

**VELUX®**



**EHF**  
CHAMPIONS  
LEAGUE

# Media Information

VELUX EHF Champions League  
Season 2017/18

## ***MATCH*** ***WEEK*** ***OF THE***

Group Phase, Round 8  
**HC Vardar (MKD)**

**VS**

**Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)**

**SC Jane Sandanski (Skopje, MKD)**

Saturday 18 November, 17:30 hrs



## HC Vardar (MKD) vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER)

### GROUP A



#### Most Games vs RNL:

Ilija Abutovic	6
Timur Dibirov	6
Alex Dujshbaev	6
Daniil Shishkarev	6
Arpad Sterbik Capar	6

#### Most Goals vs RNL:

Alex Dujshbaev	27
Timur Dibirov	26
Igor Karacic	17
Joan Cañellas	16
Sergei Gorbok	16

Saturday 18 November, 17:30 hrs



**Playing hall**  
Sport Centar Jane Sandanski  
Asnom Nr. 1  
1000 Skopje  
Macedonia  
Capacity: 5,500

- both sides are the only unbeaten teams in Group A
- only Motor Zaporozhye in Group D have the same number of draws as Löwen have - 3
- a duel of Vardar vs Löwen has never ended with a draw
- Vardar did not lose any one of their last 12 CL matches since 5 March 2017 (26:30 at Brest) - the balance is 11 victories and only one draw at Szeged
- last home match Vardar lost in the CL was on 26 November 2016, a 26:29 against Rhein-Neckar Löwen
- Löwen have never played against any other Macedonian team than Vardar in their international competitions
- both sides had once been part of the VELUX EHF FINAL4: Vardar took the trophy in 2017, Löwen finished fourth in 2011
- Löwen were eliminated three times in a row in the Last 16 (2015, 2016, 2017)
- the game at Skopje is the eighth on, in total, nine away matches of Löwen in a row between 12 October and 23 November - three in the CL, one in German Cup, six in Bundesliga; so far, lost just one - last Thursday at Melsungen
- Macedonian Löwen talent Filip Taleski had played for Skopje before (even in the CL), but for Metalurg, not Vardar
- Arpad Sterbik, Joan Canellas, Jorge Maqueda (all Vardar) and Gedeon Guardiola (Löwen) became world champions with Spain in 2013, EURO bronze medallists 2014 and EURO silver medallists in 2016
- Ivan Cupic, the only player since 2009 to defend the CL title (2016 Kielce, 2017 Vardar), had been playing for Löwen from 2010 to 2012
- former Vardar and national team goalkeeper Borko Ristovski spent the previous season with Löwen, before he moved to another Group A team FC Barcelona Lassa last summer
- Canellas (Kiel, Hamburg), Cupic (Löwen) and Rogerio Moraes (Kiel) had played for German clubs before
- both coaches have announced their departure from their current sides: Raul Gonzalez (Vardar will become Paris coach from June 2018 on, Nikolaj Jacobsen (Löwen) will fully focus on the Danish national team (which he coaches parallel since spring) from June 2019 on
- within 22,5 hours two German clubs duel with Vardar in their Jane Sandanski Arena in the CL competitions: Friday night Thüringer HC were the visitors, Saturday Löwen are on court

### Round 8



#### Most Games vs Vardar:

Kim Ekdahl du Rietz	6
Gedeon Guardiola	6
Mads Mensah Larsen	6
Harald Reinkind	6
Andre Schmid	6

#### Most Goals vs Vardar:

Mads Mensah Larsen	25
Andre Schmid	24
Alexander Petersson	16
Harald Reinkind	14
Kim Ekdahl du Rietz	12

### Domestic league

#### SEHA Liga

##### Last 4 games

14/11	vs Dinamo	W42:32
21/10	@ Celje	W28:31
17/10	vs PPD Zagreb	W30:23
19/09	vs Presov	W32:28

##### Next game:

28/11 @ Nexe

##### Standings as of 18/11

1. Vardar	7	230:176	21
2. Presov	7	208:182	15
3. PSG	7	210:185	15
4. PPD Zagreb	7	189:177	13
...			
10. Vojvodina	7	167:218	3

### Domestic league

#### DKB Bundesliga

##### Last 4 games

16/11	@ Melsungen	L29:26
11/11	@ Leipzig	W23:29
02/11	@ Magdeburg	W29:32
15/10	@ Wetzlar	W24:31

##### Next game:

23/11 @ Göppingen

##### Standings as of 18/11

1. Füchse Berlin	14	428:379	23
2. Flensburg-Hand.	13	384:318	21
3. Rhein-Neckar	12	364:303	20
4. Hannover-Burg.	13	365:342	19
...			
18. N-Lübbecke	12	181:224	3

## Historic encounters in the EC

### HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen 4-0-2 (174:156) 8:4

12.10.2014	HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	28:25 (13:13)
21.02.2015	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C	28:35 (13:20)
10.10.2015	HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	25:19 (11:10)
11.02.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	28:27 (14:15)
17.11.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs HC Vardar, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	27:33 (16:17)
26.11.2016	HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen, VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B	26:29 (15:15)

### Details of the last HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen match: 26.11.2016 (Skopje, MKD)

(VELUX EHF Champions League, Group B) 26:29 (15:15)

Referees: Vaclav Horacek/Jiri Novotny (Czech Republic).

Suspensions: 2' – 8' (Abutovic 2' – Sigurdsson 2', Larsen 2', Reinkind 2', Guardiola Villaplana 2').

Number of 7m: 3/2 – 1/1.

Attendance: 5,500.



**Arpad Sterbik**  
**Strahinja Milic**

**Stojanche Stoilov**

**Rogério Ferreira Moraes**

**Jorge Maqueda**

Alexander Dereven

**Igor Karacic**

Alex Dujshbaev

**Ilija Abutovic**

**Joan Cañellas**

**Luka Cindric**

**Ivan Cupic**

**Timur Dibirov**

**Daniil Shishkarev**

**Vuko Borozan**

**Mijajlo Marsenic**

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(4)

(2)

(2)

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(1)

**Mikael Appelgren**  
**Lucas Bauer**

**Andre Schmid**

**Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson**

**Rafael Baena Gonzalez**

Marius Steinhauser

**Mads Mensah Larsen**

**Hendrik Pekeler**

**Patrick Groetzki**

Michel Abt

**Harald Reinkind**

**Gedeon Guardiola**

**Alexander Petersson**

Kim Ekdahl du Rietz



## Most Goals in one game HC Vardar vs Rhein-Neckar Löwen:

Joan Cañellas Reixach	10	17.11.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	27:33
Igor Karacic	8	21.02.2015	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	28:35
Alex Dujshebaev Dovichebaeva	7	10.10.2015	HC Vardar-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	25:19
Sergei Gorbok	7	11.02.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	28:27
Luka Cindric	7	17.11.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	27:33

## Most Goals in one game Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs HC Vardar:

Andre Schmid	10	11.02.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	28:27
Alexander Petersson	7	12.10.2014	HC Vardar-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	28:25
Mads Mensah Larsen	7	10.10.2015	HC Vardar-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	25:19
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson	7	17.11.2016	Rhein-Neckar Löwen-HC Vardar	27:33
Mads Mensah Larsen	7	26.11.2016	HC Vardar-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:29
Harald Reinkind	7	26.11.2016	HC Vardar-Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:29

## Last Ten Games in VELUX EHF Champions League:



### HC Vardar: current run – unbeaten in twelve

27.04.2017 Skopje MKD	vs SG Flensburg-Handewitt GER	W 35:27
03.06.2017 Köln GER	@ FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	W 25:26
04.06.2017 Köln GER	@ Paris Saint-Germain Handball FRA	W 23:24
17.09.2017 Plock POL	@ Orlen Wisla Plock POL	W 22:26
23.09.2017 Skopje MKD	vs HBC Nantes FRA	W 27:23
01.10.2017 Skopje MKD	vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	W 28:21
07.10.2017 Szeged HUN	@ MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	D 26:26
14.10.2017 Skopje MKD	vs FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	W 27:24
04.11.2017 Kristianstad SWE	@ IFK Kristianstad SWE	W 23:26
11.11.2017 Zagreb CRO	@ HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	W 23:29



### Rhein-Neckar Löwen: current run – unbeaten in seven

08.03.2017 Frankfurt am Main GER	vs MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	L 24:30
22.03.2017 Kiel GER	@ THW Kiel GER	W 24:25
30.03.2017 Mannheim GER	vs THW Kiel GER	L 24:26
17.09.2017 Mannheim GER	vs FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	D 31:31
20.09.2017 Mannheim GER	vs Orlen Wisla Plock POL	W 31:27
27.09.2017 Rezé FRA	@ HBC Nantes FRA	D 26:26
07.10.2017 Kristianstad SWE	@ IFK Kristianstad SWE	W 22:35
12.10.2017 Mannheim GER	vs HC Prvo plinarsko drustvo Zagreb CRO	W 31:24
05.11.2017 Szeged HUN	@ MOL-Pick Szeged HUN	W 31:34
12.11.2017 Barcelona ESP	@ FC Barcelona Lassa ESP	D 26:26

## HC Vardar vs German clubs 10-2-12

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2001/02	Sportclub Magdeburg	27:27	19:33	EHF Champions League – Group D
2002/03	THW Kiel	27:26	23:34	EHF Champions League – Group D
2003/04	SC Magdeburg	28:30	24:38	EHF Champions League – Group B
2009/10	THW Kiel	23:33	23:39	EHF Champions League – Group D
2010/11	VfL Gummersbach	29:38	21:33	Cup Winners' Cup – Semi-final
2012/13	SC Magdeburg	28:26	27:30	EHF Cup – Qualification Round 3
2013/14	HSV Hamburg	28:28	30:29	VELUX EHF Champions League – Last 16
2013/14	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	27:25	22:24	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final
2014/15	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	28:25	35:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C
2015/16	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	25:19	27:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2016/17	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	26:29	33:27	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2016/17	SG Flensburg-Handewitt	35:27	26:24	VELUX EHF Champions League – Quarter-final

## Rhein-Neckar Löwen vs Macedonian clubs 2-0-4

Season	Opponent	Home	Away	Competition
2014/15	HC Vardar	28:35	25:28	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group C
2015/16	HC Vardar	28:27	19:25	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B
2016/17	HC Vardar	27:33	29:26	VELUX EHF Champions League – Group B



## HC Vardar players' career statistics against Rhein-Neckar Löwen

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Daniel Gjorgjeski	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Marko Kizic	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Strahinja Milic	SRB	4	2	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Arpad Sterbik	ESP	8	5	0	3	0	0,00	0	0
Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Ilija Abutovic	SRB	8	4	0	4	4	0,50	2	10'
Vuko Borozan	MNE	2	1	0	1	6	3,00	6	0
Joan Cañellas Reixach	ESP	2	1	0	1	16	8,00	10	0
Luka Cindric	CRO	4	2	0	2	14	3,50	7	2'
Ivan Cupic	CRO	8	3	1	4	27	3,38	8	0
Timur Dibirov	RUS	8	5	0	3	32	4,00	6 (2)	2'
Rogério Ferreira Moraes	BRA	2	1	0	1	2	1,00	2	0
Igor Karacic	CRO	5	4	0	1	17	3,40	8	4'
Dainis Kristopans	LAT	4	1	0	3	24	6,00	8	6'
Jorge Maqueda Pena	ESP	5	2	0	3	12	2,40	6	4'
Mijajlo Marsenic	SRB	4	2	0	2	2	0,50	1 (2)	0
Vlado Nedanovski	MKD	1	0	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Toshe Onchev	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Martin Popovski	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Daniil Shishkarev	RUS	6	4	0	2	8	1,33	3	0
Stojanche Stoilov	MKD	4	3	0	1	7	1,75	3 (2)	0
Janja Vojvodic	SRB	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Ilija Abutovic (RK Partizan Si&Si Belgrad 2007/08); Ivan Cupic (RK Gorenje Velenje 2009/10, KS Vive Targi Kielce 2013/14, KS Vive Tauron Kielce 2015/16); Timur Dibirov (Chehovskie Medvedi 2008/09); Dainis Kristopans (TATTRAN Presov 2012/13, HC Meshkov Brest 2016/17); Jorge Maqueda Pena (HBC Nantes 2012/13)



## Rhein-Neckar Löwen players' career statistics against HC Vardar

Goalkeeper		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Mikael Appelgren	SWE	4	2	0	2	0	0,00	0	0
Lucas Bauer	GER	2	1	0	1	0	0,00	0	0
Pascal Boudgoust	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Andreas Palicka	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Player		GP	W	D	L	G	AVG	HI	PIM
Rafael Baena Gonzalez	ESP	4	2	0	2	11	2,75	4	0
Kristian Bliznac	SWE	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Luca Braun	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Tim Ganz	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Patrick Groetzki	GER	5	1	0	4	11	2,20	5	0
Gedeon Guardiola	ESP	6	2	0	4	2	0,33	1 (2)	2'
Rico Keller	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Maximilian Kessler	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Pascal Kirchenbauer	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Kevin Kleinlagel	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Mads Mensah Larsen	DEN	6	2	0	4	25	4,17	7 (2)	4'
Mattes Meyer	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Hendrik Pekeler	GER	5	3	0	2	6	1,20	2 (2)	6'
Alexander Petersson	ISL	5	1	0	4	16	3,20	7	2'
Bogdan Radivojevic	SRB	4	1	0	3	2	0,50	2	0
Harald Reinkind	NOR	6	2	0	4	14	2,33	7	2'
Momir Rnic	SRB	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Lars Röller	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Andre Schmid	SUI	6	2	0	4	24	4,00	10	0
Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson	ISL	4	3	0	1	17	4,25	7	2'
Filip Taleski	MKD	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Jerry Tollbring	SWE	4	0	0	4	18	4,50	7	0
Maximilian Trost	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Sebastian Trost	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0
Patrick Zweigner	GER	0	0	0	0	0	0,00	0	0

Andreas Palicka (THW Kiel 2009/10 – DNP); Hendrik Pekeler (THW Kiel 2009/10); Bogdan Radivojevic (SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2013/14, SG Flensburg-Handewitt 2016/17); Gudjon Valur Sigurdsson (FC Barcelona Lassa 2015/16); Filip Taleski (HC Metalurg 2013/14 – DNP); Jerry Tollbring (IFK Kristianstad 2015/16, IFK Kristianstad 2016/17)

## New trophy for the Matches of the Week: “Player of the Match”

From the first round of the VELUX EHF Champions League 2017/18 Group Phase a new player's award have been introduced for the Matches of the Week. EHF Marketing have prepared a trophy called 'Player of the Match' which will be presented and handed over by different sponsors throughout the season.

### Awardees:

- Round 1: Hendrik Pekeler (Rhein-Neckar Löwen)
- Round 2: Slawomir Szmaj (PGE VIVE Kielce)
- Round 3: Mattias Andersson (SG Flensburg-Handewitt)
- Round 4: Roland Mikler (Telekom Veszprém HC)
- Round 5: Buster Juul-Lassen Engelbrecht (Aalborg Handbold)
- Round 6: Niklas Landin (THW Kiel)
- Round 7: Nikola Karabatic (Paris Saint-Germain Handball)



