

Go Vikings!

An Officially Incomplete History of

Handball in Newcastle and North East England



2017 Edition – Compiled and Written by Andrea King
Newcastle Vikings Handball Club

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Reference Sources, Photo Credits and YouTube Videos

The Vikings Vault - Scrapbook Archive – Press and Newspaper Articles:

Acknowledgements

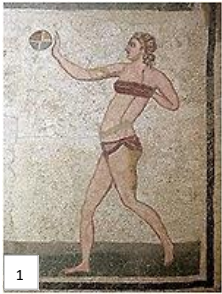
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A Short History of Handball

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 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 in 1928, set up in Amsterdam, Holland. The first women's international match took place in 1930 between Germany and Austria.

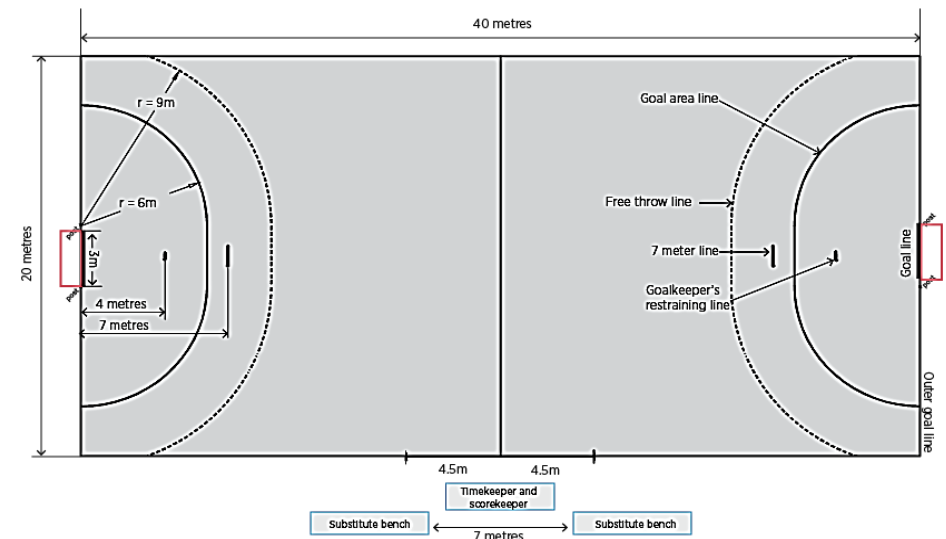
Field handball, played as an 11-a-side outdoor sport on grass football pitches, was showcased at Germany's 1936 Olympics where six men's teams competed at the summer Games of the XI Olympiad in Berlin. The only other time field handball featured in an Olympic Games was in Helsinki, Finland, in 1952, 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 indoor and field handball World Championships in 1938, with hosts Germany winning both the winter and summer competitions.



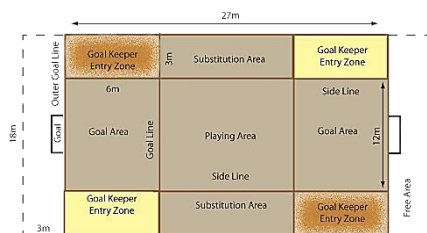
Following a hiatus due to World War II, Denmark and Sweden initiated establishing the International Handball Federation (IHF) as the sport's new governing body in 1946. They were joined as founding members by France, Holland, Switzerland, Poland, Finland and Norway. Hosts Sweden defeated Denmark in the first international match under the new Federation's auspices. Notable absentees at the launch of the IHF, Germany later became the birthplace of the European Handball Federation (EHF) in 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 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 such as Algeria, Egypt, South Korea, China and Brazil gradually starting to challenge the traditional dominance of continental Europe.



More recently a new dynamic outdoor version of the game has emerged. Beach handball is played as a 4-a-side sport on a smaller 27m x 12m court. Sometimes referred to as 'sandball', it is also now recognised by the IHF with formal rules.

Handball's Emergence in Great Britain

The earliest records of handball in Britain refer to the existence of an IHF-recognised Hull Handball League 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 ever Great Britain representative field handball side lost to Holland on 28 June 1959 at the Costello Stadium in West Hull.



The British Handball Association was founded in Liverpool in 1967 by teachers Phil Holden, Chris Powell, Jeff Rowland and Andy Smith, supported by sports shop proprietor Ken Watson. Accepted into membership of the International Handball Federation in 1968, Great Britain played their first international 7-a-side indoor handball match in 1969, losing 12-30 to Italy at Edge Hill College in Ormskirk, Lancashire. The British Handball Association became the first recipients of the IHF's Hans Bauman trophy in 1972 in recognition of their contribution to the development of handball in the country. That same year, Great Britain & Northern Ireland competed in the men's Olympic qualification tournament for the first time in Spain.

The first British National Handball Championships took place in 1972, won by Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University. The Scottish Handball Association (SHA) was formed in the same year, with the first women's game in the UK played between East Kilbride and Hamilton's Bell College. The inaugural men's English



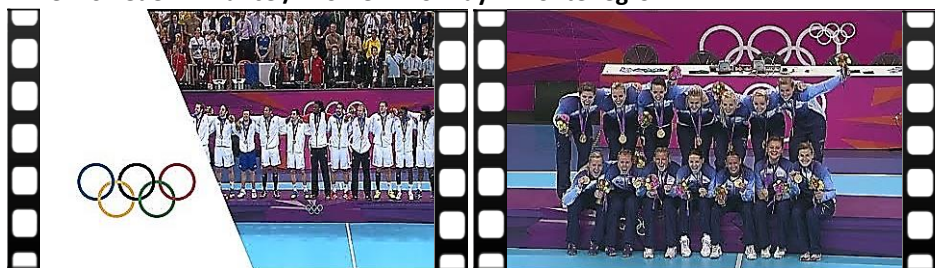
National League began in 1976/77 under the auspices of the England Handball Association (EHA). Merseyside's Birkenhead became the first league champions, claiming a league and cup double by also winning the inaugural British Cup in 1977. England and Scotland would later become separate EHF member nations in 2004.

The first British handball victory at senior international level came in defeating the Faroe Islands 21-19 in Rovereto during the February 1984 World Championships in Italy, where they finished 10th out of the 12 teams. However, while national television sports programmes did feature brief highlights of Great Britain handball matches in the 1970s, handball's popularity only really

rose to national recognition when the Olympic 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 at the new Copper Box Arena in London's Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. Despite the Great Britain handball teams both losing all of their five 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.



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



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 in the Walker part of the city, Newcastle University were one of the country's top handball teams of the late 60s and early 70s, with Sunderland also featuring prominently too.

The University Handball Club had a very good record in the 1967/68 season, winning nine of their 11 matches. That season culminated on 13 March 1968 with Newcastle University coming from behind in the final minutes to claim a 27-25 victory over Sunderland Technical College, having also defeated them in the British University Championships earlier that season. Newcastle University handball team members that season are recorded as including goalkeeper S Torp, S Eidesgaard, F Aschim, K Vaagnes and H Harung.

The following season saw Newcastle University Handball Club travel up to Edinburgh 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 the University Handball Club had grown enough to be able to field 1st and 2nd teams, and was also trying to promote the sport to both men and women. Two men's team competed in Heriot Watt University's Challenge Cup weekend in Edinburgh on 13-14 November 1971, with the participating teams coming from all of the British universities 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 played their best match for a 14-11 victory in the final against perennial cup holders and tournament favourites Heriot Watt I, while Sunderland I beat Newcastle II in the fight for 3rd and 4th places. Sunderland II came 7th in the eight-team competition.

Newcastle University's Handball Club went on to win their own Geordie Cup in 1972. However, only four other teams showed up for the subsequent 24-25 February 1973 tournament at the iconic domed Lightfoot Sports Centre in the Walker part of the city – Sunderland, Heriot Watt, Teesside Flyers and Brentwood from Essex. Newcastle's team of mainly Norwegian, French and German students were looking to make up for a narrow 5-6 defeat to Sunderland in the December 1972 Edinburgh tournament, and were 6-4 victors



over their local rivals in the opening match. They then went on to defeat Teesside 10-5, draw 5-5 with Brentwood and come back from 0-4 down to beat Heriot Watt 5-4 to top the group just above Sunderland. 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, while Newcastle won 11-5 against Teesside in the other semi-final. Sunderland defeated Teesside 12-9 in the match for 3rd place, before Heriot Watt University (recently crowned winners of the inaugural British National Handball Championships) beat a tiring and somewhat unlucky Newcastle 5-15 in the cup final.

Former Great Britain player, coach and England Handball Association Performance Director, Mick 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 Newcastle University and Sunderland had teams playing in the 1974 British National Handball Championships held at the Bletchley Leisure Centre in Milton

Keynes, where Newcastle lost in the final to Merseyside team Birkenhead (then coached by former England Handball Association chairman Mike Briers). That defeat saw Newcastle just miss out on European competition as the Merseysiders took the honour of going on to play in the old European Cup. Hegarty also recalls his old team Halewood Forum, the forerunner of Liverpool Handball Club, playing in Newcastle's annual tournament at the Lightfoot Sports Centre in 1975.

North Tyneside's Junior Handball Revivals

The Killingworth Braves Handball Club 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.

While only running for a couple of years until 1999, the Killingworth Braves teams competed in several junior handball tournaments across Britain, including in Leeds, Ashford in Kent, and in the Isle of Man. Most notably, in 1998 they became the first junior English handball team to compete abroad when they travelled to play in a 7-team junior tournament in Szczecin in north-west Poland. While they returned winless, former player Chris Bowe recalls they only narrowly lost one of their matches against a strong Polish club team after frustrating them with a tactic of man-marking their best player out of the game. Killingworth Braves youngsters Bowe and Ross McNaughton would later also go on to become original members of Newcastle Vikings Handball Club in 2012.

The late 1990s also saw 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.



Greater 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. Coached by Clay and colleague Tom Robertson, 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.

They 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 event, 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.

The Monkseaton Handball Club's junior teams again challenged for the Scottish U14 and U16 league titles the following season. A friendly match against a Belgian under-16 team however saw them lose heavily while scoring only one goal. But with the departure of their coaches in 2006 – Clay going on to coach Bedford Hawks while Robertson went on to coach Cheshire-based Deva Handball Club – the impetus for handball in the North East died away once again.



With the growth in handball interest at the junior level in North Tyneside, North Shields-based Northumbria University graduate Steve Swinyard 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-Olympics Newcastle 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 Sacher, 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, all seeking to capitalise on that growing popularity and opportunity to build participation in the sport.



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 offers *wheeltastic* wheelchair handball. Newcastle Vikings were 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. 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 18 January 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 Division 1		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 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 Division 1		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 Banhawy	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.

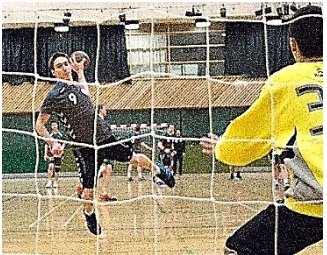
But before the English league season commenced, the Vikings renewed acquaintances with many of the Scottish teams at the annual pre-season Edinburgh tournament on 20 September 2014. Newcastle's women opened with a close-fought 5-3 win over the hosts, before narrowly losing 8-9 to a 'Rest of the World' 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-Louise Brevet, Marlen Slinning, Sofie Vaula, Blessing Ogbee, 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 Socceroome 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-Louise Brevet, Marlen Slinning, Simone Smith, Gesa Junge, Blessing Ogbee, Fienke Nanne and Sandra Christke.





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



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

* 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

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-Louise 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 Hubert, 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 Ettlingenweier 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 Ogbee, Edna Ogbee, Kathryn Powell and Sandra Christke. The women's plate was won by local club Sandbanks, while TV Ettlingenweier 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



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 63 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 grabbed the lead 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

* 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	+220	-160	+60	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 their B team had defaulted the 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	63
Krystina Coulson	5	3
Sofie Vaala	2	8
Gesa Junge	4	5
Sina Linsenmann	7	23
Lea Muething	3	5
Blessing Ogbree	10	15
Kathryn Powell	5	3
Paulina Szulc	4	-
Alina-Anisca Inta	8	48
Sandra Christke (C)	10	37





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 Jopek 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



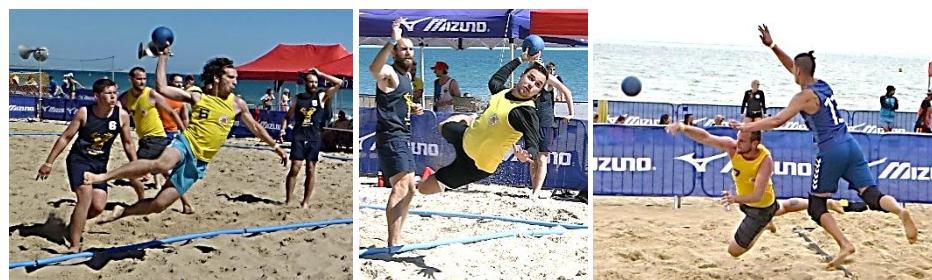
their other matches 6-7 to Leeds and drew 8-8 with Edinburgh to finish in 3rd place. Newcastle then ran out clear 17-10 winners over Edinburgh in the final to reclaim their title, with 10-year-old Romanian Alexandra Inta scoring twice.



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 winners Oxford Blues once again in the plate semi-final. Newcastle Vikings were represented by Andrea King (GK), Marie-Louise Brevet, Marlen Slinning (GK2), Krystina Coulson, Sofie Vaula, Blessing Ogbee, Edna 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. 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 Hiekka Hauskaa also took 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 Handball 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.



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 scoring her first Vikings goal from distance in the last minute of the game.



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















* 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

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	7
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 Ogbie	 8	15
Emmanuelle Chandler	 4	-
Eiman El Banhawy	 1	3
Meghan Acres	 3	3
Claire Guyon	 1	-
Alina-Anisca 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 South Shields' St. Wilfrids RC College girls again went unbeaten in all of their matches.





The top teams went through to England Handball's first North East Regional Handball Games on 15 May 2017 at Temple Park, which also featured teams from 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. Together with Newcastle's Gosforth Academy U15 girls they all progressed to represent the North East region at the English Schools Handball Finals on 10 and 11 June 2017 at the University of Worcester. However, with no wins 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 in 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 Guinouard 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 due to satisfying club quality criteria. The Vikings men accepted the opportunity for promotion so will play up a level in the newly renamed National League North for the 2017/18 season. However,





























having struggled to field teams over the past season, Sunderland opted not to re-register their men's team for the new Regional League season.



































Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's All-time League & Cup Top Appearances 2013-17

Women	Position	Appearances			Total
		 League	 Cup		
Andrea King	 Goalkeeper	10	29	4	43
Sandra Christke	 Line/Centre	10	29	4	43
Judyta Turulska	 Half/Centre		28	2	30
Blessing Ogbee	 Wing/Line		26	4	30
Marlen Slinning	 Centre/Half/Line	9	15	3	27
Alina-Anisca Inta	 Half		15	1	16
Kathryn Powell	 Centre/Half/Wing	4	9	2	15
Sofie Vaula	 Line/Wing	8	6	1	15
Krystina Coulson	 Wing		13	1	14
Marie-Louise Brevet	 Wing		11	1	12
Gesa Junge	 Half		11	1	12
Lea Vestergaard	 Half	10			10
Selina Stenberg	 Half	9			9
Maren Liane	 Line/Centre/Half		8	1	9
Meghan Acres	 Wing		8		8
Josefine Fienke Nanne	 Half		6	2	8
Sina Linsenmann	 Centre/Half		6	1	7
Eiman ElBanhawy	 Wing	5		1	6
Rebecka Östergren	 Line/Centre		5		5
Nina van Ruijven	 Wing/Half	4			4
Tonje Olsen	 Wing	4			4
Paulina Szulc	 Half		4		4
Emmanuelle Chandler	 Wing		4		4
Rebecca Johnson	 Half		4		4
Malin Walle	 Wing/Centre		3	1	4
Annabelle Guinouard	 Half	3			3
Michelle Anderson	 Wing	3			3
Lea Muething	 Centre/Wing		2	1	3
Laetitia Renard-Watson	 Wing	1			1
Claire Guyon	 Wing		1		1
Simone Smith	 Wing			1	1

Men	Position	Appearances			Total
		 League	 Cup		
Jonathan Bastit	 Half/Centre	9	29	2	40
Matthew Lamb	 Wing/Line	8	26	2	36
Daniel Walsh	 Goal keeper	7	22	3	32
Craig Swanson	 Line	7	22	2	31
Kole Vjejo-Cabellero	 Wing/Line	7	14	2	23
Stephan Stricker	 Half/Centre		21	1	22
Mark Harrison	 Centre/Goalkeeper	6	15	1	22
Robert Thompson	 Wing/Half	8	12	2	22
Holger Schulz	 Line		16	2	18
Peter Schichtel	 Centre/Half		16	1	17
Thomas Harrison	 Half/Wing		16	1	17
Sam Turner	 Wing	5	11	1	17
Chris Bowe	 Half/Centre	7	9	1	17
Adam Mobberley	 Wing		13	2	15
Neil Bhandary	 Half	6	8		14
James Porter	 Half		12		12
Scott Garrow	 Wing	4	7	1	12
David Topacho	 Half/Centre		10		10
Simon Heintz	 Wing/Half		9	1	10
Faisal Albathali	 Goal keeper		9		9
Mohammed Ghuloum	 Centre/Half		9		9
Gracjan Joppek	 Wing/Half		8	1	9
Johannes Bellm	 Half/Wing		7	2	9
Wiktor Laczny	 Wing/Half		7	1	8
Mike Cooke	 Goal keeper	4	3	1	8
Kamran Saeed	 Wing	6	1	1	8
Jason Lee	 Centre		7		7
Dawid Miozga	 Centre/Half		7		7
Jack Woods	 Wing/Half		7		7
Amaury Michelant	 Centre/Half		6		6
Athbi Almarzouq	 Half		5	1	6
Charlie Gouly	 Half/Wing	6			6
Niall Flanagan	 Wing		5		5
Vlad Cocos	 Centre/Line		5		5
Robin Devilette	 Centre/Half		4		4
Gareth Bowden	 Wing/Line	4			4
Nichlas Foldager	Centre/Half		3		3
Kasper Ottosen	Wing/GK		3		3
Dan Hudachek	Half		1		1

Newcastle Vikings Handball Club's All-time League & Cup Top Goal Scorers 2013-17

Women	Played	Goals Scored			Goals per Game	
		League	Cup	Total	Strike Rate	
Judyta Turulska	 30		154	9	163	5.43
Sandra Christke	 43	29	119	8	156	3.63
Marlen Slinning	 27	29	72	14	115	4.26
Alina-Anisca Inta	 16		84	4	88	5.50
Sofie Vaula	 15	24	32	2	58	3.87
Marie-Louise Brevet	 12		37		37	3.08
Blessing Ogbee	 30		31	5	36	1.20
Selina Stenberg	 9	33			33	3.67
Nina van Ruijven	 4	30			30	7.50
Maren Liane	 9		25	5	30	3.33
Lea Vestergaard	 10	28			28	2.80
Rebecka Östergren	 5		27		27	5.40
Sina Linsenmann	 7		21	2	23	3.29
Gesa Junge	 12		14	2	16	1.33
Josefine Fienke Nanne	 8		10	3	13	1.63
Kathryn Powell	 15	5	8		13	0.87
Eiman ElBanhawy	 6	9		3	12	2.00
Annabelle Guinouard	 3	11			11	3.67
Meghan Acres	 8		8		8	1.00
Krystina Coulson	 14		8		8	0.57
Lea Muething	 3		5		5	1.67
Tonje Olsen	 4	5			5	1.25
Laetitia Renard-Watson	 1	1			1	1.00
Malin Walle	 4			1	1	0.25
Rebecca Johnson	 4		1		1	0.25
Andrea King (GK)	 43			1	1	0.02

Men	Played	Goals Scored			Goals per Game	
		League	Cup	Total	Strike Rate	
Jonathan Bastit	 40	29	40	3	72	1.80
Matthew Lamb	 36	20	46	4	70	1.94
Simon Heintz	 10		63	4	67	6.70
Stephan Stricker	 22		64	3	67	3.05
Peter Schichtel	 17		47	2	49	2.88
David Topacho	 10		43		43	4.30
Wiktor Laczny	 8		34	6	40	5.00
Mohammed Ghuloum	 9		37		37	4.11
Johannes Bellm	 9		23	13	36	4.00
Mark Harrison	 22	23	13		36	1.64
Kole Viejo-Cabellero	 23	20	14	1	35	1.52
Athbi Almarzouq	 6		31	1	32	5.33
Chris Bowe	 17	17	11		28	1.65
Amaury Michelant	 6		26		26	4.33
Dawid Miozga	 7		24		24	3.43
Níall Flanagan	 5		22		22	4.40
Gracjan Joppek	 9		18	1	19	2.11
Holger Schulz	 18		18	1	19	1.06
Nichlas Foldager	 3		18		18	6.00
Scott Garrow	 12	5	11	2	18	1.50
Robin Devilette	 4		15		15	3.75
Craig Swanson	 31	2	10	3	15	0.48
Jack Woods	 7		14		14	2.00
Robert Thompson	 22	10	4		14	0.64
Neil Bhandary	 14	11	1		12	0.86
Gareth Bowden	 4	9			9	2.25
Sam Turner	 17	1	5	3	9	0.53
James Porter	 12		8		8	0.67
Adam Mobbereley	 15		8		8	0.53
Jason Lee	 7		7		7	1.00
Thomas Harrison	 17		5		5	0.29
Vlad Cocos	 5		4		4	0.80
Charlie Goulty	 6	1			1	0.17
Daniel Walsh	 32			1	1	0.03

Tyneside Handball Tournament Roll of Honour 2013-2017

	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



Newcastle Vikings Handball Club Board Members and Coaches 2012-2017

Chairperson	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Secretary	Mariana Saba	2012-2013
	Sofie Vaula	2013-2015
	Sandra Christke	2015- to date
Treasurer	Selina Stenberg	2012-2014
	Robert Thompson	2014-2017
	Mark Harrison	2017- to date
Welfare	Charlie Goulty	2012-2015
	Craig Swanson	2015- to date
Social	Matthew Lamb	2012- to date
	Sandra Christke	2013-2015
League	Mark Harrison	2014-2015
Fixtures	Robert Thompson	2014-2015
Marketing/Sponsorship	Daniel Walsh	2014-2015
	Jonathan Bastit	2014-2016
	Matthew Lamb	2016- to date
Media	Chris Bowe	2013-2014
	Andrea King	2014- to date
	Charlie Goulty	2014-2015
	Adam Moberley	2016- to date
Webmaster	Mark Patterson	2014
	Robin Devilette	2014- to date

Head Coach	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Men's Coach	Jason Lee	2014-2015
	Jonathan Bastit	2015-2016
	Stephan Stricker	2015- to date
	Peter Schichtel	2016-2017
	Pablo Docampo	2017- to date
Women's Coach	Mark Harrison	2017- to date
	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
Juniors Coach	Marlen Slinning Goulty	2012- to date
	Robert Thompson	2014-2016
	Mark Harrison	2016- to date
	Kristina Kronborg	2016- to date

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

