 and 4-0 wins over Benfield I, and big 7-0 and 0-9 victories over Benfield II, while Benfield I beat Benfield II 3-5 before ending with a 1-1 draw. In between, guests Gosforth minis scored a double win over the mini-Vikings 3-7 and 9-3 in the under-8 games. The Temple Park and Benfield juniors took on each other again on 25 January at Temple Park Leisure Centre, with the home team again coming out on top before the players mixed up for a final fun match.



The growth in numbers across the junior ranks enabled the club to then hold their first age-group tournament on 8 February 2020 at Benfield Sports Centre. That saw over 40 children enjoy a series of mixed under-16 matches between the Vikings' Benfield and Temple Park training groups, Newcastle and Cragside under-12's, and under-8 games between the mini-Vikings and Gosforth minis. In the under-16's the blacks won their first match 4-3, before the greens scored



3-9 and 3-4 victories. Cragside won the first under-12's match 3-4, but the Vikings also came back to take two wins 5-2 and 6-2. And in the minis matches Gosforth won the first two games 3-5 and 4-9 before the Vikings got a 5-5 draw in the final match of the day.

The Tyne & Wear Your School Games level 3 handball competition took place at Temple Park Leisure Centre on 5 March 2020, run in partnership with Tyne & Wear Sport with support from Tyne Metropolitan College's North East Sport Academy. North Tyneside schools scooped three of the trophies, with Churchill Community College retaining the under-15 boys title and John Spence Sports College's boys and Valley Gardens Middle School's girls victorious in the under-13 tournaments, while South Tyneside's Boldon School picked up the under-15 girls' title. However, with all handball competitions suspended for the rest of the season, none of them got the opportunity to challenge for North East regional titles and progress to the English national finals.



Also just before the lockdown, this year's British University Championships were wholly held over the weekend of 6-8 March 2020 at Medway Park in Kent, with Durham University entering both men's and women's teams for the first time. However, with several experienced players from the last few successful seasons having now graduated, Durham's men struggled and lost all four of

their group matches 8-4 to Kent, 6-16 to Glasgow, 11-8 to Manchester and 8-13 against Liverpool John Moores, before going down 14-3 to Bangor in the placings play-off to leave them 10th in the second-tier Plate competition (20th overall out of 36 teams).



Meanwhile, Durham's women made their debut in the third-tier Shield competition for emerging clubs, making a strong start with group stage 2-11 and 3-7 wins over Birmingham's second and third teams before narrowly losing 5-6 to Manchester. Their semi-final against Essex however resulted in a 9-4 defeat, before another tough 6-5 play-off defeat to Manchester placed them 3rd in the Shield (23rd out of 28 teams).

Meanwhile, the *More Than a Handball Club* support programme saw Newcastle Vikings' players and their families engaging in a variety of community activities to help further promote the club both on and off the court. These included helping out at a Great British Beach Clean event in Whitley Bay, participating in the Decathlon and This Girl Can 5k fun runs and assisting with marshalling at local park runs, holding a Parents in Sports Week thank you session and fundraising events for Children in Need, Sport Relief and collecting donations for local food banks, as well as initiating new 'walking handball' sessions.



The coronavirus lockdown did not however put an end to the season's activities as the club initiated a series of online *Zoom Handball* sessions for junior players, together with a variety of *#VikingsStayActive* fitness fun video clips across the



club's social media channels throughout the spring and summer involving a mix of senior and junior players. The popularity and recognition gained led to head coach Marlen Slinning Goulty receiving the *Pass on Your Passion* award from WeAreRISE (the new name for the merged Tyne & Wear Sport and Northumberland Sport) in July 2020.

Reclaiming the Court – 2020/21

The Covid-19 coronavirus health pandemic continued to put pay to the 2020/21 season as national lockdowns caused further lengthy suspensions of senior training and competitive handball action for much of the season, as well as preventing any EHA league and cup competitions from getting underway.



However, with children's sports less affected by the lockdown restrictions, Newcastle's juniors and mini-Vikings were able to get back on court for a brief period in autumn 2020, before an eventual full return to play in late spring 2021. The Vikings took the opportunity of some England Handball Pro-Active Club funding to run an internal small-sided juniors'

league, much to the enjoyment of the club's younger handballers who also chose their own team names and designed their team logos for the six-way competition. The Newcastle-based players at the Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence were split into two under-16 and two under-14 age group teams, while south of the Tyne the extended closure of Temple Park Leisure Centre saw the junior Vikings' satellite club sessions relocated to the Farringdon Community Academy in Sunderland where the players all mixed together in two more teams. All teams picked up at least one victory in their matches.



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Juniors League 2020/21

Farringdon Satellites

Pink Panthers v Donald Ducks

2 Nov.	7 - 11
19 Apr.	12 - 11
26 Apr.	8 - 9
10 May	12 - 10
17 May	8 - 7
24 May	3 - 10
24 May	14 - 12

Benfield U16s

Bouncy Balls v Corbynites

4 Nov.	6 - 6
21 Apr.	12 - 3
28 Apr.	14 - 12
5 May	9 - 11
12 May	4 - 4
19 May	9 - 6

Benfield U14s

Eagles v Bean Boys

4 Nov.	4 - 4
21 Apr.	2 - 10
28 Apr.	10 - 7
5 May	5 - 6
12 May	6 - 5
19 May	0 - 4



The Vikings youngsters also enjoyed more weekly Zoom handball sessions during the lockdowns, before lots of summer fun playing beach handball.



The senior Vikings had eventually been able to return to training indoors at the end of May as part of the EHA's national 'Reclaim the Court' initiative, and welcomed new Romanian men's

coach Calin Roman as well as the return to the club of former men's player-coach Jason Lee to lead coaching of the women's team for next season.



On 26 August 2020 it was announced that handball had gained full British Universities & Colleges Sport (BUCS) status and would, after several years of developing the university game and last year's test event, become part of the official BUCS competition programme from the 2020/21 season. However, with the coronavirus pandemic restrictions continuing to prevent mass participation team sports from being played indoors, the inaugural BUCS Handball Championships ultimately made its debut with a somewhat scaled-back one-day outdoor event on 20 June 2021, which took place on the 3G pitches at Loughborough University. Nevertheless, for the first time, the North East had representation from two of the region's universities, Team Durham and Team Sunderland.



Durham University Handball Club again had representation in both the men's and women's tournaments, with the women's team this time coming out victorious in the second-tier Shield competition.

Having opened with a 7-12 loss against Leeds Beckett, they regrouped to claim four wins in a row in beating Manchester 10-5, hosts Loughborough II 3-5 and Heriot Watt 4-10, before rounding off with a huge 1-18 victory over Brunel in the decisive final game which ensured they beat Manchester on goal difference to claim the



university's first University Handball Championships title. Contrastingly, all of Durham's men's matches in the third-tier Trophy competition were tight closely-fought affairs, beginning with a 10-10 draw against Brunel I, beating Leeds Beckett 6-7, losing 7-8 to Portsmouth and drawing 8-8 with Warwick II, which placed them 3rd in their group.



Sunderland Handball Club reformed in February 2021, incorporated under the university's Team Sunderland banner, with an aim to run national league men's and women's teams and enter the new BUCS competitions.



With past student and former Sunderland and Newcastle Vikings player Jack Woods returning in a coaching role, they entered a men's team in their first national University Handball Championships,



taking part in the other Trophy competition group. In their opening match they came up short 2-5 against Lincoln, before succumbing 21-7 to Manchester Met and losing a close game to Nottingham Trent 12-9. However, after losing captain Riccardo Martins to injury they were forced to forfeit their final game against Brunel II with a default 0-5 scoreline to finish bottom of

their group, so instead played a friendly match with coach Woods stepping in as a replacement and leading his side to a morale-boosting 10-2 victory.





The end-of-season British Beach Handball Championships made a welcome return over the weekend of 24-25 July 2021 down on the south coast in Poole, Dorset. While not enough players were available for Newcastle to enter any Vikings teams, six players took the opportunity to guest for other mixed-club teams and

get back to playing competitive handball for the first time in nearly 1½ years.

Marlen Slinning Goulty, Maria González Pascual and Maria José González-Alvarez, plus new men's players Iacopo Benesperi and Timo Keller, joined up with González Pascual's former club Bristol and a few other players from Edinburgh and Liverpool to make up the *SandBeaches* and *SandBalls* teams. The ladies finished 5th overall after coming back from losing 2-0 to West London Eagles in their quarter-final to gain a 0-2 play-off win over Cambridge Honeybadgers, while the lads were knocked out 2-1 in a penalty shoot-out loss to Bishops Stortford in their second-tier Trophy competition quarter-final.



Goalkeeper Andrea King meanwhile guested for a Coventry Sharks team also featuring players from Northampton and Liverpool, who reached the women's Cup final and after leading early on ultimately lost out 2-0 to experienced reigning champions London GD to come away with the silver medals.



Competitive Indoor Handball Returns – 2021/22

With clubs still gradually returning to play following the lifting of the Covid-19 coronavirus restrictions, and amid related uncertainties over how many players may be available at the time teams had needed to sign up to the new season's league and cup competitions by the end of July, Newcastle Vikings opted not to enter senior teams for the English leagues this season. It was therefore left to the university-based Team Sunderland club to fly the flag for the North East in the 2021/22 EHA senior competitions.

Sunderland's opening fixture in the England Handball Men's Regional League North saw them heavily beaten 44-16 away to Liverpool on 25 September 2021. Another 28-goal losing margin followed in their next match, 12-40 at home to Manchester. Improved league performances did come in further losses at home to Liverpool and away to the University of Manchester, while they only narrowly lost 32-28 away to Loughborough University II in the first round of the EHA National Cup on 27 November 2021. However, player availability issues forced them to forfeit the other two of their pre-Christmas league matches. Left well adrift at the bottom of the league table come the turn of the year after losing all of their matches, and unable to guarantee being able to field a team to fulfil their fixtures in the combined North-Midlands league for the second half of the season (the top two sides having moved up to the National League), Sunderland ultimately conceded to withdrawing from the league.



Sunderland Men's North RL		Results	
25 Sept.	Liverpool	L	44-16
10 Oct.	Manchester	L	12-40
23 Oct.	Uni. of Manchester	L	0-10 *
13 Nov.	Liverpool	L	16-27
20 Nov.	Manchester	L	10-0 *
4 Dec.	Uni. of Manchester	L	37-27

* forfeited walk-over win



England Handball Association North Regional League 2021/22 (Phase 1)

Men's North Regional		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Liverpool	6	6	0	0	+236	-132	+104	18
2	Manchester	6	4	0	2	+176	-130	+46	14
3	University of Manchester	6	2	0	4	+154	-191	-37	10
4	Sunderland University	6	0	0	6	+72	-185	-113	4



Newcastle Vikings' Spanish duo Maria González Pascual and Maria José González-Alvarez did nevertheless register themselves to play for González Pascual's former club Bristol in the EHA National Cup. However, the Bristol ladies were knocked out 32-22 by Nottingham in their first-round match on 27 November 2021, with neither of the Vikings players managing to get themselves on the scoresheet.

Building on from last season's internal juniors league, Newcastle Vikings did enter a boys/mixed team into the EHA's Under-14 competitions for this season. Making their debut down in Telford, Shropshire on 4 December 2021, the Vikings youngsters made a fantastic winning start, beating Trafford 4-3 and Shropshire 6-5. Despite agonisingly losing in the last minute 7-8 to Trafford, they finished with a battling 9-7 win over hosts Shropshire which gave them an impressive



first tournament victory overall. Newcastle Vikings was represented by Brendan Fisher, Edda Stenbom-Moss, George Archer, Joel Emmet, Oliver Cass and Zac Barbieri, plus a guest player from Northampton.



The second juniors' tournament day was hosted in Newcastle on 23 January 2022, with the home-town club fielding two teams to take on Trafford and a combined select team from Scottish clubs Tryst 77 and EK82 in the boys competition. The Newcastle 'greens' team lost their opening match



6-7 to Tryst/EK, before beating Trafford 7-4, while the Vikings 'blacks' team drew 7-7 with Trafford, before winning 9-5 against Tryst/EK. Newcastle then beat their Vikings



clubmates to finish level with Tryst/EK, but the Scots took the overall win based on their head-to-head result, with the Vikings team finishing third. In the three-way girls competition, EK82 took the honours over Trafford and Tryst, with Vikings player Elsa Watson also getting a guest run-out in the girls matches.

clubmates to finish level with Tryst/EK, but the Scots took the overall win based on their head-to-head result, with the Vikings team finishing third. In the three-way girls competition, EK82 took the honours over Trafford and Tryst, with Vikings player Elsa Watson also getting a guest run-out in the girls matches.



The final EHA under-14 tournament day took place in Derby on 15 May, when the Vikings boys were joined by a few players from Northampton handball club. After drawing their opening match 5-5 against Shropshire, they lost 5-16 to Chelsea, but still made it through to the semi-finals when they lost 5-14 to Trafford to finish in 4th place out



of six teams. The Newcastle Vikings boys were Andrew Parker, Brendan Fisher, Charlie Pickett, George Archer, Joel Emmet, Oliver Cass and Zac Barbieri. Edda Stenbom-Moss meanwhile guested for Trafford's girls team who, after beating Northampton 14-12 and losing 9-15 to West London Eagles, drew 8-8 and 6-6 against the same two clubs respectively to finish in 2nd place overall and pick up the silver medals.

The Vikings youngsters also enjoyed several internal mini-tournament days on 9 October and 20 November 2021, and 30 January and 20 March 2022, while some of the club's junior players also represented their schools in the season's EHA schools competitions.

The EHA North East Handball Schools Games under-13 and under-15 tournaments took place on 16 February and 16 March 2022 respectively at



Gateshead Leisure Centre, overseen by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club and supported by volunteers from Durham University Handball Club and the local Cardinal Hume Catholic School. Sunderland's Oxclose Community Academy won the boys under-13 title once again ahead of Newcastle's St. Mary's Catholic High School, while Northumberland's Ovingham Middle School claimed the girls under-13 honours ahead of Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science, with Durham Johnston Comprehensive School finishing third in both competitions. In the under-15 tournament, Harrogate's Nidderdale High School beat St. Mary's Catholic High School and Alnwick's Duchess Community High School to the boys' title, while High Tunstall won the girls tournament ahead of Sunderland's Castle View Academy and Durham Johnston.



The EHA North Regional Finals then took place in Oldham on 4 May 2022. St. Mary's Catholic High School, featuring Newcastle Vikings boys Brendan Fisher, Joseph Meachery and Zac Barbieri, were victorious gold medallists in the under-13 competition, with Durham Johnston coming 5th. The Durham Johnston girls



were, however, more successful in finishing runners-up in the under-15 tournament, with High Tunstall College coming 3rd and Castle View Academy 7th.

However, neither St. Mary's nor Durham Johnston were able to progress beyond their group stages at the end-of-season EHA National Schools Finals in Nottingham on 18 and 19 June 2022.

Other Newcastle Vikings junior handball activities during the season included free Tesco 'Bags of Help' grant-funded *Kids Get Active* sessions in Newcastle on 30 October and 20 November 2021, and EHA-funded *Try Handball with the Vikings* sessions in Sunderland on 5 and 12 March 2022, as well as Children in Need fundraising and promoting the club at various community park festivals.

Meanwhile, the senior Newcastle Vikings teams eased their way back into competitive indoor handball with a series of friendly matches and mini-tournaments. Their first competitive indoor games in 20 months, since their last pre-lockdown league



matches at the start of March 2020, were down at the University of York on 7 November 2021, where the men drew 12-12 before the Vikings women won their match 12-5, with both depleted teams having to play goalkeepers outfield.

The Vikings then hosted a three-way mini-tournament with Durham University and Edinburgh on 4 December 2021. Newcastle's men won 17-11 against



Durham and 16-14 over Edinburgh, while Durham defeated Edinburgh 13-12. In the women's matches Edinburgh beat both Durham 16-6 and Newcastle 11-9, before the Vikings won 18-6 against Durham.



Newcastle's men beat Sunderland 29-23 in a local derby at Benfield Sports Centre on 11 December 2021, their first full-length match since March 2020. Centre Timo Keller top-scored with 10 goals for the Vikings, with right-half Fabian van der Velden scoring eight, while former Newcastle and Sunderland winger Wiktor Laczny scored nine in a guest appearance for the Wearsiders.



The Vikings began the new year by gaining a dominant double victory in the return homes matches against the University of York on 30 January 2022, the men convincingly winning 24-8 before the women ran out 24-7 winners.



Durham University hosted a North East regional men's tournament on 19 March 2022, with the rebranded York Handball Club taking the honours on goal difference from Newcastle Vikings after beating Durham's B team 19-5 and Team Sunderland 19-9, losing 12-15 to the Durham A team and then narrowly winning 17-16 against Newcastle. The runner-up Vikings' three wins came against Durham A 13-7, Sunderland 16-11 and Durham B 22-14. Durham A also beat Sunderland 19-8, while Sunderland picked up a 20-20 draw with Durham B. In between the men's matches, Newcastle beat Durham 9-1 and 13-9 in the women's games.



The Tyneside Handball Tournament made a welcome return after a Covid-19 enforced three-year hiatus on 23 April 2022 at Benfield Sports Centre. EK82 topped the men's group table undefeated with three wins and a draw, ahead of Edinburgh and the English trio of York, Newcastle Vikings and Durham



University. The Scottish rivals then played out a closely fought final, which the East Kilbride club won 12-10 for their second Tyneside title, while Edinburgh had to settle for their third runners-up spot. York was the only team to take points off EK82 in a 9-9 group-stage draw. The Vikings men had opened positively

with a 15-4 win over Durham, but were then beaten in their remaining group matches 11-13 by Edinburgh, 11-18 by EK82 and 8-11 by York. Durham also lost their other games 7-8 to York, 9-15 to EK82 and 11-12 to Edinburgh.



In the women's competition, newly crowned Scottish league and cup champions Edinburgh won all four of their group stage matches 9-7 and 9-4 against Newcastle and 14-8 and 8-5 over Durham. The Vikings beat Durham's students 8-6 and 8-2 to finish second in the group. However, Newcastle raced into an early lead in the final and held off a late Edinburgh resurgence for an unexpected 10-7 victory, the fourth time that the Vikings ladies have won their home Tyneside tournament.



Newcastle Vikings then teamed up with Edinburgh to make their debut in the revived Liverpool International Handball Tournament on 11 June 2022. The



men lost 14-21 to Manchester and 7-18 to Dutch club Hastu Nijmegen, before narrowly losing out 10-11 in the dying minutes to Liverpool. The Newcastle-Edinburgh women

meanwhile went down 4-14 to Norwegian side Team Bergen and 7-10 to this season's English Regional League North-Midlands champions Northampton, but denied the hosts a win with a late interception breakaway equaliser for an 8-8 draw, although Liverpool's better goal difference meant they progressed to the semi-finals. Hastu and Bergen took the respective tournament final honours.

Durham University had opened their season with an Intercollegiate Legends Tournament on 7 November 2021, involving a mix of past and present players including founding members and all five past presidents from the club's past seven years (Leif Hübert, Lucas Palumbo, Karl Dahm, Norton Tse and George Goddard). On a day of 16 fiercely competitive matches, it was the St. Mary's College team captained by legend Norton Tse that came out on top overall.



Inter-university friendly matches saw Durham's men and women both come away victorious against the University of York on 28 November 2021. In a busy new year they then travelled to Nottingham on 16 January 2022, where Durham men's A team beat Nottingham Trent University 45-14 and the University of Nottingham 15-14, while Durham B lost 11-20 to the University of Nottingham



and Durham's women won 26-18. Their women's team also defeated the University of Manchester twice 21-3 and 19-2 on 12 February 2022, although the men were less successful that day losing 9-15 to the University of Manchester and 6-18 to Manchester. Home friendlies against the University of York on 20 February 2022 saw Durham's men and women again pick up a double win 22-19 and 20-14 respectively.

Durham then returned to Manchester for an inter-universities tournament on 27 February 2022, with the men's team winning both of their group matches 8-5 against Liverpool and 10-4 over Lancaster, before losing out 6-10 to eventual winners Liverpool John Moores in the semi-final. The women meanwhile lost 5-11 to Manchester and 3-9 to Lancaster, before winning 14-0 over Liverpool John Moores and losing 6-12 to Liverpool to finish in 4th place.

Sunderland's only other friendly match this season was against the University of York on 13 March 2022.

The BUCS University Handball Championships took place over the weekend of 26-27 March 2022 down at Medway Park in Kent. Durham's men were in the top tier National Cup competition, but lost 11-12 to University College London and 10-14 to Nottingham Trent, before beating Oxford 13-12 and losing 6-7 to Strathclyde to finish 4th in their group. The following day's 9th/10th place play-off match against Edinburgh rounded off their tournament with a 11-10 win. Sunderland meanwhile went unbeaten in their third tier National Shield group matches, defeating Leeds Beckett 15-14, Chichester 10-7, York 13-4 and Birmingham 18-4, before drawing 13-13 with Bournemouth's AECC University College to win their group. However, they were unable to maintain their form into the



second day, losing their semi-final to Brunel, and then also against Leeds Beckett in their last play-off game to finish in 4th spot.

Durham and Sunderland's women were drawn against each other in the second tier National Trophy. Durham topped the group undefeated, following an opening 7-7 draw with Edinburgh by beating Sunderland 20-2, UCL 9-6, Liverpool John Moores 10-5 and Portsmouth 12-2. However, after losing their semi-final 5-9 against Loughborough 2, Durham came back to claim a 6-5 victory over Edinburgh for 3rd place and pick up the women's Trophy bronze medals. Sunderland's women, however, came last in the group after also losing all of their other matches 1-11 to Portsmouth, 3-12 to Liverpool John Moores, 0-15 to Edinburgh and 0-15 to UCL. They then also lost their 11th/12th place play-off match to Birmingham 2.



The University Handball Championships results meant that Durham ended the season in joint 17th place in the BUCS handball standings on 14 points, with Sunderland in 24th place (7 points) out of 27 universities. Durham's handball competition points helped the university finish in 3rd place in the academic year's overall BUCS table. They rounded off their season at the new EHA Universities Summer Cup, held on the outdoor artificial turf pitches at Loughborough University on 11 June 2022.



Having already been part of the Great Britain women's training squad while at home-town Premier League club Cambridge, goalkeeper Sophie O'Sullivan meanwhile ended her year with Durham University and Newcastle Vikings by



making her international debut in the Paredes Cup tournament in Porto, Portugal, which took place from 13-17 July 2022 and saw them take on a mix of Spanish club sides and age group teams. The GB senior women's team began with a 30-11 victory over AC Lucitanos, before drawing 21-21 with AA Didaxis to finish 2nd in their group on goal difference. O'Sullivan also stood in for the GB under-19 team in their 35-2 win against Balonmano Picanya. The GB seniors then



lost 16-36 to the eventual tournament winners Spain under-18s in their quarter-final match, but defeated the GB under-19 team 23-15 and won their final play-off game 24-17 against CA Baltar to finish in 5th place overall out of 12 teams, with the under-19s in 7th place.

Newcastle referee Craig Swanson's duties this season took in the BUCS University Handball Championships, April's Baldus Cup tournament in Lillehammer, Norway, and August's British Beach Handball Championships where he refereed the London GD v Olympia women's Cup final.





The British Beach Handball Championships took place on Sandbanks Beach in Poole, Dorset from 6-7 August 2022. Several Newcastle Vikings players once again joined together in mixed-club teams with mainly Edinburgh and Bristol handball clubs, Timo Keller and Chris Thompson-Smith playing for the *SandBalls*, Andrea King and Maria González Pascual for the *SandWitches*, and Maria José González-Alvarez joining her sister Elena in the *SandPeaches* team.



Both women's sides finished third in their respective groups on the first day, and then beat Chelsea and Poole Phoenix 2-0 respectively in their second-tier Plate competition semi-finals matches, before facing off against each other in the final. The *SandPeaches* girls were ultimately victorious with a 2-0 final win to lift the Plate trophy, placing them 5th overall. London GD retained their Championship title in the Cup competition.

The *SandBalls* lads meanwhile ended up 7th in the men's Plate competition after losing all of their group matches and knock-out games, including a 0-2 play-off loss to a *Resting Beach Face* team featuring Bristol and former Vikings player Sam Turner, but they eventually got a 2-0 win in their 7th/8th place decider over Birmingham's *Beach Brummies*. In the men's Cup competition, former Newcastle and Sunderland player Wiktor Laczny's Polish *Hussars* team finished runners-up to London Beach Handball.



10 Years of the Vikings

Newcastle Vikings, the longest running handball club in North East England, marked their 10th anniversary with a day of celebrations on 1 October 2022. Past and present senior and junior Vikings players came together to enjoy some fun friendly matches at the Benfield Centre for Sporting Excellence, followed by an evening social party for players and their families at the Tyneside Irish Centre in Newcastle city centre. The club also featured in a short local film looking at the legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games in the North East 10 years later.



Ten years on from having been established back in late September 2012, six of Newcastle Vikings' first-season handballers are still training and playing for the club, including original founding members Marlen Slinning Goulty and Sandra Christke-Lamb (ably supported by their now non-playing husbands Charlie Goulty and Matthew Lamb), plus Mark Harrison, Daniel Walsh, Craig Swanson and Andrea King.



Super Vikings Ladies Hit the Big Time Back in Scotland – 2022/23

Newcastle Vikings also marked their 10th anniversary season with a much-awaited return to competitive league action, this time playing back north of the border in the Scottish handball leagues where the club had previously played its debut league season in 2013/14.

The men's team had expected to get their league season underway on 17 September 2022, but with the scheduled opening match against Edinburgh postponed they instead played a home friendly game against East Kilbride's EK82. However, the 26-41 defeat at the Benfield Sports Centre was unfortunately to set the tone for a difficult league season ahead against some strong Scottish teams.



The Vikings men ultimately made their return to Scottish league action the following week on 24 September 2022, going down 16-42 to Glasgow at the Oriam National Sports

Performance Centre at Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University, where the majority of the centralised Scottish league fixtures would be played this season. However, apart from Edinburgh eventually forfeiting the rearranged fixture postponement towards the end of the season to gift Newcastle a welcome 3 points, it proved to be a tough winless league season for the Vikings men as they finished bottom of the league in a repeat of their debut 2013/14 Scottish



league season. A couple of big losses against eventual undefeated champions Livingston were affected by only six Newcastle players, including two goalkeepers, being available to make those trips. Back-court players Marian Machel and Timo Keller nevertheless picked up notable 11 and 12-goal hauls



respectively in the November 2022 losses against Edinburgh and EK82. The team did make some much-improved performances into the second half of the season, including two narrow 3-goal defeats to Edinburgh and Glasgow in which Machel struck another 10 goals in both games. Polish centre-back Marian Machel went on to finish the season with a new Vikings men's record of 65 goals in his 8 league games at an impressive 8.13 goals-per-game strike rate.

The Vikings ladies meanwhile saw Romanian mother-daughter back-court partnership Alina and Alexandra Inta able to team up for the first time in league competition. They began the season with a promising 14-26 win over Troon at Oriam on 15 October 2022, with Alexandra scoring a brilliant 10 goals on her senior league debut and mum Alina adding 7 goals. Former junior Vikings player Alexandra Inta went on to become the team's leading scorer over the season, netting 35 goals in her 8 league and cup appearances, as Newcastle's women sought to better their 3rd-place finish in the Scottish league back in 2013/14.





The Vikings went into their final league game of the season against Tryst on 29 April 2023 knowing they needed to win to secure 2nd place in the league, and in their only home league match at Benfield Sports Centre they duly obliged with a thrilling 25-17 victory in front of their home supporters.



Scottish Handball Association National Leagues 2022/23

Men's League 1		Results	
17 Sept	Edinburgh	-	P-P
24 Sept	Glasgow	L	16-42
8 Oct	Tryst	L	33-14
22 Oct	Livingston	L	7-45
5 Nov	EK82	L	37-24
19 Nov	Edinburgh	L	23-41
10 Dec	Glasgow	L	35-27
14 Jan	Tryst	L	0-10*
28 Jan	Livingston	L	46-8
11 Feb	EK82	L	28-49
25 Feb	Edinburgh	L	33-30
4 Mar	Glasgow	L	25-28
25 Mar	Tryst	L	34-28
22 Apr	Livingston	L	17-43
29 Apr	Edinburgh	W	10-0*
6 May	EK82	L	19-44

Women's League		Results	
15 Oct	Troon	W	14-26
5 Nov	Edinburgh	L	20-11
19 Nov	Kelvinside	W	17-8
3 Dec	Tryst	D	23-23
25 Feb	Troon	L	22-23
11 Mar	Edinburgh	L	15-27
25 Mar	Kelvinside	W	14-27
29 Apr	Tryst	W	25-17

* forfeited walk-over win/loss



Men's League 1		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Livingston	14	14	0	0	+439	-223	+216	42
2	EK82	14	12	0	2	+469	-313	+156	36
3	Edinburgh	15	7	1	7	+412	-407	+5	22
4	Tryst	15	5	1	9	+382	-404	-22	16
5	Glasgow	15	4	0	11	+310	-421	-111	12
6	Newcastle Vikings	15	1	0	14	+276	-520	-244	3

Women's League		P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1	Edinburgh	8	8	0	0	+213	-113	+100	24
2	Newcastle Vikings	8	4	1	3	+166	-146	+20	13
3	Tryst	8	3	1	4	+217	-208	+9	10
4	Troon	8	3	0	5	+162	-220	-58	9
5	Kelvinside	8	1	0	7	+115	-187	-72	3

In finishing runner's up in the league, that result meant that Newcastle Vikings' ladies had unexpectedly qualified for the end-of-season British Handball Super Cup finals. The event sees the top two men's and women's sides in the English Premier Leagues and Scottish National Leagues battle it out to decide the British champions, and thus which teams would be eligible to represent Great Britain



in the following season's EHF European Cup competition. Held at Oriam in Edinburgh over the weekend of 20-21 May 2023, Newcastle faced a tough semi-final match against experienced English Premier League champions Olympia on 20 May 2023. The London club had raced into an early 9-0 lead before the Vikings eventually got on the scoresheet, and while they got more into the game as it went on, Olympia extended their 15-3 half-time lead to run out dominant 29-9 winners.



With Scottish league champions Edinburgh having lost their semi-final against West London Eagles, Newcastle then faced their Scottish rivals once again in the 3rd/4th-place play-off match on 21 May 2023. The Vikings took an early lead, but Edinburgh edged back in front before pressing ahead as Newcastle faltered,

BRITISH HANDBALL SUPER CUP 2023
NEWCASTLE VIKINGS HANDBALL CLUB

🇬🇧 ANDREA KING (GK)
 🇫🇷 MARIE BREVET
 🇳🇴 MARLEN SLINNING GOULTY
 🇳🇴 MATHILDE BERGESTAD
 🇪🇸 MARIA GONZÁLEZ PASCUAL
 🇧🇷 JOSEANE MAGALHAES
 🇧🇷 JULIANA SOUZA
 🇮🇪 RÓZSA SZÚCS
 🇷🇺 ALEXANDRA INTA
 🇵🇱 OLIWIA SZYMKOWIAK
 🇷🇺 ALINA INTA
 🇩🇪 SANDRA CHRISTKE-LAMB (C)

COACH: ADAM BATLEY
 ASST. COACH: BLESSING OGBEE



going on to convert a 13-5 half-time advantage into a 24-11 final score to take the bronze medals, meaning Newcastle had to settle for 4th place. Marlen Slinning Goulty won the award for the Vikings' player of the match, while all players received a Super Cup memento. Olympia retained their women's title, while NEM Hawks beat Livingston to win the men's competition.

Playing on the big stage on the showcourt in front of the television cameras and a large crowd of spectators in the Super Cup finals, the pinnacle of club handball in Britain, was nevertheless a fitting finale to Newcastle Vikings' 10th anniversary season.



British Handball Super Cup 2023: Semi-finals, Bronze and Cup Final matches – Olympia v Newcastle Vikings women / Edinburgh v Newcastle Vikings women



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's Scottish League and Cup Players 2022/23

Men		Played	Goals
Charlie Emmett (GK)		10	6
Daniel Walsh (GK)		11	-
Craig Swanson		2	-
Iacopo Benesperi		7	8
Adam Batley		12	51
Aaron Edmundson		12	24
Adam Mobberley (C)		12	48
Diogo Caeiro		1	5
Shawn Anuptra Martin		10	17
Sam Downie		7	3
Fabian van der Velden		2	1
Marian Machel		8	65
Christos Iliadis		1	3
Timo Keller		4	25

Women		Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)		10	4
Caroline Bergum (GK)		3	-
Marie Brevet		5	16
Marlen Slinning Goulty		10	23
Juliana Alves de Souza		1	-
Mathilde Bergestad		6	27
Fernanda Utsch Araujo		2	4
Maria González Pascual		4	2
Sophie Granville		1	-
Josephine Magalhaes		3	1
Blessing Ogbie		3	8
Jessica Stanley		1	2
Rózsa Szűcs		3	2
Alexandra Inta		8	35
Oliwia Szymkowiak		2	5
Alina Inta		9	26
Sandra Christke (C)		10	27
Maria José González-A.		3	4



It was also a season of notable individual landmarks for several of Newcastle Vikings' senior handballers.



Goalkeeper Daniel Walsh became the second male player to make 50 Vikings league and cup appearances in November's Edinburgh match, on the same day that Blessing Ogbee also played her 50th game in the women's team's win over Kelvinside. Marie Brevet became the fifth Newcastle woman to score a century of league and cup goals in December's draw with Tryst. Player-coach Marlen Slinning Goulty then played her 50th Vikings league and cup game in the return fixture against Kelvinside in March 2023, while team captain Sandra Christke-Lamb became the first to score 200 goals for the club in the same match. Women's goalkeeper-cum-winger Andrea King made her 75th consecutive appearance in the last league game of the season against Tryst, and men's captain Adam Mobberley then also joined the 50 appearances club a week later in their final game of their season against EK82.

Meanwhile, following playing in last season's EHA under-14 competitions, Newcastle Vikings' entered their under-15 junior boys team in the SHA's 2008/09 age group league. The league comprised several mini tournament-style days at centralised venues across the season in which all attending teams played each other, with the final league positions being determined by points



being awarded for each team's placing in each round of competition. The Vikings' first tournament day up in Kilmarnock on 9 October 2022 saw the boys narrowly lose to hosts Kelvinside and to EK82, before a heavier defeat to Tryst, but they then put in a fantastic effort to finish the day with a well-deserved 2-1 win over

tournament winners Troon to finish in 4th place out of the five teams. December's second tournament day again saw Newcastle lose three games and gain win one, a 4-9 victory over EK82 in another 4th place finish.

The Vikings then welcomed the Scottish teams to the Benfield Sports Centre for the third tournament day on 5 February 2023, with some longer matches able to be played bringing a feast of goals. Kelvinside narrowly edged an entertaining opening match 19-20, before Tryst also beat the home side 23-15.












April's last tournament day of the season saw the Vikings boys get off to a brilliant start with a close-fought 17-18 win over Tryst. However, defeats in their other two games meant they finished third of the four teams on the day, with their tournament placing points accrued over the season putting them fourth of the five clubs in the final league table. Centre Oli Cass top-scored with 29 goals across the season, including 8 strikes in February's loss to Kelvinside.



Scottish Handball Association 08/09 Boys League 2022/23

08/09 Boys League		Results	
9 Oct.	Kelvinside	L	6-4
	EK82	L	7-6
	Tryst	L	12-1
	Troon	W	2-1
4 Dec.	Kelvinside	L	1-7
	Troon	L	12-5
	EK82	W	4-9
	Tryst	L	4-6
5 Feb.	Kelvinside	L	19-20
	Tryst	L	23-15
30 Apr.	Tryst	W	17-18
	Troon	L	25-11
	Kelvinside	L	15-11

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's 08/09 Boys' Scottish League Players 2022/23

08/09 Boys		Played	Goals
Joseph Meachery (GK)		13	-
Antounyous Hozein (GK)		3	-
Charlie Pickett		13	14
Brendan Fisher		13	22
Raphael Horsman-Elphick		8	-
Emmanuel Horsman-Elphick		8	1
Oliver Cass		13	29
Oliver Rasmussen		2	-
Zac Barbieri		13	10
George Archer		13	21
Zavi Racey		2	9

08/09 Boys League		Competitions	Played	Competition Position Points					Pts
1	Troon	3	11	-	5	5	-	4	14
2	Kelvinside	4	13	-	4	4	3	3	14
3	Tryst	5	14	1	1	3	2	1	8
4	Newcastle Vikings	4	13	-	2	2	1	2	7
5	EK82	3	9	2	3	1	-	-	6



Two of Newcastle Vikings' girls also got a taste of Scottish 08/09 league action, with Edda Stenbom-Moss and Elsa Watson playing for a mixed team in February's tournament day in Newcastle, both getting on the scoresheet in a 14-12 loss to overall competition winners EK82, having earlier lost 8-4 to Kelvinside and drawing 6-6 with Tryst. Stenbom-Moss then also got the opportunity to guest for a depleted Kelvinside's girls team in April's final tournament day, scoring twice in a narrow 13-12 loss to EK82, despite only having five players, before they also lost 13-6 to Tryst in their other game.



Team Sunderland University, with Newcastle Vikings player Shawn Anuptra Martin taking on the club Presidency, had meanwhile belatedly got their season underway in the EHA Men's Regional League North with a 40-31 defeat away to the University of Manchester on 22 October 2022, having forfeited their scheduled opening match earlier in the month. However, struggling to have enough players to be able to fulfil their fixtures, they were once again forced to withdraw from the league without playing any further matches. The men's team did nevertheless take part in the first round of BUCS competition on 29 October 2022 at Leeds Beckett University, but lost all of their five games, 10-4 to Durham, 11-5 to York, 7-6 to the University of Leeds, 3-2 to Lancaster and 6-4 to the home Leeds Carnegie side.



Durham University had begun their season with a 38-36 men's friendly loss away to Newcastle Vikings on 9 October 2022, followed by home friendly defeats against the University of York on 16 October 2022, losing both the men's and women's home games 17-25 and 11-29 respectively. However, the men's team then found their form to win all of their games at the first BUCS competition on 29 October 2022, following their opening 10-4 win over Sunderland by beating Lancaster 8-4, York 7-5, Leeds Beckett 5-3 and the University of Leeds 7-6. Durham's women meanwhile lost 5-3 to York, drew 5-5 with Lancaster, and lost 8-4 to the University of Leeds and 5-4 to the hosts Leeds Beckett, as the University of York went unbeaten to win the tournament.



Durham University's annual intercollegiate cup tournament took place on 5 November 2022 at Maiden Castle sports centre, with the Ustinov College team



winning the inaugural 'Leif G Hübert Durham Handball' trophy. Durham's men then beat York Handball Club 34-25 on 12 November, before losing their return match at the University of York 21-16 the following day, as the women's teams drew 12-12. The men's team were then scheduled to host Manchester Handball Club's 2nd team in the first round of the EHA National Cup on 27 November 2022, but with that game having to be rescheduled the teams played a friendly match which Manchester won 30-26.



In the new year, Durham's men scored a revenge 22-32 friendly win over Newcastle Vikings on 30 January 2023. Durham's A and B men's teams and the women's team then took part in another BUCS competition in Nottingham on 5 February 2023, in which they took on the universities of Nottingham, Nottingham Trent and Birmingham. Newcastle then won a women's friendly game 8-5 on 15 February 2023, while a men's 29-29

friendly draw with York on 17 February 2023 ultimately saw Durham snatch victory with a 5-4 penalty shoot-out win, before the men's B team and women each played friendlies against Leeds Beckett University on 19 February 2023.



The BUCS University Handball Championships took place at the Derby Arena over the weekend of 4-5 March 2023. Durham's men's A team played in the top tier Cup competition, opening with a 9-10 win against Manchester, and after a narrow 9-8 loss to Loughborough they then thrashed Cambridge 10-0, before another 8-9 loss to Imperial College placed them 3rd in their group. They then beat Nottingham Trent 8-7 in the 5th/6th-place play-off. Durham's women began their second tier Trophy competition with an 11-8 and 5-4 losses to York and Edinburgh respectively, before picking up 2-4 and 7-4 wins against University College London and Brunel to also place 3rd in their group. Their 5th/6th-place decider against Loughborough's 2nd team ended 5-5, with Durham losing 2-1 on penalties.

Durham also entered their men's B team in the fourth tier Plate competition against other second teams, with a 4-5 win against Liverpool, 6-8 loss to Nottingham and 5-7 win over Imperial placing them 2nd in their group. They then beat Brunel 4-9 in the semi-final, before winning 8-10 against Warwick in the final to pick up the Plate trophy.



Durham's rearranged EHA Men's National Cup match eventually took place on 11 March 2023, but Manchester's 2nd team went through

35-17. Their men's and women's teams rounded off their season playing in the Universities Summer Cup tournament, held outdoors at the University of Nottingham over the weekend of 11/12 June 2023.



Schools handball saw EHA revert to a county-based first round of competition. The Durham School Games on 16 March 2023 at the university's Maiden Castle venue was dominated by Durham Johnston Comprehensive who's under-15 boys and girls and under-13 boys all went through to the North Regional Finals undefeated, with the under-13 girls competition won by Hartlepool's High Tunstall College of Science. Following an initial qualification tournament in Newcastle on 7 February 2023, the Tyne & Wear School Games finals took place at the Temple Park Leisure Centre in South Shields on 31 March 2023. North Tyneside's Marden High School boys and Gateshead's Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy girls won the under-15 titles, with the under-13's competitions won by South Tyneside's Boldon School boys and Gateshead's Thorp Academy girls.



Only Durham Johnston took up their place at the North Regional finals in Oldham, with the under-13 and under-15 tournaments held on 20 April and 4 May 2023 respectively. While their under-13 boys were knocked out at the semi-final stage, before winning their play-off to take 3rd place, both under-15 teams reached their competition finals with the boys becoming North Regional handball champions and the girls finishing runners-up. All three teams therefore qualified through to the EHA National Finals on 25 May 2023 at the University of Nottingham, with the under-13 boys matching their regional success as bronze medalists.



Back before Christmas, a few of the Newcastle Vikings ladies took part in a friendly tournament at Edinburgh University on 10 December 2022. Playing as a combined Newcastle-Cambridge team, they lost 6-12 to hosts Edinburgh and 10-11 to Troon, before beating an Edinburgh University select team 14-8. Edinburgh/Troon/Edinburgh University then beat Newcastle/Cambridge/Troon as the women's teams mixed together for a final game.

Edinburgh and Newcastle Vikings once again joined forces for the end-of-season Liverpool International Handball Tournament on 27-28 May 2023. Goalkeeper Andrea King, Maria González Pascual and Rózsa Szűcs played for the Edinburgh representative women's team, losing their opening group game 15-12 to Liverpool before beating Irish side Astra 12-11 and a combined Kelvinside-NEM Hawks team 11-7. After narrowly missing



out on going through to the Cup competition on goal difference from the hosts and the Dubliners, Edinburgh then beat Tryst 14-8 in the Plate semi-final before winning the final 9-12 against Northampton. Meanwhile, while Craig Swanson was on referring duties, Vikings youngsters Aaron Edmundson and Curtis

Longford played for Edinburgh's men's team. They lost their group matches 16-9 to Kelvinside-EK82, 13-19 to Latvian's HC Riga and 9-17 to Liverpool's B team, before unexpectedly beating Dutch side Ha-Stu Nijmegen 13-17 in their Plate semi-final but losing a closer final re-match against Liverpool B 15-17.





The Tyneside Handball Tournament then took place on 17 June 2023 at Benfield Sports Centre. Newcastle Vikings' men opened strongly with a well-fought 13-10 win over EK82, but then lost 9-17 to Manchester, beat Sheffield 12-10, lost 9-11 to Liverpool and drew 9-9 with York to finish in 4th place, just behind Liverpool. Group stage winners Manchester then faced a similarly undefeated York side again in a closely contested final, drawing 9-9 at full-time before the Mancunians sealed the title 11-10 after extra time. The Newcastle Vikings women's team, also featuring a few guest players, meanwhile took on league rivals Edinburgh, with the Scots winning all three games 7-15, 8-13 and 4-12.



The seniors tournament was followed a week later by a juniors mini-tournament at Benfield Sports Centre on 24 June 2023, the final of which was won 9-5 by Darras Hall against the Vikings team, while the Hotspurs team beat Gosforth on penalties in the 3rd/4th-place play-off. Newcastle's youth players also took on each other on the same day. The club's younger players had also previously enjoyed a number of fun internal friendly match days tied in with Children in Need fundraising in mid-November 2022, Christmas fun on 10 December 2022, and on 14 January, 11 February and 11 March 2023, when the club also held an EHA-funded handball open day for 3-5 year old children. Off the court, the Vikings players and volunteers enjoyed going to support Newcastle United's women's football team at St. James' Park in November, as well as indoor climbing in January.



Towards the end of the season, having attended additional preparatory training sessions during May and June, several of Newcastle Vikings' youth players attended the trials for the EHA under-16 North Regional Academy on 24 June 2023 in Oldham. All of those attending – Edda Stenbom-Moss, Brendan Fisher,



Charlie Pickett, George Archer, Joseph Meachery, Oliver Cass, Zac Barbieri and Zavi Racey – were successful in being selected for the Regional Academy programme, which is the second age-group stage of the England Handball performance pathway.



Meanwhile, having just finished their first season playing in the Vikings' senior men's team, winger Aaron Edmundson and goalkeeper Charlie Emmett were successful in being selected for the EHA's final stage under-19 National Academy Talent Pathway. This academy programme is designed to support the development of players demonstrating a commitment to club handball and who have the potential and desire to grow their skills to progress into youth national teams.

On the international stage, Durham University goalkeeper Sophie O'Sullivan ended her year out abroad by once again being selected for the Great Britain women's squad that travelled to Spain to compete in June's IV Nations Tournament. In a tough first competition of the year, they lost 15-48 to home side Catalonia on 3 June 2023, before also losing 23-44 to Galicia the following day.



With the national women's team away at a training camp, Newcastle Vikings' Andrea King got the opportunity to play for a Great Britain representative team at the London Handball Nations Cup on 1-2 July 2023, a tournament where players from different clubs across the country come together to play in teams representing their countries or regions. Great Britain lost their group stage games 7-8 to France, 15-7 to Poland and 7-16 to a mixed All Nations team, before losing 9-5 to Romania in their Plate competition semi-final. However, they finished off with a 7-9 revenge victory over France to place 7th overall.



The summer's British Beach Handball Championships were shortened to a one-day competition on 6 August 2023 after heavy rain and high winds on the south Dorset coast forced the first day's scheduled matches at Poole's Sandbanks beach to be cancelled. In the 13-team men's tournament, Newcastle Vikings' Aaron Edmundson, Fabian van der Velden and Timo Keller played for the Bristol-led *Sandsationals* team that also featured former Vikings player Sam Turner. After losing both of their group stage games 0-2 to the Beach Brothers and Olympia, they picked up a half-win in their play-off match against home side Poole Phoenix 1 but lost 2-1 after a penalty shoot-out. The men's cup was



retained by the London Beach Handball team.

Vikings ladies Andrea King, Maria González Pascual, Marlen Slinning Goulty and Rózsa Szűcs meanwhile teamed up again with friends from Edinburgh, Liverpool and Bristol as the *GoalDiggers*. A 2-1 penalty shoot-out win in their first group match against Chelsea was followed by a 0-2 defeat to reigning BBHC champions London GD, before they also lost 2-0 to Olympia in their semi-final. In the absence of any placement play-off matches, they effectively finished in joint 3rd place out of the seven women's sides, as London GD also retained their title.



Newcastle Vikings' senior league top scorers Marian Machel and Alexandra Inta, as well as youth player George Archer, were shortlisted for the men's, women's and 08/09 boys' players-of-the-season respectively in the Scottish Handball Association's annual Cooper-Neilsen Awards in October 2023.

First Sponsors Fly in for Vikings – 2023/24

Newcastle Vikings' ladies went into the new season looking to build upon last year's British Handball Super Cup experience, while the men's team had opted to drop down into the second-tier SHA Development League after a winless season in the top division. But despite switching one of their two weekly training sessions to the Newcastle United Foundation's new NUCastle Sports Centre closer to the city centre in the hope of attracting more university student players, both teams continued to struggle with player availability and injuries, and were ultimately pressed into recruiting a few unregistered players from Durham University and York Handball Clubs to make up teams for the latter matches of the season. While having qualified through last season's league position, the uncertain situation also unfortunately meant that Newcastle's women were not in a position to take up their place in this season's Celtic Cup competition between the top three teams in the Scottish and Irish handball leagues.



The Vikings women were nevertheless boosted by Durham University's Great Britain goalkeeper Sophie O'Sullivan joining for the full season, meaning usual goalkeepers Andrea King and Caroline Bergum chose to switch to just playing outfield on the wings. Their opening



Scottish league match at the Oriam Sports Performance Centre on 7 October 2023 saw Edinburgh once again run out dominant 34-11 winners, the reigning champions ultimately going on another unbeaten run to league and cup titles. The highlight of Newcastle's



season came in their next game when they stunned the combined Troon-Kelvinside team to win 28-21 with just six players on 21 October 2023, led by right-half Oliwia Szymkowiak scoring a fantastic 14 goals. Amazingly, they repeated the feat while sporting their new Pro-Em team kit in the return fixture on 3 February 2024, centre Marlen Slinning Goulty this time hitting double figures with 10 goals in their 17-24 victory. Goulty went on to top-score with 49 goals for the season, and was shortlisted for the women's player-of-the-season in the SHA's Cooper-Neilsen Awards in September 2024. However, while also picking up double victories over East Kilbride's EK82, Newcastle's up-and-down season saw them suffer double losses themselves to both Edinburgh and Tryst, which left them to finish in 3rd place in the final league table.



In the new end-of-season SHA League Cup competition, the Vikings were drawn against second-placed Tryst in the women's semi-final but again narrowly lost out 30-25 on 20 April 2024, despite 10 goals from centre Sofia Solli. Newcastle's ladies nevertheless rounded off their Scottish season the following week with a 14-26 win over EK82 in the 3rd/4th-place bronze play-off match on 27 April 2024.



The men's Development League turned out to be a rather ad hoc affair with only half of their expected fixtures ultimately getting arranged and the opposition for one of those games pulling out at the last minute. The Vikings got off to a winning start in beating Troon 18-31 in their opening match on 18 November 2023, while their 24-32 defeat of Tryst on 14 April 2024 was thanks in no small part to a fabulous 15-goal haul from back-court player Adam Batley.



Marian Machel also struck double figures with 10 goals as they rounded off their league season with a frustrating home 27-27 draw against a six-man Kelvinside team on 11 May 2024. However, it was England Handball Academy winger Aaron Edmundson who top-scored overall with 21 goals across the four played matches. Meanwhile, Adam Mobberley's seven goals in the draw with Kelvinside brought up his century of league and cup goals for the Vikings, the third Newcastle male player to reach that milestone.



Scottish Handball Association National Leagues 2023/24

Men's Development League			Results
18 Nov	Troon	W	18-31
7 Jan	Kelvinside	L	43-8
6 Apr	EK82	W	0-10*
14 Apr	Tryst	W	24-32
11 May	Kelvinside	D	27-27

* forfeited walk-over win/loss

Women's League			Results
7 Oct	Edinburgh	L	34-11
21 Oct	Troon-Kelvinside	W	28-21
4 Nov	Tryst	L	20-29
11 Nov	EK82	W	12-25
20 Jan	Edinburgh	L	15-32
3 Feb	Troon-Kelvinside	W	17-24
17 Feb	Tryst	L	27-25
16 Mar	EK82	W	23-19

Men's Development League	P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
Newcastle Vikings	5	3	1	1	+108	-112	-4	10

Women's League	P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
1 Edinburgh	8	8	0	0	+251	-103	+148	24
2 Tryst	8	6	0	2	+188	-167	+21	18
3 Newcastle Vikings	8	4	0	4	+173	-191	-18	12
4 Troon-Kelvinside	8	1	0	7	+118	-178	-60	3
5 EK82	8	1	0	7	+128	-219	-91	3

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's Scottish League and Cup Players 2023/24

Men		Played	Goals
Charlie Emmett (GK)		4	-
Jan Joachim Zan		2	3
Adam Keeney		3	5
Alexander Nietosvuori		2	-
Kimi Karjalainen		3	2
Aaron Edmundson		4	21
Shawn Anuptra Martin		2	6
Adam Batley		3	20
Adam Mobberley (C)		1	7
Iacopo Benesperi		1	4
Wiktor Laczny		1	3
Ross Comrie		3	1
Leo Thanh Sankey		1	-
Timo Keller		1	2
Marian Machel		2	19
Anas Sarhane		1	4
Ioan Polenciuc		1	1

Women		Played	Goals
Sophie O'Sullivan (GK)		10	-
Marie Brevet		2	2
Sofia Solli		2	18
Marlen Slinning Goulty		10	49
Andrea Haaland		1	5
Felicity Lawrence		2	2
Nadine Waehning		3	14
Oliwia Szymkowiak		5	37
Andrea King		10	29
Andrea Rašpolić		2	11
Frida Eide		1	9
Ingrid Melboe Tajet		2	-
Alexandra Inta		4	9
Alina Inta		1	-
Sandra Christke (C)		9	28
Caroline Bergum		8	11



Newcastle Vikings' men had opened their season with a 19-32 friendly match win away to Durham University on 22 October 2023, with a few of the Vikings ladies also joining in a women's match. Some of Newcastle's men then joined together with York Handball Club for the Edinburgh Handball Xmas Tournament at Edinburgh University over the weekend of 16-17 December 2023. The combined York-Newcastle team lost their first match 15-11 to Edinburgh, before beating Glasgow University 7-9 and losing 16-14 to Liverpool to finish 3rd in their group. They then defeated Bristol 19-16 in the second-tier Shield competition semi-final, but lost out 15-13 in the Shield final rematch against Glasgow University. In the new year, Newcastle Vikings hosted return matches against Durham University at the NUCastle Sports Centre on 15 January 2024, which saw the Vikings' men win 28-22 and the women also victorious in a dominant 20-4 win.



Meanwhile, following hosting their annual Intercollegiate Cup and Legends match on 5 November 2023 at their Maiden Castle Sports Centre, Durham University scored away friendly wins over the University of York on 19



November 2023, winning the men's and women's matches 28-33 and 16-17 respectively. However, Durham's men were knocked out in the first round of the EHA National Cup a week later on 25 November 2023, losing 17-34 to Loughborough University's first team at East Durham College in Peterlee.

Durham University's men and women then travelled to Oldham for the first round of North regional BUCS competition on 3 December 2023, with the men's team winning 13-12 against Leeds, before losing 15-16 to Liverpool John Moore's and 19-23 against Lancaster in their Championship matches. Their women's A team meanwhile lost 7-9 to Liverpool and 8-15 to LJMU in the Championship, while the B team were heavily beaten 1-15 by Manchester in the second-tier Trophy group. The second round of BUCS competition took place on 4 February 2024, with Durham's men this time picking up two wins in beating Leeds 10-9 and Lancaster 13-11, but losing 8-11 to LJMU. The women's



A team picked up an 11-4 win over York but lost 6-8 to Leeds, while their B team drew 5-5 with Bangor before losing 4-9 to Lancaster and 1-2 to Leeds

Beckett. However, none of the Durham teams ultimately qualified for the BUCS National Finals this season. The North East did nevertheless have representation at the Derby Arena finals weekend on 9-10 March 2024 in the shape of Newcastle Vikings referee Craig Swanson.

Durham then took part in a Leeds Beckett University tournament on 17 February 2024, where they played against the home Carnegie teams, Leeds University, Liverpool and Lancaster, with the women finishing in 3rd place and the men in 5th place. Following some mixed friendly matches with Newcastle Vikings on 11 March 2024, Durham then held their own tournament at their Maiden Castle Sports Centre on 21 April 2021. Newcastle's men beat the hosts' A and B teams 7-19 and 19-3 respectively, before also beating Lancaster 11-21.



However, the Vikings finished in 2nd place after losing 8-17 to an unbeaten York team in their final match. Durham's A team meanwhile lost 23-13 to Lancaster and 25-5 to York, while drawing 14-14 with their B team who also lost 5-26 to York and 11-21 to Lancaster. The season's university competitions concluded with the outdoor EHA Summer Cup at Nottingham University's David Ross Sports Village on 9 June 2024, where Durham's men and women took on teams from Birmingham, Imperial, Loughborough, Nottingham and Warwick.

In schools competitions, pupils from South Tyneside and Gateshead came together for the South of Tyne Handball Schools Games at South Shields' Temple Park Leisure Centre. The boys' finals took place on 26 January 2024, with the girls following a week later on 2 February 2024. St. Joseph's Catholic Academy won both the under-15 boys and under-13 girls tournaments, while Thorp Academy took both the under-15 girls and under-13 boys titles.



Durham Johnston Comprehensive was, however, the only North East school to attend the EHA Regional Finals in Oldham, with all of their teams having qualified from the Durham county schools tournaments. Following some extra training with Durham University, both the younger boys and girls teams reached the semi-finals of the under-13 competitions on 25 April 2024, and while both were beaten the girls won their 3rd/4th-place play-off to secure the bronze medals. However, the older boys and girls just missed out on reaching the semi-finals of the under-15 competitions on 15 May 2024.



With several of Newcastle Vikings' youth players having England Handball Regional Academy commitments south of the border, the club had decided not to enter their under-16 boys team into the SHA's 2008/09 age-group competitions this season. The Vikings nevertheless secured their

first grassroots handball sponsors in autumn 2023, with the mini, junior and youth players proudly sporting the logo of local solicitors Hay & Kilner on their new Pro-Em kit shirtsleeves in the new year. In addition to Children in Need fundraising and Christmas fun handball sessions on 12 and 29 November 2023 respectively, Newcastle Vikings hosted a couple of local juniors mini-tournament days on 9 March and 8 June 2024 at the Benfield Sports Centre. The junior and youth players then



rounded off their indoor season taking on each other for the first time in a friendly match on 19 June 2024. The youth players also got to play internal friendly matches during the tournament days, while some additionally gained a taste of senior handball training sessions and friendly matches during the season to help in their



transition into the senior game. Several also gained their EHA Level 1 Refereeing qualifications at a practical refereeing course run by Vikings referee Craig Swanson on 25 March 2024.

As part of the EHA's development programme, the club's Academy players, joined by family and a few senior Vikings players, got the opportunity to go and support Great Britain's senior men taking on Kosovo in their home second-leg EHF European Promotional Round qualifier match at the Derby Arena on 13 January 2024. While the British team narrowly lost 23-29, everyone thoroughly enjoyed a competitive game and great atmosphere.



Perhaps inspired by watching their peers competing so well on the international stage, two of the Vikings' Academy players, goalkeeper Joseph Meachery and right-winger Zavi Racey, were each successful in being selected to attend a couple of EHA Futures Programme training camps in February and April 2024 and in June and July 2024 respectively, although unfortunately neither player was ultimately able to take up their Talent Pathway call-ups to attend.



Newcastle Vikings and Durham University goalkeeper Sophie O'Sullivan also continued to receive her own international call-ups for Great Britain's senior women's squad. She was selected for two training camps in Skopje, North Macedonia, firstly between 20-27 November 2023 and then again at the end of the season between 12-18 June 2024, both of which included friendly matches against their hosts. In between those was a trip to Gaia, Portugal between 1-7 April 2024 where they played friendlies against local sides Almeida Garret, Colegio de Gaia and CALE. However, the highlight came just as they had returned home from Portugal to find out that the IHF had handed Great Britain's women a most unexpected last-minute official wild card opportunity to play in one of three Paris 2024 Olympic Qualification Tournaments, following



Cameroon being unable to travel to fulfil their participation. It meant the squad immediately flew out to Debrecen in Hungary to take on the world-class experience of Hungary, Japan and Sweden. It was always going to be a very tough ask to finish in the top two in the tournament group and qualify for the summer's Olympic Games, and Great Britain were ultimately soundly beaten 49-11 by Hungary on 11 April, 43-



16 by Japan on 12 April and 8-52 by Sweden on 14 April 2024. While, as second-choice keeper, O'Sullivan only came on to play a few minutes in each of the matches, she did make some good saves and thoroughly savoured the amazing experience along with the rest of the British squad.

In end-of-season domestic competitions, Newcastle Vikings players Andrea King, Sophie O'Sullivan and Nadine Waehning guested for Edinburgh in the annual Liverpool International Handball Tournament on 25-26 May 2024, while Aaron



Edmundson played for Bishops Stortford's team. Edinburgh lost 6-3 to Liverpool and 9-13 to NEM Hawks, before drawing 8-8 with London Islington to finish 3rd in their group, but then lost out 8-7 to Tryst in the 5th/6th-place play-off. Bishops Stortford meanwhile lost 14-11 to Glasgow University and drew 10-10 with Tryst in the men's group matches, before being beaten by Dubai and Manchester in their second-tier trophy play-off matches.





Newcastle Vikings hosted their 10th annual Tyneside Handball Tournament on 15 June 2024 at the Benfield Sports Centre. York were doubly victorious to lift their first major tournament titles. In the men's competition, they just beat Liverpool 12-11 in a nail-biting final after having won all of their group matches and Liverpool being denied a buzzer-



beater goal to equalise in the last second. Newcastle's men finished in 4th place, behind Glasgow University, having lost 6-14 to York and 9-8 to Glasgow, before drawing 8-8 with Sheffield, losing 10-15 to Liverpool and winning their final game 12-11 against Bishops Stortford. The women's matches saw the Vikings take on a York-led 'Misfits' team, both featuring a few guest players. After two drawn games, 8-8 and 10-10, it was York who ultimately won the decider 11-9 to take the title.



The British Beach Handball Championships at Poole's Sandbanks Beach took place earlier than usual on 20-21 July, partly to avoid clashing with the summer Olympics. Newcastle Vikings players Aaron Edmundson, Andrea King, Fliss Lawrence and Sophie O'Sullivan joined together with former Viking Sam Turner in Bristol Handball Club's men's and women's teams again. The men's *SandCracks* team lost their first four group matches 0-2 against Loughborough University's *Smash or Be Smashed*, Hussars and Olympia, and 1-2 in a penalty shoot-out against West London Eagles, before scoring a penalty shoot-out 2-1 win of their own against Bournemouth University to finish joint 4th in their group. However, they were then knocked out 1-2 by the Old Lions in another penalty shoot-out. The women's *BeachBabes* team meanwhile won 2-0



against Loughborough University's *The UNO Club* in their second match, but lost 0-2 in their other group-stage matches to Poole Phoenix, London GD, West London Eagles and Olympia, before losing their 5th/6th-place placement match 1-2 to Loughborough in a penalty shoot-out. London Beach Handball and London GD retained their men's and women's titles respectively.



Having signed up Hay & Kilner solicitors as their first grassroots handball sponsors, this season also saw Newcastle Vikings secure their first main club sponsorship deal in spring 2024 with international aviation company APG Scandanavia. The Vikings' men would be sporting the APG logo on the front of their new Pro-Em team kit for the 2024/25 season.

Hay & Kilner



Vikings on Tour – 2024/25

With continued uncertainties around player numbers, availability and injuries, Newcastle Vikings' women opted to combine with Troon Handball Club for the 2024/25 campaign, playing as *Troon-Vikings*. They were also joined by a few players from Glasgow and York Handball Clubs who similarly did not have enough players for their own women's teams. The combined team was nevertheless managed by Newcastle's head coach Marlen Slinning Goulty, herself now semi-retired from playing due to persistent back and shoulder injuries, while the team ended up sporting Newcastle Vikings kit for all of their matches. However, the lack of opportunity to train and practice tactical plays together meant they were again unable to prepare for matches as they would have liked.

Newcastle Vikings' third place finish in the Scottish league last season had again qualified them for this season's Celtic Cup tournament, contested between the top three teams in the previous season's Scottish and Irish handball leagues. This time, however, with the combined *Troon-Vikings* team approved to take up Newcastle's place in the competition, the Vikings' players headed off on a first overseas mini tour to Dublin for the group stage matches at the Republic of Ireland's National Basketball Arena over the weekend of 19-20 October 2024. Their opening match on the Saturday saw them face Astra, with the Dublin-based reigning Irish league champions running



Celtic Cup 2024: Troon-Vikings v Astra women / Dublin City v Troon-Vikings women



out clear 14-32 winners. Sunday's second match against Dublin City was a tighter contest, with *Troon-Vikings* putting in a much improved performance and holding the lead for most of the game before the home side came back in the second half to edge it 17-14. That second loss for the tourists meant *Troon-Vikings* finished the group stage in 5th place out of the six women's teams, narrowly missing out on qualifying as one of the top four for the Celtic Cup semi-finals and finals weekend in Edinburgh in February 2025.



Back in the league, the *Troon-Vikings* team were soundly beaten in all of their matches against Scotland's two strongest sides Edinburgh and eventual league champions Tryst, while having to forfeit their penultimate league game against Edinburgh due to a lack of available players. A welcome string of three consecutive league victories did nevertheless come mid-season, all against



EK82. The Vikings had been boosted by Judyta Turulska's return from long-term injury in the late autumn, and her first strike of the new year in a tense 20-21 victory over the East Kilbride side



at the Alistair McCoist Leisure Centre on 25 January 2025 saw her become the third Newcastle Vikings player to pass the 200 league and cup goals milestone, going on to end the season on 217 goals in 49 appearances.



The third of that mid-season winning treble against EK82 on 1 February 2025 saw player-coach Marlen Slinning shrug off her shoulder injury pains to help ensure a full team, and score a remarkable eight goals from the right wing in her only game of the season, as the Vikings ran out 11-23 victors. It was perhaps a fitting way to star in what seems likely to have been her final competitive match for the club she founded, having scored a grand total of 239 goals in 64 league and cup appearances.



Scottish Handball Association National League 2024/25

Women's League		Results	
21 Sept	Edinburgh	L	29-4
5 Oct	Tryst	L	11-24
26 Oct	Edinburgh	L	7-29
16 Nov	Tryst	L	28-11
6 Dec	EK 82	W	20-15
25 Jan	EK 82	W	20-21
1 Feb	EK 82	W	11-23
8 Feb	Edinburgh	L	10-0*
15 Feb	Tryst	L	19-31

* forfeited walk-over win/loss



Women's League	P	W	D	L	For	Against	+/-	Pts
3 Troon-Vikings	9	3	0	6	+116	-197	-81	9



Having finished in 3rd place in the league, *Troon-Vikings'* women were drawn against second-placed Edinburgh in the SHA League Cup semi-final at Oriam on 29 March 2025. However, a poor all-round team performance coupled with Edinburgh's superior shooting accuracy and solid defence saw them knocked out 35-9 in what was the women's team's record heaviest defeat. Their 3rd/4th-place play-off match then took place a month later at the same venue on 26 April 2025, but while a depleted team of just six available *Troon-Vikings* players fought hard against EK82 they ultimately saw a tough season come to a disappointing end with a 27-17 defeat.



After a record 98 consecutive Vikings league and cup appearances, that final game of the season was the first competitive match that usual goalkeeper and sometime winger Andrea King had missed in the 12 years since the Club was established, having played every minute of each of their first 67 matches over the seven pre-Covid years. Captain Sandra Christke-Lamb finished the

season as top scorer for the first time with 48 goals, nine of those strikes coming in the team's first win of the season over EK82 on 6 December 2024. The German founding member continues to lead Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's all-time top scorers list with 282 goals in her 91 league and cup appearances to date.



Troon-Vikings' Scottish League and Cup Players 2024/25

Women	Played	Goals
Andrea King (GK)	11	1
Caroline Bergum (GK)	9	4
Edda Stenbom-Moss	2	1
Andrea Rašpolić	6	22
Alexa MacTaggart	7	4
Judyta Turulska	7	27
Beata Bartnik	5	3
Nadine Waehning	6	21
Eilidh McDonald	9	6
Christie McDonald	7	13
Andrea Gunner	10	11
Charlotte Crossland	1	1
Clare Duddy	2	-
Marlen Slinning Goult	1	8
Sandra Christke-Lamb (C)	11	48



With no SHA Development League matches ultimately getting arranged, the only men's player to get a taste of Scottish league action this season was Newcastle Vikings and Durham University's Aaron Edmundson who guested for Glasgow in their 33-27 loss to Kelvinside on 8 February 2025.

The Vikings men were otherwise left to just play various friendly matches and tournaments, which nevertheless presented good opportunities for several of their up-and-coming EHA Academy players to gain some experience of senior handball to help support their development. A few of Newcastle's men firstly joined forces with York Handball Club for a pre-season mini-tournament in Oldham on 29 September 2024, with the combined *New-York* team beating Liverpool but losing against EK82 and Manchester's NEM Hawks.



The Vikings men eventually got to debut their new APG Scandinavia-sponsored kit in a 16-27 away win over Durham University at their Maiden Castle venue on 10 November 2024. A fun mixed friendly match with

men's and women's players from EK82 then followed the women's league match at Benfield Sports Centre on 6 December 2024.



New year friendly matches saw Newcastle's men and women beat Durham University 19-17 and 15-6 respectively at the NUCastle Foundation venue on 27 January 2025. The men's team returned to Maiden Castle on 23 February 2025 to amass an emphatic 10-55 away victory over Durham's students. The Vikings men then fought their way to a 34-29 home victory over York at Benfield Sports Centre on 8 March 2025, another great achievement given how the visitors were on a season-long unbeaten run to the title in their debut English North Regional League season.

Newcastle's men took the honours at Durham University's mini-tournament at Maiden Castle on 27 April 2025, beating the hosts 12-31 and 11-23, while winning 20-12 and losing 13-20 against the newly formed Leeds City Handball Club.





The Vikings men, joined by a couple of guest players, rounded off their season at the Liverpool International Handball Tournament over the weekend of 24-25 May 2025. While they drew their opening match against Tryst 14-14, they then lost their other group matches 6-11 to Glasgow, 9-16 to Liverpool, 5-8 to Havana New Generation and 11-14 to the Old Devanians. With their scheduled final group game against Navegador postponed, the Vikings finished in 6th place in their group. Some of the *Troon-Vikings* women's team also took part, joining together with Durham University, Edinburgh and a few other guest players to compete as a *North Stars* team. However, they were similarly unable to pick up



any wins over the weekend, losing 1-11 to Northampton, 5-6 to Olympia, 2-15 to Liverpool, 3-15 to Bergen and 5-11 to Tryst, to finish in last place.

Durham University had meanwhile opened their season with home friendly matches against the University of York on 27 October 2024, with the Durham men winning 19-10 while the women lost 5-13.



The women's team faced York again in the first round of the BUCS universities competition in Oldham on 1 December 2024, this time gaining a 7-7 draw before then winning 12-2 against Leeds Beckett. Durham's men lost their only game of the round 8-19 to Lancaster, but gained a forfeit win over Manchester.



Returning to Oldham for the second round of BUCS matches on 2 February 2025, Durham's women scored a 6-4 win over Lancaster and a big 14-1 win over Leeds 2 before narrowly losing 8-9 to Bangor, while the men's team lost both of their games 10-21 to Liverpool

John Moores and 12-17 to Liverpool. The results over the two rounds of fixtures placed Durham 4th in the Men's Championship North group and 3rd in the Women's Trophy North group, but both teams missed out on qualifying for the season's BUCS Finals. Vikings player Aaron Edmundson was presented with Durham University's men's player of the year at their end of the season awards.



Both Aaron Edmundson and Oli Cass had also been regularly joining up with the EHA National Academy set-up throughout the season, while fellow Vikings youth players George Archer, Brendan Fisher, Joseph Meachery, Charlie Pickett, Zavi Racey and Cillian Sears continued to attend EHA Regional Academy talent pathway training sessions. Newcastle's under-16 boys team showed how much they had improved together when they won all three of their matches in

Trafford Handball Club's youth development tournament on 3 November 2024 in Urmston, Manchester, fighting back from behind in each game to beat Tryst 13-11, hosts Trafford 15-11 and Shropshire 14-11 to take top spot.



Having also attended a British Olympic Association handball talent-spotting event in Manchester on 10 November 2024, Vikings youth team captain George Archer was selected for an EHA Academy U16 Talent Pathway Futures Camp tour to Nazaré in Portugal between 19-23 February 2025. The four-day performance-based training and educational camp included a range of on-



court, strength and conditioning and video analysis sessions, plus competitive matches against local Leiria Regional Handball Association U14 teams and Nazaré's U16 team, together with various social team-bonding activities.



Following a series of autumn trials in Newcastle and Sunderland, this season also saw the debut of a newly established Tyne & Wear County under-13 boys team, comprising a mix of players from Newcastle Vikings and local schools. Having narrowly lost 17-16 to a Vikings youth/junior team in a friendly game on 6 February 2025, the team then competed in an EHA U13 regional county tournament in Oldham on 29 March 2025. Sporting their new Pro-Em team kit,



it was a great experience for all involved, and while Tyne & Wear lost their opening match 3-17 to Greater Manchester they picked up a well-deserved first win 6-3 against Merseyside 2. However, they were then beaten 2-7 and 5-12 in their other games against Shropshire and Merseyside 1.



Meanwhile, Newcastle's Luisa Krautz got the opportunity to guest for Shropshire's U13 girls team, helping them to win the regional tournament and qualify for the national county finals. The EHA national finals then took place at the University of Gloucestershire

on 18 May 2025, when she also played a starring playmaker role as Shropshire were crowned U13 National County champions.

In schools competitions, South Tyneside and Gateshead hosted their U15 and U13 boys handball tournaments at Temple Park Leisure Centre on 23 January 2025, with the girls tournaments following a week later on 31 January 2025. Newcastle's U13 tournaments



then took place at Benfield Sports Centre on 12 February 2025, with St. Mary's Catholic School's boys and the home Benfield School girls coming out winners. The North Tyneside U13 tournaments followed on 20 February 2025 at Burnside College in Wallsend, with Wellfield Middle School winning both the girls and boys competitions.

The EHA's North East Regional Schools Finals took place at the Beacon of Light Sports Centre in Sunderland on 28 April 2025. South Tyneside's St. Joseph's Catholic Academy were victorious over Durham Johnston in both the U13 boys and girls competitions. The U15 titles were won by Gateshead's Thorp Academy girls and South Tyneside's Boldon boys, with Durham Johnston and Chester-le-Street's Hermitage Academy the respective runners-up.



The EHA National Schools Finals were held at the University of Nottingham over the weekend of 24-25 June 2025, with the North East region being represented by Thorp Academy in the U15 girls competition and Durham Johnston in the



U15 boys and U13 girls and boys tournaments. However, none of them were able to progress beyond the group stages, with only Durham Johnston's U13 girls picking up a match win.

Other Newcastle Vikings Handball Club activities this season included a pre-Christmas juniors and minis tournament day at Benfield Sports Centre on 30 November 2024, when the youth players also took on the seniors in a mixed friendly game. Many of the Tyne & Wear county and Vikings younger players went to watch a Newcastle Eagles men's basketball match at the city's Vertu Motors Arena on 14 March 2025, where Newcastle Vikings Handball Club featured as the main fundraising beneficiary.



An Easter-themed handball fun day for the Club's junior and mini players followed on 17 March 2025 at Benfield Sports Centre. A further end-of-season mini tournament day then took place on 9 June 2025, before the youngsters enjoyed a series of summer beach handball sessions in South Shields.



However, none of the Newcastle Vikings or Durham University senior players ended up taking part in this season's British Beach Handball Championships. Newcastle Vikings' men were nevertheless looking forward to a return to competitive league action for the 2025/26 season, having signed up to play in the English North Regional League once again.

Tyneside Handball Tournament Roll of Honour 2013-2024

	Men		Women	
	Champions	Runners-up	Champions	Runners-up
2013	Edinburgh	-	Edinburgh	-
2014	Glasgow	EK 82	Newcastle Vikings	Edinburgh
2015	Glasgow	Edinburgh	Cranfield University	York-Durham
2016	Strathclyde University	Glasgow	Newcastle Vikings	Edinburgh
2017	Glasgow	EK 82	Edinburgh	University of Leeds
2018	EK 82	Newcastle Vikings	Newcastle Vikings	-
2019	Coventry Sharks	Edinburgh	Edinburgh	Coventry Sharks
2022	EK 82	Edinburgh	Newcastle Vikings	Edinburgh
2023	Manchester	York	Edinburgh	-
2024	York	Liverpool	York	-

North East Handball League Roll of Honour 2015-2018

Men & Women Combined		
	Champions	Runners-up
2015/16	Newcastle Vikings	York City Hunters
2016/17	Durham University	Newcastle Vikings
2017/18	York City Hunters	Newcastle Vikings

Tyne & Wear Handball School Games Roll of Honour 2017-2023

Under-15		
	Boys	Girls
2017	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	Biddick Academy (Sunderland)
2018	Biddick Academy (Sunderland)	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)
2019	Churchill Community College (North Tyneside)	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)
2020	Churchill Community College (North Tyneside)	Boldon School (South Tyneside)
2023	Marden High School (North Tyneside)	Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy (Gateshead)

Under-13		
	Boys	Girls
2017	Churchill Community College (North Tyneside)	St. Wilfrids RC College (South Shields)
2018	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	St. Wilfrids RC College (South Shields)
2019	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	Wellfield Middle School (North Tyneside)
2020	John Spence Sports College (North Tyneside)	Valley Gardens Middle School (N. Tyneside)
2023	Boldon School (South Tyneside)	Thorp Academy (Gateshead)

North East Handball School Games Roll of Honour 2017-2025

Under-15		
	Boys	Girls
2017	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	Gosforth Academy (Newcastle)
2018	Biddick Academy (Sunderland)	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)
2019	Churchill Community College (North Tyneside)	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)
2022	Nidderdale High School (Harrogate)	High Tunstall College of Science (Hartlepool)
2025	Boldon School (South Tyneside)	Thorp Academy (Gateshead)

Under-13		
	Boys	Girls
2017	Lord Lawson of Beamish Academy (Gateshead)	St. Wilfrids RC College (South Shields)
2018	High Tunstall College of Science (Hartlepool)	St. Wilfrids RC College (South Shields)
2019	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	High Tunstall College of Science (Hartlepool)
2022	Oxclose Community Academy (Sunderland)	Ovingham Middle School (Northumberland)
2025	St. Joseph's Catholic Academy (S. Tyneside)	St. Joseph's Catholic Academy (S. Tyneside)

Newcastle University Handball Club Honours and Achievements 1966-1974 and 1995

British National Handball Championships	Men's runners-up	1973
	Men's runners-up	1974
British Universities Handball Championships	Men's champions	1966 *
	Men's champions	1967 *
	Men's champions	1968 *
	Men's runners-up	1969 *
	Men's champions	1971 *
British Student Handball Championships	Women's champions	1995
	Men's runners-up	1995
Heriot-Watt Trophy – Handball Challenge Cup	Men's champions	1966
	Men's champions	1967
	Men's champions	1968
	Men's runners-up	1969
	Men's champions	1971
	Men's champions	1973
Geordie Cup	Men's champions	1972
	Men's runners-up	1973

* the Heriot-Watt Trophy Handball Challenge Cup competitions doubled up as the British Universities Handball Championships in these years.

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Honours and Achievements 2013-2025




























British Handball Super Cup	Women's 4 th place	2023
England Handball Regional League North	Women's champions	2017/18
	Men's champions	2018/19
England Handball League Cup / National Shield	Women's runners-up	2014/15
	Women's semi-finalists	2015/16
	Men's semi-finalists	2016/17
	Women's quarter-finalists	2016/17
	Men's quarter-finalists	2017/18
Scottish Handball National League	Women's runners-up	2022/23
British Beach Handball Championships	Women's Plate quarter-finalists	2015
	Men's Cup quarter-finalists (7 th)	2016
	Women's Plate semi-finalists (10 th)	2016
	Women's Plate 3 rd place (7 th)	2018
	Women's Plate quarter-finalists (13 th)	2019
Tyneside Handball Tournament	Women's champions	2014
	Women's champions	2016
	Men's runners-up	2018
	Women's champions	2018
	Women's champions	2022
Edinburgh International Handball Tournament	Women's runners-up	2014
EK82 Tom Cooper Handball Tournament (Women's Craig Walter Cup)	Women's champions	2018
Trafford Youth Development Tournament	Boys champions	2024

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's All-time League & Cup Top Appearances 2013-25




























Men	Position	Total
Matthew Lamb	Wing/Line/GK	58
Daniel Walsh	Goalkeeper	58
Adam Mobberley	Wing/Line	51
Jonathan Bastit	Half/Centre	49
Craig Swanson	Line	44
Mark Harrison	Centre/Goalkeeper	33
Robert Thompson	Wing/Half	33
Stephan Stricker	Half/Centre	28
Kole Viejo-Cabellero	Wing/Line	23
Thomas Harrison	Half/Wing	21
Mohammed Fedi Boussema	Wing	21
David Topacho	Half/Centre	20
Julien Eng	Centre/Half	20
Adam Batley	Centre/Half/Wing	20
Holger Schulz	Line	18
Peter Schichtel	Centre/Half	17
Sam Turner	Wing	17
Chris Bowe	Half/Centre	17
Aaron Edmundson	Wing	16
Neil Bhandary	Half	14
Charlie Emmet	Goalkeeper/Wing	14
Pål Jakobsen	Goalkeeper	13
James Porter	Half	12
Scott Garrow	Wing	12
Pablo Docampo	Centre/Half	12
Shawn Anuptra Martin	Half/Wing/Line	12
Simon Heintz	Wing/Half	10
Marian Machel	Centre	10
Faisal Albathali	Goalkeeper	9
Mohammed Ghuloum	Centre/Half	9
Gracjan Joppek	Wing/Half	9
Johannes Bellm	Half/Wing	9
Wiktor Laczny	Wing/Half	9
Mike Cooke	Goalkeeper	8
Kamran Saeed	Wing	8
Iacopo Benesperi	Wing	8

Continued.....




































Men	Position	Total
Jason Lee	Centre	7
Dawid Miozga	Centre/Half	7
Jack Woods	Wing/Half	7
Etienne Lisse	Half/Centre	7
Andrei Bogdan Ciurea	Wing	7
Cedric Le Lay	Half/Line	7
Sam Downie	Wing	7
Amaury Michelant	Centre/Half	6
Benoit Barthel	Wing	6
Athbi Almarzouq	Half	6
Charlie Goulty	Half/Wing	6
Niall Flanagan	Wing	5
Vlad Cocos	Centre/Line	5
Bart Piorkowski	Half	5
Timo Keller	Centre/Half	5
Robin Devilette	Centre/Half	4
Gareth Bowden	Wing/Line	4
Frank Smelt	Half	4
Kasper Ottosen	Wing/GK	3
Nichlas Foldager	Centre/Half	3
Milan Anilkumar	Wing/Line	3
Adam Keeney	Wing	3
Ross Comrie	Line	3
Kimi Karjalainen	Centre/Half	3
Adam Harwood	Centre/Half	2
Fabian van der Velden	Half/Wing	2
Christos Iliadis	Line/Half	2
Alexander Nietosvuori	Line	2
Jan Joachim Zan	Half	2
Dan Hudachek	Half	1
Diogo Goncalo Malaco Caeiro	Half/Centre	1
Leo Thanh Sankey	Wing	1
Anas Sarhane	Line/Half	1
Ioan Polenciuc	Line	1
Benjamin Andrews	Line	1

Women	Position	Total
Andrea King	 Goalkeeper/Wing	98
Sandra Christke-Lamb	 Line/Centre	91
Marlen Slinning Goulty	 Centre/Half/Line	64
Blessing Ogbee	 Wing/Line	52
Judyta Turulska	 Half/Centre	49
Alina Inta	 Half	42
Marie Brevet (Thompson)	 Wing/Half	41
Maren Liane	 Line/Centre/Half	27
María José González-Alvarez	 Line	23
Katerina Gibson	 Wing	23
Caroline Bergum	 Goalkeeper/Wing	20
Krystina Coulson	 Wing	15
Kathryn Powell	 Centre/Half/Wing	15
Sofie Vaula	 Line/Wing	15
Gesa Junge	 Half	12
Alexandra Inta	 Centre/Half	12
Lea Vestergaard	 Half	10
Sophie O'Sullivan	 Goalkeeper	10
Andrea Gunner	 Centre/Wing	10
Rosa Larcy	 Centre/Half	9
Selina Stenberg	 Half	9
Nadine Waehning	 Line	9
Eilidh McDonald	 Centre	9
Meghan Acres	 Wing	8
Josefine Fienke Nanne	 Half	8
Andrea Rašpolić	 Half	8
Sina Linsenmann	 Centre/Half	7
Oliwia Szymkowiak	 Half	7
Christie McDonald	 Half/Wing	7
Alexa MacTaggart	 Wing	7
Emily Bjerk	 Half	6
María González-Pascual	 Line/Wing/Half	6
Mathilde Bergestad	 Wing	6
Eiman ElBanhawy	 Wing	6
Rebecka Östergren	 Line/Centre	5
Ed Ogbee	 Centre/Half	5
Beata Bartnik	Line	5




























Continued.....
















Women	Position	Total
Paulina Szulc	 Half	4
Emmanuelle Chandler	 Wing	4
Rebecca Johnson	 Half	4
Nina van Ruijven	 Wing/Half	4
Tonje Olsen	 Wing	4
Malin Walle	 Wing/Centre	4
Ingvild Misund	 Half	3
Annabelle Guinouard	 Half	3
Michelle Anderson	 Wing	3
Lea Muething	 Centre/Wing	3
Rózsa Szűcs	 Line/Wing	3
Josephine Magalhaes	 Wing	3
Fernanda Araujo	 Wing	2
Juliana de Santana Alves de Souza	 Wing	2
Felicity Lawrence	 Half/Wing	2
Sofia Solli	 Centre/Half	2
Ingrid Melboe Tajet	 Wing	2
Edda Stenbom-Moss	 Wing/Line	2
Clare Duddy	 Line/Wing	2
Andrea Haaland	 Half	1
Frida Eide	 Wing/Half	1
Laetitia Renard-Watson	 Wing	1
Claire Guyon	 Wing	1
Jessica Stanley	 Half/Wing	1
Sophie Granville	 Wing	1
Charlotte Crossland	 Half/Wing	1
Simone Smith	 Wing	1

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's All-time League & Cup Top Goal Scorers 2013-25



















Men		Played	Goals Scored	Goals per Game Strike Rate
Julien Eng		20	118	5.90
Adam Mobberley		50	100	2.00
Matthew Lamb		58	100	1.72
Adam Batley		19	87	4.58
Marian Machel		9	84	9.33
Stephan Stricker		28	77	2.75
Jonathan Bastit		49	73	1.49
David Topacho		20	68	3.40
Simon Heintz		10	67	6.70
Peter Schichtel		17	49	2.88
Pablo Docampo		12	48	4.00
Mark Harrison		33	47	1.42
Aaron Edmundson		15	45	3.00
Wiktor Laczny		9	43	4.78
Mohammed Ghuloum		9	37	4.11
Johannes Bellm		9	36	4.00
Kole Viejo-Cabellero		23	35	1.52
Athbi Almarzouq		6	32	5.33
Mohammed Fedi Boussema		21	29	1.38
Chris Bowe		17	28	1.65
Timo Keller		4	27	6.75
Amaury Michelant		6	26	4.33
Dawid Miozga		7	24	3.43
Shawn Anuptra Martin		12	23	1.92
Robert Thompson		33	23	0.70
Niall Flanagan		5	22	4.40
Bart Piorkowski		5	22	4.40
Craig Swanson		44	21	0.48
Cedric Le Lay		7	19	2.71
Gracjan Joppek		9	19	2.11
Holger Schulz		18	19	1.06
Nichlas Foldager		3	18	6.00
Scott Garrow		12	18	1.50
Andrei Bogdan Ciurea		7	16	2.29
Robin Devilette		4	15	3.75

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

Men		Played	Goals Scored	Goals per Game Strike Rate
Frank Smelt		4	14	3.50
Jack Woods		7	14	2.00
Adam Harwood		2	12	6.00
Iacopo Benesperi		8	12	1.50
Neil Bhandary		14	12	0.86
Thomas Harrison		21	10	0.48
Gareth Bowden		4	9	2.25
Etienne Lisse		7	9	1.29
Sam Turner		17	9	0.53
James Porter		12	8	0.67
Jason Lee		7	7	1.00
Charlie Emmet		13	6	0.46
Diogo Goncalo Malaco Caeiro		1	5	5.00
Adam Keeney		2	5	2.50
Anas Sarhane		1	4	4.00
Christos Iliadis		2	4	2.00
Vlad Cocos		5	4	0.80
Benjamin Andrews		1	3	3.00
Jan Joachim Zan		1	3	3.00
Sam Downie		7	3	0.43
Kimi Karjalainen		2	2	1.00
Ioan Polenciuc		1	1	1.00
Fabian van der Velden		2	1	0.50
Ross Comrie		2	1	0.50
Milan Anilkumar		3	1	0.33
Charlie Goulty		6	1	0.17
Daniel Walsh		57	1	0.02







Women		Played	Total	Goals per Game Strike Rate
Sandra Christke-Lamb		91	282	3.10
Marlen Slinning Goulty		64	239	3.73
Judyta Turulska		49	217	4.43
Alina Inta		42	179	4.26
Marie Brevet (Thompson)		41	107	2.61
Maren Liane		27	94	3.48
Blessing Ogbee		52	88	1.69
Sofie Vaula		15	58	3.87
Alexandra Inta		12	44	3.67
Oliwia Szymkowiak		7	42	6.00
Nadine Waehning		9	35	3.89
Andrea King		98	35	0.36
Andrea Rašpolić		8	33	4.13
Selina Stenberg		9	33	3.67
Rosa Larcy		9	33	3.67
Nina van Ruijven		4	30	7.50
Lea Vestergaard		10	28	2.80
Rebecka Östergren		5	27	5.40
Mathilde Bergestad		6	27	4.50
Sina Linsenmann		7	23	3.29
María José González-Alvarez		23	20	0.87
Sofia Solli		2	18	9.00
Gesa Junge		12	16	1.33
Emily Bjerk		6	15	2.50
Caroline Bergum		20	15	0.75
Christie McDonald		7	13	1.86
Josefine Fienke Nanne		8	13	1.63
Kathryn Powell		15	13	0.87
Eiman ElBanhawy		6	12	2.00
Annabelle Guinouard		3	11	3.67
Andrea Gunner		10	11	1.10
Krystina Coulson		16	10	0.63
Frida Eide		1	9	9.00
Ed Ogbee		5	9	1.80
Meghan Acres		8	8	1.00
Eilidh McDonald		9	6	0.67

Continued.....

Women		Played	Total	Goals per Game Strike Rate
Andrea Haaland		1	5	5.00
Lea Muething		3	5	1.67
Tonje Olsen		4	5	1.25
Katerina Gibson		23	5	0.22
Fernanda Araujo		2	4	2.00
Alexa MacTaggart		7	4	0.57
Ingvild Misund		3	3	1.00
Beata Bartnik		5	3	0.60
Jessica Stanley		1	2	2.00
Felicity Lawence		2	2	1.00
Rózsa Szűcs		3	2	0.67
María González-Pascual		7	2	0.29
Laetitia Renard-Watson		1	1	1.00
Charlotte Crossland		1	1	1.00
Edda Stenbom-Moss		2	1	0.50
Josephine Magalhaes		3	1	0.33
Rebecca Johnson		4	1	0.25
Malin Walle		4	1	0.25

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Teams at British Beach Handball Championships
All-time Appearances 2015-19

Women		Appearances				Total
		2015	2016	2018	2019	
Andrea King		6	6	6	6	24
Ed Ogbee		6	6	6	6	24
Sandra Christke-Lamb		6	6	6		18
Marlen Slinning Goulty		6	6	6		18
Blessing Ogbee		6	6		6	18
Krystina Coulson			6	6	6	18
Kathryn Powell		6	6			12
Eiman ElBanhawy			6		6	12
Birgitte Folkvord				6	6	12
Gesa Junge		6				6
Nina van Ruijven		6				6
Marie Brevet			6			6
Sofie Vaula			6			6
María José González-Alvarez				6		6
Caroline Steinhagen				6		6
Bruna Falgueras Vallbona					6	6

Men		Appearances	
		2016	Total
Chris Bowe		5	5
Gracjan Joppek		5	5
Wiktor Laczny		5	5
Matthew Lamb		5	5
Jamie Lau		5	5
Robert Thompson		5	5

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's Season League & Cup Top Goalscorers 2013-25

Men	Top Goalscorers	Top Goals per Game Strike Rate
2013/14	Jonathan Bastit 29 (9 games)	Mark Harrison 3.83 (23 in 6 games)
2014/15	Simon Heintz 67 (10 games)	Simon Heintz 6.70 (67 in 10 games)
2015/16	Wiktor Laczny 40 (8 games)	Nichlas Foldager 6.00 (18 in 3 games)
2016/17	David Topacho 41 (9 games)	Niall Flanagan 4.75 (19 in 4 games)
2017/18	Julien Eng 61 (11 games)	Adam Harwood 6.00 (12 in 2 games)
2018/19	Julien Eng 51 (8 games)	Julien Eng 6.38 (51 in 8 games)
2019/20	Pablo Docampo 23 (4 games)	B. Piorkowski / J. Eng 6.00 (6 in 1 game)
2022/23	Marian Machel 65 (8 games)	Marian Machel 8.13 (65 in 8 games)
2023/24	Aaron Edmundson 21 (4 games)	Marian Machel 9.50 (19 in 2 games)

Women	Top Goalscorers	Top Goals per Game Strike Rate
2013/14	Selina Stenberg 33 (9 games)	Nina van Ruijven 7.50 (30 in 4 games)
2014/15	Marlen Slinning 75 (13 games)	Marlen Slinning 5.77 (75 in 13 games)
2015/16	Judyta Turulska 62 (10 games)	Judyta Turulska 6.20 (62 in 10 games)
2016/17	Alina Inta 40 (8 games) / Judyta Turulska 40 (9 games)	Rebecka Östergren 5.40 (27 in 5 games)
2017/18	Maren Liane 34 (7 games)	Alina Inta 5.50 (33 in 6 games)
2018/19	Rosa Larcy 33 (9 games)	Rosa Larcy 3.67 (33 in 9 games)
2019/20	Marlen S. Goulty 16 (4 games)	Marlen S Goulty 4.00 (16 in 4 games)
2022/23	Alexandra Inta 35 (8 games)	Mathilde Bergestad 4.50 (27 in 6 games)
2023/24	Marlen S. Goulty 49 (10 games)	Sofia Solli 9.00 (18 in 2 games)
2024/25	Sandra Christke-Lamb 48 (11 games)	Marlen S. Goulty 8.00 (8 in 1 game)

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Board Members 2012-2025

Chairperson	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Secretary	Mariana Saba	2012-2013
	Sofie Vaula	2013-2015
	Sandra Christke-Lamb	2015- to date
Treasurer	Selina Stenberg	2012-2014
	Robert Thompson	2014-2017
	Mark Harrison	2017-2019
	Blessing Ogbee	2019-2020
	Andrea King	2020- to date
Welfare/Safeguarding	Charlie Goulty	2012-2015
	Craig Swanson	2015-2017
	Matthew Lamb	2017-2019
	Caroline Snell	2019-2024
Marketing/Sponsorship	Fabian van der Velden	2022- to date
	Daniel Walsh	2014-2015
	Jonathan Bastit	2014-2016
	Matthew Lamb	2016-2018
	María José González Alvarez	2018-2022
Media	Kate Ellis	2022-2023
	Chris Bowe	2013-2014
	Andrea King	2014- to date
	Charlie Goulty	2014-2015
	Adam Mobberley	2016-2020
	Paula Scheel	2020-2021
	Niki Parker	2022-2023
League	Aaron Edmundson	2024- to date
	Mark Harrison	2014-2015
Fixtures	Robert Thompson	2014-2015
Social	Matthew Lamb	2012-2018
	Sandra Christke	2013-2015
	Pål Jakobsen	2018-2019
	Matthew Lamb	2019-2020
	María González Pascual	2020-2023
General	Maren Liane	2018-2020
	Mark Harrison	2019-2020
	Derrick Parker	2022-2023
	Dave Edmundson	2024 – to date
Webmaster	Abraham Metta	2012-2013
	Mark Patterson	2014
	Robin Devilette	2014- to date

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Coaches 2012-2024

Head Coach	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Men's Coaches	Jason Lee	2014-2015
	Jonathan Bastit	2015-2016
	Stephan Stricker	2015-2018
	Peter Schichtel	2016-2017
	Pablo Docampo	2017-2019
	Mark Harrison	2017-2019
	Frank Smelt	2019-2020
	Calin Roman	2021-2022
Women's Coaches	Jason Lee	2025- to date
	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Youth/Juniors Coaches	Jason Lee	2021
	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
	Robert Thompson	2014-2016
	Mark Harrison	2016-2018
	Kristina Kronborg	2016-2017
	Ed Ogbee	2019-2020
	Adam Batley	2019- to date
	María González Pascual	2019-2023
Minis Coaches	Aaron Edmundson	2023- to date
	Charlie Emmet	2024- to date
	Katerina Gibson	2018-2022
	María José González Alvarez	2019-2023

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Tyne & Wear Sport - <http://www.tynewearsport.org/blog.aspx?id=7982>

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Newcastle University

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University of Sunderland

- <http://search.sunderland.ac.uk/>
- <http://sportsbyte.sunderland.ac.uk/category/handball/>

Durham University

- <https://www.teamdurham.com>
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The Chronicle - <http://www.chroniclive.co.uk/sport/other-sport/amateur-sport>

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- 2.5 JJ Rowland (European Handball Federation)
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- 3.2 Dave Clay (formerly Killingworth Braves)
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- 3.5 Mick Hegarty (Isle of Man Handball Association)
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- 3.9 <http://www.englishhandball.com/>

- 5.1 <http://www.englishhandball.com/>
- 5.2 <http://www.tynewearsport.org/news/2017/3/22/school-games-handball>
- 5.3 <http://www.tynewearsport.org/news/2017/3/22/school-games-handball>

- 6.1 <https://twitter.com/englishhandball>
- 6.2 <https://www.visitbournemouth.com/item/730-200-photos-from-the-british-beach-champs> (Thomas Faull Photography for British Beach Handball Championships)

- 7.1 <https://twitter.com/StMarysNewc>
- 7.2 <https://facebook.com/britishhandball>
- 7.3 <https://twitter.com/britishhandball>

- 8.1 <https://facebook.com/scottishhandball>
- 8.2 <https://facebook.com/scottishhandball>
- 8.3 <https://facebook.com/scottishhandball>
- 8.4 <https://facebook.com/scottishhandball>
- 8.5 <https://twitter.com/britishhandball>

- 9.1 <https://facebook.com/southtynesideschoolsportnetwork>
- 9.2 <https://facebook.com/southtynesideschoolsportnetwork>
- 9.3 <https://facebook.com/britishhandball>
- 9.4 <https://facebook.com/britishhandball>

- 10.1 <https://facebook.com/englandhandball>
- 10.2 <https://facebook.com/shropshirehandballclub>
- 10.3 <https://facebook.com/southtynesideschoolsportnetwork>
- 10.4 https://twitter.com/newcastlepe_sportservice
- 10.5 <https://facebook.com/englandhandball>

All other photos taken by Newcastle Vikings Handball Club players, family and friends.

Video Links

Newcastle Handball's channel – Newcastle Handball promo video (July 2011 / December 2011)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q8yBkgsT1BI>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WjN55iDDakM>

TheEHAtv – The Vikings Newcastle Handball Club, Handball does Hollywood (November 2012)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WPqmGao9ms0>

Jason Lee (Rachael Hedley) – Newcastle Vikings Handball Tournament (May 2014)

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NS2s2EOw4>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NS2s2EOw4&t=4s>

British Beach Handball Championships (August 2015)

- Marlen Slinning interview - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LHAKAPEigjI>
- Newcastle v Olympia - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiPe_6SsxTc

Manchester Handball Club – RDL Men, Manchester v Newcastle Vikings (February 2016)

- 1st half - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NuZMv9VsR-Q>
- 2nd half - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fDFSfF9Q_fc

Spark Sunderland (Ethan Banks) – London 2012 legacy in the North East 10 years later (May 2022)

- <https://www.sparksunderland.com/2022/05/13/is-the-legacy-of-london-2012-still-alive-in-the-north-east/> [<https://www.sparksunderland.com/?s=london+2012>]



British Handball Super Cup (May 2023)

- Semi-finals Day – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aW3F6jPZQbk&t=13012s>
- Olympia v Newcastle Vikings - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVUnL2gyo8w>
- Finals Day - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qLA2DpjvdOM&t=7644s>
- Edinburgh v Newcastle Vikings – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a97DtNlZJ8A> (first half) and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ObKZINHYUXI&t=1s> (second half)

Celtic Cup (October 2024)

- Troon-Vikings v Astra - https://www.youtube.com/live/-bfhMtIEVzc?si=gd_H16hHqKAOnJnA
- Dublin City v Troon-Vikings - <https://www.youtube.com/live/5W1NqmqKqA4c?si=CeMJ0waa0Aeqfiep>

