



**Men's EHF Cup 2019/20**  
**Group Phase**  
**Media Guide**



EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION

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# Foreword



Dear media representative,

Welcome to the group phase of the Men's EHF Cup 2019/20!

A few weeks after the Men's EHF EURO 2020 in Sweden, Norway and Austria came to an end with Spain defending their title, the attention in men's handball has shifted to the European club competitions again.

Six players who won an EHF EURO medal with their respective national team in January will be on the courts again during the Men's EHF Cup group phase: Iosu Goñi (PAUC Handball) and Gedeon Guardiola (Rhein-Neckar Löwen) won gold with Spain, Marino Mamic (MT Melsungen), Zeljko Musa (SC Magdeburg) and Vlado Matanovic (RK Gorenje Velenje) won silver with Croatia, and Christian O'Sullivan (SC Magdeburg) won bronze with Norway.

## **Strong line-up with teams from eight nations**

The 'revised-format' Men's EHF Cup is now in its eighth season following the merging of the competition with the Cup Winners' Cup from the 2012/13 season. With highly competitive games, an attractive group phase and a four-team finals tournament played over two days as the highlight of the season, the competition has established itself on the European sports market. However, after this season the competition will take a further step forward as it will transform into the new European Handball League with 24 teams.

Throwing off on 8/9 February 2020, the group phase brings together a strong line-up of Europe's top men's teams from eight nations, many of them with years of VELUX EHF Champions League experience. The field includes three teams that have won the EHF Cup before in its current or previous format: SC Magdeburg (1999, 2001, 2007), Rhein-Neckar Löwen (2013) and Füchse Berlin (2015, 2018). There are also three EHF Cup debutants among the group phase participants, as PAUC Handball, USAM Nîmes Gard and KPR Gwardia Opole seek glory in their first season in the competition.

## **Berlin set to host EHF Cup Finals 2020**

In November 2019 the EHF announced that Berlin will host this season's EHF Cup Finals, with the semi-finals taking place on Saturday 23 May and the 3/4 placement match and final on Sunday 24 May. Füchse hosted the tournament twice before, in 2014 and 2015, and many handball fans will still remember the breath-taking atmosphere in the 8,500-capacity Max-Schmeling-Halle in the German capital.

The EHF Media team prides itself on its positive cooperation with all media partners and is looking forward to continue working together with you over the course of the group phase.

Best sporting wishes,

**EHF Media & Communications**

## EHF/M Media contacts

### Media matters

**Vlado Brindzak**  
Media and Communications  
European Handball  
Federation  
+43 1 80 151 161  
[brindzak@eurohandball.com](mailto:brindzak@eurohandball.com)

### TV and Radio

**Miguel Mateo Marcellán**  
Media Manager  
EHF Marketing GmbH  
+43 1 80 151 224  
[mateo@ehfmarketing.com](mailto:mateo@ehfmarketing.com)

## Clubs contacts

### GROUP A

**MT Melsungen**  
Axel Geerken  
+49 5661 9260-13  
[geerken@mt-melsungen.de](mailto:geerken@mt-melsungen.de)

**Bjerringbro-Silkeborg**  
Kristoffer Nygaard Jensen  
+45 86 680560  
[knj@bjerringbro-silkeborg.dk](mailto:knj@bjerringbro-silkeborg.dk)

**KPR Gwardia Opole**  
Tomasz Wrobel  
+48 796 809 882  
[opolegwardia@gmail.com](mailto:opolegwardia@gmail.com)

**SL Benfica**  
Leandro Alves  
+351 21 7219535  
[lalves@slbenfica.pt](mailto:lalves@slbenfica.pt)

### GROUP B

**Rhein-Neckar Löwen**  
Christopher Monz  
+49 174 4288849  
[monz@rhein-neckar-loewen.de](mailto:monz@rhein-neckar-loewen.de)

**Liberbank Cuenca**  
Javier Palacios Blanco  
+34 969 239 050  
[cbmciudadencantada@gmail.com](mailto:cbmciudadencantada@gmail.com)

**USAM Nimes Gard**  
Franck Maurice  
+33 9 71260139  
[franckmaurice7@gmail.com](mailto:franckmaurice7@gmail.com)

**TTH Holstebro**  
Line Kristoffersen  
+45 28 459081  
[line@tthholstebro.dk](mailto:line@tthholstebro.dk)

### GROUP C

**SC Magdeburg**  
Marc Henrik Schmedt  
+49 391 88685610  
[m.schmedt@sc-magdeburg.de](mailto:m.schmedt@sc-magdeburg.de)

**HBC Nantes**  
Jerome Champenois  
+33 6 64612242  
[jerome.champenois@hbcnantes.com](mailto:jerome.champenois@hbcnantes.com)

**RK Gorenje Velenje**  
**Tanja Rednak**  
+386 41 329138  
[tanja.rednak@rk-gorenje.com](mailto:tanja.rednak@rk-gorenje.com)

**Abanca Ademar Leon**  
Pablo Castro Álvarez  
+34 987 263171  
[administracion@ademar.com](mailto:administracion@ademar.com)

### GROUP D

**PAUC Handball**  
Stephane Cambriels  
+33 4 6526 0290  
[secretariat@paysdaixhandball.com](mailto:secretariat@paysdaixhandball.com)

**Grundfos Tatabánya KC**  
Katalin Marosi  
+36 30 2807608  
[kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com](mailto:kata.marosi@tatabanyahandball.com)

**Füchse Berlin**  
**Volker Zerbe**  
+49 30 20916876  
[zerbe@fuechse.berlin](mailto:zerbe@fuechse.berlin)

**BM Logroño La Rioja**  
Jaime Luis Gonzalez Gutierrez  
+34 941 585295  
[bmlogronolarioja@gmail.com](mailto:bmlogronolarioja@gmail.com)

# 2019/2020 MEN'S EHF CUP



MEN'S EHF CUP		Qualification Round 1	Qualification Round 2	Qualification Round 3	Group Phase	Quarter finals	EHF Cup FINALS
		32 teams	32 teams	32 teams	16 teams	8 teams	4 teams
		31.08./01.09.2019 first leg	05/06.10.2019 first leg	16/17.11.2019 first leg	R1: 08/09.02.2020 R2: 15/16.02.2020 R3: 22/23.02.2020 R4: 29.2/1.03.2020 R5: 21/22.03.2020 R6: 28/29.03.2020	25/26.04.20 first leg 02/03.05.20 second leg	23.-24.05.2020 Tournament played in semi-finals and finals in one venue
NATION		07/08.09.2019 second leg	12/13.10.2019 second leg	23/24.11.2019 second leg			
DRAWS:		16.07.2019	16.07.2019	15.10.2019	28.11.2019	31.03.2020	05.05.2020
1	GER			SC Magdeburg Rhein-Neckar Löwen Chambery Savoie Mont-Blanc MT Melsungen HBC Nantes Bjerringbro-Silkeborg Liberbank Cuenca Grundfos Tatabánya KC KPR Gwardia Opole HC Metalurg Füchse Berlin USAM Nîmes Gard TTH Holstebro BM Logrono La Rioja Balatonfüredi KSE RK Nexø	16 Winners of Qualification Round 3	1st and 2nd placed teams of each group of the Group Phase	4 Winners of Quarterfinals
2	GER						
3	FRA						
4	GER						
5	FRA						
6	DEN						
7	ESP						
8	HUN						
9	POL						
10	MKD						
11	GER						
12	FRA						
13	DEN						
14	ESP						
15	HUN						
16	CRO						
17	POL						
18	SLO						
19	ROU						
20	SUI						
21	BLR						
22	ISR						
23	NOR						
24	ISL						
25	MKD						
26	FRA						
27	DEN						
28	ESP						
29	HUN						
30	POL						
31	MKD						
32	POR						
33	CRO	16 Winners of Qualification Round 1		NMC Gornik Zabrze RK Gorenje Velenje SCM Politehnica Timisoara Wacker Thun SKA Minsk Hapoel Ashdod OIF Arendal Elite Selfoss HC Butel Skopje PAUC Handball Skjern Handball Abanca Ademar Leon Csurgói KK KS Azoty Pulawy HC Pelister Sport Lisboa e Benfica	16 Winners of Qualification Round 2		
34	SLO						
35	ROU						
36	ISR						
37	ISL						
38	RUS						
39	CZE						
40	UKR						
41	SRB						
42	BEL						
43	GRE						
44	AUT						
45	NED						
46	KOS						
47	LUX						
48	TUR						
49	EST						
50	LTU						
51	ITA						
52	GBR						
53	GEO						
54	MNE						
55	BIH						
56	MLT						
57	SRB						
58	BEL						
59	TUR						
60	CRO						
61	SWE						
62	SUI						
63	ISL						
64	AUT						

# EHF Cup Finals return to Berlin in 2020

The eighth edition of the EHF Cup Finals in 2020 will be hosted by two-time champions Füchse Berlin.

The tournament will take place on 23 and 24 May 2020 with the competitions' four best teams descending on the Max-Schmeling-Halle in Berlin, which has a capacity of 8,500.

Füchse played host to the tournament two times before, in 2014 and 2015. In the latter year, the German side celebrated their first European Cup title. Füchse repeated the feat in 2018 in Magdeburg.

The first edition of the tournament took place in 2013 in Nantes. The French city also hosted the tournament in 2016. Other hosts have been German cities Göppingen in 2017 and Kiel in 2019.

A bid for the 2020 edition was also received from HBC Nantes.

Füchse Berlin reached the group phase with an aggregate 61:53 win over HK Malmö of Sweden.



**Playing hall**

**Max-Schmeling-Halle**  
Falkplatz 1  
10437 Berlin  
Germany

Capacity: 8,521

## Media Accreditation for the EHF Cup Finals

The accreditation procedure for media representatives planning to cover the EHF Cup Finals 2020 in Berlin will start in March. Information will be made available in due time on [europeancup.eurohandball.com](http://europeancup.eurohandball.com), the official EHF homepage for all European Cup tournaments. The accreditation procedure will be open only to media professionals.

# Playing system – organiser Berlin

## Possibility no. 1

**The organisers finish 1st in their group or are one of the three best 2nd ranked teams**

The organisers qualify directly for the EHF Cup Finals and the other six teams play three quarter-finals.

The worst second ranked team will be eliminated.

## Possibility no. 2

**The organisers are the 4th ranked of the 2nd ranked teams**

The organisers play the quarter-finals and are qualified for the EHF Cup Finals if they win the quarter-final.

## Possibility no. 3

**The organisers are ranked 3rd or 4th in the group and are not qualified for the EHF Cup Finals.**

All 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> ranked teams play the quarter-finals. The organisers will still stage the EHF Cup Finals for the four quarter-finals winners.

## Important regulations

### Scoring of the matches and ranking

#### General

All matches of the Men's EHF Cup shall be played in 2 x 30 minutes with a half-time break of 10 minutes. The EHF reserves the right to extend the half-time break in special circumstances to 15 minutes.

The matches shall be scored as follows: a) win = 2 points b) draw = 1 point c) loss = 0 points

Teams' rankings are obtained by adding up the number of points won.

#### Group Phase

If two or more teams have scored the same number of points, the ranking will be determined as follows:

##### During the Group Phase:

- a) higher goal difference in all matches;
- b) greater number of plus goals in all matches;

##### After completion of the Group Phase if two teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of the two teams directly involved
- b) goal difference in matches of the two teams directly involved
- c) higher number of goals scored in the away match
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group

##### After completion of the Group Phase if three or more teams have scored the same number of points:

- a) number of points in matches of all teams directly involved
- b) goal difference in matches of all teams directly involved
- c) higher number of plus goals in matches of all teams directly involved
- d) goal difference in all matches of the group
- e) higher number of plus goals in all matches of the group;

If the ranking of one of these teams is determined, the criteria are consecutively followed until the ranking of all teams is determined.

If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible in the presence of a responsible of each club.

##### If one of the participating clubs is the organiser of the EHF Cup Finals the ranking of the 2nd ranked teams of the Group Phase is as follows:

- a) number of points in matches against all teams of the group;
- b) goal difference in those matches as mentioned in a);
- c) greater number of plus goals in those matches as mentioned in a);

If no ranking can be determined, a decision shall be obtained by drawing lots. Lots shall be drawn by the EHF, if possible in the presence of a responsible of each club.

[Find all the Men's EHF Cup regulations on eurohandball.com](http://eurohandball.com)



# Previous winners vying for more success

## Group Phase Preview

**Three teams in the group phase of the Men's EHF Cup 2019/20 have already enjoyed the sweet taste of winning this coveted trophy: SC Magdeburg, Rhein-Neckar Löwen and Füchse Berlin. However, any team from this German trio wanting to repeat their past success will have to overcome fierce competition.**

The first round of group phase matches in the weekend of 8/9 February 2020 marks the start of the battle for the quarter-final berths and eventually for the places at the EHF Cup Finals 2020 in Berlin.

### **Group A: No clear favourite as teams prepare for close battle**

The only group with no previous Men's EHF Cup champions looks wide open and promises to present handball fans across Europe with an intense battle for the top-two places. Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (three times) and MT Melsungen (twice) have been in the quarter-final before, and the Danish side can also build on their vast VELUX EHF Champions League experience.

Still, both teams won't take anything for granted against KPR Gwardia Opole, who came through the qualification rounds for the first time this season, and SL Benfica, who are inspired by the run to the EHF Cup Finals from fellow Portuguese side FC Porto Sofarma last season.

### **Group B: Three teams want to make life difficult for group favourite**

At first sight, this is a group with one clear favourite and three interesting dark horses. Rhein-Neckar Löwen might be widely regarded as the best bet to win the group, but the three other teams do not intend to make things easy for the former German champions. Löwen won the first Men's EHF Cup under the current format, in 2013, and the German side is an obvious title contender again after spending the past six seasons in the VELUX EHF Champions League.

TTH Holstebro are also eyeing a return to the EHF Cup Finals, after their participations in 2013 and 2019. With a reinforced squad, they have good reason to believe that they could make it to Berlin. The other opponents are Liberbank Cuenca, who only just missed the quarter-final last season, as well as European Cup debutants USAM Nimes Gard.

### **Group C: Big-name teams to clash for quarter-final berths**

All teams in this group have at least played a European Cup final before - and some of them actually lifted the trophy. In what many see as the strongest group since the current Men's EHF Cup format was introduced in 2012/13, everything seems possible.

SC Magdeburg have won the EHF Champions League (2002) and the EHF Cup (1999, 2001, 2007) while Abanca Ademar Leon were crowned Cup Winners' Cup champions twice (19999, 2005). Also, HBC Nantes know the feeling of playing a European final (Champions League in 2018, EHF Cup in 2013 and 2016) as do RK Gorenje Velenje (EHF Cup 2009). Fans will be eager not to miss any action from this group!

### **Group D: Finals hosts have no easy path to their home event**

The Men's EHF Cup Finals will be held in Berlin for the third time this year. But hosts Füchse have to navigate their way past some serious opposition to make it to their home event in the Max-Schmeling-Halle on 23/24 May. First of all, the two-time winners are up against recent VELUX EHF Champions League contenders BM Logroño La Rioja.

The group phase will also include trips to Hungary, where Grundfos Tatabánya KC are trying to return to the quarter-final like last season, and France, where PAUC Handball want to make the most of their group phase debut after just falling short in last season's qualification against eventual EHF Cup Finals participants TTH Holstebro.



## Group A head-to-heads

Previous European Cup matches between the group A teams

### MT Melsungen vs Bjerringbro-Silkeborg

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### MT Melsungen vs KPR Gwardia Opole

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### MT Melsungen vs SL Benfica 1-0-1 (56:48) 2:2

11.02.2017 MT Melsungen vs SL Benfica, EHF Cup – Group D 32:22 (15:11)

25.03.2017 SL Benfica vs MT Melsungen, EHF Cup – Group D 26:24 (12:14)

### Bjerringbro-Silkeborg vs KPR Gwardia Opole

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Bjerringbro-Silkeborg vs SL Benfica

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### KPR Gwardia Opole vs SL Benfica 1-0-1 (50:49) 2:2

07.10.2017 SL Benfica vs Gwardia Opole, EHF Cup – Q Round 2 28:24 (15:12)

15.10.2017 Gwardia Opole vs SL Benfica, EHF Cup – Q Round 2 26:21 (10:12)

## GROUP A

# MT Melsungen (GER)



### Playing hall

Rothenbach-Halle  
Damaschkestrasse 55  
34121 Kassel  
Germany  
Capacity: 4,300

### Club Address:

MT Melsungen  
Mühlenstrasse 14  
34212 Melsungen  
Germany

### Online information:

Website: [www.mt-melsungen.de](http://www.mt-melsungen.de)  
Facebook: MT.Melsungen  
Twitter: @mthandball  
Instagram: @mtmelsungen

### Kit colours

#### light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

#### dark

Player shirt: red  
Player short: red  
Goalkeeper shirt: black

In 2020 the handball division of MT Melsungen celebrates its 100th anniversary, and the club hopes to present themselves with a special gift: their first participation in the EHF Cup Finals - which take place in nearby Berlin this year.

Melsungen love their nickname 'MT Germany' as they boast a number of national team players, like Tobias Reichmann, Julius Kühn and Kai Häfner, but also EHF EURO 2016 champion Finn Lemke or upcoming talents Dimitri Ignatow or Fin Backs. Next season, goalkeeper Silvio Heinevetter and rising star Timo Kastening will also join MT.

German participants always belong to the contenders for a spot at the EHF Cup Finals, and so are Melsungen. The away matches against Benfica and Bjerringbro will likely be crucial for the German side, which is the leading team sports club in the Kassel region in the centre of Germany. Thanks to a globally active main sponsor, they have been growing over the last years and adding top stars to their squad.

"Being part of the EHF Cup group phase is a great confirmation of our positive development of the recent years," says manager Axel Geerken, a former Kiel and German national team goalkeeper. "The duels with international opponents mean new and interesting challenges that will certainly bring us ahead. Last but not least, these matches are a nice gratification for our fans."

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Olympiacos SFP (GRE) W32:28 (19:13)  
2nd leg: @ Olympiacos SFP (GRE) W20:19 (11:9)  
Aggregate score: 52:47

### Newcomers:

Kai Häfner (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf),  
Stefan Salger (Eulen Ludwigshafen),  
Glenn-Louis Eggert, Jona Gruber and Ole  
Pregler (Melsungen youth academy)

### Left the club:

Michael Müller (Füchse Berlin), Philipp  
Müller (SC DHfK Leipzig), Simon Birkefeldt  
(IFK Kristianstad/SWE)

### Coach:

Heiko Grimm (since April 2018)

### Team captain:

Finn Lemke

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Quarter-final (2): 2014/15, 2016/17

German league: -

German cup: -

# MT Melsungen (GER)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
1	Johan	Sjöstrand	SWE	Goalkeeper	26.02.1987	Skövde, SWE	93	195	0
9	Tobias	Reichmann	GER	Right Wing	27.05.1988	Berlin, GER	90	188	1
34	Kai	Häfner	GER	Right Back	10.07.1989	Schwäbisch Gmünd, GER	96	192	3
3	Marino	Maric	CRO	Line Player	01.06.1990	Mostar, BIH	114	196	4
15	Lasse	Mikkelsen	DEN	Centre Back	19.05.1988	Dronninglund, DEN	96	197	6
27	Roman	Sidorowicz	SUI	Centre Back	08.08.1991	Horgen, SUI	80	187	4
16	Nebojsa	Simic	MNE	Goalkeeper	19.01.1993	Cetinje, MNE	116	194	0
5	Julius	Kühn	GER	Left Back	01.04.1993	Duisburg, GER	110	198	4
22	Michael	Allendorf	GER	Left Wing	16.09.1986	Heppenheim, GER	90	190	2
13	Yves	Kunkel	GER	Left Wing	13.05.1994	Völklingen, GER	89	184	9
6	Finn	Lemke	GER	Left Back	30.04.1992	Bremen, GER	115	210	1
17	Felix	Danner	GER	Line Player	24.07.1985	Freiburg im Breisgau, GER	108	198	1
94	Domagoj	Pavlovic	CRO	Centre Back	21.03.1993	Zagreb, CRO	92	190	4
19	Timm	Schneider	GER	Line Player	15.06.1988	Giessen, GER	108	196	1
11	Dimitri	Ignatow	GER	Right Wing	30.11.1998	Kijewka, KAZ	75	174	11
55	Stefan	Salger	GER	Right Back	15.08.1996	Sonthofen, GER	109	207	1
98	Jona	Gruber	GER	Left Back	19.05.2000	GER	86	192	0
99	Ole	Pregler	GER	Left Back	26.05.2002	Kassel, GER	99	192	
96	Glenn-Louis	Eggert	GER	Goalkeeper	05.04.2000	GER	100	200	



# MT Melsungen (GER)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Heiko Grimm coach

- started coaching career at Kriens in Switzerland before becoming assistant to head coach Michael Roth at Melsungen in January 2018
- took over from Roth as head coach in April 2018
- played 48 times for the German national team
- played for Großwallstadt, Wallau, Hamburg (GER), Zurich, Winterthur and Kriens (SUI), and came out of retirement to play for Melsungen in 2014

EURO: G 2004; WCh: S 2003 (as player)



### Julius Kühn left back

- joined Melsungen from Gummersbach in 2017, previously played for Essen
- powerful back-court player with strong shot
- replaced Christian Dissinger in Germany's EHF EURO 2016 squad and helped the team win gold
- missed WCh 2019 with knee injury, returned in October 2019 and played at EHF EURO 2020

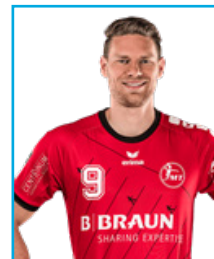
EURO: G 2016; OG: B 2016



### Kai Häfner right back

- had breakthrough at Hannover before joining Melsungen in summer of 2019
- played for Balingen and Göppingen in the past
- key player for German national team since 2016
- was added to 'golden' EHF EURO 2016 squad only in main round but then scored 15 goals in three matches, including winner in semi vs Norway

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011  
EURO: G 2016; OG: B 2016



### Tobias Reichmann right wing

- joined Melsungen in 2017, returning to Germany after three seasons with Kielce in Poland
- earlier played for Kiel, Wetzlar, and again Kiel
- was second best scorer and named All-star right wing at EHF EURO 2016
- was overlooked for WCh 2019 but returned to national team for EHF EURO 2020

EC trophies: CL 2010, 2012, 2016  
EURO: G 2016; OG B: 2016

## GROUP A



**Playing hall**  
**JYSK Arena, Silkeborg**  
Ansvej 114  
8600 Silkeborg  
Denmark  
Capacity: 2,567

### Club Address:

Bjerringbro-Silkeborg  
Vestre Ringvej 7  
8850 Bjerringbro  
Denmark

### Online information:

Website: [bjerringbro-silkeborg.dk](http://bjerringbro-silkeborg.dk)  
Facebook [bjerringbrosilkeborg](https://www.facebook.com/bjerringbrosilkeborg)  
Twitter: @BSVofficial  
Instagram: @bjerringbrosilkeborg

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: red

#### Dark

Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: red

## Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)

Bjerringbro-Silkeborg have been involved in knockout matches seven times – twice in the VELUX EHF Champions League, four times in the EHF Cup and once in the Cup Winners' Cup. So, having qualified for the Men's EHF Cup group phase this season, the first objective for head coach Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen and his men is to reach the quarter-final.

Bjerringbro-Silkeborg's squad is rather narrow. Additionally, they are missing left wing Stefan Hundstrup, who also used to be crucial in the 5-1 defence they often practise. However, they have so many experienced players who have tried this before, so this should not be significant if they are spared further injuries.

"The players and the team always enjoy the international games and the special atmosphere that comes from playing against some of the best teams and players in Europe," Bredsdorff-Larsen said.

Group A is likely to be going close. Or, like team captain Michael Knudsen said: "It is a very tough group with four strong teams. Melsungen – an incredibly strong team from the top of the world's strongest handball league – are favourites to proceed. Bjerringbro-Silkeborg, Benfica and Opole have to fight for second place."

"We have a strong arena at home in Silkeborg where our goal is to get three victories," Knudsen added. "So the matches away from home will be crucial for our chances to proceed to the quarter finals."

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Pfadi Winterthur Handball (SUI) W33:36 (15:16)  
2nd leg: vs Pfadi Winterthur Handball (SUI) W34:30 (19:14)  
Aggregate score: 70:63

### Newcomers:

Mads Kjeldgaard Andersen (Mors Thy Håndbold), Thrainn Orri Jonsson (Elverum Handball)

### Left the club:

Rasmus Jensen (Fredericia HK)

### Coach:

Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen (since 2014)

### Team captain:

Michael V. Knudsen

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Quarter-final (3): 2002/03, 2008/09, 2015/16  
Last 16 (1): 2010/11  
Group Phase (1): 2017/18

#### Other

#### EHF Champions League:

Last 16 (2): 2012/13, 2016/17  
Group Phase: (2) 2011/12, 2018/19

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Quarter-final 2006/07

**Danish league:** 1 title (2016)

# Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
77	Michael V.	Knudsen	DEN	Line Player	04.09.1978	Hobro, DEN	99	192	3
18	Jesper Brian	Nöddesbo	DEN	Line Player	23.10.1980	Herning, DEN	100	199	6
8	Mads Oris	Nielsen	DEN	Back8	17.03.1981	Bjerringbro, DEN	102	197	0
16	Aljosa	Rezar	SLO	Goalkeeper	24.02.1983	Celje, SLO	89	189	0
23	Stefan	Hundstrup	DEN	Left Wing	30.06.1986	Svendborg, DEN	88	193	
4	Klaus Lundsby	Thomsen	DEN	Line Player	26.04.1986	Haderslev, DEN	105	198	0
7	Nikolaj Oris	Nielsen	DEN	Right Back	26.09.1986	Bjerringbro, DEN	97	194	10
11	Sebastian	Skube	SLO	Centre Back	03.04.1987	Novo Mesto, SLO	90	190	7
1	Kasper	Larsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	18.03.1989	Brabrand, DEN	86	193	0
22	Nikolaj	Markussen	DEN	Left Back	01.08.1988	Gribskov, DEN	106	211	15
55	Thráinn Orri	Jónsson	ISL	Line Player	12.07.1993	Reykjavik, ISL	109	203	3
10	Johan a Plogv	Hansen	DEN	Right Wing	01.05.1994	Torshavn, FAR	90	190	11
2	August Baskar	Pedersen	NOR	Left Wing	24.06.1994	Notodden, NOR	85	180	7
9	Jacob Arenth	Lassen	DEN	Back	11.09.1995	Randers, DEN	105	197	3
15	Mads	Kjeldgaard Andersen	DEN	Left Back	14.12.1996	Nykøbing Mors, DEN	94	195	5
30	Rune Bergmann	Lovschall	DEN	Goalkeeper	11.04.2001	Svendborg, DEN	105	201	0
25	Sasser V. H.	Sonn	DEN	Line Player	20.01.2001	Sørbymagle, DEN	111	191	
20	Oliver	Larsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	03.01.2000	Viborg, DEN	86	187	
33	Jeppe Gade	Nielsen	DEN	Left Back	09.08.2000	Viborg, DEN	81	194	



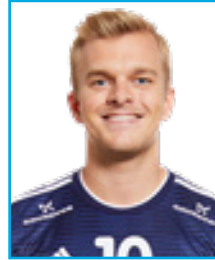
# Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)

## Coach and key players profiles



### **Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen** coach

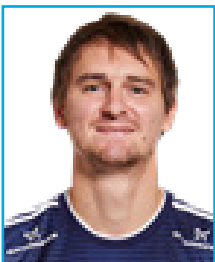
- joined BSV in the summer of 2014
- led AaB Handball to Danish title in 2010 and repeated the feat with Silkeborg in 2016
- has been assistant coach at the Danish national team in two periods
- former right wing at Aarhus-based club VRI
- known for his tactical and communicative skills



### **Johan Hansen** right wing

- joined in 2015 from league rivals Skanderborg but is now in his last season with the club before moving to TSV Hannover-Burgdorf
- born in Faroe Islands and played for their national team until he got Danish citizenship
- part of Danish national team than won WCh 2019
- fast and physically strong wing, who has been compared with Luc Abalo

WCh: G 2019



### **Sebastian Skube** centre back

- Slovenian player who joined from Celje in 2014
- previously played for RK Cimos Koper in Slovenia
- fast and inventive playmaker who compensates for his modest height with will power and a great variety of shots
- younger brother Stas Skube plays for HC Vardar



### **Nikolaj Øris Nielsen** right back

- spent entire career at the club, except for one season on loan at Lemvig Thyborøn
- at age 32, played his first major championship - and won gold with Denmark at WCh 2019
- good shooter from distance, also strong at breaking through opponents' defence
- his older brother, Mads, also plays at the club

WCh: G 2019



## GROUP A



### Playing hall

#### Stegu Arena

Oleska 70/7

45222 Opole

Poland

Capacity: 3,300

### Club Address:

KPR Gwardia Opole

Oleska 70

45-222 Opole

Poland

### Online information:

Website: [kprgwardiaopole.com](http://kprgwardiaopole.com)

Facebook: [kprgwardiaopole](https://www.facebook.com/kprgwardiaopole)

Twitter: [@KPRGwardiaOpole](https://twitter.com/KPRGwardiaOpole)

Instagram: [@kprgwardiaopole](https://www.instagram.com/kprgwardiaopole)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: blue

Player short: red

Goalkeeper shirt: green

#### Dark

Player shirt: black

Player short: black

Goalkeeper shirt: orange

## KPR Gwardia Opole (POL)

When KPR Gwardia Opole and KS Azoty-Pulawy SA were paired against each other in qualification round 3 of the Men's EHF Cup, it resulted in a hard-fought duel between the two Polish sides. Rafal Kuptel's young and hungry team won by only one goal, opening a brand-new chapter in the club's history with this achievement, and it seems that finding their place among European teams is a natural step.

The team will certainly do their best to enjoy the experience and learn as much as possible. Opole have a young, ambitious team that always fights until the end. In May 2019, in the semi-final first leg in the Polish league play-offs, Rafal Kuptel's players created a huge sensation in Polish handball by becoming the first team to defeat PGE VIVE Kielce in three years. Kielce took revenge in the second leg, but Opole eventually claimed the bronze medal – reaching the podium for the first time in 55 years.

In the group phase, the goalkeepers' performances will be crucial for Opole. Known for having a very high efficiency in his team's most difficult matches, experienced goalkeeper Adam Malcher has been chosen as the Polish league's best goalkeeper three times in a row in recent years.

Young, talented wingers will be responsible for fast counter attacks, but the team will play without injured right wing Michal Scislowicz. And injured right back Przemyslaw Zadura may return during the group phase.

It is the first time in the club's history that they have qualified for the group phase of a European Cup competition. The club expects huge public interest in the matches against solid European teams, and it can be assumed that all handball fans in Poland will follow Gwardia's performances in the EHF Cup.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs KS Azoty-Pulawy SA (POL) W26:24 (12:12)

2nd leg: @ KS Azoty-Pulawy SA (POL) L29:28 (12:13)

Aggregate score: 54:53

### Newcomers:

Dawid Balcerek (Olimp Grodków), Michal Scislowicz (SMS ZPRP Gdansk), Filip Stefani, Szymon Dzialakiewicz (SMS ZPRP Gdansk), Karol Małeck (AZS AWF Bielsko-Biała)

### Left the club:

Antoni Langowski (KS Azoty-Pulawy SA), Mindaugas Tarcijonas (Grupa Azoty Tarnów), Dawid Skrzypczyk (Gwardia Koszalin)

### Coach:

Rafal Kuptel (since 2014)

### Team captain:

Mateusz Jankowski

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

#### Qualification (2):

2017/18, 2018/19

Polish league: -

Polish cup: -

# KPR Gwardia Opole (POL)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
16	Adam	Malcher	POL	Goalkeeper	21.05.1986	Opole, POL	124	198	0
18	Mateusz	Jankowski	POL	Line Player	22.03.1988	Elblag, POL	105	190	3
19	Przemyslaw	Zadura	POL	Right Back	26.04.1988	Opole, POL	101	198	
14	Kamil	Mokrzyki	POL	Centre Back	29.10.1991	Plock, POL	95	185	7
20	Wiktor	Kawka	POL	Left Back	28.03.1996	Zamosc, POL	92	194	9
1	Mateusz	Zembrzycki	POL	Goalkeeper	18.03.1997	Legnica, POL	109	195	0
5	Karol	Siwak	POL	Left Wing	29.08.1997	Legnica, POL	85	187	2
2	Michal	Lemaniak	POL	Right Wing	15.02.1997	Plock, POL	94	180	3
24	Szymon	Dzialakiewicz	POL	Left Back	17.02.2000	Legnica, POL	0	190	4
21	Patryk	Mauer	POL	Right Wing	02.09.1998	Legnica, POL	75	180	10
7	Maciej	Zarzycki	POL	Centre Back	26.07.1998	Lublin	74	185	5
23	Mateusz	Morawski	POL	Centre Back	12.05.1997	Ciechanów, POL	77	182	1
27	Dariusz	Skraburski	POL	Left Back	27.02.2000	Poznan, POL	100	203	0
25	Filip	Stefani	POL	Right Wing	04.06.2000	Opole, POL	73	194	
3	Michal	Scislowicz	POL	Left Wing	24.07.2000	Legnica, POL	72	184	
10	Jan	Klimkow	POL	Line Player	21.12.1998	Grodków, POL	130	203	3
22	Michal	Milewski	POL	Left Wing	10.09.1998	Bydgoszcz, POL	88	192	4
44	Dawid	Balcerak	POL	Goalkeeper	16.12.2000	Nysa, POL	96	194	0
17	Jedrzej	Zieniewicz	POL	Left Back	02.04.1997	Zielona Góra, POL	92	187	3
13	Karol	Malecki	POL	Line Player	07.09.1996	Tomaszów Lub., POL	110	201	0



# KPR Gwardia Opole (POL)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Rafal Kuptel coach

- head coach since 2014, led team back to 1st Polish league in his first season in charge
- named best coach of Polish league two years in succession, in 2018 and 2019
- started coaching career with various club and national youth teams
- played 150 matches for Polish national team, part of team that won silver at WCh 2007



### Adam Malcher goalkeeper

- best goalkeeper of Polish league for three straight years (2017-19), also MVP in 2018
- made national team debut in 2008
- won bronze at WCh 2009, disappeared from team for long time but was called up again for WCh 2017 after Sławomir Szmal retired
- crucial player, known for raising the standard during important matches

WCh: S 2007 (as player)

WCh: B 2009



### Patryk Mauer right wing

- one of Poland's most talented wings, voted best new player in domestic league in 2018
- fast and agile, impressive in counterattacks
- turned down an invitation for the Polish national B team in order to focus on his computer science study
- team's leading scorer in first half of domestic league season



### Maciej Zarzycki centre back

- playing for Opole since 2017
- made the preliminary Polish squad for EHF EURO 2020 but was ultimately dropped
- key player in the team's attack after Antoni Łangowski left and Przemysław Zadura got injured
- wants to use the opportunity to showcase his qualities to a European audience

## GROUP A



**Playing hall**  
**Pavilhao da Luz No. 2**  
Av. General Norton Matos  
1500-313 Lisbon  
Portugal  
Capacity: 1,540

**Club Address:**  
SL Benfica  
Av. Eusébio Silva Ferreira  
1500-313 Lisbon  
Portugal

**Online information:**  
Website: [slbenfica.pt/pt-pt/modalidades/andebol](http://slbenfica.pt/pt-pt/modalidades/andebol)  
Facebook: Benfica-Andebol  
Twitter: @SLBenfica  
Instagram: @slbenfica

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: red  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: light grey

#### Dark

Player shirt: dark grey  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

## SL Benfica (POR)

SL Benfica knocked out RK Nexe thanks to the away-goal rule in qualification round 3 of the Men's EHF Cup to secure their place in the group phase Coached by Carlos Resende – one of the greatest figures in Portuguese handball – Benfica hope to fight hard in each game in group A and grow as the competition progresses.

After an investment in the squad and redoubled hopes, SL Benfica could achieve something historic in the EHF Cup. René Toft Hansen, who was named in the EHF Champions League 2014/15 All-star Team as best defender, joined from Veszprém last summer, bolstering a squad that already included France's EHF EURO 2014 and IHF Men's 2015 World Championship winner Alix Kevynn Nyokas. But it is going to be hard in group A against MT Melsungen, Bjerringbro-Silkeborg and KPR Gwardia Opole.

Coach Resende will always be associated with a fabulous period in Portuguese handball. He was a great player and now wants to pass on those experiences to his players. His experience could make the difference in the EHF Cup.

Last season, FC Porto appeared in the EHF Cup Finals and achieved a historic third place finish. If SL Benfica could match that feat, it would be another extraordinary milestone for Portuguese handball. The 'eagles' have the quality in the team to achieve that – but their mindset will determine the rest.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ RK Nexe (CRO) L30:26 (18:12)  
2nd leg: vs RK Nexe (CRO) W28:24 (12:10)  
Aggregate score: 54:54, Benfica advanced on away-goal rule

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs RK Dubrava (CRO) W29:28 (15:15)  
2nd leg: @ RK Dubrava (CRO) W16:34 (8:20)  
Aggregate score: 63:44

### Newcomers:

Carlos Molina (SC Magdeburg), René Toft Hansen (Telekom Veszprém HC), Petar Djordjic (HC Meshkov Brest), Gustavo Capdeville (returned from loan), Francisco Pereira (returned from loan)

### Left the club:

-

### Coach:

Carlos Resende (since 2017/18)

### Team captain:

Paulo Moreno

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Group phase (1): 2016/17  
Round 4 (1): 2009/10  
Round 3 (1): 2012/13  
Round 2 (1): 2008/09

#### Challenge Cup:

Final (2): 2015/16, 2010/11  
Semi-final (2): 2014/15, 2007/08

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Quarter-finals (1): 2011/12

**Portuguese league: 7 titles**

**Portuguese cup: 6 titles**

## SL Benfica (POR)

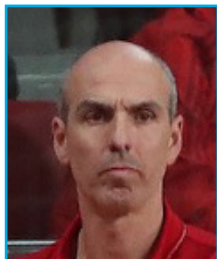
### Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
16	Borko	Ristovski	MKD	Goalkeeper	02.11.1982	Skopje, MKD	115	190	2
9	Rene	Toft Hansen	DEN	Line Player	01.11.1984	Skive, DEN	105	200	4
10	Alix Kevynn	Nyokas	FRA	Right Back	28.06.1986	Montfermeil, FRA	90	190	16
8	Joao	Pais	POR	Left Wing	23.06.1988	Lisboa, POR	80	185	2
34	Fabio	Antunes	POR	Left Wing	28.10.1988	Braga, POR	70	180	7
7	Pedro	Marques	POR	Centre Back	25.05.1990	Aveiro, POR	80	180	11
11	Belone	Moreira	POR	Right Back	01.06.1990	Lisboa, POR	80	180	3
14	Ricardo	Pesqueira	POR	Line Player	27.12.1991	Porto, POR	110	199	2
18	Carlos	Molina Cosano	ESP	Left Back	31.05.1991	Barcelona, ESP	104	201	0
22	Nuno	Pereira	POR	Left Back	22.03.1987	Aveiro, POR	93	193	15
44	Petar	Djordjic	SRB	Left Back	17.09.1990	Sabac, SRB	102	197	20
12	Miguel	Espinha Ferreira	POR	Goalkeeper	20.07.1993	Lisboa, POR	86	190	0
3	Davide	Carvalho	POR	Right Wing	05.08.1994	Lisboa, POR	82	180	4
19	Carlos	Martins	POR	Right Wing	14.06.1994	Moimenta, POR	79	178	7
13	Paulo	Moreno	POR	Line Player	08.05.1992	Lisboa, POR	112	198	14
41	Gustavo	Capdeville	POR	Goalkeeper	31.08.1997	Lisboa, POR	88	190	0
5	Rome Antonio	Diogo Hebo	ANG	Centre Back	11.04.1992	Luanda, ANG	92	192	2
50	Francisco	Pereira	POR	Centre Back	26.03.1999	Lamego, POR	101	191	8
55	Daniel	Neves	POR	Left Back	10.02.2001	Lisboa, POR	86	188	
17	Guilherme	Tavares	POR	Right Back	27.03.2002	Madeira, POR	90	194	0



## SL Benfica (POR)

### Coach and key players profiles



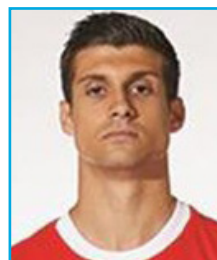
#### **Carlos Resende** coach

- joined Benfica from ABC Braga in 2017
- started his coaching career in 2006 at Porto, the club where he spent most of his playing career
- was a leading force in the Portuguese national team in the 1990s and 2000s, scoring more than 1,400 goals in 250 games
- named best left back of EHF EURO 2000 in Croatia



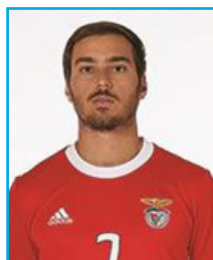
#### **Paulo Moreno** line player

- has been with Benfica for whole his career
- at age 27, he is the team captain
- strong asset to the team on both sides of the court, as he is a skillful finisher but also an essential defender
- respected for his great mentality on court



#### **Petar Djordjic** left back

- Serbian left back who arrived at Benfica in 2019 after two seasons with Meshkov Brest in Belarus
- won Cup Winners' Cup in 2012 with Flensburg; also played for Hamburg and Wetzlar in Germany
- 1.97m-tall player who scored 149 goals in his first 20 league matches for Benfica
- son of former international player Zoran Djordjic



#### **Pedro Marques** centre back

- joined Benfica from ABC Braga, together with coach Carlos Resende, in the summer of 2017
- previously also played for Sporting CP as he has spent his whole career so far in Portugal
- won the Challenge Cup with Sporting in 2010, and again with ABC six years later
- intelligent playmaker, key to Benfica's attack

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2012

EC trophies: Challenge Cup 2010, 2016



## Group B head-to-heads

Previous European Cup matches between the group B teams

### Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs Liberbank Cuenca

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs USAM Nîmes Gard

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs TTH Holstebro

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Liberbank Cuenca vs USAM Nîmes Gard

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Liberbank Cuenca vs TTH Holstebro 1-0-1 (48:58) 2:2

17.02.2019 Liberbank Cuenca vs TTH Holstebro, EHF Cup – Group C 26:24 (12:12)

30.03.2019 TTH Holstebro vs Liberbank Cuenca, EHF Cup – Group C 34:22 (19:12)

### USAM Nîmes Gard vs TTH Holstebro

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

## GROUP B



**Playing hall**  
**GBG Halle am Herzogenried**  
August Kuhnstrasse 35  
68169 Mannheim  
Germany  
Capacity: 3,000

### Club Address:

Rhein-Neckar Löwen  
Mollstrasse 49a  
68165 Mannheim  
Germany

### Online information:

Website: [rhein-neckar-loewen.de](http://rhein-neckar-loewen.de)  
Facebook: [rnloewen](https://www.facebook.com/rnloewen)  
Twitter: [@RNLoewen](https://twitter.com/RNLoewen)  
Instagram: [@rnloewen](https://www.instagram.com/rnloewen)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: orange  
Player short: dark blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: pink

#### Dark

Player shirt: dark blue  
Player short: dark blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: white

# Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)

It was the first trophy in the club's history, and was followed by two German Bundesliga titles: in 2013, Rhein-Neckar Löwen became the first winners of the newly merged Men's EHF Cup. After six VELUX EHF Champions League seasons and the return of Uwe Gensheimer, the Mannheim-based side is ready to go all the way to the finals in Berlin.

Rhein-Neckar Löwen failed in the Last 16 five times in the last six Champions League seasons, but in the EHF Cup 2012/13 they proved they can win at the business end of European Cup competitions, beating finals hosts Nantes in the final.

That season also marked the arrival in Mannheim of Gedeon Guardiola, who became world champion with Spain and EHF Cup winner with his new club. He could repeat a similar double this season, as he has already won the EHF EURO title with Spain. It will be Guardiola's last chance to win another international trophy with Löwen: in the summer he will move to TBV Lemgo.

On paper, Löwen are strong favourites in their group, which also includes USAM Nimes Gard, last season's EHF Cup Finals contenders TTH Holstebro and Liberbank Cuenca. Thanks to their wide squad, the German champions can rotate.

After years at Paris Saint-Germain Handball, Uwe Gensheimer returned to his home club before the start of this season. But so far, the left wing has not fully lived up to expectations in the Bundesliga, and at the EHF EURO he lacked his usual easiness and coolness. But Gensheimer will be eager to prove his international value for Rhein-Neckar Löwen in the EHF Cup.

## Road to the Group Phase

### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ SKA Minsk (BLR) W28:32 (14:13)

2nd leg: vs SKA Minsk (BLR) W29:17 (15:6)

Aggregate score: 61:45

### Newcomers:

Uwe Gensheimer (Paris SG Handball), Niclas Kirkeby (GOG Handbold), Tim Ganz (Löwen youth academy), Romain Lagarde (HBC Nantes)

### Left the club:

Vladan Lipovina (HBW Balingen-Weilstetten), Filip Taleski (HBW Balingen-Weilstetten), Bogdan Radivojevic (MOL Pick Szeged), Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (Paris St. Germain)

**Coach:** Kristjan Andresson (since 2019)

**Team captains:** Andy Schmid, Mikael Appelgren, Uwe Gensheimer

## Past achievements

### VELUX EHF Champions League:

Semi-final (2): 2008/09, 2010/11  
Quarter-final (2): 2009/10, 2013/14  
Last 16 (4): 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19

### EHF Cup:

Winners (1): 2012/13  
Semi-final (1): 2011/12  
Last 16 (1): 2006/07

### Cup Winners' Cup:

Final (1): 2007/08

**German league:** 2016, 2017

**German cup:** 2018



# Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
32	Alexander	Petersson	ISL	Right Back	02.07.1980	Riga, LAT	89	188	1
30	Gedeon	Guardiola Villaplana	ESP	Line Player	01.10.1984	Petret, ESP	103	199	6
12	Andreas	Palicka	SWE	Goalkeeper	10.07.1986	N Nöbbelöv, SWE	88	189	0
2	Andre	Schmid	SUI	Centre Back	30.08.1983	Horgen, SUI	86	190	7
3	Uwe	Gensheimer	GER	Left Wing	26.10.1986	Mannheim, GER	90	188	1
20	Ilija	Abutovic	SRB	Left Back	02.08.1988	Vrbas, SRB	100	202	0
24	Patrick	Groetzki	GER	Right Wing	04.07.1989	Pforzheim, GER	84	189	4
1	Mikael	Appelgren	SWE	Goalkeeper	06.09.1989	Uddevalla, SWE	100	191	0
36	Jesper	Nielsen	SWE	Line Player	30.09.1989	Norrköping, SWE	118	200	6
23	Steffen	Fäth	GER	Left Back	04.04.1990	Frankfurt a.M., GER	90	194	3
22	Mads	Mensah Larsen	DEN	Left Back	12.08.1991	Holbæk, CZE	109	188	6
80	Jannik	Kohlbacher	GER	Line Player	19.07.1995	Bensheim, GER	105	193	11
6	Niclas Vest	Kirkelocke	DEN	Right Back	26.03.1994	Ringe, DEN	100	195	5
17	Jerry	Tollbring	SWE	Left Wing	13.09.1995	Norrtälje, SWE	82	182	7
97	Rico	Keller	GER	Centre Back	30.07.1997	Heidelberg, GER	87	192	
8	Romain	Lagarde	FRA	Centre Back	05.03.1997	Lorient, FRA	95	194	1
15	Leon	Bolius	GER	Left Back	13.06.1995	Schwetzingen, GER	78	178	
77	Tim	Ganz	GER	Right Wing	03.06.1997	Kehl, GER	85	185	3
35	Yessine	Meddeb	GER	Right Back	30.05.2000	Neustadt a/d W., GER	95	185	
10	Luca	Braun	GER	Centre Back	22.06.1999	Dieburg, GER	94	198	
98	Maximilian	Kessler	GER	Right Wing	23.04.1998	Heidelberg, GER	85	194	
33	Mattes	Meyer	GER	Left Wing	04.11.1999	Karlsruhe, GER	82	178	
21	Sebastian	Trost	GER	Left Back	02.01.1998	Schwetzingen, GER	95	192	
38	Benedikt	Damm	GER	Line Player	30.12.2000	Heidelberg, GER	96	190	
16	Can	Adanir	GER	Goalkeeper	20.05.1999	Aschaffenburg, GER	95	192	
99	Niklas	Gierse	GER	Goalkeeper	15.01.2000	Heidelberg, GER	106	198	
27	Jannis	Schneibel	GER	Centre Back	06.07.2000	Ludwigshafen, GER	77	188	
19	Philipp	Ahouansou	GER	Left Back	02.05.2001	Hanau, GER	90	203	
31	Naoyuki	Shoji	JPN	Left Back	25.05.1995	Hiroshima, JPN	86	186	
26	Satoru	Goto	JPN	Right Wing	26.02.1996	Hiroshima, JPN	74	175	



# Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Kristjan Andresson coach

- replaced Nikolaj Jacobsen in summer of 2019
- fourth straight Löwen coach from Scandinavia after Lindgren, Gudmundsson and Jacobsen
- coached Sweden until end of EHF EURO 2020
- has Swedish and Icelandic citizenship
- was player/coach at Swedish club Guif before taking over national team of Sweden in 2016

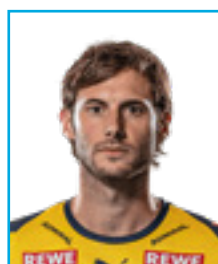
EURO: S 2018 (as coach)



### Mikael Appelgren goalkeeper

- in 2012 he arrived from Skövde in Melsungen, where played two German cup final events and group phase of EHF Cup
- joined Löwen in 2015 to replace Niklas Landin
- recently extended his contract until 2023
- named best goalkeeper in the German Bundesliga in 2017/18 and 2018/19

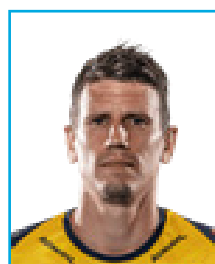
EURO: S 2018



### Uwe Gensheimer left wing

- returned to his home club in summer of 2019 after three seasons with PSG
- three-time top scorer of the CL: in 2010/11, 2016/17 and 2017/18
- captain of German national team, missed golden EHF EURO 2016 due to injury
- four-time German player of the year (2011-14)

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013  
OG: B 2016

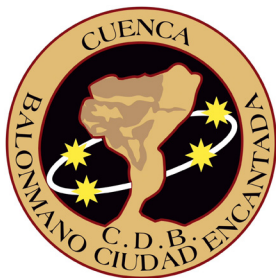


### Andre Schmid centre back

- playing in his 10th season with Löwen and recently extended his contract until 2022
- previously played for Grasshopper and Amicitia in Zuerich and for Bjerringbro
- key player, both as playmaker and shooter
- only member of Swiss national team who played at EHF EURO in both 2006 and 2020

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2013

## GROUP B



### Playing hall

Pabellon Polideportivo el Sargal  
C/Sargal s/n  
16002 Cuenca  
Spain  
Capacity: 1,750

### Club Address:

Liberbank Cuenca  
C/ Sargal S/N (Pabellon El Sarga  
16002 Cuenca  
Spain

### Online information:

Website: [bmciudadencantada.club](http://bmciudadencantada.club)  
Facebook: [BMCDadEncantada](https://www.facebook.com/BMCDadEncantada)  
Twitter: [@BMCDadEncantada](https://twitter.com/BMCDadEncantada)  
Instagram: [@bmcdadencantada](https://www.instagram.com/bmcdadencantada)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: black/grey  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

#### Dark

Player shirt: red/white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

## Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)

Liberbank Cuenca will play for the second time in their history in the Men's EHF Cup group phase. The Spanish club beat Austrian side ALPLA HC Hard on aggregate 59:50 in qualification round 3, and now they will play against Rhein-Neckar Löwen, who are one of the favourites for the title, French club USAM Nimes Gard and Danish side TTH Holstebro in group B. It is not a requirement for Cuenca to reach the quarter-final, but the goal is to be as competitive as possible. Cuenca also want to gain experience for the future and learn as much as possible.

Last season everything was new for most of the players, even for those who had international experience with their national teams, and Cuenca only won one match in the group phase. In some tight matches where the result was in the balance, Cuenca's inexperience was noticeable. This year the team will be one step further in this aspect.

At the beginning of the season, Cuenca won five matches in a row in the ASOBAL league – their best streak ever – but injuries to Leonardo Dutra and Santiago Baronetto have been felt in the next few months as they have lost some important matches since. Still, their confidence remains high.

Cuenca play their home games in El Sargal, an arena with a capacity for 1,900 spectators, and the team has a supporters group, Furia Conquense, which is among the largest and loudest in Spain. The team will need all the support they can get in only their second year in an European Cup competition.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs ALPLA HC Hard (AUT) W34:18 (15:9)  
2nd leg: @ ALPLA HC Hard (AUT) L32:25 (15:13)  
Aggregate score: 59:50

### Newcomers:

Samuel Ibañez (BM Sinfin), Patrik Linde Lindblad (AIK Handboll), Balint Fekete (BM Logroño La Rioja), Pablo Marrochi (US Creteil)

### Left the club:

Angel Montoro (Kadetten Schaffhausen), David Mendoza (retired), Killian Ramirez (BM Villa de Aranda), Adrian Nolasco (BM Benidorm), Oscar Rio (retired), Xavi Castro (BM Ciudad de Malaga), Enrique Suarez (?).

### Coach:

Lidio Jimenez (since 2014)

### Team captain:

Sergio Lopez

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Group phase (1):  
2018/19

#### Other:

#### Spanish league:

-

#### Spanish cup:

-

# Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
25	Pablo Miguel	Marrochi	ITA	Centre Back	13.09.1986	Montevideo, URU	88	194	6
6	Martin Ariel	Doldan	ITA	Line Player	31.01.1987	31/01/1987, ARG	97	190	6
5	Pablo	Vainstein	ARG	Right Wing	18.07.1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	89	186	3
11	Lucas Dario	Moscariello	ITA	Line Player	19.02.1992	Buenos Aires, ARG	104	190	6
40	Leonel Carlos	Maciel	ARG	Goalkeeper	04.01.1989	Buenos Aires, ARG	87	192	1
15	Balint	Fekete	HUN	Right Back	27.06.1995	Gyula, HUN	92	194	1
10	Hugo	Lopez Ortega	ESP	Right Wing	07.05.1992	ESP	83	182	6
26	Kristijan	Eskericic	CRO	Right Back	02.06.1994	Dakovo, CRO	197	105	3
13	Thiago	Alves Ponciano	BRA	Left Back	08.05.1994	Foz De Iguazu, BRA	107	194	5
28	Sergio	Lopez Garcia	ESP	Right Wing	30.09.1997	ESP	77	181	5
7	Natán Antonio	Suárez Diaz	ESP	Centre Back	20.01.1998	Gerona, ESP	80	185	15
3	Leonardo	Dutra Ferreira	BRA	Left Back	29.03.1996	BRA	96	183	
9	Santiago	Baronetto	ARG	Right Wing	22.10.1992	Caba, ARG	85	187	
82	Alejandro	Taravilla	ESP	Line Player	13.12.2001	Cuenca, ESP	86	190	2
8	Patrik Linde	Lindblad	SWE	Line Player	07.10.1991	Skarstad, SWE	108	197	0
16	Pablo	Cano	ESP	Goalkeeper	10.01.2003	Cuenca, ESP	80	179	
	Enrique	Suarez	ESP	Centre Back	31.03.1995	Gerona, ESP	80	180	
34	Armando	Arce	ESP	Right Wing	20.06.2003	Gijon, ESP	70	170	0
12	Samuel	Ibañez Juan	ESP	Goalkeeper	12.06.1993	Almassora, ESP	90	180	0



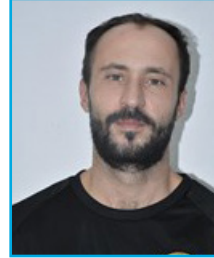
# Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)

## Coach and key players profiles



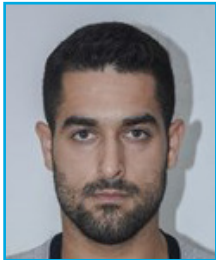
### Lidio Jimenez coach

- in his sixth season as head coach of Cuenca after replacing Zupo Equisoain in 2014
- previously worked as assistant coach and youth teams coordinator at the club
- led the team to its history-best 5th place in the ASOBAL league in 2017/18, earning qualification for the EHF Cup for the first time



### Leonel Maciel goalkeeper

- Argentine international, who joined Cuenca in 2017 after previously playing for two other Spanish sides, Zamora and Octavio
- won the South and Central American Championship with Argentina in January 2020
- likes to read about philosophy and Buddhism



### Leonardo Dutra Ferreira left back

- Brazilian international, who was the team's domestic top scorer with 159 goals in 2018/19
- nicknamed 'La bestia' (the beast)
- arrived in 2017 from Brazilian club EC Pinheiros, where he had become MVP and top scorer of Pan-American Club Championship a year before



### Pablo Vainstein right back

- started playing handball at age 8, switched to football and basketball before returning to handball at age 13
- Argentine international, who won the South and Central American Championship in January 2020
- was 18 when he first played in Europe, in Italy
- missed most of the 2018/19 season with a Achilles tendon injury

## GROUP B



### Playing hall

#### Le Parnasse

160 Avenue du Languedoc  
30900 Nîmes  
France  
Capacity: 3,391

### Club Address:

USAM Nîmes Gard  
160 Avenue du Languedoc  
30900 Nîmes  
France

### Online information:

Website: [usam-nimesgard.fr](http://usam-nimesgard.fr)  
Facebook: [USAMNimesGard](https://www.facebook.com/USAMNimesGard)  
Twitter: [@USAMNIMESGARD](https://twitter.com/USAMNIMESGARD)  
Instagram: [@usam\\_nimes\\_gard](https://www.instagram.com/usam_nimes_gard)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: green  
Player short: green  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: green

## USAM Nîmes Gard (FRA)

25 years ago, in their most recent participation in a European Cup prior to the 2019/20 season, USAM Nîmes Gard played in the Last 32 round of the Cup Winners' Cup. Now, the club from the south of France, who are celebrating their 60th anniversary in 2020, are in the Men's EHF Cup group phase. While Nîmes aim to win as many games as possible in the group phase, they also want to gain experience.

Nîmes have many players in their squad who have played in the VELUX EHF Champions League in the past, including Michaël Guigou and O'Brian Nyateu, to name just two, so it might be wrong to say they lack experience. "There is a real enthusiasm in the club around the EHF Cup and we have to keep it all going. We will travel, gain experience and I hope that, in these conditions, we will manage to reproduce what we do now with a lot of character and enthusiasm," coach Franck Maurice says.

Egyptian right wing Mohammad Sanad feels right at home in Nîmes, where he landed in 2017. After two-and-a-half seasons, he has already scored more than 300 goals. In the two games against Csurgói KK in qualification round 3, Sanad netted a total of 18 goals. His connection with goalkeeper Rémi Desbonnet is one of the keys to Nîmes' success.

It remains to be seen how Nîmes will do against Rhein-Neckar Löwen and TTH Holstebro as both teams have huge experience in European competitions. But coach Maurice is just happy to be playing against such strong contenders for the title.

"We're going to play against Rhein-Neckar Löwen, one of the best teams in Europe. Holstebro and Cuenca are two very good teams. We're going to give it a go, we'll have nothing to lose in this competition. We are outsiders and we like that position," Maurice says.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Csurgói KK (HUN) L28:25 (11:13)  
2nd leg: vs Csurgói KK (HUN) W29:20 (17:7)  
Aggregate score: 54:48

### Newcomers:

Jean-Jacques Acquevillo (Cesson-Rennes),  
Michaël Guigou (Montpellier)

### Left the club:

Jérémy Suty (Limoges), Yvan Gérard (Strasbourg), Tom Poyet (Valence), Jimmy Brun (Angoulême), Mike Brasseur (Limoges)

### Coach:

Franck Maurice (since 2013)

### Team captain:

Julien Rebichon

### Past achievements

#### EHF Champions League:

Group phase (1): 1993/94

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Last 32 (1): 1994/95

#### French league:

4 titles (1987/88, 1989/90, 1990/91, 1992/93)

#### French cup:

3 titles (1984/85, 1985/86, 1993/94)

# USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
14	Michaël	Guigou	FRA	Centre Back	28.01.1982	Apt, FRA	78	180	3
55	Teodor	Paul	SVK	Goalkeeper	22.04.1987	Kassa, SVK	94	195	0
11	Remi	Salou	FRA	Line Player	09.02.1988	Brest, FRA	102	197	2
15	Olivier	Marroux	FRA	Right Wing	09.01.1986	Valence, FRA	78	176	
92	Remi	Desbonnet	FRA	Goalkeeper	28.02.1992	Montpellier, FRA	85	182	0
4	Benjamin	Gallego	FRA	Centre Back	24.11.1988	Montpellier, FRA	86	184	4
28	Nicolas	Nieto	FRA	Line Player	06.04.1994	Vernon, FRA	111	195	2
11	Quentin	Dupuy	FRA	Left Back	01.07.1994	Nimes, FRA	97	194	2
8	O'Brian	Nyateu	FRA	Centre Back	07.11.1992	Bordeaux	85	187	1
93	Mike	Brasseur	FRA	Right Wing	16.04.1993	Paris , FRA	92	198	
71	Elohim	Prandi	FRA	Left Back	24.08.1998	Istres, FRA	96	193	10
91	Mohamed	Hisham Sanad	EGY	Right Wing	16.01.1991	El Cairo, EGY	86	186	18
18	Hichem	Kaabeche	ALG	Line Player	12.03.1990	Skikda, ALG	102	190	0
27	Jean-Jacques	Acquevillo	FRA	Left Back	17.01.1989	Le Lamentin, FRA	100	195	5
3	Damien	Gibernon	FRA	Right Back	17.05.2000	Nimes, FRA	76	181	
3	Quentin	Pugliese	FRA	Left Back	21.05.2000	Toulouse, FRA	80	195	
6	Julien	Rebichon	FRA	Left Wing	18.10.1988	Montpellier, FRA	79	179	1
24	Luc	Tobie	FRA	Right Back	24.06.1988	Cayenne, FRA	84	180	4
77	Steven	George	FRA	Right Wing	26.08.1995	St Jean de Braye , FRA	83	183	2
15	Romain	Tesio	FRA	Right Wing	14.03.1997	Avignon, FRA	81	183	
22	Aurélien	Padolus	FRA	Back	14.03.1997	Le Lamentin , FRA	94	195	0
1	Paul	Keller	FRA	Goalkeeper	13.03.2001	Nimes, FRA	78	186	
1	Alexandre	Ortet	FRA	Goalkeeper	02.02.2000	Toulouse, FRA	91	190	
35	Alexis	Biagui	FRA	Left Wing	04.09.1998	Lyon , FRA	85	183	
10	Vincent	Pires	FRA	Left Wing	05.12.2000	Nimes, FRA	173	65	
9	Milian	Formeau	FRA	Left Back	27.01.2000	Arcachon, FRA	95	191	
9	Marius	Faveret	FRA	Left Back	19.04.2001	Besancon, FRA	86	196	
3	Timothe	Ginhac	FRA	Left Wing	08.08.2001	Nimes, FRA	72	175	
10	Hugo	Jovani	FRA	Centre Back	19.01.1999	Gleize, FRA	80	181	
3	Thomas	Fautrero	FRA	Left Back	15.08.2001	Montpellier, FRA	77	185	
10	Loic	Binet	FRA	Right Back	23.08.2001	Mont.St.Martin , FRA	93	189	
13	Teo	Thomas	FRA	Right Wing	01.01.2001	Bamako, MLI	69	178	
9	Fares	Demane	FRA	Right Wing	17.08.2000	Denain , FRA	66	174	
9	Billy	Chabaud	FRA	Line Player	18.06.1996	Decine Charpieu , FRA	85	183	



# USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Franck Maurice coach

- Paris-born coach, who has been in charge of Nimes since November 2014
- in his playing career, he was a left wing at five different clubs before ending his career at Nimes in 2002
- played a Cup Winners' cup semi-final with Ivry in 1997



### Rémi Desbonnet goalkeeper

- started his professional handball career at Montpellier HB, like many of his teammates at Nimes
- famously scored a goal against HSV Hamburg in the VELUX EHF Champions League in 2013
- 1.82m tall and one of the most efficient goalkeepers in the French league



### Michaël Guigou left wing

- left Montpellier HB, the club where he started playing handball, in the summer of 2019 after 19 seasons
- was the only player in the CL-winning Montpellier squad of 2018 who had also lifted the trophy in 2003
- adds necessary experience to Nimes
- one of two Nimes players, alongside O'Brian Nyateu, who have played an EHF Cup final



### Elohim Prandi left back

- son of Raoul Prandi and Mezuela Servier, two high-level handball players; his mother was once captain of French national team
- will leave Nimes for PSG in the summer of 2020, having signed a three-year contract
- very successful youth international, winning gold at U18 EURO in 2016 and at both U19 and U21 world championships



## GROUP B



### Playing hall Grækjaer Arena

Hostrupvej 27 7500  
Holstebro  
Denmark  
Capacity: 3,250

### Club Address:

TTH Holstebro  
Stationsvej 37  
7500 Holstebro  
Denmark

### Online information:

Website: [tthholstebro.dk](http://tthholstebro.dk)  
Facebook: TTHHolstebro  
Instagram: @tthholstebro

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow or blue

# TTH Holstebro (DEN)

TTH Holstebro have already made it to the Men's EHF Cup Finals twice before. In the 2012/13 season, the first season under the current format, the Danish club finished third in Nantes. Last season, when the EHF Cup Finals were held in Kiel, TTH made it to the final weekend again and finished fourth.

This season a seemingly reinforced Holstebro team is dreaming of going to another German city – Berlin, where the EHF Cup Finals are taking place this time. The team definitely looks stronger than the team that reached the finals in 2018/19. The arrival of playmaker Allan Damgaard from Frisch Auf Göppingen and the extremely talented right back Nikolaj Enderleit from Ribe Esbjerg HH provide obvious reinforcements to the team, not least in attack, and so does the signing of versatile back court player Johan Meklenborg from Nordjælland Håndbold.

So what can TTH do in the group phase this season? Team captain Peter Balling: "Cuenca are a team we know from last year. Those games may very well be the key games in terms of proceeding from the group," he says. "Nimes are a team we do not know that well, but as always, French teams have a lot of individual skills, so those games will probably be tough. Rhein-Neckar Löwen are the favourites to win the group from our point of view, as they have a lot of international top players."

Spotlights will be on Magnus Bramming once again. The 29-year-old Denmark international, who set an all-time scoring record in the Men's EHF Cup with 100 goals last season, is a crucial player for Holstebro. Bramming's reliability from the left wing position as well as from penalties is a crucial factor on TTH's road to Berlin.

## Road to the Group Phase

### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Talant M.A.T. Plzen (CZE) W25:30 (12:16)  
2nd leg: vs Talant M.A.T. Plzen (CZE) W37:21 (18:10)  
Aggregate score: 67:46

### Newcomers:

Allan Damgaard (Frisch Auf! Göppingen), Nikolai Enderleit (Ribe Esbjerg HH), Johan Meklenborg (Nordsjælland Håndbold), Christoffer Cichosz, (Skjern Handbold), Søren Tau (Elverum Handball)

### Left the club:

Vignir Svavarsson (retired), Thomas Bohl Damgaard (Skive fH), Jac Karlsson (B-46 Handboll), Mikkel Sandholm (Skjern Handbold), John Viktor Östlund (HK Malmö), Malte Justesen (Skive fH)

### Coach:

Patrick Westerholm (since 2015)

### Team captain:

Peter Balling

## Past achievements

### EHF Champions League:

Group phase (1): 2016/17

### EHF Cup:

EHF Cup Finals (2): 2012/13, 2018/19  
Quarter-final (1): 2014/15  
Group phase (1): 2015/16  
Qualification round 3 (1): 2017/18

### Cup Winners' Cup:

Quarter-final (1): 2009/10

### Danish league: -

**Danish cup:** 2 titles (2008, 2018)

# TTH Holstebro (DEN)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
7	Allan	Damgaard Espersen	DEN	Centre Back	11.04.1986	Guldborgsund, DEN	94	185	4
26	Peter	Balling Christensen	DEN	Right Back	05.04.1990	Skive, DEN	92	188	0
25	Jonas Soegaard	Porup	DEN	Left Back	12.02.1991	Lemvig, DEN	98	197	1
29	Søren Tau	Sørensen	DEN	Line Player	18.12.1985	Odense, DEN	114	193	1
10	Magnus Grubb	Bramming	DEN	Left Wing	01.10.1990	Roskilde 78	183	22	
30	Sebastian Leth	Frandsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	27.05.1994	Aarhus, DEN	102	204	0
21	Kasper Emil	Kildelund	DEN	Right Wing	11.05.1994	Svendborg, DEN	86	183	5
24	Johan	Meklenborg	DEN	Centre Back	13.05.1994	Odense, DEN	88	194	10
23	Kay	Smits	NED	Right Back	31.03.1997	Geleen, NED	89	186	7
8	Niels	Lindholt	DEN	Line Player	27.04.1995	Holstebro, DEN	100	186	3
14	Nikolaj	Enderleit	DEN	Right Back	21.06.1997	Kolding, DEN	96	198	7
1	Simon Sandgrav	Gade	DEN	Goalkeeper	03.01.1997	Holstebro, DEN	94	194	0
6	Jonathan Mosbæk	Tønning Würtz	DEN	Centre Back	29.09.1999	Nyborg, DEN	100	198	
4	Christoffer Cichosz	Mikkelsen	DEN	Line Player	17.01.1988	Lemvig, DEN	112	190	3
11	Tobias Rysberg	Bay	DEN	Left Wing	28.10.2000	Holstebro, DEN	75	189	
3	Johan Thesbjerg	Kofoed	DEN	Left Back	04.07.2001	Varde, DEN	99	201	3
12	Kristian Skytte	Nygaard	DEN	Goalkeeper	27.06.1999	Holstebro, DEN	105	195	
16	Mathias Damkjaer	Pedersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	15.08.2001	Brande, DEN	92	189	
5	Rasmus Sylvester	Morup	DEN	Centre Back	02.05.1998	Holstebro, DEN	96	193	
9	Simon Damgaard	Jensen	DEN	Left Wing	28.03.2001	Holstebro, DEN	73	185	1
2	Anders Agerskov	Flaeng	DEN	Right Wing	12.11.2001	Holstebro, DEN	64	184	
20	Nicholaj Vedel-Birch	Andersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	06.03.2000	Esbjerg, DEN	89	189	



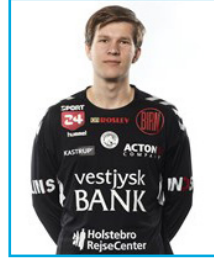
# TTH Holstebro (DEN)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Patrick Westerholm coach

- former Finnish international player who has been coaching TTH since 2015
- will leave the club in the summer of 2020
- previously worked with several other Danish league clubs, including women's teams
- was a playmaker and left back at Finnish club BK 46 Karis and Danish side KIF Kolding



### Simon Gade goalkeeper

- has always been playing for TTH, except for a few seasons on loan at neighbouring clubs, but will leave for Aalborg after the 2019/20 season
- initially seen as a back-up for Sebastian Frandsen but they are on equal level now
- tall goalkeeper with fine reach, good reactions and strong ability for reading shots



### Allan Damgaard left back

- joined from former EHF Cup champions Frisch Auf Göppingen in the summer of 2019
- previously played for TTH from 2012-15
- versatile backcourt player with a fine eye for the game and a good repertoire of shots
- younger brother Michael plays for another EHF Cup group phase team, SC Magdeburg



### Nikolaj Enderleit right back

- joined from league rivals Ribe Esbjerg HH before the start of the 2019/20 season
- was out for almost two years with a concussion and a knee injury but has fully recovered now
- one of the most promising Danish right backs
- possesses a great shot and excels in breaking through the defence, also a good defender



## Group C head-to-heads

Previous European Cup matches between the group C teams

### SC Magdeburg vs HBC Nantes 1-1-0 (53:46) 3:1

24.02.2013 HBC Nantes vs SC Magdeburg, EHF Cup – Group D 20:27 (8:13)  
09.03.2013 SC Magdeburg vs HBC Nantes, EHF Cup – Group D 26:26 (14:17)

### SC Magdeburg vs RK Gorenje Velenje

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### SC Magdeburg vs Abanca Ademar Leon 2-0-0 (59:52) 4:0

18.12.1999 Sportclub Magdeburg vs Proseca Ademar Leon, Champions Trophy – Semi-final 32:26 (N/A)  
26.11.2005 C.BM. Ademar Leon vs SC Magdeburg, Champions Trophy – Semi-final 26:27 (10:12)

### HBC Nantes vs RK Gorenje Velenje

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### HBC Nantes vs Abanca Ademar Leon

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### RK Gorenje Velenje vs Abanca Ademar Leon 1-0-2 (68:77) 2:4

04.09.2010 RK Gorenje Velenje vs Reale Ademar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Q Tournament - Group W 21:27 (12:15)  
17.09.2017 Rk Gorenje Velenje vs Abanca Ademar Leon, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C 23:22 (12:10)  
11.11.2017 Abanca Ademar Leon vs Rk Gorenje Velenje, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C 28:24 (15:13)

## GROUP C



### Playing hall

#### GETEC-Arena - Bördelandhalle

Berliner Chaussee 32  
39114 Magdeburg  
Germany  
Capacity: 7,800

### Club Address:

SC Magdeburg  
Handball Magdeburg GmbH  
Friedrich-Ebert-Straße 68  
39114 Magdeburg  
Germany

### Online information:

Website: [www.scm-handball.de](http://www.scm-handball.de)  
Facebook: SCMagdeburg  
Twitter: @scmagdeburg  
Instagram: @scmagdeburg

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white/yellow  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

#### Dark

Player shirt: black/yellow  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: red or green

## SC Magdeburg (GER)

In contrast to the 2018/19 season, when they were eliminated by eventual EHF Cup Finals participants FC Porto in the qualification stage, SC Magdeburg had no problems reaching the group phase of the EHF Cup this time. As usual, the bar has been set high by the former EHF Champions League and EHF Cup winners – to go all the way to the EHF Cup Finals in Berlin.

Before this season, many players left and many others arrived. Therefore, the first half of the Bundesliga season was something like a rollercoaster ride for coach Bennet Wiegert's team. Right before the EHF EURO 2020, Marko Bezjak and Albin Lagergren were injured. Many other players, such as medallists Zeljko Musa (silver with Croatia) or Christian O'Sullivan (bronze with Norway), had a demanding European Championship. This might have an impact.

Even more, the tough group phase opponents, such as VELUX EHF Champions League 2017/18 finalists HBC Nantes, former Cup Winners' Cup winners Abanca Ademar Leon and RK Gorenje Velenje do not make the way to Berlin easier.

Magdeburg are playing their 13th EHF Cup season since 1998. They were finalists in the old format four times, and won the trophy three times (1999, 2001, 2007). In the new format, they qualified for the EHF Cup Finals twice (2017, 2018) but faltered in the semi-final on both occasions. Now, they hope to use all their experience in order to make it to the finals again.

"We were drawn in the toughest of all groups," says Steffen Stiebler, sports director of SCM. "We need to win all home matches, then we have to see what is possible in the away games."

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ NMC Górnik Zabrze (POL) W25:37 (15:17)

2nd leg: vs NMC Górnik Zabrze (POL) W37:26 (22:15)

Aggregate score: 74:51

**Newcomers:** Filip Kuzmanovski (Eurofarm Rabotnik/MKD), Tobias Thulin (Redberglids IK/SWE), Tim Hornke (TBV Lemgo-Lippe), Christoph Steinert (HC Erlangen), Moritz Preuss (VfL Gummersbach), Erik Schmidt (Füchse Berlin), Gisli Thorgeir Kristjansson (THW Kiel)

**Left the club:** Robert Weber (HSG Nordhorn-Lingen), Dario Quenstedt (THW Kiel), Mads Christiansen (Aalborg), Carlos Molina (Benfica Lissabon), Gleb Kalarash (HC Vardar), Juan Munoz de la Pena (HBW Balingen-Weilstetten)

### Coach:

Bennet Wiegert (since December 2015)

### Team captain:

Christian O'Sullivan

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup

Winners (3): 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07

Runners-up (1): 2004/05

Semi-final (3): 2011/12, 2016/17, 2017/18

Quarter-final (2): 2012/13, 2015/16

#### Other

#### VELUX EHF Champions League:

Winners (1): 2001/02

Semi-final (1): 2003/04

Quarter-final (1): 2002/03

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Semi-final (1): 1996/97

Quarter-final (1): 2007/08

#### German league: 12 titles (outdoor

1967, indoor 1970, 1977,

1980-85, 1988, 1991 - all GDR, 2001)

#### German cup: 7 titles (1970, 1977, 1978,

1984, 1990 - all GDR, 1996, 2016)

# SC Magdeburg (GER)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
2	Zeljko	Musa	CRO	Line Player	08.01.1986	Mostar, CRO	114	200	1
25	Marko	Bezjak	SLO	Centre Back	26.06.1986	Ptuj, SLO	87	184	2
16	Jannick	Green	DEN	Goalkeeper	29.09.1988	Lemvig, DEN	94	195	0
3	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24.03.1988	Goreczno, POL	100	202	1
34	Michael	Damgaard Nielsen	DEN	Left Back	18.03.1990	Lolland, DEN	95	192	2
17	Tim	Hornke	GER	Right Wing	04.08.1990	Hannover, GER	85	189	11
8	Christoph	Steinert	GER	Right Back	18.01.1990	Berlin, GER	99	196	6
42	Renars	Uscins	GER	Right Back	29.04.2002	Dessau, GER	92	189	
11	Daniel	Pettersson	SWE	Right Wing	06.05.1992	Eskilstuna, SWE	72	179	7
24	Christian	O'Sullivan	NOR	Centre Back	22.08.1991	Oslo, NOR	89	190	5
23	Albin	Lagergren	SWE	Right Back	11.09.1992	Varberg, SWE	94	186	4
6	Matthias	Musche	GER	Left Wing	18.07.1992	Magdeburg, GER	75	186	13
12	Tobias	Thulin	SWE	Goalkeeper	05.07.1995	Gothenburg, SWE	99	198	0
95	Moritz	Preuß	GER	Line Player	22.02.1995	Dachau, GER	103	194	6
22	Lukas	Mertens	GER	Left Wing	22.03.1996	Wilhelmshaven, GER	85	182	8
18	Filip	Kuzmanovski	MKD	Left Back	07.07.1996	Bitola, MKD	105	198	8
21	Erik	Schmidt	GER	Line Player	28.12.1992	Mainz, GER	101	204	
40	Justin	Kurch	GER	Line Player	20.04.1999	Magdeburg, GER	105	198	0
7	Justus	Kluge	GER	Left Wing	24.12.1997	Magdeburg, GER	82	194	
1	Lukas	Diedrich	GER	Goalkeeper	28.03.2000	Northeim, GER	90	190	
38	Yannick	Danneberg	GER	Left Back	28.01.2000	Magdeburg, GER	93	203	
5	Hannes	Bransche	GER	Right Back	06.01.1999	Nordhausen, GER	93	195	
39	Niklas	Danowski	GER	Line Player	11.07.1998	Magdeburg, GER	98	191	0
35	Luka	Baumgart	GER	Left Back	05.08.1999	Magdeburg, GER	88	193	
36	Felix	Eißing	GER	Right Wing	14.10.2002	Magdeburg, GER	82	191	
66	Janik	Patzwaldt	GER	Goalkeeper	22.05.2001	Magdeburg, GER	88	192	
37	Paul	Schikora	GER	Right Wing	03.05.2000	Magdeburg, GER	78	182	
41	Oskar	Schöll	GER	Centre Back	24.03.2001	Magdeburg, GER	77	181	



# SC Magdeburg (GER)

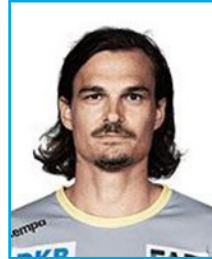
## Coach and key players profiles



### Bennet Wiegert coach

- played for Magdeburg from 1998-2013, except for three years, and won CL with the club in 2002
- former German international on the left wing
- replaced coach Ger Sveinsson in December 2015, had been director of the club's youth academy
- his father, Ingolf, an Olympic champion as a player in 1980, was also Magdeburg coach

EC trophies: CL 2002 (as player)



### Jannick Green goalkeeper

- Danish goalkeeper who played CL with two different clubs: Aalborg and Bjerringbro
- his mother was Danish international, his father coached him at Lemvig and his younger brother plays for Aalborg
- joined Magdeburg in 2014, his current contract expires after the 2019/20 season

OG: G 2016; EURO: S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2013



### Marko Bezjak centre back

- Slovenian back who arrived from Velenje in 2013
- won Slovenian league title three times and gains CL experience with Velenje
- shares playmaker position with the team's captain, Norway's Christian O'Sullivan
- crucial player for the Slovenian national team

WCh: B 2017



### Matthias Musche left wing

- has been playing for Magdeburg since age 8, though spent one season on loan with Schwerin
- had his Bundesliga debut at the age of 19
- went through all national youth teams before making first appearance in A team in 2014
- was part of squad for WCh 2019 on home court
- Bundesliga top scorer in 2018/19 with 256 goals

## GROUP C



**Playing hall**  
**Palais des Sports de Beaulieu**  
7-9 rue André Tardieu  
44200 Nantes  
France  
Capacity: 5,400

### Club Address:

HBC Nantes  
7-9 rue André Tardieu  
44200 Nantes  
France

### Online information:

Website: [hbcnantes.com](http://hbcnantes.com)  
Facebook: [HBCNantesOfficiel](https://www.facebook.com/HBCNantesOfficiel)  
Twitter: [@HBCNantes](https://twitter.com/HBCNantes)  
Instagram: [@hbcnantes](https://www.instagram.com/hbcnantes)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow/coral

#### Dark

Player shirt: red  
Player short: red  
Goalkeeper shirt: orange

# HBC Nantes (FRA)

For three straight seasons HBC Nantes featured in the VELUX EHF Champions League, highlighted by their stunning run to the 2018 final. This season the French side has returned to the EHF Cup, a competition in which they have been doing well also, reaching the final twice. Nantes are among the favourites for the title but first will have to navigate their way out of a tough group C.

Spanish coach Alberto Entrerrios took over from Thierry Anti in the summer of 2019, after three seasons in which he assisted Anti. While Nantes already had some Spanish flavour last season, it has become even more visible now. Line player Nicolas Tournat is the key of the team's offensive game, while most of the players on the back court have played in Spain before. This was reinforced when Entrerrios took over.

Nantes will once more build on their home strength. Past results don't lie: only very few teams have come out victorious at Beaulieu, Nantes' arena. Only one team did it in the French league this season, and two seasons ago their home strength was a key factor in 'Le H' reaching the VELUX EHF FINAL4. Wins over the likes of Rhein-Neckar Löwen, Barça or Pick Szeged are not uncommon on France's West coast, so all group phase opponents should be warned.

A key player for Nantes will be Aymeric Minne. The 22 year-old centre back found himself in the middle of a battle between Nantes and Aix last summer, but Minne followed his heart and joined Nantes. Coach Alberto Entrerrios will be happy about it, as the young player scored 52 times in his first 13 French league games. The French national team seems waiting. All doubt has disappeared whether the new pair of centre backs with Minne and Rok Ovnicek would be efficient right away.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs OIF Arendal Elite (NOR) W30:29 (12:15)

2nd leg: @ OIF Arendal Elite (NOR) D30:30 (16:16)

Aggregate score: 60:59

**Newcomers:** Sebastian Augustinussen (Skjern), Emil Nielsen (Skjern), Senjamin Buric (Zagreb), Alex Cavalcanti (SL Benfica), Aymeric Minne (Pays d'Aix), Rok Ovnicek (RK Celje), Antonio Garcia Robledo (BM Granollers)

**Left the club:** Thierry Anti (coach, Sporting CP), Lucian Auffret (Strasbourg), Kevin Bonnefoi (Montpellier), Nicolas Claire (Pays d'Aix), Florian Delecroix (Cesson), Romaric Guillo (Cesson), Romain Lagarde (Rhein-Neckar Löwen), Espen Lie Hansen (Drammen), Arnaud Siffert (retired)

**Coach:** Alberto Entrerrios (since 2019)

**Team captain:** Rock Feliho

### Past achievements

#### VELUX EHF Champions League

Final (1): 2017/18  
Quarter-final (1): 2018/19  
Last 16 (1): 2016/17

#### Other:

#### EHF Cup:

Final (2): 2012/13, 2015/16  
Quarter-final (1): 2013/14

#### French league:

1 title (2015)

#### French cup:

1 title (2017)



# HBC Nantes (FRA)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
17	Kiril	Lazarov	MKD	Right Back	10.05.1980	Veles, MKD	96	193	10
1	Cyril	Dumoulin	FRA	Goalkeeper	02.02.1984	Rillieux la Pape, FRA	100	200	0
7	Valero	Rivera Folch	ESP	Left Wing	22.02.1985	Barcelona, ESP	83	186	10
18	Eduardo	Gurbindo Martinez	ESP	Right Back	08.11.1987	Pamplona, ESP	92	195	
2	Antonio	Garcia Robledo	ESP	Back	06.03.1984	La Llagosta, ESP	93	191	2
13	Rock	Feliho	FRA	Left Back	13.08.1982	Cotonou, BEN	100	192	1
6	Olivier	Nyokas	FRA	Left Back	28.06.1986	Montfermeil, FRA	86	187	3
5	Senjamin	Buric	BIH	Line Player	20.11.1990	Doboj, BIH	100	198	4
19	David	Balaguer Romeu	ESP	Right Wing	17.08.1991	Barcelona, ESP	91	185	
11	Nicolas	Tournat	FRA	Line Player	05.04.1994	Niort, FRA	114	200	7
14	Julian	Emonet	FRA	Left Wing	04.01.1992	Sartrouville, FRA	91	182	0
4	Rok	Ovnicsek	SLO	Centre Back	29.01.1995	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	81	183	5
8	Alexandre	Cavalcanti	POR	Left Back	27.12.1996	Almada, POR	102	203	4
15	Aymeric	Minne	FRA	Centre Back	20.04.1997	Melun, FRA	76	186	7
16	Emil	Nielsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	10.03.1997	Aarhus, DEN	120	195	0
9	Sebastian	Augustinussen	DEN	Right Wing	06.05.1996	Aarhus, DEN	93	192	3
10	Dragan	Pechmalbec	FRA	Line Player	05.01.1996	Cahors, FRA	94	194	0
25	Lucas	Petraud	FRA	Right Back	10.01.1999	Cagnes sur Mer, FRA	87	194	
30	Andrea	Colleluori	ITA	Goalkeeper	17.05.2000	Penne, ITA	85	182	
24	Baptiste	Damatin	FRA	Left Wing	29.04.2000	Saint Maurice, FRA	81	177	
26	Théo	Monar	FRA	Line Player	06.06.2001	Fort de France, FRA	95	198	
20	Alex	Moran	FRA	Right Wing	20.12.1999	Caen, FRA	81	180	4
21	Victor	Pelechenko	FRA	Left Back	15.07.1999	Bordeaux, FRA	87	190	
22	Mattéo	Fadhuile-Crepy	FRA	Left Wing	14.05.2002	Noisy le Grand, FRA	80	180	
23	Thibaud	Briet	FRA	Left Back	14.12.1999	Rouen, FRA	95	205	0
27	Guénoilé	Gaillard	FRA	Left Back	18.05.2001	Toulon, FRA	85	190	
28	Lucas	De la Breteche	FRA	Centre Back	19.11.2001	Saint-Nazaire, FRA	85	193	
12	Andreas	Hofmann	FRA	Goalkeeper	29.06.2001	Marseille, FRA	87	185	



# HBC Nantes (FRA)

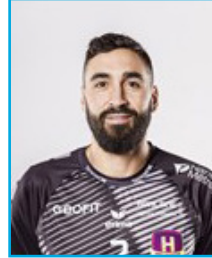
## Coach and key players profiles



### Alberto Entrerrios coach

- was assistant to Thierry Anti for three years before taking over as head coach following 2018/19 season
- earlier played for Nantes, from 2012-16, and powerhouses like Barça and Ciudad Real
- third-best goal scorer in history of Spanish national team, with 726 goals in 240 matches
- brother Raul still plays for Barça

EC trophies (as a player) : CL 2006, 2008, 2009; CWC 1999, 2003  
OG: B 2008; EURO: S 2006, B 2000; WCh: G 2005, 2013, B 2011



### Valero Rivera left wing

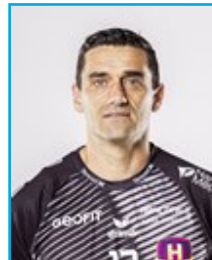
- returned to Nantes from Barça in summer of 2018 for second stint with French club, after 2010-16
- was top scorer of EHF EURO 2016 (48 goals) and named best left wing of WCh 2015
- his father, Valero Rivera sr., has been national team coach in Qatar since 2013
- married to former handball player Marion Anti, daughter of previous Nantes coach Thierry Anti

EC trophies : CL 2005, EHF Cup 2003  
EURO : G 2018, S 2016, B 2014, WCh: G 2013



### Aymeric Minne centre back

- aged 22, he signed for Nantes in the summer of 2019 after playing for four seasons in Aix
- joined Aix in 2015 to work with Jérôme Fernandez
- initially an offensive player but has meanwhile made huge progress as a defender as well
- one of the most talented French players of his generation, but has yet to play for national team



### Kiril Lazarov right back

- Macedonian back, one of the all-time greats of the sport, who joined Nantes in 2017
- scored more than 1,000 goals in the CL, was competition's top scorer in 2006 and 2008
- scored 300 CL goals in his last three seasons with Barça (106 in 2014/15, 109 in 15/16, 85 in 16/17)
- most successful scorer at a single EHF EURO (61 goals in 2012) and WCh (92 goals in 2009)
- will be 41 when his contract expires in June 2021

EC trophies : CL 2005

## GROUP C



**Playing hall**  
**Rdeca Dvorana**  
Saleska cesta 3  
3320 Velenje  
Slovenia  
Capacity: 2,700

**Club Address:**  
RK Gorenje Velenje  
Saleska Cesta 3  
3320 Velenje  
Slovenia

**Online information:**  
Website: rk-gorenje.com  
Facebook: rkgorenjevelenje  
Twitter: @GorenjeVelenje  
Instagram: @gorenjevelenje

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: yellow  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: red

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black and dove  
blue/yellow

# RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)

Qualifying for the Men's EHF Cup group phase was one of RK Gorenje Velenje's main objectives this season, and they achieved this goal by remaining unbeaten in the qualification rounds. The traditional Slovenian club is now aiming for more success, although they realise that facing SC Magdeburg, HBC Nantes and Abanca Ademar Leon in group C will be tough.

It has taken Velenje some time to get a bunch of new players integrated in the team, and injury trouble at the start of the season has not made this process any easier. But the team's play improved in the autumn – in both the EHF Cup qualifiers and the Slovenian league.

Having reached the EHF Cup final in 2009 and the finals tournament in 2015, Velenje may face certain difficulties getting that far this season, as manager Janez Gams realises: "I expect that we will offer good resistance and try to collect as many points as possible. The outcome is hard to predict, but I can promise that all we will take all the opportunities that are offered to us. Where that will lead us, we will see at the end of March."

Team captain David Miklavcic is also well aware of the challenges ahead: "I think it is a hard group. But for our young players this is a good opportunity to get a feel how good teams in Europe play. "We will do our best and try to win as many points as possible."

### Road to the Group Phase EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs HC Metalurg (MKD) W24:19 (10:11)  
2nd leg: @ HC Metalurg (MKD) D23:23 (13:10)  
Aggregate score: 47:42

### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ RK Metaloplastika Sabac (SRB) W24:32 (11:16)  
2nd leg: vs RK Metaloplastika Sabac (SRB) W32:29 (15:16)  
Aggregate score: 64:53

### Newcomers:

Vladimir Bojanic (RK Trimo Trebnje), Andris Celmins (RK Maribor Branica), Grega Okleščen (MRK Krka), Aljaz Panjtar (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko), Zan Sol (RK Slovenj Gradec 2011)

### Left the club:

Andraz Kete (MRK Krka), Nikola Spelic (RK Maribor Branica), Darko Stojnic (HC PPD Zagreb), Miljan Vujovic (RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko)

**Coach:** Zoran Jovicic (since 2018)

**Team captain:** David Miklavcic

### Past achievements

#### EHF Champions League:

Last 16 (4): 2005/06, 2009/10, 2012/13, 2013/14

Main round (1): 2007/08

Group phase (2): 2004/05, 2017/18

#### EHF Cup:

Final (1): 2008/09

Semi-final (2): 1994/95, 2014/15

Quarter-final (3): 1996/97, 2010/11, 2011/12

Group phase: (1): 2019/20

#### Cup Winners' Cup:

Semi-final (1): 2003/04

Quarter-final (1): 2004/05

**Slovenian league:** 3 titles

**Slovenian cup:** 2 titles

# RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)

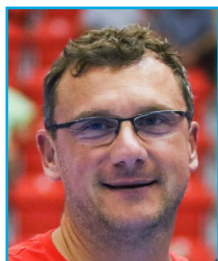
## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Height	Weight	Goals
18	David	Miklavcic	SLO	Right Back	29.01.1983	Ljubljana, SLO	101	195	3
32	Emir	Taletovic	SLO	Goalkeeper	09.01.1990	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	96	189	0
11	Vlado	Matanovic	CRO	Right Wing	29.05.1995	Rijeka, CRO	85	182	24
4	Andris	Celmins	EST	Right Back	04.07.1996	Valga, EST	80	190	0
14	Vid	Levc	SLO	Left Back	23.11.1994	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	98	198	0
88	Grega	Oklescenc	SLO	Left Back	24.07.1995	Ljubljana, SLO	96	191	6
15	Zan	Sol	SLO	Left Back	20.08.1994	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	94	195	7
25	Matic	Verdinek	SLO	Left Wing	13.04.1994	Celje, SLO	89	190	32
47	Aleks	Kavcic	SLO	Centre Back	15.05.1996	Škofja Loka, SLO	92	187	15
94	Vladimir	Bojanic	SRB	Line Player	16.03.1994	Priboj, SCG	115	204	3
45	Miha	Kavcic	SLO	Line Player	19.06.1998	Ormož, SLO	95	193	7
8	Ibrahim	Haseljic	BIH	Right Wing	14.01.1998	Tuzla, BIH	92	192	6
6	Tadej	Mazej	SLO	Left Wing	31.07.1998	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	87	190	2
34	Peter	Sisko	SLO	Left Back	16.02.2001	Novo Mesto, SLO	87	191	
20	Jernej	Drobez	SLO	Left Back	06.01.2000	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	98	195	1
9	Domen	Tajnik	SLO	Centre Back	31.10.2000	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	84	182	4
28	Timotej	Grmsekc	SLO	Right Back	19.05.2000	Ljubljana, SLO	83	193	1
16	Aljaz	Panjtar	SLO	Goalkeeper	20.08.1991	Kranj, SLO	93	186	0
17	Urban	Starc	SLO	Line Player	01.02.2001	Trbovlje, SLO	99	196	
66	Patrik	Suntner	SLO	Line Player	23.02.2001	Celje, SLO	101	183	
12	Alen	Husejnovic	SLO	Goalkeeper	04.08.2001	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	99	189	0
22	Nino	Komar	SLO	Left Wing	29.05.2000	Slovenj Gradec, SLO	77	175	
24	Jaka	Lah	SLO	Left Wing	24.09.2002	Celje, SLO	88	179	
77	Jas	Mazaj	SLO	Right Wing	22.07.2001	Celje, SLO	88	195	



# RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Zoran Jovičić coach

- head coach of Velenje since 2018
- joined from RD Slovan after a successful coaching career with league rivals RK Koper, a club he also played for in his active career
- formerly a skilled left wing, who also played for the Slovenian national team
- an experienced and tactically skilled coach, good at benefiting from his experience as a player



### David Miklavčič right back

- returned from HC PPD Zagreb in 2018
- at 37, an extremely experienced backcourt player who is also the team captain
- played for several Slovenian clubs and has a one-year stint at HC Dinamo Minsk in Belarus
- tall and physically strong back with a fine variety of shots

WCh: B2017



### Matic Verdinek left wing

- joined from RK Maribor Branik in 2017
- started his pro career at RK Celje Pivovarna Lasko
- Velenje's best scorer in the qualification rounds, with 15 goals in total
- fast and technically skilled wing with a fine shot from the angle, efficient on fast breaks



### Vlado Matanovic right wing

- Croatian right wing, who joined Velenje in the summer of 2018
- will move to CL side HC PPD Zagreb in his native Croatia after the 2019/20 season
- was part of the Croatian team that won silver at the junior WCh 2013 in Hungary
- efficient player from his wing position but also strong in fast-break situations

## GROUP C



**Playing hall**  
**Palacio de los Deportes de Leon**  
Paseo saenz de miera s/n  
24009 Leon  
Spain  
Capacity: 5,900

### Club Address:

Abanca Ademar Leon  
Av. Ingeniero Saénz de Miera S/N  
24009 León  
Spain

### Online information:

Website: [ademar.com](http://ademar.com)  
Facebook: Ademar-León  
Twitter: @ADEMARLEON  
Instagram: @leonademar

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

#### Dark

Player shirt: crimson or green  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: black or turquoise

## Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP)

After a fourth-placed finish in the Spanish league in 2018/19, Abanca Ademar Leon appointed Manolo Cadenas as head coach to lead a new era for the club. Having improved their results in the Spanish league this season, they also want to be competitive in the Men's EHF Cup group phase.

Historically, Ademar Leon have always been a demanding club with regard to their ambitions. It is no different this time. The goal is to be competitive and fight to reach the quarter-finals. But as group C is not easy, Ademar must secure all six points at home if they are to have a good chance of advancing.

Manolo Cadenas' arrival to the bench has inspired and motivated players to give their best. The Spanish coach, who was born just 25 kilometres away from Leon, knows the club and its expectations better than anyone.

As there were lot of changes in the squad last summer and as the team will improve with more time, we are yet to see the best of this Ademar Leon team. Generally, all of the players' performances are better than last season, with younger and more experienced players producing at a great level. In the second part of the season, Brazilian centre back Acacio Marques will be back after surgery for a long-term shoulder injury.

Also in the spotlight will be Tin Lucin. The young Croatian centre back has dazzled Leon in just half a year. The 20-year-old has adapted very fast and he is making giant steps forward. Lucin has shown that he can be a great director of the game, he can score goals and he can also provide assists. He is already a key player for Manolo Cadenas' team, but now it is time to see if he can make the difference for Ademar in Europe.

### Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Balatonfüredi KSE (HUN) L30:27 (15:13)

2nd leg: vs Balatonfüredi KSE (HUN) W29:21 (14:9)

Aggregate score: 56:51

Qualification Round 2

1st leg: @ Vojvodina (SRB) W20:28 (7:14)

2nd leg: vs Vojvodina (SRB) W30:23 (12:13)

Aggregate score: 58:43

**Newcomers:** Dzmityr Patotsky (Alcobendas), Rubén Marchan (Benidorm), Tin Lucin (Zagreb), Erwin Feuchtman (Istres OPH), Andrew Lawrence Donlin (Dormagen), Pedro Martínez (Colegio Ward)

**Left the club:** Juan Garcia (retired), Nacho Biosca (Schaffhausen), Rodrigo Perez (BM. Nava), Sebastian Simonet (Villa Ballester), Zivan Pesic (RK Nexe), Patrick Ligetvari (BM Logroño La Rioja)

**Coach:** Manolo Cadenas (since 2019)

**Team captain:** Mario Lopez

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup

Quarter-finals (1): 2010/11

Group phase (1): 2013/14

#### VELUX EHF Champions League:

Quarter-finals (4): 1997/98, 1999/00, 2001/02, 2011/12

Last 16 (4): 2003/04, 2005/06, 2009/10, 2012/13

Main round (2): 2007/08, 2008/09

Group phase (1): 2017/18

**Challenge Cup:** 2010/11 winners

**Slovenian league:** 1 title (2010/11)

**Slovenian cup:** 3 titles

# Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
7	Gonzalo Matias	Carou Marcel	ESP	Line Player	15.08.1979	Buenos Aires, ARG	98	198	1
22	Jose Mario	Carrillo Gutierrez	ESP	Left Wing	18.12.1990	León, ESP	75	180	1
4	Erwin Jan	Feuchtmann Perez	GER	Left Back	02.05.1990	Punta Arenas, CHI	96	195	11
11	Federico Matias	Vieyra	ITA	Right Back	21.07.1988	Buenos Aires, ARG	90	193	0
15	Juan Jose	Fernandez Sanchez	ESP	Left Back	18.02.1993	Ciudad Real, ESP	103	193	5
30	Dzmitry	Patotsky	BLR	Goalkeeper	03.10.1992	Baranovichi, BLR	107	195	0
3	Mario	Lopez Alvarez	ESP	Right Wing	19.09.1994	León , ESP	72	180	23
16	Dino	Slavic	CRO	Goalkeeper	04.12.1992	Rijeka, CRO	113	185	1
14	David	Fernández Alonso	ESP	Right Back	14.04.1996	Valladolid, ESP	90	196	18
17	Jaime	Fernandez Fernandez	ESP	Left Wing	27.01.1997	León, ESP	72	176	12
20	Ivan	Mosic	SRB	Left Back	23.12.1994	Kragujevac, SRB	95	194	3
19	Gonzalo	Perez Arce	ESP	Right Wing	20.07.1998	León, ESP	70	175	7
8	Tin	Lucin	CRO	Centre Back	16.08.1999	Rijeka, CRO	94	196	16
85	Adrian	Casqueiro Lopez	ESP	Left Wing	18.05.2000	León, ESP	79	190	0
23	Alex	Lodos Garcia	ESP	Left Back	26.06.2002	León, ESP	85	185	3
99	Carlos	Honrado C.	ESP	Goalkeeper	02.12.2003	Madrid, ESP	80	195	
2	Ruben	Marchan Criado	ESP	Line Player	20.09.1994	Manzanares, ESP	110	202	11
12	Andrew	Lawrence Donlin	USA	Line Player	09.02.1992	Minnesota, USA	100	202	0
9	Pedro	Martínez C. García	ESP	Centre Back	20.12.1999	Buenos Aires, ARG	85	187	2



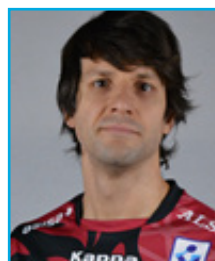
# Abanca Ademar Leon (ESP)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Manolo Cadenas coach

- is in his first season back at Leon after earlier stints at the club in 1995-2007 and 2012-13
- led Leon to CWC triumphs in 1999 and 2005, after also winning that trophy with Santander in 1990
- born in a small village just 25km away from Leon
- highly experienced coach, who previously worked with clubs like Barça, Granollers, Wisla Plock and Meshkov Brest
- also national team coach of Spain from 2013-16 and of Argentina since 2017.



### Gonzalo Carou line player

- Argentine pivot, holds record for foreign player with most matches in ASOBAL league since passing Tomas Svensson's tally of 429
- in a 16-year-long career. he played for Ademar and Arrate in Spain, and one season for Istres in France
- made his European debut in 2008/09, playing with Ademar in the Champions League
- played record 10 straight WCh's for Argentina

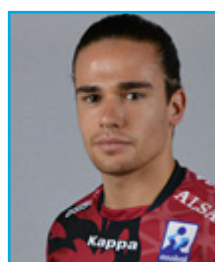
EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 1990, 1999, 2005

EURO: S 2016, B 2014



### Ivan Masic left back

- Serbian left back who joined Ademar in 2018
- started career at Red Star Belgrade and gained first EC experience with HC Radnicki in 2014
- played in the United Arab Emirates, for Al Shabab Dubai, in 2017/18
- was only Ademar player in action at the EHF EURO 2020 in January



### Mario López right wing

- born in Leon, played whole career for Ademar
- made A team debut under Manolo Cadenas in 2012, when he was still only 18
- became team captain in 2018 after Diego Piñeiro left the club
- has recovered well from two severe knee injuries in 2014 and 2015 while playing for Spain's national youth teams





## Group D head-to-heads

Previous European Cup matches between the group D teams

### PAUC Handball vs Grundfos Tatabánya KC

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### PAUC Handball vs Füchse Berlin

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### PAUC Handball vs BM Logroño La Rioja

No previous matches in European Cup competitions

### Grundfos Tatabánya KC vs Füchse Berlin 0-0-2 (47:58) 0:4

22.04.2017 Grundfos Tatabánya KC vs Füchse Berlin, EHF Cup – Quarter-final

25:30 (11:17)

29.04.2017 Füchse Berlin vs Grundfos Tatabánya KC, EHF Cup – Quarter-final

28:22 (14:13)

### Grundfos Tatabánya KC vs BM Logroño La Rioja 1-0-1 (56:64) 2:2

19.02.2011 Naturhouse La Rioja vs Tatabánya Carbonex KC, EHF Cup – Last 16

39:26 (18:13)

26.02.2011 Tatabánya Carbonex KC vs Naturhouse La Rioja, EHF Cup – Last 16

30:25 (14:13)

### Füchse Berlin vs BM Logroño La Rioja 2-0-0 (63:56) 4:0

23.02.2019 BM Logroño La Rioja vs Füchse Berlin, EHF Cup – Group A

29:34 (16:15)

03.03.2019 Füchse Berlin vs BM Logroño La Rioja, EHF Cup – Group A

29:27 (13:14)

## GROUP D



### Playing hall

#### Arena Du Pays D'Aix

1955 Rue Claude Nicolas Ledoux  
13290 Aix en Provence  
France  
Capacity: 7,000

### Club Address:

PAUC Handball  
1955 rue Claude Nicolas Ledoux  
13290 Aix en Provence  
France

### Online information:

Website: [paisdaixhandball.com](http://paisdaixhandball.com)  
Facebook: PAUChandball  
Twitter: @pauchandball  
Instagram: @pauchandballofficiel

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: green

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

## PAUC Handball (FRA)

In their first ever European season last year, Pais d'Aix Université Club Handball just failed to make it to the group phase, falling to eventual EHF Cup Finals participants TTH Holstebro. But this year PAUC have qualified for the group phase after edging French league rivals Chambéry by a single goal over the two legs of the decisive qualifying round.

With a roster full of experience and ambition, the French side aims for the quarter-final. While PAUC are only in their second EHF Cup season, no less than eight players from the team have played in the VELUX EHF Champions League in the past with other clubs. And two of them even won men's club handball's most coveted trophy: Vid Kavtichnik and Baptiste Bonnefond with Montpellier HB in 2018. Nicolas Claire also took part in the VELUX EHF FINAL4 2018, with HBC Nantes.

So, what kind of playing style has coach Jérôme Fernandez brought in recent years? With a past of six seasons at Barça and Ciudad Real, the all-time top scorer of the French national team has been well influenced by the Spanish style of play. Even more so this season, with the arrival of assistant coach Eduard Roura, who played the Champions League final with Atletico Madrid in 2012. No wonder PAUC are relying heavily on line players with strong connections to the back court.

For PAUC much will depend on the question if they can rotate enough. The starting line-up has more than enough quality to make it to the quarter-final but the squad is not broad and the team could fall short when it needs contributions from the bench.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ Chambéry Savoie Mont Blanc Handball (FRA) W20:25 (11:15)  
2nd leg: vs Chambéry Savoie Mont Blanc Handball (FRA) L19:23 (13:10)  
Aggregate score: 44:43

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 2

1st leg: vs RK Porec (CRO) W38:26 (18:13)  
2nd leg: @ RK Porec (CRO) W20:26 (10:15)  
Aggregate score: 64:46

### Newcomers:

Vid Kavtichnik, Baptiste Bonnefond (Montpellier), Nicolas Claire (Nantes), Oriol Rey (Nice), Noah Gaudin (Cesson-Rennes, back from loan)

### Left the club:

Yanis Lenne (Montpellier), Juan Andreu Candau (Limoges), Philip Stenmalm (Wisla Plock), Tim Dalhaus (Bietigheim)

**Coach:** Jérôme Fernandez (since 2015)

**Team captain:** Iosu Goñi

### Past achievements

#### European Cup records:

##### EHF Cup:

Qualification (1): 2018/19

**French league:** -

**French cup:** -

# PAUC Handball (FRA)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
23	Vid	Kavticnik	SLO	Right Wing	24.05.1984	Gradec, SLO	90	191	18
7	Inaki	Pecina Tome	ESP	Line Player	31.05.1988	Irún, ESP	104	200	8
77	Nicolas	Claire	FRA	Centre Back	10.07.1987	St.-Denis, FRA	91	190	8
13	Darko	Cingesar	SLO	Left Wing	25.07.1990	Ljubljana, SLO	85	183	7
12	Wesley	Pardin	FRA	Goalkeeper	01.01.1990	Le Lamantin, FRA	110	195	0
5	Iosu	Goni Leoz	ESP	Left Back	04.01.1990	Pamplona, ESP	95	197	8
17	Martin	Larsen	DEN	Right Back	19.09.1992	Aalborg, DEN	84	194	5
6	Baptiste	Bonnefond	FRA	Left Back	22.01.1993	Lyon, FRA	97	193	6
4	Matthieu	Ong	FRA	Left Wing	12.07.1992	Clichy, FRA	70	180	9
64	Jordan	Camarero	FRA	Right Wing	10.03.1992	Pau, FRA	82	181	1
10	Oriol	Rey Morales	ESP	Line Player	31.03.1994	Santa Maria, ESP	95	190	6
1	Joze	Baznik	SLO	Goalkeeper	24.05.1993	Brezice, SLO	100	186	0
22	Karl	Konan	CIV	Left Back	03.06.1995	Cocody, CIV	95	196	1
66	Noah	Gaudin	FRA	Centre Back	12.06.1999	Hameln, FRA	74	195	7
20	Anders	Lynge Hansen	DEN	Goalkeeper	16.04.1997	Kolding, DEN	81	183	2
34	Auguste	Boyon	BEL	Right Back	22.04.2000	Bruxelles, BEL	88	190	
18	Morten	Bjørnshauge	DEN	Line Player	04.07.1990	Odense, DEN	110	198	1
31	Simon	Cantournet	FRA	Goalkeeper	03.04.2000	Aix, FRA	86	191	
2	Hugo	Cabanes	FRA	Right Back	02.10.2000	Aix, FRA	72	184	
11	Robin	Paris	FRA	Left Back	11.02.1999	Aix, FRA	90	195	0
8	Gabriel	Loesch	FRA	Right Wing	12.12.1995	Marignane, FRA	73	182	20
72	Nathan	Sertillange	FRA	Goalkeeper	12.07.1999	Marseille, FRA	88	187	
27	Valentin	Porte	FRA	Centre Back	06.08.1998	Marseille, FRA	84	189	1
24	Yann	Benard	FRA	Right Back	11.05.2000	Aix, FRA	102	196	
97	Horace	Quintin	FRA	Left Wing	21.08.1999	Aix, FRA	69	186	
98	Lucas	Karolczak	POL	Line Player	16.09.2000	Cracovie, POL	85	186	0
25	Jules	Welker	FRA	Left Back	22.06.2001	FRA	96	197	
16	Samir	Meziane	FRA	Goalkeeper	19.11.2001	FRA	87	191	



# PAUC Handball (FRA)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Jérôme Fernandez coach

- has been leading PAUC since 2015, the first two years as playing coach
- former left back who won several titles with France and is national team's best scorer in history with 1,463 goals
- won CL as a player with Barça and Ciudad Real
- his eight years as player in Spain have influenced his coaching style, even more now with Edu Roura as his assistant

EC trophies (as player): CL 2005, 2009; EHF Cup 2003; OG: G 2008, 2012; EURO: G 2006, 2010, 2014; B 2008; WCh: G 2001, 2009, 2011, 2015, B 2003, 2005



### Nicolas Claire centre back

- arrived in Aix from Nantes in summer of 2019
- was with Nantes for six seasons, played (and lost) CL final in 2018 and EHF Cup final in 2016
- leading centre back in French league for years but has not found his stride in national team
- plays vital role in PAUC's future ambitions

EURO: B2018; WCh: B 2019



### Baptiste Bonnefond left back

- At age 26 he decided to leave Montpellier for the first time in his career in summer of 2019
- won CL with Montpellier in 2018, together with Vid Kavcicnik who has also switched to PAUC
- his dad was a former handball player who is now coaching at national level in France

EC trophies: CL 2018

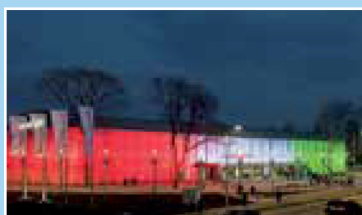


### Vid Kavcicnik right back

- Slovenian back who played 10 seasons for Velenje before moving to Kiel in Germany
- arrived in France in 2009 and played 10 seasons for Montpellier before joining PAUC in the summer of 2019
- at age 35, he is an experienced player who can compete on three positions, right back, right wing and centre back, with similar efficiency

EC trophies: CL 2007, 2018  
WCh: B 2017

## GROUP D



**Playing hall**  
**Audi Arena Győr**  
Toth Laszlo utja 1  
9027 Győr  
Hungary  
Capacity: 5,250

### Club Address:

Grundfos Tatabánya KC  
Szent Borbála út 11  
2800 Tatabánya  
Hungary

### Online information:

Website: [tatabanyahandball.com](http://tatabanyahandball.com)  
Facebook: [tatabanyahandball](https://www.facebook.com/tatabanyahandball)  
Instagram: [tatabanyahandball](https://www.instagram.com/tatabanyahandball)

### Kit colours

**Light**  
Player shirt: white  
Player short: white  
Goalkeeper shirt: light green, red  
**Dark**  
Player shirt: blue  
Player short: blue  
Goalkeeper shirt: purple

## Grundfos Tatabánya KC (HUN)

The 1970s and 80s were the heydays for the 'Blue Tigers' with four Hungarian championships, two domestic cup titles, a quarter-final in the Champions Cup and a semi-final in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Anno 2020, Grundfos Tatabánya KC are progressing on the road to regain some of their old glory. The team has finished third in the strong Hungarian league - behind powerhouses Veszprém and Szeged - for the past five seasons and is eager to make a name in Europe again as well.

After navigating their way past ZTR Zaporozhye (53:51 on aggregate), the Hungarian club is joining the strong group D, which includes last season's runners-up Füchse Berlin, French side PAUC Handball and recent VELUX EHF Champions League participants BM Logroño La Rioja. While finishing in the top two would be hard for any team, Tatabánya are obviously aiming for a quarter-final spot again - like in 2017 and 2019.

For the current squad, it is important to gain international experience. "There are plenty of promising, young players in our side. Gathering experience in international competitions could mean a lot to their career. I think they will have a great future in handball," says Tatabánya manager László Marosi. "Our main goal is to make our fans happy and play on our highest level continuously."

Zsolt Balogh, the 30-year-old sharpshooter, is one of the most experienced players in the squad. The right back joined Tatabánya in the summer of 2019 after seven seasons with MOL-Pick Szeged. His ability to score from basically any situation, which was demonstrated once more during the EHF EURO 2020 last January, will come helpful for Tatabánya in their quest for a quarter-final berth.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs ZTR Zaporozhye (UKR) W27:24 (13:12)  
2nd leg: @ ZTR Zaporozhye (UKR) L27:26 (10:12)  
Aggregate score: 53:51

### Newcomers:

Davidovic Marko (Váci KSE), Holpert József (Váci KSE)

### Left the club:

Bozovic Milos (RK Zagreb), Demis Grigoras (Chambéry Savoie Handball), Jakov Vrankovic (C.S. Dinamo Bucuresti)

### Coach:

Vladan Matic (since 2014)

### Team captain:

János Dénes

### Past achievements:

#### EHF Cup:

Quarter-final (2): 2016/17, 2018/19  
Last 16 (1): 2010/11

#### Other:

**Hungarian league:**  
4 titles (1974, 1978, 1979, 1984)  
**Hungarian cup:**  
2 titles (1969, 1978)

# Grundfos Tatabánya KC (HUN)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
18	Ferenc	Ilyés	HUN	Left Back	20.12.1981	Székelyudvarhely, RO	103	198	0
24	Janos	Denes	HUN	Left Wing	15.11.1984	Dunaujvaros, HUN	97	195	0
77	Vladimir	Vranjes	BIH	Line Player	14.12.1988	Banja Luka, BIH	107	200	6
19	Zsolt	Balogh	HUN	Right Back	29.03.1989	Orosháza, HUN	96	189	9
27	Gabor	Ancsin	HUN	Right Back	27.11.1990	Bekescsaba, HUN	97	202	
16	László	Bartucz	HUN	Goalkeeper	05.11.1991	Oroshaza, HUN	107	192	0
8	Adrian	Sipos	HUN	Line Player	08.03.1990	Szombathely, HUN	110	198	0
2	Milos	Bozovic	MNE	Left Back	10.12.1994	Budva, MNE	97	199	4
13	Uros	Brozas	HUN	Left Back	28.07.1999	Zenta, SRB	90	198	2
4	Ákos	Pásztor	HUN	Right Wing	24.06.1991	Miskolc, HUN	84	187	
6	Milos	Vujovic	MNE	Left Wing	05.09.1993	Cetinje, MNE	72	181	11
47	Péter	Hornyák	HUN	Right Wing	04.10.1995	Debrecen, HUN	70	178	5
20	Andras	Szasz	ROU	Line Player	24.01.1994	Odorheiu Sec., ROU	107	195	2
34	Vitaly	Komogorov	RUS	Left Back	28.08.1991	Volgograd, RUS	95	196	10
21	Adam	Borbely	HUN	Goalkeeper	22.06.1995	Debrecen, HUN	114	197	0
7	Ádám	Juhász	HUN	Centre Back	06.06.1996	Debrecen, HUN	75	183	
22	Mátyás	Gyori	HUN	Centre Back	02.02.1997	Debrecen, HUN	89	194	4
1	Xavér	Deményi	HUN	Goalkeeper	16.04.1999	Budapest, HUN	83	185	
9	Bence	Balint	HUN	Left Back	19.06.2000	Budapest, HUN	71	190	
40	Bence	Ernei	HUN	Left Wing	29.09.1998	Veszprém, HUN	81	185	0



[www.tatabanyahandball.com](http://www.tatabanyahandball.com) || [facebook.com/tatabanyahandball](https://facebook.com/tatabanyahandball) || [instagram.com/tatabanyahandball](https://instagram.com/tatabanyahandball)

# Grundfos Tatabánya KC (HUN)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Vladan Matic coach

- former Serbian right wing, who is in his sixth season as coach of Tatabánya
- also coached Hungarian national team, alongside István Csoknyai, until autumn of 2019
- played more than 100 times for Serbian national team and WCh bronze twice
- as rookie coach led Pick Szeged to first Hungarian league title in 12 years



### Adrián Sipos line player

- arrived at Tatabánya in 2016, has since become key player in Hungarian team's defence
- played CL with Veszprém in 2009/10 before spending several seasons in Romania
- has dual Hungarian-Romanian citizenship but opted to play for Hungarian national team in 2018 and then had his debut age 28

WCh: B 1999, 2001 (as player)



### Ferenc Ilyés left back

- Romania-born left back who played over 200 matches for the Hungarian national team since his debut in 2003, scoring more than 500 goals
- joined Tatabánya in 2016 from Szeged
- also played for Veszprém, Wisła Płock (in Poland) and Lemgo (in Germany)
- won three European Cups in his career: the Cup Winners' Cup and twice the EHF Cup



### Zsolt Balogh right back

- joined Tatabánya in summer of 2019 after seven seasons with Pick Szeged
- scored 324 goals in total for Szeged in CL, and won EHF Cup with that club in 2014, the last non-German team to lift the trophy
- had national team debut in 2008 and was key in Hungary's attack at EHF EURO 2020

EC trophies: Cup Winners' Cup 2008; EHF Cup 2010, 2014

## GROUP D



### Playing hall

Max-Schmeling-Halle  
Falkplatz 1  
10437 Berlin  
Germany  
Capacity: 8,521

### Club Address:

Füchse Berlin  
Markgrafenstraße 34  
10117 Berlin  
Germany

### Online information:

Website: fuechse-berlin.de  
Facebook: fuechseberlin  
Twitter: @FuechseBerlin  
Instagram: @fuechse\_berlin

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white/green  
Player short: green  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

#### Dark

Player shirt: red/green  
Player short: red  
Goalkeeper shirt: black

## Füchse Berlin (GER)

Five times have Füchse Berlin made it to the EHF Cup Finals, and two times they actually lifted the trophy. In the 2019/20 season, Füchse will stage the four-team event in the Max-Schmeling-Halle for the third time after 2014 and 2015. And the hosts are eager to make it to the finals again.

So, one question immediately comes to mind: will Füchse, like previous EHF Cup Finals hosts, be able to skip the quarter-final? So far, all hosts of the EHF Cup Finals (since 2013) have skipped the quarter-finals as they won their respective group or were among the three best second-ranked teams.

Füchse Berlin are obviously not planning to become the first exception to this rule, and being drawn into what appears to be not the toughest of the four groups, the 2015 and 2018 champions should soon be able to prepare for their home tournament.

However, there are some injury worries for the German side. Right backs Fabian Wiede and Mattias Zachrisson are out with shoulder injuries. Despite having two more right backs - Marko Kopljar and Michael Müller - Füchse signed Javier Munoz Cabezon, a Spanish back coming from Tatran Presov and joining PAUC Handball after the season. He shall support Hans Lindberg as right wing.

Velimir Petkovic has won the EHF Cup three times as a coach, with Frisch Auf Göppingen (2011 and 2012) and Füchse Berlin (2018). After three and a half years at Berlin, he will leave Füchse after the 2019/20 season and will be succeeded by 26-year-old Jaron Siewert, a former Füchse player and Füchse junior team coach. The players will want to hand over the EHF Cup trophy as a final gift to Petkovic - it is their last chance to win a title this season.

### Road to the Group Phase

#### EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: @ HK Malmö (SWE) W27:34 (11:19)  
2nd leg: vs HK Malmö (SWE) W27:26 (13:11)  
Aggregate score: 61:53

### Newcomers:

Michael Müller (MT Melsungen), Tim Matthes (Füchse youth team), Dejan Milosavljev (Vardar Skopje), Martin Ziemer (TSV Hannover-Burgdorf)

### Left the club:

Erik Schmidt (SC Magdeburg), Malte Semisch (GWD Minden), Christoph Reißky (GWD Minden)

### Coach:

Velimir Petkovic (since December 2016)

### Team captain:

Hans Lindberg

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Winners (2): 2014/15, 2017/18  
Runners-up (2): 2016/17, 2018/19  
Semi-final (1): 2013/14

#### Other:

#### VELUX EHF Champions League:

Semi-final (1): 2011/12  
Last 16 (1): 2012/13

**IHF Super Globe:** winners 2015, 2016

**German league:** -

**German cup:** 1 title (2014)



# Füchse Berlin (GER)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
18	Hans	Lindberg	DEN	Right Wing	01.08.1981	Höje Taastrup, DEN	88	188	17
1	Martin	Ziemer	GER	Goalkeeper	14.04.1983	Rostock, GER	88	187	0
35	Marko	Kopljar	CRO	Right Back	12.02.1986	Pozega, CRO	108	210	3
12	Silvio	Heinevetter	GER	Goalkeeper	21.10.1984	Bad Langensalza, GER	92	194	1
25	Michael	Müller	GER	Right Back	19.09.1984	Würzburg, GER	100	197	6
77	Johan	Koch	DEN	Line Player	29.11.1990	Svendborg, DEN	91	185	6
21	Mattias	Zachrisson	SWE	Right Wing	22.08.1990	Huddinge, SWE	86	178	
10	Jakov	Gojun	CRO	Left Back	18.04.1986	Split, CRO	112	203	2
9	Stipe	Mandalinic	CRO	Left Back	09.09.1992	Split, CRO	90	195	3
93	Mijajlo	Marsenic	SRB	Line Player	09.03.1993	Berane, SRB	107	202	4
3	Fabian	Wiede	GER	Right Back	08.02.1994	Belzig, GER	89	192	2
2	Simon	Ernst	GER	Centre Back	02.04.1994	Düren, GER	97	195	
95	Paul	Drux	GER	Left Back	07.02.1995	Gummersbach, GER	92	192	5
96	Dejan	Milosavljev	SRB	Goalkeeper	16.03.1996	Panchevo, SRB	135	196	0
6	Jacob Tandrup	Holm	DEN	Centre Back	05.09.1995	Esbjerg, DEN	94	194	4
7	Kevin	Struck	GER	Left Wing	31.12.1996	Berlin, GER	87	193	5
5	Torben	Matzken	GER	Centre Back	01.02.2000	Mons, GER	81	188	
20	Fynn Ole	Fritz	GER	Left Back	03.05.1997	Berlin, GER	94	194	
11	Bastien	Genty	FRA	Right Wing	01.07.1992	Saint-Germain, FRA	75	179	
24	Frederik	Simak	GER	Left Back	24.01.1998	Gengenbach, GER	102	197	1
17	Rolando	Urios Gonzales	ESP	Line Player	10.04.1999	La Havanna, CUB	110	193	
31	Tim	Matthes	GER	Left Wing	05.05.1999	Berlin, GER	82	181	2
98	Ivan	Eres	CRO	Goalkeeper	07.03.1998	Ljubuški, CRO	84	191	
19	Miro	Schlurhoff	GER	Left Back	25.04.2000	Bregenz, GER	90	198	
32	Tolga	Durmaz	GER	Line Player	18.01.2000	Mainburg, GER	110	193	
37	Robin	Heinis	SUI	Right Back	28.04.2002	Therwil Basel, SUI	91	193	
16	Frederik	Genz	GER	Goalkeeper	08.03.1997	Waldbröl, GER	93	194	
28	Erik	Gerntke	GER	Right Back	14.05.1999	Herzberg, GER	88	190	
4	Sergi	Ala Sanchez	ESP	Right Wing	29.08.2000	Barcelona, ESP	84	184	
27	Nils	Lichtlein	GER	Centre Back	31.07.2002	Regensburg, GER	76	183	
34	Linus	Skroblien	GER	Centre Back	08.10.1997	Schwerin, GER	90	185	
26	Enes	Keskic	BIH	Left Wing	29.12.1999	Berlin, GER	84	183	
36	Lasse	Ludwig	GER	Goalkeeper	29.09.2002	Achern, GER	90	194	
22	Tim	Freihöfer	GER	Left Wing	21.08.2002	Reutlingen, GER	72	173	
29	Philipp	Reineck	GER	Centre Back	28.03.2001	Berlin, GER	85	183	
30	Marc	Walter	GER	Line Player	05.01.2002	Potsdam, GER	112	203	



# Füchse Berlin (GER)

## Coach and key players profiles



### Velimir Petkovic coach

- in his fourth and last season with Füchse, will be succeeded by Jaron Siewert from 2020/21
- with Borac Banja Luka he won the the European Champions Cup (1976) as player and the IHF Cup Winners' Cup (1991) as coach
- coached Göppingen for 10 years, winning the EHF Cup twice in a row (2011-12), before winning the same trophy again with Füchse in 2018

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2011, 2012, 2018; CWC 1991 (as coach)  
Champions Cup 1976 (as player)



### Mijajlo Marsenic line player

- joined Füchse in summer of 2018 from Vardar
- won CL (2017) and SEHA league twice with Vardar
- one of two CL winners in Füchse squad, alongside Hans Lindberg
- was expected to play in defence only but has become key factor in team's attack as well
- also played for Partizan Belgrade and Metalurg

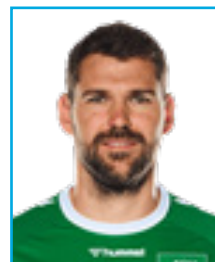
EC trophies: CL 2017



### Hans Lindberg right wing

- joined Füchse in 2016 after nine seasons at HSV
- top scorer of CL in 2012/13 with HSV and of EHF Cup in 2016/17 and 2017/18 with Füchse
- started career in Viborg in his native Denmark; his nickname in those days was 'Majestæt'
- played more than 240 games for Danish national team, won world title in 2019 and was part of WCh 2013 All-star Team

EC trophies: CL 2013; EHF Cup 2018  
EURO: G 2008, 2012, S 2014; WCh: G 2019, S 2011, S 2013, B 2007



### Jakov Gojun left back

- defence boss of Füchse, who arrived in Berlin in 2015 from PSG Handball
- previously played for Atletico de Madrid and several Croatian clubs
- was core player of Croatian national team until he retired after home EHF EURO 2018
- best defender of EHF EURO 2010

EC trophies: EHF Cup 2018  
EURO: B 2010; OG: B 2012

## GROUP D



**Playing hall**  
**Palacio de los deportes de la Rioja**  
Avenida Moncalvillo 2  
Logroño, Spain  
Capacity: 3,831

### Club Address:

BM Logroño La Rioja  
Avenida de Moncalvillo 2  
26007 Logroño  
Spain

### Online information:

Website: [cbclogrono.com](http://cbclogrono.com)  
Facebook: [cbmlogrorioja](https://www.facebook.com/cbmlogrorioja)  
Twitter: [@clogronolarioja](https://twitter.com/clogronolarioja)  
Instagram: [@bmlogronolarioja](https://www.instagram.com/bmlogronolarioja)

### Kit colours

#### Light

Player shirt: white  
Player short: red  
Goalkeeper shirt: blue

#### Dark

Player shirt: black  
Player short: black  
Goalkeeper shirt: yellow

## BM Logroño La Rioja (ESP)

After four seasons in the VELUX EHF Champions League, BM Logroño La Rioja returned to the Men's EHF Cup in 2017. In the next two seasons, however, the Spanish side failed to make it beyond the group phase. This time, Logroño will play in group D against two-time EHF Cup winners Fühse Berlin, PAUC Handball and Grundfos Tatabánya KC. Not an easy challenge but Logroño are ready to give their maximum fight for a place in the quarter-final.

"All our opponents are amazing teams. But I know, if we work hard, we can beat everyone," says team captain Miguel Sanchez Migallon. Logroño are in for a repeat of their achievements a decade ago, when they twice reached the semi-final, in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

Logroño have kept together their main core this season, while new players like Italian left wing Gianluca Dapiran have been performing well. However, the team has been hit by the injury to another newcomer, Brazilian right back Gabriel Ceretta, who was ruled out for the season in November after tearing the ACL and damaging the meniscus in his right knee.

Logroño don't have big stars, but they are a compact team that just enjoys playing good handball. This cohesion is arguably the strongest point of the club, which overcame the loss of their main sponsor a few years ago. They never stopped competing for the leading positions in the domestic ASOBAL League.

After finishing their group in third place and missing the quarter-final last season, Logroño have started their new EHF Cup with two convincing wins in the final qualification round. They beat Belgian champions Achilles Bocholt 37:26 at home in November and 36:31 in the away leg the following week.

### Road to the Group Phase

EHF Cup, Qualification Round 3

1st leg: vs Achilles Bocholt (BEL) W37:26 (20:15)

2nd leg: @ Achilles Bocholt (BEL) W31:36 (16:17)

Aggregate score: 73:57

**Newcomers:** Jorge Perez (Barça), Gianluca Dapiran (BM Benidorm), Patrick Ligetvari (Ademar Leon), Gabriel Ceretta (Helvetia Anaitasuna), Rudolph Hackbarth (EC Pinheiros/BRA), Ernesto Goñi (BM Loyola)  
**Left the club:** Vanja Ilic (Chartes Metropole/FRA), Gurutz Aguinagalde (retired), Javier Muñoz (Tatran Presov, SLV), Balint Fekete (Liberbank Cuenca), Dariel Garcia (Quabit Guadalajara), Juan del Arco (Tremblay, FRA), Claudio Ramos (Recoletas At. Valladolid).  
**Coach:** Miguel Angel Velasco (since 2018)  
**Team captain:** Roman Caspar

### Past achievements

#### EHF Cup:

Semi-final (2): 2009/10, 2010/11  
Group Phase (2): 2012/13, 2018/19

#### VELUX EHF Champions League:

Last 16 (1): 2014/15  
Group Phase: 2013/14, 2015/16, 2016/17

**Spanish league:** -  
**Spanish cup:** -

# BM Logroño La Rioja (ESP)

## Team roster

No.	First Name	Surname	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Place of Birth	Weight	Height	Goals
25	Sergey	Hernandez Ferrer	ESP	Goalkeeper	17.06.1995	Kropotkin, RUS	94	198	0
90	Javier	Romeo Lopez	ESP	Goalkeeper	01.06.1990	Logroño, ESP	95	193	
2	Miguel	Sanchez-Migallon	ESP	Left Back	08.02.1995	Ciudad Real, ESP	103	200	3
5	Gianluca	Dapiran	ITA	Left Wing	09.05.1994	Trieste, ITA	95	190	15
22	Tomas	Moreira Rodriguez	ESP	Line Player	22.08.1992	Vigo, ESP	118	190	6
13	Patrik	Ligetvári	HUN	Left Back	13.02.1996	Várpalota, HUN	112	203	9
24	Lazar	Kukic	SRB	Centre Back	12.12.1995	Beograd, SRB	91	188	10
11	James Edward	Scott Junior	FRA	Left Back	27.05.1996	Lens, FRA	87	200	4
9	Tomislav	Kusan	CRO	Line Player	16.12.1994	Zagreb, CRO	110	200	5
33	Eduardo	Cadarso Caballero	ESP	Centre Back	13.02.1999	Logroño, ESP	88	189	4
41	Imanol	Garciandia Alustiza	ESP	Right Back	30.04.1995	Urretxu, ESP	105	203	5
19	Gabriel	Ceretta Jung	BRA	Right Back	12.06.1997	Videira, BRA	102	196	
6	Erik	Balenciaga Azcue	ESP	Centre Back	10.05.1993	Zarautz, ESP	68	169	1
1	Jorge	Perez Molina	ESP	Goalkeeper	17.09.2000	Barcelona, ESP	87	193	0
34	David	Cadarso Caballero	ESP	Right Wing	14.12.2001	Logroño, ESP	74	192	3
77	Rudolph Geraldo	Hackbarth	BRA	Right Wing	10.03.1994	Blumena, BRA	84	188	5
15	Ernesto	Goni Macua	ESP	Left Back	15.11.2001	Pamplona, ESP	103	202	0
26	Eduardo	Ortiz Badillo	ESP	Right Wing	12.12.2002	Logroño, ESP	73	184	3



# BM Logroño La Rioja (ESP)

## Coach and key players profiles



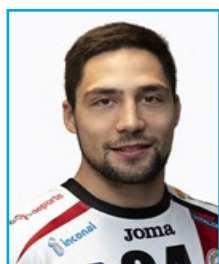
### Miguel Angel Velasco coach

- came out of five-year retirement in summer of 2018 to succeed 'Jota' González as head coach
- previously worked as assistant coach at Logroño for four years
- played as centre back at Valladolid, his first club until he moved to Logroño in 2008



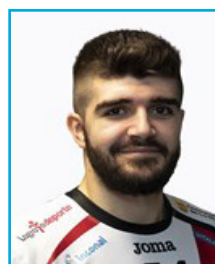
### Sergey Hernandez goalkeeper

- Russian-born goalkeeper with Spanish citizenship, one of the leading shot stoppers in domestic league
- joined Logroño from league rivals Helvetia Anaitasuna in summer of 2018
- at age 24, already in his fifth straight EHF Cup season and widely regarded as future national team goalkeeper.



### Lazar Kukic centre back

- arrived in Logroño from RK Partzan in 2016
- started playing handball at age seven in his home town Belgrade, at Partizan, and gained first European Cup experience with that club
- Serbian international, who was one of two Logroño players at EHF EURO 2020, alongside Hungarian teammate Patrik Ligetvari



### Imanol Garciandia right back

- is in his fifth season with the club and one of the leading payers on the team
- for third year in a row, was second-best scorer in Spanish league - with 125 goals in 2018/19
- named best right back of ASOBAL League in 2017/18

## Top scorers of the qualification

Rank	Name & nation	Club	Goals
<b>1</b>	<b>Magnus Bramming (DEN)</b>	<b>TTH Holstebro (FRA)</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2</b>	Hampus Olsson (SWE)	HK Malmö (SWE)	21
<b>3</b>	<b>Mohamed Hisham Sanad (EGY)</b>	<b>USAM Nimes Gard (FRA)</b>	<b>18</b>
	Patrick Toniazzo (BRA)	Olympiacos SFP (GRE)	18
<b>5</b>	<b>Hans Lindberg (DEN)</b>	<b>Füchse Berlin (GER)</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>6</b>	Serge Spooren (BEL)	Achilles Bocholt (BEL)	16
<b>7</b>	<b>Gianluca Dapiran (ITA)</b>	<b>BM Logroño La Rioja (ESP)</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Nikolaj Markussen (DEN)</b>	<b>Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Natan Suarez (ESP)</b>	<b>Liberbank Cuenca (ESP)</b>	<b>15</b>
	<b>Matic Verdinek (SLO)</b>	<b>RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)</b>	<b>15</b>
	Petar Topic (CRO)	Balatonfüredi KSE (HUN)	15
<b>12</b>	Martin Lindell (SWE)	OIF Arendal Elite (NOR)	14
<b>13</b>	<b>Matthias Musche (GER)</b>	<b>SC Magdeburg (GER)</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b>	Anton Blickhammar (SWE)	HK Malmö (SWE)	12
	Ivo Sluijters (NED)	NMC Gornik Zabrze (POL)	12
<b>16</b>	<b>Johan Hansen (DEN)</b>	<b>Bjerringbro-Silkeborg (DEN)</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Tim Hornke (GER)</b>	<b>SC Magdeburg (GER)</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Dimitri Ignatow (GER)</b>	<b>MT Melsungen (GER)</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Jannik Kohlbacher (GER)</b>	<b>Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)</b>	<b>11</b>
	<b>Milos Vujovic (MNE)</b>	<b>Grundfos Tatabánya KC (HUN)</b>	<b>11</b>
	four other players	teams out of the competition	11

**Bold letters** indicate players who are still in the competition

## Previous seasons' top scorers

Season	Name & nation	Club	Goals
2018/19	Magnus Bramming (DEN)	TTH Holstebro (DEN)	100
2017/18	Hans Lindberg (DEN)	Füchse Berlin (GER)	82
2016/17	Hans Lindberg (DEN)	Füchse Berlin (GER)	92
2015/16	Ferran Sole Sala (ESP)	Fraikin BM. Granollers (ESP)	70
2014/15	Stas Skube (SLO)	RK Gorenje Velenje (SLO)	81

## Past winners



2019 THW Kiel (GER)



2018 Füchse Berlin (GER)



2017 Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)



2016 Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)



2015 Füchse Berlin (GER)



### Previous Men's EHF Cup winners

2014 Pick Szeged (HUN)  
 2013 Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)

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2012 Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)  
 2011 Frisch Auf Göppingen (GER)  
 2010 TBV Lemgo (GER)  
 2009 VfL Gummersbach (GER)  
 2008 HSG Nordhorn (GER)  
 2007 SC Magdeburg (GER)  
 2006 TBV Lemgo (GER)  
 2005 Tusem Essen (GER)  
 2004 THW Kiel (GER)  
 2003 FC Barcelona (ESP)  
 2002 THW Kiel (GER)  
 2001 Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)  
 2000 Metkovic Jumbo (CRO)  
 1999 Sportclub Magdeburg (GER)  
 1998 THW Kiel (GER)  
 1997 SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)  
 1996 BM Granollers (ESP)  
 1995 BM Granollers (ESP)  
 1994 Aliza Avides (ESP)

### Previous Men's Cup Winners' Cup winners

2012 SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)  
 2011 VfL Gummersbach (GER)  
 2010 VfL Gummersbach (GER)  
 2009 Pevafera Valladolid (ESP)  
 2008 MKB Veszprem KC (HUN)  
 2007 HSV Hamburg  
 2006 Chekhovski Medvedi (RUS)  
 2005 C. BM Ademar Leon (ESP)  
 2004 Portland San Antonio (ESP)  
 2003 A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)  
 2002 A.D.C. Ciudad Real (ESP)  
 2001 SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)  
 2000 Portland San Antonio (ESP)  
 1999 Prosesa Ademar Leon (ESP)  
 1998 Caja Cantabria Santander (ESP)  
 1997 Elgorriaga Bidasoa (ESP)  
 1996 TBV Lemgo (GER)  
 1995 FC Barcelona (ESP)  
 1994 FC Barcelona (ESP)

Men's EHF Cup 2019/20 Group Phase

## Media Guide

EHF Media & Communications, 07/02/2020

Contributors: Björn Pazen, Peter Bruun, Magda Pluszewska, Tiago Nogueira, Laia Coll, Kevin Domas, Béla Müller; all stats by Roy Knoppert



**EUROPEAN HANDBALL  
FEDERATION**

**For further information please contact:**

**Vladislav Brindzak**

EHF Media & Communications

+43 1 80 151 161

[brindzak@eurohandball.com](mailto:brindzak@eurohandball.com)

**European Handball Federation**

Hoffingergasse 18

1120 Vienna

Austria

Tel: +43 1 80151 0

[www.eurohandball.com](http://www.eurohandball.com)

[www.ehfTV.com](http://www.ehfTV.com)