Men's EHF Cup 2012/13

Media Information

GROUP PHASE

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

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Dear media representative,

Welcome to the first season of the Men´s EHF Cup Group Phase and to the competition's official Media Guide.

We are enjoying a special year as we have entered the 20th season of EHF European Cup handball. The Men's EHF Cup has been created out of the merging of the Men's EHF Cup and the Cup Winners' Cup. There is a new look and a new playing format, resulting in what we hope will be a new and exciting challenge both for sixteen participating teams and thousands of handball fans around Europe. With the VELUX EHF Champions League at the pinnacle of the EHF's European competitions repertoire, the EHF Cup now forms a second tier of competition, with the Challenge Cup as the third competition.

We pride ourselves on our positive and cooperative relationship with the press and media and I am sure this will continue and develop in the future. Should you require any information, help or assistance during the course of the season, your first point of contact is the EHF Media and Communications Department based in our office in Vienna. They will be more than happy to assist you with any questions you might have.

We look forward to working with you!

Jean Brihault
EHF President

EHF Media and Communications Department
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NEW MEDIA SERVICE: TEAM LINE-UPS AND MATCH REPORTS

With the start of the 2012/13 season, comes an improvement to the media services offered by the EHF. From the opening matches of the season, the complete team line-up has been available online at eurohandball.com and available to download as a PDF document. The change has been made possible thanks to the introduction of a new online solution, which sees the EHF match delegate complete the final team line-up immediately after the technical meeting. The new development means that team line-ups are available for commentators and reporters hours before each match throws-off.

A further change means that a short time after each match, a completed match report will also be available online with details such as goal scorers and number of spectators. Tested during the opening rounds of the EHF Cup as well as the VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League qualification rounds, the new system has so far functioned without any major problems.

Team line-ups and match reports can be viewed by clicking on a particular match on the eurohandball.com. The new online system is also under further development with the ultimate aim being to provide live scores and statistics from EHF competitions and available on the EHF website.

ACCREDITATION FOR GROUP PHASE

The written media and photographer's accreditation procedure in the Group Phase is entirely in the responsibility of the participating clubs. TV and Radio accreditations are subjects to approval by EHF Marketing GmbH – please contact Ákos Moczan.

The accreditation requests from media representatives for the EHF Cup Finals will be accepted starting before the end of February. The detailed information will be distributed soon.

ONLINE INFORMATION

eurohandball.com

ehfTV.com

Regulations of the Men´s EHF Cup

Twitter: @ehfmedia

LIVE MATCHES

Handball fans across Europe will be able to follow numerous matches of the Men´s EHF Cup live. Many matches will be broadcast live on ehfTV.com and the videos of those matches will be also on demand. The comprehensive offer of each round can be found on ehfTV.com.

MEDIA AND ADVERTISING RIGHTS

The changes to the playing format of the EHF Cup form part of a wider strategy to develop the marketing potential of the competition, by raising the profile of the EHF Cup and increasing media/TV interest in top-class men's club handball. It is with this in mind that media/TV rights will be marketing centrally, just as they are in the VELUX EHF Champions League, by EHF Marketing GmbH, the marketing arm of the EHF, to maximise the income from the sale of rights.

Complete advertising rights will remain with the participating clubs in the qualification rounds, with selected rights passing to EHF Marketing GmbH from the Group Phase to be marketed and sold centrally to major partners and sponsors. To improve the presentation of matches for both the TV audience and fans in the arenas, matches from the Group Phase onwards will be played on floors marked with only handball lines. The further development of the competition in the coming and subsequent seasons has seen the EHF and EHF Marketing GmbH create a new logo for the competition as well as a unified look and branding, a strategy that has seen the VELUX EHF Champions League rapidly develop into a successful brand and competition on the international sports market.

NEW LOGO: NEW LOOK FOR A NEW COMPETITION

The newly launched competition has entered its premier season with a new logo which followed the new logos of both premier European club competitions. The VELUX EHF Champions League and Women's EHF Champions League logos were the first in a series of developments, which now see a refresh and modernisation of the European Handball Federation's corporate identity.

OFFICIAL NAME - EHF CUP FINALS

Official name of the final tournament of the 2012/13 Men´s EHF Cup is the EHF Cup Finals. The logo presentation of the EHF Cup Finals is made up of 2 parts; the usual Men's EHF Cup logo and a secondary 'Finals' logo which contains the date and place. These 2 logos can be used together on promotional material but should **never** be joined together into one logo.

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EHF CUP - SEASON 2012/13

Participants - Group Phase

PREVIEW OF THE EHF CUP GROUP PHASE

16 teams from 12 countries, six rounds with 48 matches in total – those are the ingredients of the first ever Group Phase in the new EHF Cup. The first round will be played all over Europe this weekend (9/10 February), the remaining five rounds will be played until 24 March to confirm those six to eight teams, which qualify for the quarterfinals – the last stage before the first ever EHF Cup Finals with semi-finals, 3rd place match and final to be played in Nantes (France) 18/19 May.

If the host, HBC Nantes, is among the four group winners or the three best second ranked teams after the Group Phase, the French team make their way directly to the final tournament without playing a quarter-final. In this case, only the four group winners and the two best second ranked teams face in the quarterfinals. If Nantes is fourth best second ranked team, they also will have to compete in the quarterfinals, which then are played with all group winners and second ranked teams in April. Nantes are part of group D with Besiktas (Turkey), Magdeburg (Germany) and Bacau (Romania).

Germany is the only country, represented by three teams in this Group Phase, including Frisch Auf Göppingen, the last winner of the "old" EHF Cup in the 2011/12 season, Magdeburg and Rhein Neckar Löwen. Denmark (Holstebro and Kolding) and Slovenia (Koper and Maribor) are represented by two teams each, the remaining nine nations can count on one participant each.

From the historical and statistical point of view, SC Magdeburg is the most successful of all 16 teams – including the triumph in the EHF Champions League in 2002 and three trophies in the "old" EHF Cup (1999, 2001, 2007). Four of the 16 participating teams of the EHF Cup Group Phase failed in the qualification tournaments for the VELUX EHF Champions League, but now try their next attempt to be successful in the EHF Cup competition: Prešov (SVK), Koper (SLO), Besiktas (TUR) and Płock (POL).

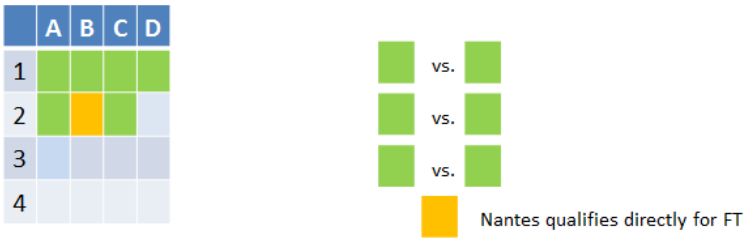
And three teams had to go all the way in the EHF Cup qualification to be among the 16 teams, having played already three qualification rounds in the EHF Cup: Elverum (NOR), Kolding (DEN) and Maribor (SLO). The biggest surprise in the qualification was the clear elimination of French top team St. Raphael by the Danish youngsters from Holstebro in Round 3.

Now each team have three home and three away matches in the newly installed Group Phase in the upcoming seven weeks. The draw for the quarter-finals will be on 26 March.
The three German teams, but also Kolding, Płock and Nantes were mentioned most of the time by the coaches of the 16 participants as the favourites for reaching the Final Tournament or winning the new trophy.

QUALIFICATION OF NANTES FOR THE QUARTER-FINALS AND EHF CUP FINALS

1st Case:

If Nantes as the Organizer of the Final Tournament finishes 1st in Group D or is one of the three best 2nd placed teams of the four groups, the club qualifies directly for the Final Tournament. The other six teams have to play the Quarter Finals which, in this case will consist of only three pairings (see graphic below).

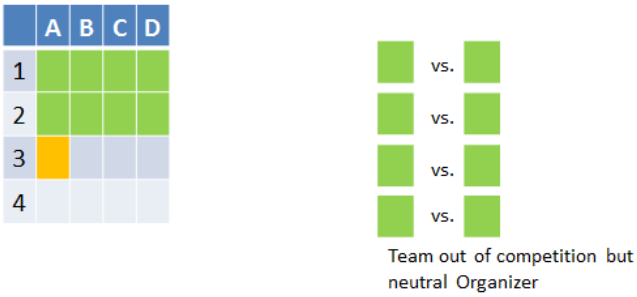


2nd Case:

If Nantes is the 4th ranked of the 2nd placed teams, Nantes has to play the Quarter Finals and is qualified for the Final Tournament only if it wins the Quarter Final (see graphic below).

3rd Case:

If Nantes is ranked 3rd or 4th in the Group Phase, the team is eliminated from the competition but remains the local organizer of the FT. All 1st and 2nd ranked teams play the Quarter Finals (see graphic below).



QUALIFICATION REVIEW: MIRACLE IN ISTANBUL

All sixteen clubs of the Men´s EHF Cup Group Phase have been confirmed over the first weekend of December as at several places only the narrowest margins decided about the proceeding teams in the second leg of Round 3.

On Saturday Polish runners-up Orlen Wisła Płock and the winners of the last edition of the old EHF Cup Frisch Auf! Göppingen were among those teams qualified for the top sixteen of the competition, on the other hand the Austrian title holders Alpla HC Hard, Portuguese champions Porto or the Spanish top seed BM Aragon made early exits from the continental club competitions.

On Sunday, two more German teams joined Göppingen as Rhein Neckar Löwen made a compulsory dance in Argous and SC Magdeburg survived the hell in the Kale hall in Skopje against hosts from Vardar Skopje. Norwegian champions Haslum HK squandered eleven goal lead after the first leg as they lost by twelve in Istanbul against Beşiktaş JK.

Romania´s Știința Municipal Dedeman Bacău qualified already a week earlier, since both matches with Israeli champions Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion had to be played in Romania due to the security concerns.

LAST QUALIFICATION ROUND OVERVIEW

RK Vojvodina (SRB) vs. Naturhouse La Rioja (ESP) 26:22 (10:9), first leg: 19:28

Spanish team which was seeded directly for the third round suffered the first defeat in the second match, but thanks to a nine goal cushion from the home duel they easily qualified for the Group Phase.

BM Aragon (ESP) vs. Eskilstuna Guif (SWE) 31:27 (16:13), first leg: 26:30

With aggregate score tied at Aragon lost only because of the away goals rule as Swedish team Eskilstuna Guilf scored just one more goal in Zaragoza (27:31) as Aragon did in Sweden last week (26:30).

FC Porto Vitalis (POR) vs. RK Cimos Koper (SLO) 27:22 (12:10), first leg: 23:29

Another thrilling match was played in Porto´s Dragon´s Den (Dragao Caixa) where the hosts beat RK Cimos Koper 27:22, but could not erase the six goal deficit from the first leg played on the court of the Slovenian surprise package of the VELUX EHF Champions League last season´s. In a dramatic finish Porto played with an extra attacker with six players against four visitors on the court, but the last second shot of Wilson Davyes from nine meters was blocked by Matjaž Brumen. "We could feel the absence of Nikola Manojlović very much on both ends of the court. Porto have a good team with many Portuguese internationals and they proved their quality tonight. At the end our more experienced players took over the responsibility and our goalkeeper Gorazd Škof had a great night," Koper´s coach Fredi Radojkovič said at the press conference.

SL Benfica (POR) vs. HBC Nantes (GER) 28:22 (11:11), first leg: 21:29

The French top seeded team from Nantes lost in Lisbon against Benfica 22:28, but never got in real troubles during the match as the "violets" cautiosly protected their eight goals lead from the first match and Portuguese hosts reached the dangerous distance too late.

Sungul Snezhinsk (RUS) vs. Orlen Wisła Płock (POL) 24:29 (12:16), first leg: 23:37

After an impressive 37:24 first leg victory against Sungul Snezhinsk Płock confirmed their progress with another win (29:24) despite playing without their goalkeeping stalwart. Croatian Marin Šego was denied to enter Russia by the clerks at the Yekaterinburg airport, but his collegue Marcin Wichary had a stellar performance and with 52 per cent saving efficiency led his team to a comfortable victory. Top scorer of the match was Norwegian right winger Christian Spanne with 11 goals. Polish team, which failed at the Wild Card tournament of the VELUX EHF Champions League in September, had to overcome not only the shock caused by Šego, but the minus 20 temperatures and five time zones shift too. In the second half they increased the lead to nine goals and only then Snezhinsk managed to cut the deficit.

HC Meshkov Brest (BLR) vs. Frisch Auf! Göppingen (GER) 24:29 (11:16), first leg: 17:29

Also Göppingen were dominant in the re-match with Meshkov Brest and after 29:17 victory in Germany the bundesliga team beat the Belarusian hosts 29:24. Manuel Späth and Mitar Markez scored 7 goals each, Croatian Ljubo Vukić netted nine times for Brest.

Alpla HC Hard (AUT) vs. HC Motor Zaporozhye (UKR) 22:33 (9:17), first leg: 26:27

Austrian title holders failed to turn the promising result of the first leg against Ukraine´s HC Motor Zaporozhye (26:27) into a progress. They paid costly for too many technical errors in the first half and since 6:6 Motor were able to make a run to 10:6 and later to 17:9. The destruction of the home team continued after the break (20:9) and when trailing by twelve (14:26) six Alpla prospects were sent to the field to gain some international experience.

Tatran Prešov (SVK) vs. RK Borac m:tel Banja Luka (BIH) 30:25 (12:11), first leg: 36:25

Slovakian champions Tatran Prešov also accomplished the Group Phase objective quite easily. Entering the second leg against RK Borac m:tel Banja Luka on the home court with a 11 goal lead Prešov failed to repeat the same dominant performance against the Bosnian side, but they still managed to win 30:25 and landed in the Pot 1 before the draw of four groups.

RK Sloga Doboj (BIH) vs. Elverum Handball Herrer (NOR) 27:37 (15:16), first leg: 24:34

Norway´s Elverum copied the ten goal victory from the first leg in Bosnia as well as they broke down the resistence of Sloga Doboj in the second half and won 37:27. Andre Lindboe scored 12 goals for the visitors as he reached the milestone of 50 goals in six matches of the EHF Cup. Despite losing the second leg 22:26 on the RK Vojvodina´s ground Spanish team Naturhouse La Rioja sailed past the hosts to the next stage after bringing nine goals cushion to Serbia.

RK Maribor Branik (SLO) vs. RK Siscia (CRO) 35:22 (19:13), first leg: 29:30

Slovenia´s Maribor completed the successful run to the Group Phase from the Round 1 as they avoid any complications with Croatia´s Siscia at home. Branik quickly deleted one goal deficit from the first leg and built a decisive six goal lead. The former player of Siscia Nikola Spelić was the best scorer of Maribor with seven goals.

AC Diomidis Argous (GRE) vs. Rhein-Neckar Löwen (GER) 27:27 (14:11), first leg: 17:37

Serbian left back Žarko Šešum netted 12 goals in Loutraki in the second leg, but his German team was close to an unexpected defeat against the Greek Challenge Cup winners of the last season. Argous led by three goals at the half-time break, but at the end they had to settle with the draw.

KIF Kolding (DEN) vs. Permskie Medvedi (RUS) 41:24 (17:13), first leg: 27:30

Not even another stellar shooting performance of Yuriy Orlov could prevent Permskie Medvedi from being eliminated by KIF Kolding. Orlov scored astonishing 23 goals against the new Danish giant and half of the Russian side output, but it was not enough to stop the avalanche in the second half as Kolding won the second part 24:11.

Saint-Raphaël Var Handball (FRA) vs. Team Tvis Holstebro (DEN) 35:32 (18:15), first leg: 19:35

French club was able to copy goals scored of Holstebro from the first leg, but the defence of the home team allowed 13 more goals than the Danish side a week ago. Aurelien Abily said this season´s farewell to the European club competitions as the top scorer of the match with ten goals.

Beşiktaş JK (TUR) vs. Haslum HK (NOR) 37:25 (18:9), first leg: 20:31

Ramazan Döne scored 14 times as his team accomplished a Herculean task and rallied from eleven goals deficit from Norway and beat Scandinavians by twelve.

HC Vardar PRO Skopje (MKD) vs. SC Magdeburg (GER) 28:26 (14:14), first leg: 27:30

Ten goals by Austrian right wing Robert Weber paved the way to the Group Phase for Magdeburg after a thrilling second leg at the Kale hall in the Macedonian capital. The team from German league managed to pull back to two goals deficit in the last minute despite playing with one player suspended.

EARLIER

Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion (ISR) vs. Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau (ROU) 22:22 (12:12), first leg 22:33 (8:15)

Despite playing more open match against Romanian hosts Israeli champions remained too far away from erasing the ten goal deficit from the first leg.

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Round 3

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

MatchID: 201311020803-

001	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	002	BLR	HC Meshkov Brest	58 : 41
	24.11.2012 19:30 Göppingen (2700)			01.12.2012 16:00 Brest (2000)		29:17 (13:7)
	Ref.: Stenrand, Birch DEN Del.: Dubedout FRA			Ref.: Alvarez Mata, Bustamante Lopez ESP Del.: Baum POL		29:24 (16:11)
003	BIH	RK "Borac m:tel" Banja Luka	004	SVK	TATRAN Presov	50 : 66
	24.11.2012 18:00 Banja Luka (1000)			01.12.2012 18:00 Presov (1685)		25:36 (11:19)
	Ref.: Katsikis, Michailidis GRE Del.: Kasunic CRO			Ref.: Mykolaitis, Sniurevicius LTU Del.: Popov SRB		25:30 (11:12)
005	CRO	RK Siscia	006	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	52 : 64
	24.11.2012 18:00 Sisak (1500)			02.12.2012 18:00 Maribor (800)		30:29 (12:11)
	Ref.: Brkic, Jusufhodzic AUT Del.: Maric BIH			Ref.: Pandzic, Satordzija BIH Del.: Rakocevic MNE		22:35 (13:19)
007	GRE	A.C. Diomidis Argous	008	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	44 : 64
	02.12.2012 18:30 Loutraki (500)			24.11.2012 19:00 Mannheim (1097)		27:27 (14:11)
	Ref.: Veber, Pangerc SLO Del.: Vitzthum SUI			Ref.: Kleven, Ramberg NOR Del.: Reisinger AUT		17:37 (8:21)
The order of matches has been changed.						
009	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	010	POR	FC Porto Vitalis	51 : 50
	24.11.2012 19:00 Koper (1300)			01.12.2012 18:00 Porto (863)		29:23 (11:12)
	Ref.: Olesen, Pedersen DEN Del.: Trespidi ITA			Ref.: Fleisch, Rieber GER Del.: Permuy ESP		22:27 (10:12)
011	FRA	HBC Nantes	012	POR	S.L. Benfica	51 : 49
	25.11.2012 17:00 Nantes (5000)			01.12.2012 06:00 Lisboa (500)		29:21 (13:12)
	Ref.: Mitrevski, Todorovski MKD Del.: Donven LUX			Ref.: Vesovic, Mitrovic MNE Del.: Huelin ESP		22:28 (11:11)
013	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	014	FRA	Saint-Raphael Var Handball	67 : 54
	25.11.2012 15:15 Holstebro (1887)			02.12.2012 17:00 Saint Raphael (800)		35:19 (17:7)
	Ref.: Liachovicius, Gecevicius LTU Del.: Lauritzen NOR			Ref.: Herczeg, Südi HUN Del.: Costa POR		32:35 (15:18)
015	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	016	ESP	BM Aragon	57 : 57
	24.11.2012 16:00 Eskilstuna (1840)			01.12.2012 19:00 Zaragoza (2100)		30:26 (13:14)
	Ref.: Kekes, Kekes HUN Del.: Petersen DEN			Ref.: Novikov, Perepilitsy UKR Del.: Rätz SUI		27:31 (11:15)
017	GER	SC Magdeburg	018	MKD	HC Vardar PRO - Skopje	56 : 55
	23.11.2012 19:30 Magdeburg (1186)			02.12.2012 18:00 Skopje (2900)		30:27 (16:13)
	Ref.: Muro San Jose, Rodriguez Murcia ESP Del.: Konecny CZE			Ref.: Cohen, Peretz ISR Del.: Lang AUT		26:28 (14:14)
019	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	020	SRB	RK Vojvodina	50 : 45
	24.11.2012 20:00 Logrono (2500)			01.12.2012 12:00 Novi Sad (700)		28:19 (15:10)
	Ref.: Santos, Fonseca POR Del.: Tosi Brandi ITA			Ref.: Johansson, Kliko SWE Del.: Vodopivec SLO		22:26 (9:10)
021	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	022	ISR	Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion	55 : 44
	24.11.2012 16:30 Bacau (1500)			25.11.2012 16:30 Bacau (1400)		33:22 (15:8)
	Ref.: Chaskis, Tsakonas GRE Del.: Konopliastyi UKR			Ref.: Chaskis, Tsakonas GRE Del.: Konopliastyi UKR		22:22 (12:12)
Both matches in ROU						
023	NOR	Haslum HK	024	TUR	Besiktas JK	56 : 57
	24.11.2012 18:00 Bekkestua (400)			02.12.2012 15:00 Istanbul (800)		31:20 (19:10)
	Ref.: Baranowski, Lemanowicz POL Del.: Østerballe DEN			Ref.: Krkacev, Kolevski MKD Del.: Hashani KOS		25:37 (9:18)
025	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	026	RUS	Sungul Snezhinsk	66 : 47
	24.11.2012 20:00 Plock (4750)			01.12.2012 08:00 Chelyabisns Reg. Snezhinsk (1000)		37:23 (15:10)
	Ref.: Pandzic, Mosorinski SRB Del.: Nachevski MKD			Ref.: Karlubik, Struhar SVK Del.: Mkhitaryan ARM		29:24 (16:12)
027	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	028	BIH	RK Sloga	71 : 51
	25.11.2012 18:00 Elverum (1087)			01.12.2012 14:00 Teslic (200)		34:24 (15:11)
	Ref.: Kouz, Zhoba UKR Del.: Berndtsson SWE			Ref.: Pavel, State ROU Del.: Pozeznik SLO		37:27 (16:15)

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

029	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	030	AUT	Alpla HC Hard	60 : 48
	24.11.2012 17:00 Zaporozhye (900)			01.12.2012 19:00 Hard (1500)		27:26 (12:14)
	Ref.: Cvetko, Kavalar SLO Del.: Poladenko RUS			Ref.: Mandak, Rudinsky SVK Del.: Bürgi SUI		33:22 (17:9)
031	DEN	KIF Kolding	032	RUS	Permskie medvedi	68 : 54
	02.12.2012 15:15 Kolding (2200)			25.11.2012 15:00 Perm (1200)		41:24 (17:13)
	Ref.: Buache, Meyer SUI Del.: Hogsnes NOR			Ref.: Panayides, Andreou CYP Del.: Jansonas LTU		27:30 (12:14)
The order of matches has been changed.						

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Round 2

MatchID: 201311020802-

001	ROU	HC Odorheiu Secuiesc	002	TUR	Besiktas JK	69 : 70
	13.10.2012 18:00 Odorheiu Secuiesc (1200)			20.10.2012 16:00 Istanbul (1000)		40:33 (23:14)
	Ref.: Cindric, Gonzurek CRO Del.: Yordanov BUL			Ref.: Aliyev, Aghakishiyev AZE Del.: Trespidi ITA		29:37 (14:19)
003	SWE	IFK Kristianstad	004	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	47 : 48
	13.10.2012 16:00 Kristianstad (3011)			20.10.2012 16:00 Eskilstuna (1100)		24:22 (8:15)
	Ref.: Kleven, Ramberg NOR Del.: Rasmussen DEN			Ref.: Stokes, Bartlett GBR Del.: Haraldsson ISL		23:26 (16:11)
005	MKD	HC Kumanovo	006	RUS	Sungul Snezhinsk	58 : 61
	13.10.2012 19:00 Kumanovo (2300)			20.10.2012 16:00 Chelyabisns Reg. Snezhinsk (1000)		27:26 (16:11)
	Ref.: Panayides, Andreou CYP Del.: Rakocevic MNE			Ref.: Hajek, Macho CZE Del.: Asgarov AZE		31:35 (11:17)
007	NED	HV KRAS/Volendam	008	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	56 : 59
	13.10.2012 19:00 Volendam (700)			20.10.2012 19:00 Koper (800)		31:32 (17:12)
	Ref.: Samuelsen, Hansen FAR Del.: Donven LUX			Ref.: Frieser, Frieser CZE Del.: Vattay HUN		25:27 (12:13)
009	POL	Tauron Stal Mielec	010	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	53 : 56
	13.10.2012 19:00 Mielec (1600)			20.10.2012 16:15 Holstebro (1303)		29:26 (17:12)
	Ref.: Pandzic, Satordzija BIH Del.: Sundell FIN			Ref.: Mitrevski, Todorovski MKD Del.: Sigurdsson ISL		24:30 (11:16)
011	HUN	Grundfos Tatabanya KC	012	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	46 : 59
	13.10.2012 18:00 Tatabanya (700)			21.10.2012 18:00 Elverum (1239)		23:27 (10:13)
	Ref.: Boricic, Markovic SRB Del.: Rankin GBR			Ref.: Cernavskis, Bogdanovs LAT Del.: Petersen DEN		23:32 (9:17)
013	POR	Madeira SAD	014	GRE	A.C. Diomidis Argous	51 : 62
	20.10.2012 19:00 Agia Triada (700)			21.10.2012 19:00 Agia Triada (700)		25:30 (12:15)
	Ref.: Lah, Sok SLO Del.: Antoniou CYP			Ref.: Lah, Sok SLO Del.: Antoniou CYP		26:32 (12:14)
	Both matches in GRE					
015	RUS	Permskie medvedi	016	SUI	Wacker Thun	66 : 64
	12.10.2012 19:00 Perm (1500)			13.10.2012 15:00 Perm (1300)		38:32 (18:14)
	Ref.: Vesovic, Mitrovic MNE Del.: Järv EST			Ref.: Vesovic, Mitrovic MNE Del.: Järv EST		28:32 (14:15)
	Both matches in RUS					
017	POR	S.L. Benfica	018	ITA	Loacker Südtirol Team	72 : 45
	13.10.2012 16:00 Lisboa (500)			14.10.2012 19:00 Lisboa (400)		32:20 (18:8)
	Ref.: Bernet, Wick SUI Del.: Dubedout FRA			Ref.: Bernet, Wick SUI Del.: Dubedout FRA		40:25 (20:11)
	Both matches in POR					
019	DEN	KIF Kolding	020	MNE	HC Lovcen	66 : 48
	12.10.2012 19:30 Glostrup (500)			13.10.2012 15:00 Vordingborg (600)		34:17 (16:10)
	Ref.: Liachovicius, Gecevicius LTU Del.: Gremmel GER			Ref.: Liachovicius, Gecevicius LTU Del.: Gremmel GER		32:31 (15:14)
	Both matches in DEN					
021	CRO	RK Nexe Nasice	022	BLR	HC Meshkov Brest	60 : 66
	13.10.2012 19:00 Nasice (700)			20.10.2012 16:00 Brest (1500)		30:31 (13:18)
	Ref.: Pavel, State ROU Del.: Vodopivec SLO			Ref.: Mäkinen, Jonsson SWE Del.: Jansonas LTU		30:35 (13:15)
023	CRO	RK Siscia	024	UKR	HC Dinamo Poltava	46 : 45
	19.10.2012 18:00 Poltava (600)			20.10.2012 18:00 Poltava (600)		23:24 (13:10)
	Ref.: Aghakishi, Aghakishi AZE Del.: Poladenko RUS			Ref.: Aghakishi, Aghakishi AZE Del.: Poladenko RUS		23:21 (10:10)
	Both matches in UKR					
025	MKD	HC Vardar PRO - Skopje	026	CZE	HK .A.S.A. Mesto Lovosice	60 : 44
	13.10.2012 18:00 Skopje (1780)			20.10.2012 17:00 Lovosice (800)		36:19 (17:10)
	Ref.: Yudchyts, Kot BLR Del.: Serbu ROU			Ref.: Kaveshnikov, Plotnikov RUS Del.: Repensek SLO		24:25 (6:13)

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Round 2

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

027	ISL	HK Kopavogur	028	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	50 : 77
	20.10.2012 17:00 Maribor (400)			21.10.2012 18:00 Maribor (300)		25:42 (11:20)
	Ref.: Alvarez Mata, Bustamante Lopez ESP Del.: Tosi Brandi ITA			Ref.: Alvarez Mata, Bustamante Lopez ESP Del.: Tosi Brandi ITA		25:35 (11:19)
Both matches in SLO						
029	SRB	RK Vojvodina	030	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	53 : 52
	13.10.2012 18:00 Novi Sad (1000)			20.10.2012 18:00 Balatonfüred (600)		29:25 (12:11)
	Ref.: Chaskis, Tsakonas GRE Del.: Lang AUT			Ref.: Sirbu, Suponicov MDA Del.: Kaschütz AUT		24:27 (13:11)
031	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	032	ISL	Haukar Hafnarfjördur	58 : 47
	13.10.2012 17:00 Zaporozhye (2500)			14.10.2012 17:00 Zaporozhye (1800)		30:25 (15:11)
	Ref.: Krkacev, Kolevski MKD Del.: Éles HUN			Ref.: Krkacev, Kolevski MKD Del.: Éles HUN		28:22 (14:10)
Both matches in UKR						
033	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	034	SWE	Ystads IF	51 : 46
	13.10.2012 18:00 Bacau (1300)			14.10.2012 18:00 Bacau (1400)		28:24 (16:12)
	Ref.: Konjicanin, Konjicanin BIH Del.: Meimaridis GRE			Ref.: Konjicanin, Konjicanin BIH Del.: Meimaridis GRE		23:22 (10:10)
Both matches in ROU						

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Round 1

MatchID: 201311020801-

001	POR	Sporting CP	002	SWE	Ystads IF	53 : 59
	08.09.2012 18:30 Odivelas (300)			16.09.2012 16:15 Ystad (547)		27:22 (13:14)
	Ref.: Pandzic, Mosorinski SRB Del.: Permuy ESP			Ref.: Kouz, Zhoba UKR Del.: Lauritzen NOR		26:37 (8:18)
003	BIH	RK "Borac m:tel" Banja Luka	004	KOS	KH BESA Famiglia	63 : 44
	08.09.2012 19:00 Banja Luka (1000)			15.09.2012 20:00 Pejä (2000)		31:22 (16:10)
	Ref.: Mandak, Rudinsky SVK Del.: Posavec CRO			Ref.: Sirbu, Suponicov MDA Del.: Vujisic MNE		32:22 (18:9)
005	ISL	Haukar Hafnarfjördur	006	MNE	HC Mojkovac	57 : 31
	14.09.2012 18:00 Asvöllum (450)			15.09.2012 17:00 Asvöllum (250)		32:12 (15:4)
	Ref.: Dobrovits, Tajok HUN Del.: Østerballe DEN			Ref.: Dobrovits, Tajok HUN Del.: Østerballe DEN		25:19 (11:12)
	Both matches in ISL					
007	SUI	Pfadi Winterthur	008	POR	S.L. Benfica	48 : 55
	08.09.2012 18:00 Winterthur (550)			15.09.2012 18:00 Lisboa (450)		21:28 (10:12)
	Ref.: Gousko, Repkin BLR Del.: Germain FRA			Ref.: Baranowski, Lemanowicz POL Del.: Castillo GBR		27:27 (11:17)
009	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	010	LUX	HB Dudelange	66 : 52
	08.09.2012 18:00 Maribor (300)			15.09.2012 20:00 Dudelange (400)		39:24 (21:16)
	Ref.: Hajek, Macho CZE Del.: Kaschütz AUT			Ref.: Wyss, Zowa SUI Del.: RENON FRA		27:28 (17:10)
011	CZE	HK A.S.A. Meso Lovosice	012	CRO	HC Zamet	59 : 56
	08.09.2012 17:00 Lovosice (800)			15.09.2012 17:00 Rijeka (1000)		27:23 (16:12)
	Ref.: Bounouara, Sami FRA Del.: Zabczynski POL			Ref.: Erdogan, Özdeniz TUR Del.: Popov SRB		32:33 (19:15)
013	RUS	Permskie medvedi	014	MDA	PGU-Kartina TV Tiraspol	80 : 49
	08.09.2012 19:00 Perm (1200)			09.09.2012 15:00 Perm (1000)		37:20 (19:12)
	Ref.: Novikov, Perepilitsy UKR Del.: Mkhitaryan ARM			Ref.: Novikov, Perepilitsy UKR Del.: Mkhitaryan ARM		43:29 (24:13)
	Both matches in RUS					
015	CYP	European University Cyprus	016	ROU	HC Odorheiu Secuiesc	43 : 61
	08.09.2012 19:00 Nicosia (180)			15.09.2012 18:00 Odorheiu Secuiesc (1200)		28:30 (14:13)
	Ref.: Bol, Van Eck NED Del.: Antonopoulos GRE			Ref.: Krkacev, Kolevski MKD Del.: Vizitiu MDA		15:31 (10:10)
017	AUT	HIT medalp Tirol	018	CRO	RK Siscia	48 : 57
	08.09.2012 18:30 Innsbruck (400)			15.09.2012 19:00 Sisak (600)		26:25 (10:12)
	Ref.: Karlubik, Struhar SVK Del.: Vitzthum SUI			Ref.: Di Domenico, Fornasier ITA Del.: Metalari MKD		22:32 (8:15)
019	BLR	HC Meshkov Brest	020	ITA	PlanetWin365 Conversano	72 : 42
	08.09.2012 18:00 Brest (1500)			09.09.2012 15:00 Brest (1200)		38:19 (14:12)
	Ref.: Pavicevic, Raznatovic MNE Del.: Fegir UKR			Ref.: Pavicevic, Raznatovic MNE Del.: Fegir UKR		34:23 (13:14)
	Both matches in BLR					
021	GRE	A.C. Diomidis Argous	022	GRE	A.E.K. Athens	60 : 47
	09.09.2012 19:00 Nea Kios (290)			16.09.2012 18:00 Athens (850)		30:18 (16:8)
	Ref.: Boricic, Markovic SRB Del.: Savvides CYP			Ref.: Konjicanin, Konjicanin BIH Del.: Kaplanis CYP		30:29 (16:12)
023	BEL	United HC Tongeren	024	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	54 : 66
	08.09.2012 20:15 Tongeren (560)			15.09.2012 17:00 Elverum (1086)		25:26 (10:16)
	Ref.: Lillepea, Kull EST Del.: Wiebrands NED			Ref.: Leszczynski, Piechota POL Del.: Halldorsson ISL		29:40 (14:20)
025	HUN	Balatonfüredi KSE	026	EST	HC Kehra	51 : 47
	08.09.2012 18:00 Balatonfüred (500)			09.09.2012 18:00 Balatonfüred (500)		24:25 (9:12)
	Ref.: Mitrevski, Todorovski MKD Del.: Stanek CZE			Ref.: Mitrevski, Todorovski MKD Del.: Stanek CZE		27:22 (15:12)
	Both matches in HUN					

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Round 1

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

027	SWE	IFK Kristianstad	028	SVK	HC Sporta Hlohovec	59 : 45
	08.09.2012 18:00 Kristianstad (2900)			15.09.2012 18:00 Hlohovec (1000)		31:24 (13:9)
	Ref.: Liachovicius, Gecevicius LTU Del.: Järv EST			Ref.: Buache, Meyer SUI Del.: Reisinger AUT		28:21 (15:11)
029	TUR	Nilüfer Belediyespor	030	POL	Tauron Stal Mielec	50 : 84
	08.09.2012 19:00 Mielec (1200)			09.09.2012 19:00 Mielec (800)		29:42 (12:21)
	Ref.: Yudchyts, Kot BLR Del.: Asgarov AZE			Ref.: Yudchyts, Kot BLR Del.: Asgarov AZE		21:42 (13:22)
Both matches in POL						
031	MKD	HC Kumanovo	032	BUL	HC Dobrudja	65 : 46
	08.09.2012 19:00 Kumanovo (1700)			09.09.2012 19:00 Kumanovo (600)		30:20 (14:9)
	Ref.: Pavel, State ROU Del.: Maric BIH			Ref.: Pavel, State ROU Del.: Maric BIH		35:26 (17:12)
Both matches in MKD						
033	NED	HV KRAS/Volendam	034	SUI	BSV Bern Muri	51 : 41
	08.09.2012 15:00 Volendam (400)			16.09.2012 18:30 Bern (350)		26:23 (14:11)
	Ref.: Tzaferopoulos, Bethmann GRE Del.: Simon LUX			Ref.: Argyridis, Mouttas CYP Del.: Costa POR		25:18 (13:8)
035	GBR	London GD Handball Club	036	DEN	KIF Kolding	32 : 88
	15.09.2012 16:00 Kolding (935)			16.09.2012 15:00 Vamdrup (448)		16:46 (10:22)
	Ref.: Sigurjónsson, Petursson ISL Del.: Thelander SWE			Ref.: Sigurjónsson, Petursson ISL Del.: Thelander SWE		16:42 (7:19)
Both matches in DEN						

EUROPEAN CUP 2012/2013

MEN

Ranking for 2012/13					Number of teams for each Federation in the various competitions			
Last season 2011/12	Move	Place 2012/13	Nation	Average points	Champions League	European Cup	Challenge Cup	Total
1		1	GER	149,78	3	2	0	5
2		2	ESP	132,89	3	2	0	5
4	▲	3	FRA	69,67	2	2	0	4
5	▲	4	RUS	56,50	2	2	0	4
3	▽	5	HUN	51,78	2	2	0	4
8	▲	6	SLO	50,64	2	2	0	4
6	▽	7	DEN	50,56	1	2	1	4
7	▽	8	SUI	44,75	1	2	1	4
9		9	ROU	37,50	1	2	1	4
10		10	CRO	29,75	1	2	1	4
12	▲	11	POR	27,25	1	2	1	4
15	▲	12	MKD	23,58	1	2	1	4
13		13	SWE	23,08	1	2	1	4
14		14	BIH	22,33	1	1	2	4
18	▲	15	SRB	21,17	1	1	2	4
16		16	POL	19,83	1	1	2	4
21	▲	17	NOR	17,75	1	1	2	4
17	▽	18	AUT	17,08	1	1	2	4
11	▽	19	UKR	17,08	1	1	2	4
22	▲	20	TUR	13,42	1	1	2	4
20	▽	21	ISL	13,25	1	1	2	4
19	▽	22	SVK	11,58	1	1	2	4
25	▲	23	MNE	11,00	1	1	2	4
26	▲	24	GRE	10,91	1	1	2	4
24	▽	25	BLR	10,58	1	1	2	4
27	▲	26	ISR	10,33	1	1	2	4
23	▽	27	ITA	10,17	1	1	2	4
28		28	BUL	7,78	0	1	3	4
33	▲	29	LUX	7,20	0	1	3	4
29	▽	30	EST	6,18	0	1	3	4
30	▽	31	NED	5,78	0	1	3	4
36	▲	32	CYP	3,64	0	1	3	4
35	▲	33	CZE	3,27	0	1	3	4
37	▲	34	BEL	3,18	0	1	3	4
34	▽	35	KOS	2,33	0	1	0	1
31	▽	36	LAT	2,33	0	1	3	4
32	▽	37	LTU	2,18	0	1	3	4
38		38	GEO	1,33	0	1	3	4
40	▲	39	FAR	0,56	0	1	3	4
39	▽	40	IRL	0,44	0	1	3	4
43	▲	41	MDA	0,33	0	1	3	4
42		42	ENG	0,33	0	1	3	4
44	▲	43	ALB	0,11	0	1	3	4
41	▽	44	FIN	0,11	0	1	3	4
ARM/AND/AZE/LIE/MLT/MON/SCO				0,00	0	0	4	4

The ranking for the 2012/13 season is based on the results of the European Cup seasons 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11

2012/2013 MEN'S EHF CUP

	NATION	Qualification Round 1	Qualification Round 2	Qualification Round 3	Group Phase	Quarter finals	Final Tournament
		36 teams	36 teams	32 teams	16 teams	6 teams	4 teams
		08/09.09.2012 first leg *15/16.09.2012* second leg	*13/14.10.2012* first leg *20/21.10.2012* second leg	*24/25.11.2012* first leg *01/02.12.2012* second leg	*R1: 09/10.02.13* *R2: 16/17.02.13* *R3: 23/24.02.13* *R4: 09/10.03.13* *R5: 16/17.03.13* *R6: 23/24.03.13*	*20/21.04.13* first leg *27/28.04.13* second leg	*18/19.05.2013* Tournament
	DRAWS:	***24.07.2012***	***24.07.2012***	***23.10.2012***	***06.12.2012***	***26.03.2013***	***30.04.2013***
1	Def. Champ.			Frisch Auf Göppingen/GER	16 Winners of Qualification Round 3	four 1st placed teams of Group Phase as well as the three best 2nd placed teams (excl. Organiser of the Final Tournament)	3 Winners of Quarterfinals as well as the organiser of the final tournament
2	2nd CL Q1			2nd CL Q1			
3	2nd CL Q2			2nd CL Q2			
4	2nd CL Q3			2nd CL Q3			
5	2nd CL QWC			2nd CL QWC			
6	3rd CL Q1			3rd CL Q1			
7	3rd CL Q2			3rd CL Q2			
8	3rd CL Q3			3rd CL Q3			
9	3rd CL QWC			3rd CL QWC			
10	***GER***			Rhein-Neckar Löwen			
11	***ESP***			BM Aragon			
12	***GER***			SC Magdeburg			
13	***ESP***			Naturhouse La Rioja			
14	***FRA***			HBC Nantes			
15	4th CL Q1		4th CL Q1	18 Winners of Qualification Round 2			
16	4th CL Q2		4th CL Q2				
17	4th CL Q3		4th CL Q3				
18	Loser CL Q4		Loser CL Q4				
19	4th CL QWC		4th CL QWC				
20	***SLO***		RK Cimos Koper				
21	***DEN***		Team Tvis Holstebro				
22	***ROU***		M. Dedeman Bacau				
23	***POR***		Madeira Andebol				
24	***RUS***		Sungul Snezhinsk				
25	***SWE***		Eskilstuna Guif				
26	***SUI***		Wacker Thun				
27	***SRB***		Vojvodina Novi Sad				
28	***HUN***		Grundfos Tatabanya				
29	***UKR***		Motor Zaporozshe				
30	***MKD***		Vardar PRO Skopje				
31	***CRO***		HC Nexe				
32	***ISL***		HK Kopavogs				
33	***GRE***	AC Diomidis Argous	18 Winners of Qualification Round 1				
34	***SLO***	RK Maribor Branik					
35	***DEN***	KIF Kolding					
36	***ROU***	Odorheiu Secuiesc					
37	***POR***	Sporting CP					
38	***RUS***	Permskie medvedi					
39	***SWE***	IFK Kristianstad					
40	***SUI***	Pfadi Winterthur					
41	***HUN***	Balatonfüredi KSE					
42	***MKD***	HC Kumanovo					
43	***CRO***	HC Zamet					
44	***NOR***	Elverum Handball					
45	***BLR***	Meshkov Brest					
46	***AUT***	HIT medalp Tirol					
47	***BIH***	Borac m:tel Banja Luka					
48	***NED***	HV Kras/Volendam					
49	***TUR***	Nilüfer Belediyespor					
50	***ISL***	Haukar Hafnarfördur					
51	***LUX***	HB Dudelange					
52	***CZE***	ASA Meso Lovosice					
53	***EST***	HC Kehra					
54	***CYP***	European U. Cyprus					
55	***ITA***	PlanetWin365 Conversano					
56	***BEL***	United HC Tongeren					
57	***GRE***	A.E.K. Athens					
58	***MNE***	HC Mojkovac					
59	***BUL***	HC Dobrudja					
60	***SVK***	Sporta Hlohovec					
61	***MDA***	PGU Kartina Tiraspol					
62	***POL***	Tauron Stal Mielec					
63	***KOS***	Besa Famiglia					
64	***GBR***	London GD Handball					
65	***POR***	S.L. Benfica					
66	***SWE***	Ystads IF					
67	***SUI***	Bern Muri					
68	***CRO***	RK Siscia					

published version, 17.07.2012

PAST WINNERS OF EHF CUP AND CUP WINNERS´ CUP

List of Men´s Cup Winners´Cup winners

2012	SG Flensburg Handewitt (GER)
2011	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2010	VfL Gummersbach (GER)
2009	Pevafersa 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)

List of Men´s EHF Cup winners

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 Avidesa (ESP)

NANTES HOSTING THE PREMIERE EDITION OF EHF CUP FINALS

The venue for the first edition of the Men's EHF Cup Final Tournament has been announced in Belgrade on the fringes of the 10th Women's EHF European Championship, being held in Serbia from 4 to 16 December 2012. The announcement, before the draw for the Group Phase of the competition, saw the event awarded to the French city of Nantes and to HBC Nantes. The French league club will itself compete in the Group Phase of the competition for a place in the Final Tournament. The club has agreed to host the event even if they do not qualify for the final event.

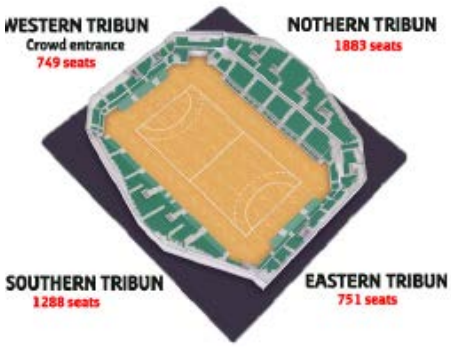
Nantes and surrounding region in western France, boasts 27,000 handball players and 177 handball clubs and the city of Nantes prides itself on its sporting heritage. Amongst many international handball events, the city hosted the Women's World Championship in 2007. HBC Nantes has also hosted the French League Cup in 2010 and 2011, selling out their 5,000 seat arena on both occasions.

Commenting on the awarding of the event to Nantes, Jean Brihault, EHF President, said: "We considered a number of excellent applications to host the event, but the French city of Nantes presented us with a concept that we felt would really work, especially in the first year. Handball is hugely popular in the region and with the support of the club and the local region we are sure that the premiere edition of the new EHF Cup Final Tournament will be in safe hands."

President of HBC Nantes, Gaël Pelletier, who was awarded with a new official ball of the Men´s EHF Cup by Brihault, said: "I would like to thank the EHF for the vote of confidence in our club. This nomination is above all a reward for the 120 enthusiastic volunteers of the club who are working daily to build the history of our club with a big `H`. It is also the recognition of the overwhelming interest which goes along with handball in Nantes and a great chance, for our partners and for the region, to host the top teams of our sport and a high number of passionates coming from all over Europe. It is the `icing on the cake` of our 60th anniversary."

EHF CUP FINALS VENUE

Palais des Sports de Beaulieu
5 rue Andre Tardieu
44200 Nantes, France
Capacity: **5000**



Men's EHF Cup 2012/13

Group A

European Handball Federation

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Group Phase

Group A			matches	won	draw	lost	goal-difference		points
1	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
2	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
3	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
4	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0

MatchID: 201311020804-

002	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	vs.	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	
	09.02.2013 19:00 Koper / SLO					
	Ref.: Yudchyts, Kot BLR Del.: Posavec CRO					
001	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	vs.	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	
	09.02.2013 19:30 Göppingen / GER					
	Ref.: Konjicanin, Konjicanin BIH Del.: Vitzthum SUI					
004	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	vs.	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	
	16.02.2013 16:00 Eskilstuna / SWE					
003	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	vs.	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	
	16.02.2013 20:00 Logrono / ESP					
005	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	vs.	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	
	23.02.2013 19:00 Koper / SLO					
006	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	vs.	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	
	23.02.2013 20:00 Logrono / ESP					
008	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	vs.	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	
	09.03.2013 16:00 Eskilstuna / SWE					
007	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	vs.	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	
	09.03.2013 19:30 Göppingen / GER					
009	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	vs.	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	
	16.03.2013 19:00 Eskilstuna / SWE					
010	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	vs.	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	
	16.03.2013 20:00 Logrono / ESP					
012	SLO	RK Cimos Koper	vs.	SWE	Eskilstuna Guif	
	23.03.2013 19:00 Koper / SLO					
011	GER	Frisch Auf Göppingen	vs.	ESP	Naturhouse La Rioja	
	23.03.2013 19:30 Göppingen / GER					

FRISCH AUF GÖPPINGEN (Germany)

The road to the Group Phase:
Qualification Round 3: 29:17, 29:24 against HC Meshkov Brest

Group Phase Preview:
After winning the old format of the EHF Cup twice in its final seasons, Frisch Auf Göppingen is aiming for the final tournament in the first edition of the new format. Göppingen is one of those German clubs with the longest tradition as they dominated European handball in the 1960s. After decades without any international appearance, the team of coach Velimir Petković re-started their continental campaigns in 2005, when his players reached the semi-final of the EHF Cup.

In the current season Göppingen hope for another qualification for the 2013/14 EHF Cup season – but first of all they hope to proceed to the next stage of this competition after reaching the Group Phase by eliminating Belarusian team Brest in Round 3.

"As two-time defending champions of the old EHF Cup, we are now looking forward to taking part in the new group phase of the competition," media manager of the club Alexander Kolb mentions. "This will be a new experience and challenge for our team. Our club and our fans are excited. We have strong opponents, but we hope to reach the quarter-finals."

Team captain and German international Michael Haaß shares those hopes: "In the third round we won twice against the Belarusian team of Brest, and now the draw gave us the matches against La Rioja, Eskilstuna and Koper. These will be interesting matches, but we want to go through the group to the quarter-finals."

Because of an injury of goalkeeper Bastian Rutschmann, the club transferred its former goalkeeper Enid Tahirović back from Hamburg to Göppingen in mid-December, but the Bosnian veteran retired soon after.

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Germany

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Email: alexander.kolb@frischauf-gp.de

Arena:
EWS Arena Göppingen
Nördliche Ringstrasse 87
73033 Göppingen
Capacity: 5600

Colours of uniform:	**light**	**dark**
Player shirt:	white	green
Player short	green	white
Goalkeeper shirt	red	blue

Media contact:
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Online:
Club website: www.frischauf-gp.de
Twitter: @FrischAufGP
Facebook: frischaufgp
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Club achievements:
EHF Cup: 4 participations – winners 2011/12, 2010/11, finalists 2005/06, quarter-finalists 2009/10
Champions Cup: winners 1960 and 1962
German champions: outdoor handball: 1954 and 1957; indoor: 1954, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1965, 1970, 1972

The squad

FRISCH AUF! GÖPPINGEN

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
11	Bojan	Beljanski	SRB	Line Player	22.6.1986	106	197
17	Daniel	Fontaine	GER	Left Back	2.7.1989	95	194
15	Michael	Haaß	GER	Centre Back	12.12.1983	98	194
28	Pavel	Horak	CZE	Left Back	28.11.1982	112	198
4	Tim	Kneule	GER	Centre Back	18.8.1986	96	190
12	Felix	Lobedank	GER	Right Back	12.8.1984	103	196
13	Mitar	Markez	SRB	Right Wing	25.10.1990	80	190
77	Zarko	Markovic	MNE	Right Back	1.6.1986	102	203
16	Tomas	Mrkva	CZE	Goalkeeper	20.1.1989	109	203
5	Dragos	Oprea	GER	Left Wing	4.4.1982	94	190
21	Daniel	Rebmann	GER	Goalkeeper	16.1.1994	100	190
22	Momir	Rnic	SRB	Left Back	1.11.1987	102	196
23	Bastian	Rutschmann	GER	Goalkeeper	30.12.1982	94	195
7	Christian	Schöne	GER	Right Wing	23.2.1981	80	188
24	Maximilian	Schubert	GER	Left Wing	7.9.1990	92	194
9	Manuel	Späth	GER	Line Player	16.10.1985	100	200

New signings (including former club):

- Žarko Marković (Metalurg Skopje)
- Bojan Beljanski (HC Kriens Luzern)
- Daniel Fontaine (HG Saarlouis)
- Tomáš Mrkva (HSG Ahlen/Hamm)
- Enid Tahirović (HSV Hamburg)

Left the club (including new club):

- Draško Mrvaljević (A1 Bregenz)
- Enid Tahirović (end of career)
- Dalibor Anušić (end of career)
- Božidar Markičević
- Michael Thiede (TV Großwallstadt)

Key players

Michael Haaß:
Born on 12 December 1983

The major success of Haaß was becoming world champion in 2007 with the German national team. The centre back is the heart of Göppingen's game and in the German attack as well as being a key in defence. Haaß has the experience of more than 100 international matches and played for the German sides Minden, Rhein-Neckar Löwen and TuSEM Essen before transferring to Göppingen. At club level his major successes were three EHF Cup titles; in 2005 with Essen and in 2011 and 2012 with Frisch Auf.

Pavel Horák:
Born 28 November 1982

The Czech international is another top back court player in Göppingen's team. He started his professional career at Baník Karviná before he went to Germany. There he started playing for Ahlener SG, before transferring to Göppingen. His major successes were the two EHF Cup titles in 2011 and 2012.

Coach

Velimir Petković:
Born on 5 July 1956 in Banja Luka

In his playing career Petković was part of the famous Yugoslavian team of RM Banja Luka, becoming domestic champion and national cup winner on several occasions. Later he coached Banja Luka and led them to the title in the IHF Cup competition in 1991. Some years later he arrived in Germany and coached Scharnhausen, Wernau, Rintheim and Oßweil, before joining his first Bundesliga club in Wetzlar, where he was coach from 1998 until 2004. Then Petković started his mission in Göppingen, forming the team which became EHF Cup winner twice in 2011 and 2012.

ESKILSTUNA GUIF (Sweden)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 2: 22:24, 26:23 against IFK Kristianstad
Round 3: 30:26, 27:31 against BM Aragon

Group Phase Preview:
After a long wait, Eskilstuna Guif returned to the European club competition scene in the 2009/10 season, reaching the fourth round of the Cup Winners' Cup. One year later they made it to the EHF Challenge Cup, and Kristján Andrésson's young team significantly improved on the domestic and international level, reaching the Last 16 of the EHF Cup last season.

This season the Swedish club's goals were clearly marked, similar success in the new format of the EHF Cup, as well as a first Swedish championship. The second round saw Guif come out on top in an all-Swedish duel with Kristianstad. This was followed by a surprise win over Spanish club BM Aragon in Round 3 by the narrowest of margins, having scored one away goal more than their competitors.

Coach Andrésson is now aiming even higher and hopes to qualify for the quarter-finals in the EHF Cup.

"Though we have to face tough opponents we want to finish the Group Phase among the top two teams in our group. Each of our opponents has great teams and those encounters will be big challenges for us to beat them," he said.

"We gain experience and energy from every game, and have the opportunities to compete against some of the best European teams. My personal favourites to reach the final tournament of the EHF Cup are Rhein-Neckar Löwen, SC Magdeburg, KIF Kolding, and Guif Eskilstuna," Andrésson predicted.

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Arena:
Eskilstuna Sporthall - IF Guif
Hamngatan 18
63220 Eskilstuna
Capacity: 2609

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	red
Player short	white	black
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	green

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Club website: www.guif.nu
Twitter: @eskilstunaguif
Facebook: ifguif
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup: 2 appearances – Last 16 2011/12, Last 32 1995/96
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 3 appearances – quarter-finalists 1997/98, Round 4 2001/02, 2009/10
EHF Challenge Cup: 1 appearance – Last 16 2010/11

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
2	Rickard	Akerman	SWE	Right Back	22.6.1991	93	190
3	Emil	Andersson	SWE	Right Wing	28.8.1994	78	184
8	Robin	Andersson	SWE	Left Back	27.7.1988	85	180
13	Haukur	Andresson	ISL	Centre Back	5.6.1987	82	178
7	Richard	Blank	SWE	Line Player	24.7.1986	97	197
9	Daniel	Ekman	SWE	Centre Back	31.3.1995	82	186
67	Jan	Ekman	FIN	Goalkeeper	8.4.1967	84	187
23	Helge	Freiman	SWE	Left Back	26.2.1992	85	188
1	Robin	Hallberg	SWE	Goalkeeper	19.8.1989	95	192
10	Sebastian	Hammar	SWE	Left Wing	28.7.1991	78	178
18	Heimir Oli	Heimisson	ISL	Line Player	27.5.1990	105	202
12	Richard	Larsson	SWE	Goalkeeper	21.3.1980	94	193
23	Jesper	Lindgren	SWE	Left Back	11.6.1995	85	198
19	Robin	Oldberg	SWE	Line Player	30.7.1989	96	193
14	Daniel	Pettersson	SWE	Right Wing	6.5.1992	72	179
20	Adam	Sjöö	SWE	Left Wing	8.5.1993	86	196
25	Alexander	Stenbäcken	SWE	Centre Back	31.1.1986	92	188
11	Mathias	Tholin	SWE	Left Wing	26.5.1987	84	181
21	Mattias	Zachrisson	SWE	Right Wing	22.8.1990	86	178

New signings (including former club):

- Heimir Heimisson (Haukar)
- Adam Sjöö (HK Linköping)

Left the club (including new club):

- Tobias Aren (Aalborg)

Key players

Mathias Tholin
Born on 26 May 1987

Just like head coach Andresson, Tholin was born and grew up in Eskilstuna and has never played for any club other than Guif, where he started playing handball at the age of 6. He firmly believes that Guif will win the Swedish national championship this year, and that he will be the next Guif player in the Swedish national team.

Mattias Zachrisson
Born on 22 August 1990

In his 28 international matches to date Zachrisson has developed into the number two right wing in the Swedish national team behind THW Kiel player Niclas Ekberg. He was called to the team for the Olympic final in London last summer as his teammate, Dalibor Dodor, was injured in the semi-final. In Guif, that he joined from Irsta IF in 2006, he has also become a key player, and at the age of just 22 he still has a lot of potential to develop even further.

Coach

Kristján Andrésson
Born on 27 March 1981

The former Icelandic international (13 matches) was a Guif player from 1999 onwards until he became coach in 2006. The 31-year-old was born in Eskilstuna and was the club's former junior team coach.

RK CIMOS KOPER (Slovenia)

The road to the Group Phase:
VELUX EHF Champions League wild card qualification: 23:28 against Saint-Raphaël Var Handball; 22:27 against Orlen Wisła Płock
Round 2: 32:31, 27:25 against HV Kras Volendam
Round 3: 29:23, 22:27 against FC Porto Vitalis

Group Phase Preview:
They were one of the biggest surprises in last season's VELUX EHF Champions League. After becoming Slovenian champions for the first time, Cimos Koper marched through to the quarter-final and were close to beating Atlético Madrid BM.

The previous year Cimos won their first European Cup title as they beat S.L. Benfica in the final of the EHF Challenge Cup.

They were part of the wild card tournament in the 2012/13 VELUX EHF Champions League season, but missed out on qualification for the Group Phase after losing 23:28 to Saint-Raphaël Var Handball in the semi-final.

But thanks to victories against Volendam and Porto, the Slovenian club made it to the Group Phase of the EHF Cup, although top players like Bojan Skoko or Sebastjan Skube have left the club, thus weakening the squad.

For club manager Aleš Koršič, the newly formed EHF Cup is an ideal competition for the Adriatic team. "It is more competitive, attractive and on a higher level than in the previous years. We want to produce good matches, a fantastic atmosphere in Koper and results like in last seasons in European Cup competitions," said Koršič.

Team captain Uroš Rapotec hopes to get very far in the EHF Cup, but understands that it will not be simple in their tough group. "We compete in a very tough group with quality teams from top handball nations. We will give our best in every game and try to go as far as possible," said Rapotec.

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Arena:
Sportna Dvorana Bonifika
Cesta Zore Perello Godina 3
6000 Koper
Capacity: 2700

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	yellow	blue
Player short	blue	blue
Goalkeeper shirt	white	gray

Media contact:
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dusan.podpecan@cimos.eu

Online:
Club website: www.rk-koper.com
Facebook: RK-Cimos-Koper
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
VELUX EHF Champions League: 3 appearances – quarter-finalists 2011/12, Group Matches 2008/09, wild card qualification 2012/13
EHF Cup: 3 appearances – semi-finalists 2007/08, Round 3 2004/05, 2005/06
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: Round 4 2009/10
EHF Challenge Cup: winners 2010/11
Slovenian league: winners 2011
Slovenian Cup: winners 2008, 2009, 2011

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
9	Dean	Bombac	SLO	Centre Back	4.4.1989	92	188
43	Novak	Boskovic	SRB	Right Back	23.5.1989	85	196
77	Adam	Bratkovic	SLO	Right Wing	22.12.1994	83	186
7	Matjaz	Brumen	SLO	Right Wing	23.12.1982	90	190
33	Uros	Bundalo	SLO	Line Player	29.4.1989	108	198
8	Matevz	Cemas	SLO	Centre Back	16.11.1988	90	196
3	Jure	Dobelsek	SLO	Left Wing	1.4.1984	86	192
6	Dusan	Fidel	SLO	Centre Back	24.5.1992	92	188
27	Filip	Gavranovic	CRO	Line Player	2.10.1991	100	198
11	Jan	Gorela	SLO	Right Back	19.4.1993	84	185
5	Nino	Grzentic	SLO	Left Back	27.11.1992	90	195
18	Gasper	Hrastnik	SLO	Right Back	13.11.1992	192	89
19	Robert	Konecnik	SLO	Right Wing	9.3.1980	91	185
13	Milorad	Krivokapic	HUN	Right Back	30.7.1980	115	190
23	Nikola	Manojlovic	SRB	Left Back	1.12.1981	102	196
88	Vladimir	Osmajic	MNE	Left Back	17.3.1980	105	202
1	Dusan	Podpecan	SLO	Goalkeeper	12.10.1975	93	196
15	Nejc	Poklar	SLO	Centre Back	6.9.1986	89	188
10	Tine	Poklar	SLO	Left Back	5.10.1990	88	190
21	Uros	Rapotec	SLO	Left Wing	26.6.1984	79	180
12	Gorazd	Skof	SLO	Goalkeeper	11.7.1977	91	188
16	Jure	Vran	SLO	Goalkeeper	23.7.1984	88	191

New signings (including former club):

- Nikola Manojlović (Gorenje Velenje)
- Gašper Hrastnik (Ormož)
- Novak Bošković (Maccabi Tel Aviv)
- Nejc Poklar (Celje Pivovarna Laško)
- Filip Gavranović (Poreč)

Left the club (including new club):

- Matjaž Mlakar (Branik Maribor)
- Matevž Čemas (Ribnica)
- Bojan Skoko (Croatia Osiguranje Zagreb)
- Sebastjan Skube (Celje Pivovarna Laško)
- Nikola Džono

Key players

Matjaž Brumen
Born on 23 December 1982,

The 30-year-old right wing brings the experience of more than 140 matches, in which he scored almost 400 goals, to Koper. He has spent his entire professional handball career in Slovenia, first playing for Mobitel Prule , before Celje Pivovarna Laško for the 2003/04 season where he straight away won the EHF Champions League. He then joined Koper in 2007, being part of the squad that won the EHF Challenge Cup in 2011. The Slovenian national champion of 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, and 2011has scored 22 goals so far in the EHF Cup this season.

Gorazd Škof
Born on 11 July 1977

Škof's biggest success on the international scene is the silver medal with Slovenia at EHF EURO 2004. Overall he tool to the court more than 140 times for the national team. On the club level he played for Gorenje Velenje, Celje Pivovarna Laško and RK Zagreb before joining Koper for the 2011/12 season. In 2007 he won the EHF Champions trophy with Celje Pivovarna Laško.

Coach

Fredi Radojkovič
Born on 20 July 1966

Radojković's biggest successes with Koper all came in 2011 when he won the national championship, the national cup as well as the EHF Challenge Cup all in one year. He then continued to lead his team up to the quarter-finals of the 2011/12 VELUX EHF Champions League season. Before joining Koper, the 46-year-old coached Slovenian side Izola and Trieste in Italy.

NATURHOUSE LA RIOJA (Spain)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 3: 28:19, 22:26 against RK Vojvodina

Season Preview:
Four seasons ago, Naturhouse La Rioja entered the international club stage and made a brilliant debut.

In their first two seasons in the EHF Cup the Spaniards reached the semi-final, so it was no major surprise that the team from the famous wine region made it to the Group Phase of the newly formed EHF Cup after eliminating Serbian club RK Vojvodina in the third round.

In the first half of this season La Rioja were hit hard by a number of injuries, with former Spanish national team player Rubén Garabaya Arenas out for at least nine months and Ales Abrao Silva sidelined for four months.

Pedro Rodríguez Álvarez, Unai Arrieta Aizpurua, and Gurutz Aguinagalde Aquizu were also out of action for a long time, but the club hopes that they will be back in the team for the start of the Group Phase.

Despite the injury worries, Naturhouse La Rioja hope to finish fifth in the Spanish league this season and qualify for the EHF Cup again, as well as to reach the quarter-finals in this season's EHF Cup. But manager Jaime Luis González Gutiérrez knows that it will be a tough task. "(It will be) hard matches against strong opponents," he expects.

Team captain Gurutz Aguinagalde Aquizu is more optimistic regarding his team's chances at home.

"I hope to win at least all home matches and enjoy this new EHF Cup," he said.

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Arena:
Palacio de los deportes de la Rioja
Avenida Moncalvillo 2, Logrono
Capacity: 3500

Colours of uniform:	**light**	**dark**
Player shirt:	white	green
Player short	red	green
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	black

Media contact:
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Online:
Club website: www.cbclogrono.com
Twitter: @naturhouseRioja
Facebook: Club-Balonmano-Naturhouse-La-Rioja
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup: 2 appearances – semi-finalists: 2009/10, 2010/11

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
86	Ales	Abrao Silva	BRA	Line Player	2.6.1986	110	202
12	Gurutz	Aguinalde Aquizu	ESP	Goalkeeper	26.10.1977	105	201
6	Unai	Arrieta Aizpurua	ESP	Left Wing	14.1.1981	90	184
15	Alvaro	Bozalongo Ruiz	ESP	Line Player	1.1.1989	84	187
21	David	Cuartero Sanchez	ESP	Right Wing	10.9.1985	84	186
24	Marko	Curuvija	SRB	Left Wing	24.7.1981	93	198
45	Rafael	Da Costa Capote	CUB	Left Back	5.10.1987	100	194
20	Pedro	Fuentes Sanchez Migallon	ESP	Line Player	22.6.1986	130	190
17	Ruben	Garabaya Arenas	ESP	Line Player	15.9.1978	112	201
4	Thiagus Petrus	Goncalves Dos Santos	BRA	Left Back	25.1.1989	98	198
11	Victor Hugo	Lopez Romero	ESP	Right Back	23.11.1982	95	195
14	Arturo	Martinez D'Amore	ESP	Left Wing	1.2.1990	90	185
1	Jorge	Martinez Martinez	ESP	Goalkeeper	9.8.1977	98	194
5	Niko	Mindeguia Elizaga	ESP	Centre Back	19.7.1988	85	182
10	Jorge Luis	Pavan Lopez	CUB	Right Back	29.9.1981	100	195
19	Jon	Ramiro Perez	ESP	Line Player	24.2.1993	93	184
26	Pedro	Rodriguez Alvarez	ESP	Right Wing	22.8.1990	75	193
18	Javier	Romeo Lopez	ESP	Goalkeeper	1.6.1990	93	192
9	Alexander	Tioumentsev Barabash	ESP	Centre Back	4.10.1983	85	186
22	Daniel	Tolmos Rubio	ESP	Centre Back	30.6.1994	78	185
7	Miguel Angel	Velasco Encinas	ESP	Centre Back	20.3.1984	84	183

New signings:

- Rafael Dacosta Capote
- Niko Mindeguia Elizaga
- Jorge Luis Paván López
- David Cuartero Sánchez
- Pedro Fuentes Sánchez Migallón
- Álvaro Bozalongo Ruiz

Left the club (including new club):

- Ismael Juárez Mínguez (Academia Octavio)
- Jorge García Vega (end of career)
- Alex Dujshebaev (BM Aragón)
- Nikola Prce (unknown)
- Filip Kalman (Academia Octavio)

Key players

Rubén Garabaya Arenas
Born on 15 September 1978

Garabaya has had a lot of success both at club and at international level. Among other trophys the line player won the Spanish King Cup in 2009 and 2010 (with Barcelona), the Asobal Cup in 2010, and the Spanish Super Cup in 2009 and 2010 (also all with Barcelona). At European level, he won the EHF Cup Winners' Cup in 1999 with Ademar Leon. With the Spanish national team, Arenas won an Olympic bronze medal in 2008, the World Championship in 2005, a bronze medal at the 2011 World Championship, and a silver medal at the EHF EURO 2006.

Gurutz Aguinagalde Aquizu
Born on 26 October 1977

The 36-year-old goalkeeper has been with Naturhouse La Rioja for each of their European campaigns and is the brother of Spanish national team line player Julen Aguinagalde Aquizu. To date he has won the Spanish King's Cup in 1996, the Spanish Super Cup in 1996 and the EHF Cup Winners' Cup winner in 1997.

Coach

Jesús Javier González Fernández
Born on 2 February 1972

The 40-year-old and former coach of Cuatro Rayas BM Valladolid can boast the victory at six Spanish youth championships to his achievements.

Men's EHF Cup 2012/13

Group B

European Handball Federation

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Group Phase

Group B			matches	won	draw	lost	goal-difference		points
1	SVK	TATRAN Presov	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
2	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
3	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
4	DEN	KIF Kolding	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0

MatchID: 201311020804-

014	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	vs.	DEN	KIF Kolding	
	09.02.2013 17:00 Zaporozhye / UKR					
	Ref.: Dobrovits, Tajok HUN Del.: Burziwal AUT					
013	SVK	TATRAN Presov	vs.	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	
	09.02.2013 20:30 Presov / SVK					
	Ref.: Vitaku, Vitaku KOS Del.: Andorka HUN					
016	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	vs.	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	
	16.02.2013 19:00 Mannheim / GER					
015	DEN	KIF Kolding	vs.	SVK	TATRAN Presov	
	17.02.2013 15:00 Kolding / DEN					
017	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	vs.	SVK	TATRAN Presov	
	23.02.2013 17:00 Zaporozhye / UKR					
018	DEN	KIF Kolding	vs.	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	
	24.02.2013 15:00 Brondby / DEN					
019	SVK	TATRAN Presov	vs.	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	
	09.03.2013 20:30 Presov / SVK					
020	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	vs.	DEN	KIF Kolding	
	10.03.2013 17:00 Mannheim / GER					
021	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	vs.	SVK	TATRAN Presov	
	16.03.2013 19:00 Mannheim / GER					
022	DEN	KIF Kolding	vs.	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	
	17.03.2013 15:00 Horsens / DEN					
024	UKR	HC Motor Zaporozhye	vs.	GER	Rhein-Neckar Löwen	
	23.03.2013 17:00 Zaporozhye / UKR					
023	SVK	TATRAN Presov	vs.	DEN	KIF Kolding	
	23.03.2013 18:00 Presov / SVK					

TATRAN PREŠOV (SLOVAKIA)

The road to the Group Phase:
VELUX EHF Champions League qualification:
against Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion 36:20,
against HCM Constanta 21:26
Round 3: 36:25, 30:25 against Borac Banja Luka

Group Phase Preview:
One league is not enough has been the motto of TATRAN Prešov for years. Slovakia's dominant club once also played in the Czech league, then the Hungarian league, and most recently since the start of this season in the multi-national SEHA league. Given their exploits in the last few years, the Prešov players are used to traveling more than their opposing teams in the EHF Cup.

In previous years, Prešov were a constant participant in the EHF Champions League, but the Slovak champion failed in the qualification tournaments this and last season. And at the start of the New Year the club had to undergo several changes: Branko Benko became the new manager of Tatran, and Roman Lamač is the new coach as successor of Djordje Rašić. However, even with this new personnel, the goals remained the same; winning the Slovak double of league and cup, reach the final tournament of the SEHA league and last but not least qualifying for the quarter-final of the EHF Cup. "The draw put us in a very tough group, so it will be a great challenge to win all of our home matches and to do our best in away matches to qualify for the quarter-finals," new manager Branko Benko said.

Team captain Radoslav Antl shares the opinion about the unlucky start of the season, but is looking forward to what lies ahead. "It's been a little bit of bad luck that we couldn't make it to the Champions League, but at least it (EHF Cup) is still a celebration for Prešov and Slovak handball. We will push ourselves to win all matches. Also we expect a great attendance of our fans in our home games, so we will do everything to satisfy the spectators."

After several years of refurbishment, the newly re-constructed Tatran Prešov Handball Arena is the new home for team and fans, and the new mascot, a horse, is going to entertain and support fans and team.

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Arena:
City Hall Prešov
Jána Pavla II 2
0801 Prešov
Capacity: 3500

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	green
Player short	white	green
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	black

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Online:
Club website: www.tatranpresov.sk
Facebook: tatranpresov
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Club achievements:
VELUX EHF Champions League : 9 appearances – Last 16 2004/05, Last 32 1993/94, Group Matches 2005/06, 2007/08, 2008/09, 2010/11, qualification 2009/10, 2011/12, 2012/13
EHF Cup: 5 appearances – quarter-finalists 2011/12, Last 16 1994/95, 1995/96, Round 4 2009/10, Round 3 2006/07
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 4 appearances – quarter-finalists 205/06, Last 16 2007/08, 2008/09,
Slovak league: eight times winners since 2001
Slovak cup: nine times winners since 200

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
28	Radoslav	Antl	SVK	Left Wing	2.3.1978	82	181
21	Tomas	Cip	CZE	Right Wing	5.10.1989	94	189
92	Roman	Drobnak	SVK	Left Back	7.8.1992	100	190
22	Vladimir	Guzy	SVK	Centre Back	16.5.1989	85	186
6	Jakub	Hrstka	CZE	Left Wing	17.3.1990	91	188
10	Dainis	Kristopans	LAT	Right Back	27.9.1990	135	215
9	Dominik	Krok	SVK	Left Back	22.1.1991	79	189
1	Jakub	Krupa	CZE	Goalkeeper	19.6.1985	110	194
3	Tomas	Marusak	SVK	Line Player	26.9.1983	105	203
4	Tomas	Mazar	SVK	Line Player	1.6.1980	115	185
8	Simon	Michniewicz	SVK	Left Wing	11.3.1994	80	79
20	Samuel	Orlovsky	SVK	Centre Back	6.4.1994	75	184
44	Marek	Pales	SVK	Line Player	8.7.1994	100	192
23	Zarko	Pejovic	MNE	Left Back	25.1.1986	96	191
27	Radovan	Pekar	SVK	Left Back	27.12.1980	103	199
85	Andrej	Petro	SVK	Line Player	28.1.1986	127	197
2	Oliver	Rabek	SVK	Left Back	30.9.1987	102	204
15	Alexandr	Radcenko	CZE	Centre Back	5.7.1973	92	187
25	David	Sterbinsky	SVK	Left Back	5.5.1993		
19	Peter	Tumidalsky	SVK	Left Back	19.10.1979	106	200
69	Juraj	Urban	SVK	Left Back	3.2.1994	94	197
17	Lukas	Urban	SVK	Centre Back	22.6.1995	85	198
7	Michal	Urban	SVK	Centre Back	29.8.1986	82	187
12	Svetislav	Verkic	SRB	Goalkeeper	11.6.1981	98	190
16	Matej	Vernarsky	SVK	Goalkeeper	1.3.1994	75	185

New signings (including former club):

- Jan Sobol (Vardar Skopje)
- Oliver Rábek (HC Štart Nové Zámky)
- Andrej Petro (Dormagen)

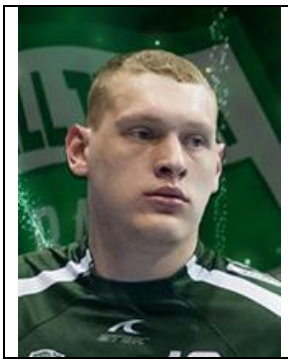
Left the club (including new club):

- Jan Sobol (KS Azoty Pulawy)
- Ante Kukrika (unknown)
- Michal Kopčo (VfL Gummersbach)

Key players

Alexander Radčenko
Born on 5 July 1973

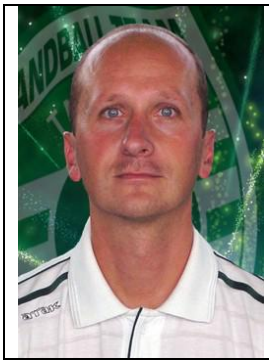
Born in Krasnodar (Russia), Radčenko later changed his citizenship to Czech. He started his professional career at his home club SKIF Krasnodar, before his journey through Europe where he played for HC Conversano (Italy), MT Melsungen (Germany), HCB OKD Karviná (Czech Republic), and now Tatran Prešov.



Dajnis Krištopans
Born on 27 September 1990

At 215 centimetres, Krištopans is among the tallest players in all European Cup competitions. The right back is a Latvian international and started his career at SK Latgos (Latvia) before transferring to Tatran Prešov at the age of 18. The right back scored 34 goals in six EHF Cup games last season.

Coach



Roman Lamac
Born on 26 April 1968

Lamac started his playing career where he now is the coach, at Tatran Prešov. Later-on he played for Slovakian side MHC Bardejov before transferring to German second division club Concordia Delitzsch, which he also coached later. Before returning to Tatran Prešov he was the coach at IUVENTA Michalovce in Slovakia.

HC MOTOR ZAPOROZHYE (Ukraine)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 2: 30:25, 28:22 against Haukar Hafnarfjördur
Round 3: 27:26, 33:22 against Alpla HC Hard

Group Phase Preview:
After the independence from Russia, Zaporozhye became a handball stronghold in the Ukraine, with two top clubs qualifying constantly for European Cup competitions; ZTR for men's teams and Motor for women's teams. But now times have changed, as Motor now focus also on men's competitions. In the previous season they finished second in the Ukrainian league below champion Dinamo Poltava. Unlike the champions, the runners-up made it to the Group Phase of the newly structured EHF Cup after Poltava first failed in the VELUX EHF Champions League qualification and then in the second round of the EHF Cup.

Motor Zaporozhye easily overcame their qualification barriers against the national champions of Iceland and of Austria to make it to the Group Phase. However, Motor hope for much more this season, a berth in the quarter-final and their first Ukrainian title in the domestic competition would satisfy the club. Club director Gennadii Kasai does not only focus on the results and the sporting improvement by playing the Group Phase of the EHF Cup."We expect to gain important experience not only in sport-wise, but also in organisation of top-level matches. We would like to introduce our club in the best way to Europe, to invite more friends and partners and to highlight Ukraine and Zaporozhye as professionals," he said.

Team captain Mykhalo Tsap is looking forward to facing top players and teams and sees the experiences ahead as useful to the players. "Our players will try to do our best in order to proceed to quarter-finals in this group. Nevertheless, it will be very useful for all the teams to exchange different experiences against such a big quantity of top players," he said. Motor now can count on help from Russia, as not only coach Nikolay Chigarev has a huge experience at the side of legendary Vladimir Maximov at Chekhovskie Medvedi and the Russian national team, but also Alexej Kamanin is one of the most experienced Russian players.

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Capacity: 5200
OR
Palace of Sports ZAS
Severnoye Shosse 10
6900 Zaporozhye
Capacity: 900

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white/red	blue
Player short	red	blue
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow/blue	blue/black

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Online:
Club website: www.handball.motorsich.com
Facebook: FunKlubGkMotor
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1 appearance - quarter-finalists 2011/12
EHF Challenge Cup: 2 appearances - Last 16 2010/11, Round 4 2009/10
Ukrainian league: runners-up in 2012

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
13	Inal	Aflitulin	RUS	Centre Back	22.3.1988	82	180
4	Andrey	Bespalov	RUS	Left Wing	29.1.1991	80	184
69	Sergii	Burka	UKR	Left Wing	9.6.1987	110	208
35	Oleg	Gladyr	UKR	Left Wing	10.1.1991	78	189
15	Vitaliy	Gorbachov	UKR	Right Wing	13.8.1985	75	179
11	Pavlo	Gurkovsky	UKR	Line Player	9.10.1985	96	196
14	Yevgeny	Gurkovsky	UKR	Line Player	5.11.1980	100	195
2	Evgeny	Kalinichenko	UKR	Line Player	12.2.1986	105	206
17	Alexey	Kamanin	RUS	Right Back	6.6.1978	109	197
1	Valentyn	Koshovy	UKR	Goalkeeper	5.2.1981	90	200
5	Iurii	Kubatko	UKR	Right Wing	28.8.1988	79	183
18	Kostyantyn	Kurylenko	UKR	Centre Back	10.7.1980	98	193
77	Andrey	Lyashenko	RUS	Right Back	28.6.1980	90	202
10	Denis	Mirzoyev	RUS	Right Wing	7.1.1986	85	182
33	Mikhail	Revin	RUS	Left Back	18.9.1984	110	205
23	Yevgen	Sapun	UKR	Goalkeeper	11.6.1985	95	185
25	Alexander	Semikov	UKR	Right Back	9.7.1985	90	200
12	Nikolay	Sorokin	RUS	Goalkeeper	23.7.1982	95	195
44	Mykhaylo	Tsap	UKR	Centre Back	28.5.1980	83	180
24	Ievgen	Zhuk	UKR	Left Wing	4.8.1990	75	184
22	Stanislav	Zhukov	UKR	Left Back	26.3.1992	94	198

New signings (including former club):

- Valentyn Koshovy (Dinamo Minsk)
- Mikhail Revin (BGK Meshkova Brest)
- Konstyantyn Kurilenko (Stiinta Bacau)
- Evgeniy Gurkovsky (Stiinta Bacau)

Left the club (including new club):

- Vladyslav Ostroushko (Dinamo Minsk)
- Igor Krivchikov (SKIF Krasnodar)
- Alexey Grigoriev (HC St. Petersburg)
- Alexey Shevchenko (ZNTU-ZAS Zaporozhye)

Key players

Ievgen Zhuk
Born on 04 August 1990

Left wing Ievgen Zhuk was born in Zaporozhye and played for the club Burevistnik in Lugansk, Ukraine before he arrived at Motor. His biggest success was the silver medal in Ukrainian championship. Zhuk scored 22 goals in last season's Cup Winners' Cup and 11 goals so far in three EHF Cup games this season.

Oleksandr Semikov
Born on 09 July 1985

Right back Oleksandr Semikov started his career at ZTR Zaporozhye (Ukraine), before crossing the border to Russia, where he first played for Chekhovskie Medvedi, becoming Russian champion twice, and then for HC St. Petersburg. In 2011 he returned to Zaporozhye, joining Motor and scoring 18 goals in the Cup Winners' Cup.

Coach

Nikolay Chigarev
Born on 22 March 1953

As a player, Chigarev was league champion and cup winner in the former USSR with MAI. Later-on he started his coaching career at the side of Vladimir Maximov at Chekhovskie Medvedi.

RHEIN-NECKAR LÖWEN (Germany)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 3: 37:17, 27:27 against A.C. Diomidis Argous

Group Phase Preview:
Rhein Neckar Löwen burst on to the EHF European Cup scene seven years ago. Founded from two clubs in the Mannheim area, Kronau and Östringen, in 2002, "the lions" rose directly to the top of the German Bundesliga. After reaching the final of the EHF Cup in 2008, they qualified for the VELUX EHF Champions League for the first time in the 2008/09 season, reaching the semi-final, and again two years later.

Last season, they closely missed out on the final of the EHF Cup after being eliminated by the eventual champions Frisch Auf Göppingen, losing 65:62 on aggregate after winning the first leg at home. Before the start of the current season, Löwen had to undergo big changes. Some key players left, some new, young and talented players arrived in coach Guðmundur Guðmundsson's squad. After only one defeat, against defending German and VELUX EHF Champions League champions THW Kiel, Rhein Neckar Löwen are currently top of the Bundesliga.

New players like Danish goalkeeper Niklas Landin (All Star Team member and silver medallist at the World Championship), Icelandic Alexander Petersson, Swedish international Kim Ekdahl du Rietz and the Spanish Guardiola brothers (including new world champion Gedeon) fit perfectly in the team. "We want to play attractive and passionate handball," is the motto of Rhein Neckar Löwen, who are supposed to be among the favourites to reach the Finals.

However, they have to cope with a severe injury to their most important player, German international and team captain Uwe Gensheimer, who is out until the end of the season after he tore his Achilles in the successful Round 3 match against Greek champions Argous Diomidis.

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August Kuhnstrasse 35, 68167 Mannheim
Capacity: 1900
OR
SAP Arena
Xaver-Fuhr-Str. 150, 68219 Mannheim
Capacity: 12,900

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	yellow	black
Player short	yellow	black
Goalkeeper shirt	white/red	blue/green

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Online:
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Twitter: @rnloewen
Facebook: rnloewen
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
VELUX EHF Champions League: 4 appearances – semi-finalists 2010/11 and 2008/09, quarter-finalists 2009/10, qualification 2011/12
EHF Cup: 2 appearances – semi-finalists 2011/12, quarter-finalists 2006/07
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1 appearance – finalists 2007/08

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
38	Kevin	Bitz	GER	Centre Back	10.3.1993	94	189
43	Kai	Dippe	GER	Line Player	3.3.1993	87	188
8	Denni	Djozic	GER	Left Wing	2.10.1991	75	175
60	Kim	Ekdahl du Rietz	SWE	Left Back	23.7.1989	100	194
3	Uwe	Gensheimer	GER	Left Wing	26.10.1986	90	188
10	Matthias	Gerlich	GER	Left Back	25.2.1988	99	204
24	Patrick	Groetzki	GER	Right Wing	4.7.1989	84	189
30	Gedeon	Guardiola Villaplana	ESP	Line Player	1.10.1984	103	199
6	Isaias	Guardiola Villaplana	ESP	Right Back	1.10.1984	103	200
25	Nicolas	Herrmann	GER	Right Wing	9.8.1994	187	82
28	Stefan	Jochim	GER	Left Wing	1.9.1989	187	84
23	Nils Holger	Kretschmer	GER	Left Back	18.1.1993	89	200
20	Niklas	Landin Jacobsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	19.12.1988	98	200
29	Jonas	Maier	GER	Goalkeeper	12.1.1994	84	187
18	Bjarte Hakon	Myrhol	NOR	Line Player	29.5.1982	96	192
32	Alexander	Petersson	ISL	Right Back	2.7.1980	90	186
4	Oliver	Roggisch	GER	Line Player	25.8.1978	96	202
2	Andre	Schmid	SUI	Centre Back	30.8.1983	90	190
77	David	Schmidt	GER	Right Back	19.10.1993	86	181
5	Zarko	Sesum	SRB	Left Back	16.6.1986	97	195
10	Stefan Rafn	Sigurmannsson	ISL	Left Wing	19.5.1990	101	197
19	Marius	Steinhauser	GER	Right Wing	6.2.1993	83	187
16	Goran	Stojanovic	MNE	Goalkeeper	24.2.1977	93	192
1	Tomas	Svensson	SWE	Goalkeeper	15.2.1968	90	194
22	Sebastian	Ullrich	GER	Goalkeeper	23.4.1992	87	190

New signings (including former club):

- Kim Ekdahl Du Rietz (HBC Nantes)
- Matthias Gerlich (TV Hüttenberg)
- Gedéon Guardiola (SDC San Antonio)
- Isaías Guardiola (Atlético Madrid)
- Nils Kretschmer (VfL Bad Schwartau)
- Niklas Landin (Bjerringbro-Silkeborg)
- Jonas Maier (Löwen youth team)
- Alexander Petersson (Füchse Berlin)
- Marius Steinhauser (HG Oftersheim/Schwetzingen)
- Stefan Rafn Sigurmannsson (Haukar Hafnarfjördur)

Left the club (including new club):

- Karol Bielecki (KS Kielce)
- Ivan Čupić (KS Kielce)
- Henning Fritz (end of career)
- Róbert Gunnarsson (Paris HB)
- Krzysztof Lijewski (KS Kielce)
- Børge Lund (Füchse Berlin)
- Michael Müller (HSG Wetzlar)
- Niklas Ruß (SG Leutershausen)

Key players

Alexander Petersson
Born on 2 July 1980

Born in Latvia, Alexander Petersson took over the Icelandic citizenship and became an Olympic silver-medallist in 2008 and EHF EURO bronze medallist in 2010. The left handed right back started his career in Riga, later he transferred to Icelandic side Grotta, where he played until 2003.

He then moved to Germany, wearing the jersey of Düsseldorf, Großwallstadt, Flensburg-Handewitt, and Füchse Berlin, before he transferred to Löwen this summer.

Andre Schmid
Born on 30 August 1983

The four times Swiss handball player of the year played for both Zürich clubs Grasshoppers and ZMC Amicitia until 2009, before he left his mother country towards Denmark for one season, playing for Bjerringbro Silkeborg. Then the playmaker, who was a Swiss champion twice, transferred to Rhein Neckar Löwen in 2010.

Coach

Guðmundur Guðmundsson
Born on 23 December 1960

After his active career as a player – only for Icelandic clubs – and winning six domestic championship and cup titles each, Gudmundsson became coach of Fram Reykjavik in 1995. Four years later he went to Germany for the first time to become coach of Bayer Dormagen, before he was national team coach for the first time from 2001 until 2004.

Later he returned first to Fram and then, from 2008 to 2012, on the bench of the national team as successor to Alfred Gislason. Parallel, Gudmundsson became coach of Danish side GOG Svendborg and then sports director in Copenhagen and at Rhein Neckar Löwen, before he became Löwen head coach in 2010. After the Olympic Games he quit his position as Icelandic national team coach to fully focus on his club. The biggest successes in his coaching career were a silver medal at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing and the bronze medal at the EHF EURO 2010 with Iceland, and he led Löwen to the VELUX EHF FINAL 4 2011 in Cologne.

KIF KOLDING (Denmark)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 1: 46:16, 42:15 against London GD Handball Club
Round 2: 34:17, 32:31 against HC Lovćen
Round 3: 27:30, 41:24 against Permskie Medvedi

Group Phase Preview:
Not many clubs in the EHF Cup competition can boast a European Cup history like KIF Kolding's, but despite this tradition, a lot has changed in Kolding. After the bankruptcy of AG København, a number of former AGK players transferred to KIF to form a new nationwide top club for Denmark, with some of the clubs home games being played in the Danish capital. Among the new players is Kim Andersson, the world class left back from Sweden. With a strengthened squad and depth in many positions, hopes are high at the most successful Danish club in EHF European Cup competitions. KIF are hoping to add another Danish title to their tally this season and are aiming for the EHF Cup Finals in Nantes. Kolding had to start their campaign in Round 1, on their way to the Group Phase they only lost one of six matches, away to Russian side Permskie Medvedi, but the Danes comfortably won in the return leg.

One of the most experienced players in the KIF squad is goalkeeper Kasper Hvidt, the former Danish national team number one. Hvidt is enthusiastic about the new Kolding-Copenhagen project, but knows that building a team to compete at an international level is not simple. "With this new Kolding-Copenhagen project it is important that we show the world that we can compete on the highest level. Therefore our performance in the EHF Cup is very important and is a big focus for us.

"Of course everybody knows that is very difficult to build a new team in a very short time, but I think we can show the handball world the new big team in Europe," Hvidt said.

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Capacity: 2800
OR
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Capacity: 4549

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	black
Player short	white	black
Goalkeeper shirt	orange/blue	orange/blue

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Facebook: KIFKBH
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Club achievements:
VELUX EHF Champions League: 10 appearances – 2001/02: semi-finalists, 2002/03 quarterfinalists, six times Last 16 (2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2010, 2011)
EHF Cup: 1 appearance – Last 16 1995/96
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 3 appearances – semi-finalists 1999/00, quarter-finalists 2007/08, Last 16 2008/09
Danish league: 12 times winners
Danish Cup: 7 times winners

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
5	Kim	Andersson	SWE	Right Back	21.8.1982	104	200
23	Lucas Muff	Bannerholt	DEN	Right Wing	10.6.1993		
3	Lasse	Boesen	DEN	Left Back	18.9.1979	100	192
23	Joachim	Boldsen	DEN	Centre Back	30.4.1978	103	187
15	Frederik Gustenhoff	Borm	DEN	Line Player	12.8.1988	100	196
25	Mads Kastrup	Forslund	DEN	Right Wing	23.7.1983		
	Thorsten	Friis	DEN	Goalkeeper	22.1.1993		
20	Stefan	Hundstrup	DEN	Left Wing	30.6.1986	86	193
1	Kasper	Hvidt	DEN	Goalkeeper	6.2.1976	96	192
18	Kasper	Irming Andersen	DEN	Right Wing	12.3.1986	80	188
17	Rasmus	Jensen	DEN	Line Player	17.6.1989	90	189
21	Simon Edelberg	Jensen	DEN	Right Wing	2.6.1984	85	185
24	Lars Krogh	Jeppesen	DEN	Left Back	5.3.1979	110	201
22	Kasper	Jessen	DEN	Centre Back	13.8.1992	90	190
8	Lars Troels	Jorgensen	DEN	Centre Back	3.2.1978	102	192
2	Lukas	Karlsson	SWE	Centre Back	21.5.1982	83	180
5	Jonas	Langerhuus	DEN	Right Back	2.7.1992		
7	Anders Zacharia	Munch	DEN	Line Player	14.12.1989	100	195
16	Mikkel Drud	Nielsen	DEN	Goalkeeper	14.3.1991		
20	Henrik	Panikovsky	DEN	Line Player	13.2.1992	110	185
	Jacob Vinholt	Pedersen	DEN	Left Wing	18.7.1993		
14	Rolf	Ravn	DEN	Right Back	10.10.1992		
10	Boris	Schnuchel	DEN	Left Wing	15.3.1975	90	190
21	Luka	Sokolic	CRO	Left Back	15.4.1990	86	193
8	Bo	Spellerberg	DEN	Left Back	24.7.1979	95	195
	Bilal	Suman	BIH	Right Wing	9.6.1968	80	185
13	Thomas Björn	Theilgaard	DEN	Right Wing	13.1.1993		
19	Cyril	Viudes	FRA	Line Player	6.2.1982	110	198
1	Soren	Westphal	DEN	Goalkeeper	8.7.1986	90	200

New signings (including former club):

- Kim Andersson (THW Kiel)
- Lars Jørgensen (AG Copenhagen)
- Joachim Boldsen (AG Copenhagen)
- Kasper Hvidt (AG Copenhagen)
- Stefan Hundstrup (AG Copenhagen)
- Luka Sokolić (RK Gorica)
- Søren Westphal (Nordsjælland)

Left the club (including new club):

- Lars Christiansen (end of career)
- Anders Oechsler (Minden)
- Fredrik Ohlander (Ystad)

Key players

Kim Andersson
Born on 21 August 1982

Kim Andersson was nominated for the World Handball Player of the Year 2012, finishing joint-third place behind winner Daniel Narcisse. The nomination capped a brilliant year for the right back which included Olympic Silver with Sweden and winning the VELUX EHF Champions League with THW Kiel for a third time. Andersson scored 63 goals in Kiel's successful run to the title and top scored in the final against Atlético Madrid BM with seven goals.

Bo Spellerberg
Born on 24 July 1979

Spellerberg has been a KIF Kolding player for ten years, winning the Danish championship four times with the club. Internationally, Spellerberg is a European champion with Denmark in 2008 and 2010, and a silver medallist at the World Championship in 2011. The left back has scored 19 goals so far in this season's EHF Cup and 42 goals in 11 games during the VELUX EHF Champions League last season.

Coach

Peter Bredsdorff-Larsen
Born on 11 August 1967

In his career he coached also Aalborg Handball and Skanderborg Handball and reached the biggest success on club level in 2010 when he became Danish Champion with Aalborg. From 2005 to 2012 he also acted as the assistant coach of the Danish National Team and won two titles of the European Champion in 2008 and 2012, silver medal at World Championship 2011, EHF EURO bronze medal in 2006 and World Championship bronze medal in 2007. At this position he tok part at the Olympic Games in Beijing and London.

Men's EHF Cup 2012/13

Group C

European Handball Federation

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Group Phase

Group C			matches	won	draw	lost	goal-difference		points
1	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
2	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
3	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
4	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0

MatchID: 201311020804-

026	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	vs.	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	
	10.02.2013 15:00 Holstebro / DEN					
	Ref.: Liachovicius, Gecevicius LTU Del.: Sigurdsson ISL					
025	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	vs.	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	
	10.02.2013 18:00 Elverum / NOR					
	Ref.: Kekes, Kekes HUN Del.: Hansson SWE					
027	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	vs.	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	
	16.02.2013 19:00 Maribor / SLO					
028	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	vs.	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	
	16.02.2013 19:00 Plock / POL					
031	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	vs.	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	
	24.02.2013 18:00 Elverum / NOR					
030	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	vs.	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	
	24.02.2013 19:00 Maribor / SLO					
032	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	vs.	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	
	09.03.2013 18:00 Plock / POL					
029	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	vs.	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	
	10.03.2013 15:00 Holstebro / DEN					
033	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	vs.	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	
	16.03.2013 18:00 Plock / POL					
034	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	vs.	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	
	16.03.2013 19:00 Maribor / SLO					
035	NOR	Elverum Handball Herrer	vs.	SLO	RK Maribor Branik	
	23.03.2013 17:00 Elverum / NOR					
036	DEN	Team Tvis Holstebro	vs.	POL	Orlen Wisla Plock	
	24.03.2013 15:00 Holstebro / DEN					

Elverum Handball Herrer (Norway)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 1: 26:25, 40:29 against United HC Tongeren
Round 2: 27:23, 32:23 against Grundfos Tatabanya KC
Round 3: 34:24, 37:27 against HC Sloga

Group Phase Preview:
Elverum Handball Herrer had to go the long way round before reaching their first objective of this season, the Group Phase of the EHF Cup.

The Norwegians had to go through all three qualification rounds, where they maintained a perfect record of six victories in six matches, to earn their biggest international success, after they had reached the quarter-final of the EHF Cup Winners' Cup in the 2010/11 season.

The two ten-goal victories against Bosnian champions Sloga in the third round showed the skills and ambitions of coach Christian Berge's team.

Now Elverum are eager to transfer their European form to the national league, where they are aiming for their first domestic championship title.

For club director Tonje Nohr Smedstad the participation in the Group Phase of the EHF Cup is a multi-faceted experience. "It will be a learning situation and a motivation for the further development of the club regarding sports and management. It will also be a new experience for our supporters and partners. We hope that we can surprise some of the other teams."

Team captain Steffen Stegavik is looking forward to facing the professional teams in Europe and play in full arenas. "I also hope that our team will learn something both on and off the court for the future," he said.

"Our expectation is to play good handball against teams that are stronger than us. We will try to win some of our home matches and we are looking forward to meet some of the best teams in Europe. It will be good learning process for our team," head coach Christian Berge said.

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Arena:
Terningen Arena
Hamarvegen 112
2418 Elverum
Capacity: 2400

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	black
Player short	black	black
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	green

Media contact:
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post@ehh.no

Online:
Club website: www.ehh.no
Twitter: @ElverumHandball
Facebook: elverumhandball
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup: 3 appearances – Last 32 1995/96, Round 3 2008/09, Round 2 2011/12
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1 appearance – quarter-finalists 2010/11
Norwegian Cup: winners 2008

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
3	Kjetil	Aanestad	NOR	Right Wing	2.1.1987	90	191
12	Jorgen Andreas	Bakke	NOR	Goalkeeper	30.5.1990	92	193
4	Karl Anders Victor	Björkman	SWE	Right Wing	7.10.1983	80	180
7	Aleksander	Borresen	NOR	Line Player	30.8.1985	110	207
19	Hakon Bratvold	Ekren	NOR	Centre Back	10.7.1994	86	186
14	Magnus	Gullerud	NOR	Line Player	13.11.1991	100	194
2	Simen	Kroken	NOR	Left Back	3.10.1992	100	191
18	Mishels	Liaba	NOR	Left Back	13.9.1995	86	195
15	Andre	Lindboe	NOR	Left Wing	24.6.1988	80	186
77	Lazo	Majnov	MKD	Right Back	26.4.1980	100	198
87	Morten	Nergaard	NOR	Goalkeeper	26.2.1987	89	189
10	Lars	Nordberg	NOR	Left Back	23.4.1982	100	197
24	Vegard Bakken	Oeyen	NOR	Goalkeeper	8.7.1994	100	190
5	Leonel Henrik	Ojala	FIN	Line Player	13.3.1986	100	194
81	Goran	Rajkovic	CRO	Goalkeeper	3.12.1979	90	185
9	Andreas	Rönnberg	FIN	Centre Back	27.12.1983	90	188
20	Sigurdur Ari	Stefansson	ISL	Right Back	27.9.1982	90	194
21	Steffen Stormo	Stegavik	NOR	Centre Back	30.11.1983	90	183
6	Michael	Thon	NOR	Left Wing	2.8.1986	100	187
17	Erik Thorsteinsen	Toft	NOR	Left Back	14.11.1992	80	192

New signings (including former club):

- Garan Rajkovic (Spercva Vinkovci)
- Lazo Majnov (Meskov Brest)
- Karl Anders Victor Björkman (H43 Lund)
- Ari Sigurdur Stefansson (Bodø)
- Jørgen Bakke (LFH 09)

Left the club (including new club):

- Christoffer Rambo (Dunkerque)
- Odin Sundland (Kolstad)
- Kim Andre Rinnan (Kolstad)
- Mads Refseth Wæraas (Kolstad)

Key players

Magnus Gullerud
Born on 13 November 1991

At the age of 15 Gullerud left home to go to Elverum to pursue his dream of playing handball at top level. Today he is a crucial player in the Elverum team. He was named 'Best Player' in their 19:22 cup final loss to FyllingenBergen. Just 21 years old, Gullerud has also established himself in the Norwegian national team, where he has appeared 10 times so far. There, he plays alongside his idol Bjarte Myrhol, who – like Gullerud – also is a line player.

Andreas Rønnberg
Born on 27 December 1983

After having seen Andreas Rønnberg during a trial stay in Elverum in the early summer of 2010, head coach Christian Berge decided that the Finnish back court player was the kind of guy the Norwegian team needed – and a week later the contract was signed. What mainly caught Berge's eye was the fact that although Rønnberg is basically a playmaker, he can actually play all backcourt positions. Rønnberg is one of Finland's best players, scoring 28 goals for the national team in their last five EHF EURO qualifiers, including 10 goals in their 28:21 win over Luxembourg in October 2012.

Coach

Christian Berge

The 39-year-old played 63 matches and scored 251 goals for the Norwegian national team, for which he was the centre back and captain for many years. With German side SG Flensburg-Handewitt he became a German national league champion and cup winner. He ended his playing career with Danish league club Aarhus GF, where he also made his first acquaintance with the coaching life, as he became assistant coach in the club. Elverum HH is his first head coach position.

Team Tvis Holstebro (Denmark)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 2: 26:29, 30:24 against Tauron Stal Mielec
Round 3: 35:19, 32:35 against Saint-Raphael Var Handball

Group Phase Preview:
Team Tvis Holstebro is one of the rare clubs in the current EHF European Cup season that still has both male and female teams still in the competition, with both playing in the EHF Cup. The women were finalists in 2011, and the men are in their third international campaign.

Klavs Bruun Jørgensen, a former top star of the Danish national team who took over the team before this season as successor of Claus Uhrenholt, and his team had a high hurdle to clear in the third qualification round, but managed it unexpectedly easily.

Thanks to the 35:19 first leg victory against French powerhouse Saint-Raphael Var Handball, they made it to the Group Phase of the EHF Cup, the biggest international success history of Holstebro's men's team.

The Danish team are considered one of the main contenders to reach the Finals in Nantes, but the first goal of club director Jacob Jørgensen and team captain Mads Christiansen is to proceed to the quarter-finals. Holstebro will face one of their last season's players, Serbian international Petar Nenadić, in their duels with Wisła Płock.

"First of all I look forward to playing six additional European Cup matches. We have a young and - in an international context - inexperienced team, so the extra experience we can get through those matches will definitely help both our team and the club in our efforts to become more successful and perhaps to qualify one day for the Champions League," Klavs Bruun Jørgensen said.

"The group is exciting for us. It will be a great experience for us to compete with teams from Slovenia and Norway, which we hope to beat, and the Polish runners-up, Płock. With a little luck and our skills, we hope to advance from the group," he added.

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Capacity: 2400

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	blue
Player short	blue	blue
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow-turquoise	black

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Online:
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Facebook: teamtvisholstebro
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1 appearance – quarter-finalists 2009/10
EHF Challenge Cup: 1 appearance – Round 4 2002/02
Danish Cup: Winners 2008

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
15	Christian	Albertsen	DEN	Left Back	15.4.1994		198
24	Magnus Grubb	Bramming	DEN	Left Wing	1.10.1990	78	183
1	Michael	Bruun Pedersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	8.10.1970	88	198
8	Mads	Christiansen	DEN	Right Back	3.5.1986	92	194
18	Matias	Damgaard	DEN	Left Back	12.10.1994	81	179
3	Sören Reinholdt Söndergaard	Hansen	DEN	Line Player	9.12.1979	92	192
21	Jakob Green	Jensen	DEN	Centre Back	10.7.1982	90	187
24	Dennis Skovsborg	Jeppesen	DEN	Left Wing	20.5.1985	78	172
4	Klavs Bruun	Jörgensen	DEN	Right Back	3.4.1974	90	183
5	Patrick Wiesmach	Larsen	DEN	Right Wing	23.3.1990	77	178
12	Rasmus Schmidt	Lind	DEN	Goal Keeper	8.4.1983	103	193
23	Johan	Meklenborg	DEN	Right Wing	13.5.1994	78	194
19	Anders Molgaard	Mose	DEN	Left Back	2.5.1993		196
22	Ronnie Schmidt	Nicolaisen	DEN	Back	21.2.1994	78	185
7	Allan Damgaard	Nielsen	DEN	Centre Back	11.4.1986	90	185
34	Michael Damgaard	Nielsen	DEN	Left Back	18.3.1990	88	192
16	Anders	Petersen	DEN	Goalkeeper	18.1.1983	103	190
9	Sören Tau	Sörensen	DEN	Line Player	18.12.1985	103	192
17	Bastian Rahbek	Straede	DEN	Left Wing	14.11.1994	75	189
20	Klaus	Thomsen	DEN	Left Back	26.4.1986	103	198
9	Jakob	Thoustrup	DEN	Centre Back	15.6.1981	98	197

New signings (including former club):

- Magnus Bramming (Nordsjælland Håndbold)
- Klaus Thomsen (Lemvig Håndbold)
- Allan Damgaard (Viborg Håndboldklub)
- Jakob Thoustrup (Århus Håndbold)

Left the club (including new club):

- Petar Nenadić (Wisła Płock)
- Morten Nyberg (Nordsjælland Håndbold)
- Joacim Ernstsson (Ystad),
- Heino Holm Knudsen (Viborg Håndboldklub)
- Thomas Skoglund
- Søren Nørgaard (Lemvig Håndbold),
- Mads Paulsen (Lemvig Håndbold)

Key players

Mads Christiansen
Born on 3 May 1986

The right back has played 49 matches for the national team so far, becoming silver medallist with Denmark at the 2011 World Championship in Sweden and EHF EURO champion 2012 in Serbia. On the national level he became Danish champion with Aalborg (under the name AaB Håndbold) in 2010. He joined Team Tvis Holstebro in the summer of 2011. The 26-year-old left-handed backcourt player recently announced that he will be leaving Team Tvis Holstebro after this season to join current VELUX EHF Champions League participants Bjerringbro-Silkeborg.

Patrick Wiesmach
Born on 23 March 1990

The right wing became Danish champion with Aalborg (then under the name AaB Håndbold) in 2010. However, due to a lack of match practice, he left the Aalborg club to join Team Tvis Holstebro. Wiesmach, who was European champion with the Danish U20 team in 2010, is one of the fastest players in the Danish league, and with his ability to read the game in the defence, he makes a lot of interceptions which makes him even more valuable in the team´s fast breaks.

Coach

Klavs Bruun Jørgensen
Born on 3 April 1974

As a player he was in the successful squads of AG København, GOG Svendborg, FC København, Virum and German side Wallau Massenheim and became four-time Danish champion and four-time cup winner. Jørgensen played 186 matches for the Danish national team. His coaching career started at Nordsjælland Håndbold and then AG København, where he became Danish champion and cup winner. After leaving AG in the autumn of 2011, he had another brief stint as a playing assistant coach in Nordsjælland, where he was in charge of the attacking play. In the summer of 2012 he left for Jutland and become head coach in Team Tvis Holstebro. He still spends as much time as possible with his family who still live in the Copenhagen area, almost 400 kilometres from Holstebro.

Orlen Wisła Płock (Poland)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 3: 37:23, 29:24 against Sungul Snezhinsk

Group Phase Preview:
Last season Orlen Wisła Płock made it to the Last 16 of the VELUX EHF Champions League after having become Polish champions. This season they failed to qualify in the wildcard tournament for the flagship club competition and had to settle for the EHF Cup.

They entered the competition in the third round and had an easy passage to the Group Phase of the newly structured EHF Cup after comfortably beating Russian side Sungul Snezhinsk. Danish-born coach Lars Walther has a high quality squad to his disposal and the team are among the favourites to reach the Finals in Nantes. The mission statement of club president Andrzej Miszczyński before the start of the Group Phase could not be clearer. "Our main goal is to win the group and then advance to the Finals of the EHF Cup," he said.

The Polish runners-up, who already beat VELUX EHF Champions League participants Vive Targi Kielce at domestic level this season, are also aiming high in their league, as they fight to take the crown this season. With their sight set on winning the league and to go all the way in the EHF Cup, the squad was improved by top players like Petar Nenadić, Valentin Ghionea, Ivan Nikcević, and Ferenc Ilyés before the start of the season. However, Ilyes and Piotr Chrapkowski are currently out with injuries.

"Our goal is to win the group, that's our main goal. We have to take our opponents seriously to do that. Team TVIS is in my opinion our hardest rival in the group. It means a lot for us to participate in Europe, so we can continue our development of our club and team in Europe. We want to be recognised as a European top team," Lars Walther said.

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Arena:
ORLEN Arena
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Capacity: 5467

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	blue/white	black
Player short	blue	black
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	red

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Online:
Club website: www.sprwislaplock.pl
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Club achievements:
VELUX EHF Champions League: 8 appearances - Last 16 1995/96, 2011/12, Group Matches 2002/03, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2006/07, 2008/09, qualification 2012/13
EHF Cup: 3 appearances - quarter-finalists 1993/94, Round 3 2000/01, Round 2 2009/10
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 10 appearances - quarter-finalists 1996/97, Last 16 2005/06, 2006/07, Last 32 1997/98, 1998/99, 1999/00
Polish league: winners 1995, 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2011
Polish Cup: winners 1992, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2001, 2005, 2007, 2008

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
3	Piotr	Chrapkowski	POL	Left Back	24.3.1988	100	202
8	Nikola	Eklemovic	HUN	Middle Back	8.2.1978	100	193
29	Valentin Marian	Ghionea	ROU	Right Wing	29.4.1984	90	197
81	Ferenc	Ilyés	HUN	Left Back	20.12.1981	103	198
14	Bostjan	Kavas	SLO	Right Back	13.9.1978	90	191
11	Michal	Kubisztal	POL	Left Back	23.3.1980	100	194
2	Zbigniew	Kwiatkowski	POL	Line Player	2.4.1985	120	202
	Cezary	Marciniak	POL	Goal Keeper	12.11.1993	85	187
31	Petar	Nenadic	SRB	Left Back	28.6.1986	80	198
77	Ivan	Nikcevic	SRB	Left Wing	11.2.1981	80	182
23	Pawel	Paczkowski	POL	Right Back	14.6.1993	90	192
1	Marin	Sego	CRO	Goal Keeper	2.8.1985	100	194
9	Christian Lillenes	Spanne	NOR	Right Wing	22.6.1986	80	185
21	Kamil	Syprzak	POL	Line Player	23.7.1991	120	206
20	Muhamed	Toromanovic	BIH	Line Player	9.4.1984	110	194
19	Adam	Twardo	POL	Left Back	26.5.1983	100	194
12	Marcin	Wichary	POL	Goal Keeper	17.2.1980	100	193
10	Adam	Wisniewski	POL	Left Wing	24.10.1980	100	192
17	Michal	Zolotenko	POL	Left Back	21.3.1979	100	192

New signings:

- Petar Nenadić
- Valentin Ghionea
- Ivan Nikcević
- Ferenc Ilyeś

Left the club:

- Arkadiusz Miszka
- Zbigniew Kwiatkowski
- Morten Seier
- Joakim Backström

Key players

Nikola Eklemović
Born on 8 February 1978

Centre back Nikola Eklemović first played for Serbia at EHF EURO 2004, before he received the Hungarian citizenship in 2007 and played for Hungary at EHF EURO 2008.
Eklemović started his career at Red Star in his home town Belgrade, before he played 12 seasons overall for Hungarian clubs Pick Szeged (1999-2004) and MKB Veszprém (2004-2011). He then transferred to Orłen Wisła Plock. His achievements include becoming Yugoslavian champion three times in 1997, 1998, and 1999, and five times Hungarian champion (2005, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2010). In 2008 he won the EHF Cup Winners' Cup with Veszprém.

Adam Wiśniewski
Born on 24 October 1980

Adam Wiśniewski is a child of Płock. Aged 18, he started playing for Orlen Wisła and never moved away from the club since. The Polish international became national champion in 2002, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008, and 2011 and national cup winner in 1999, 2001, 2005, 2007, and 2008. The left wing scored 35 goals for Płock in the VELUX EHF Champions League last season.

Coach

Lars Walther
Born on 15 October 1965

As a player Lars Walther made a trip through Europe, playing for a number of Danish clubs and for sides from Germany, Portugal, and Iceland. In 2000 he started his coaching career at Virum Sorgenfri in Denmark, finishing fourth in the league. After two seasons in Roskilde, he moved to German side SG Flensburg-Handewitt before leading Slovenian club Gorenje Velenje. After one season (2006/07) in Hildesheim (Germany), Walther became coach at Conversano in Italy, before returning to Germany for two years at Emsdetten. Since 2010 the well-travelled man is the head coach at Orlen Wisła Płock.

RK Maribor Branik (Slovenia)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 1: 27:28, 39:24 against HB Dudelange
Round 2: 42:25, 35:25 against HK Kopavogur
Round 3: 29:30, 35:22 against RK Siscia

Group Phase Preview:
Slovenian handball is on the rise, as shown by the national team reaching its first semi-final at the 2013 World Championship in Spain.

At club level, Slovenia is among the top nations with regard to participants in the top EHF European Cup competitions. RK Celje and Gorenje Velenje stand strong in the VELUX EHF Champions League, Cimos Koper have made it to the Group Phase of the newly structured EHF Cup and so have RK Maribor Branik. Despite competing in Slovenia's top division for just five years, Maribor compete in an EHF European Cup competition for the third time, after reaching the quarter-finals in both the EHF Challenge Cup and the EHF Cup Winners' Cup in previous seasons.

En route to the Group Phase RK Branik Maribor had to play all three rounds. The Slovenians beat Dudelange, Kopavogur, and finally the Croatian team RK Siscia in Round 3.

Marko Šibila's squad are aiming high despite their strong and largely more experienced opponents. "It will be a big experience for us to compete with clubs like Orlen Wisła Płock. We are convinced, that there will be a good atmosphere in our hall, and with the support of our fans we can beat everyone," manager Andrej Bauman says. Team captain Simon Razgor says that the participation in the Group Phase of the EHF Cup is "a new milestone" in the history of handball in Maribor.

During the season Maribor became the short-term club of Renato Vugrinec, who arrived from Germany, but then transferred to Macedonian VELUX EHF Champions League participant Metalurg Skopje. The one long term injury in the squad is Blaž Kleč, the line player scored three goals in the competition before being sidelined.

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Arena:
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Capacity: 3496

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	purple
Player short	white	black
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	blue

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Online:
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Facebook: rkmariborbranik
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Club achievements:
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: 1 appearance – quarter-finalists 2010/11
EHF Challenge Cup: 1 appearance – quarter-finalists 2011/12
Slovenian Cup: finalists 2010

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
16	Gregor	Cudic	SLO	Goal Keeper	4.4.1980	75	175
27	Blaz	Klec	SLO	Line Player	26.3.1986	95	183
1	Klemen	Krajnc	SLO	Goal Keeper	26.6.1992	88	182
4	Milan	Mirkovic	SRB	Right Back	7.4.1985	95	193
92	Matjaz	Mlakar	SLO	Line Player	13.4.1981	99	188
7	Marko	Ostir	SLO	Line Player	7.6.1977	100	194
21	Ivan	Pesic	CRO	Goal Keeper	17.3.1989	110	194
14	Miha	Pucnik	SLO	Left Wing	1.2.1988	100	193
13	Simon	Razgor	SLO	Left Wing	18.9.1985	84	183
44	Rok	Simic	SLO	Left Wing	25.7.1986	84	184
31	Tadej	Sok	SLO	Right Wing	27.12.1988	70	178
24	Mario	Sostaric	SLO	Right Wing	25.11.1992	87	193
8	Nikola	Spelic	CRO	Left Back	27.3.1991	100	197
10	Aleksander	Spende	SLO	Left Back	24.7.1993	85	200
3	Aljosa	Stefanic	SLO	Right Back	21.2.1984	99	197
6	Mate	Svalina	CRO	Middle Back	31.1.1986	91	188
5	Marko	Tarabochia	CRO	Middle Back	28.11.1988	92	192
23	Miha	Zarabec	SLO	Middle Back	12.10.1991	72	174

New signings (including former club):

- Aljoša Štefanič (SSV Brixen Handball)
- MihaZarabec (RK Trimo Trebnje)
- Rok Šimič (RK Gorenje Velenje)
- RenatoVugrinec(SCMagdeburg)
- Ivan Pešić (HC Zagreb CO)
- Tadej Sok (RK Jeruzalem Ormož)
- Matjaž Mlakar (RK Sevnica)
- Klemen Krajnc (RK Maribor Branik U-21)

Left the club (including new club):

- Mislav Lončar (HSG Bärnbach/Koflach)
- Renato Vugrinec (HC Metalurg Skopje)
- Dejan Kramar (unknown)
- David Fister (unknown)
- Nino Legnar (RD Drava Ptuj)

Key players

Simon Razgor
Born on 18 September 1985

The left wing was born in the Slovenian handball capital of Celje and played for his home club, winning several titles with RK Pivovarna Laško, before transferring to Maribor.

Nikola Špelić
Born on 27 March 1991

Špelić was born in Zagreb and played for Croatian clubs RK Dubrava, RK Varteks, RK Siscia, and RK Zagreb before transferring for the first time abroad to Branik Maribor. The left back has scored 24 goals in the competition so far.

Coach

Marko Šibila
Born on 5 March 1962

Marko Šibila started his career as a player in the club, he now is coaching for the third season. He played for several Slovenian clubs like RK Grosuplje, RK Kodeljevo, RK Inles and RD Slovan, before playing for Italian side Generali Triest from 2000 to 2003, where he became domestic champion and played in the EHF Champions League.
In 2003 Šibila started his coaching career, first at RD Termo Škofja Loka, followed by RD Trimo Trebnje and since 2010 he leads RK Maribor Branik, while also working for the Slovenian and Italian national teams. His biggest coaching successes were the silver medal at EHF EURO 2004 at home, the participation at the 2004 Olympic Games as assistant coach of Slovenia, and the sixth place at Mediterranean Games in Tunis 2001 as head coach of Italy.

Men's EHF Cup 2012/13

Group D

European Handball Federation

2012/13 Men's European Cup EHF Cup
Group Phase

EUROPEAN HANDBALL FEDERATION

Group D			matches	won	draw	lost	goal-difference		points
1	TUR	Besiktas JK	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
2	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
3	GER	SC Magdeburg	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0
4	FRA	HBC Nantes	0	0	0	0	0:0	0	0

MatchID: 201311020804-

045	GER	SC Magdeburg	vs.	TUR	Besiktas JK	
	09.02.2013 15:00 Magdeburg / GER					
	Ref.: Alvarez Mata, Bustamante Lopez ESP Del.: Petersen DEN					
038	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	vs.	FRA	HBC Nantes	
	10.02.2013 18:45 Bacau / ROU					
	Ref.: Hansen, Pettersen NOR Del.: Vizitiu MDA					
040	GER	SC Magdeburg	vs.	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	
	16.02.2013 15:00 Magdeburg / GER					
039	FRA	HBC Nantes	vs.	TUR	Besiktas JK	
	17.02.2013 17:00 Nantes / FRA					
042	FRA	HBC Nantes	vs.	GER	SC Magdeburg	
	24.02.2013 17:00 Nantes / FRA					
041	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	vs.	TUR	Besiktas JK	
	24.02.2013 20:00 Bacau / ROU					
043	TUR	Besiktas JK	vs.	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	
	09.03.2013 15:00 Istanbul / TUR					
044	GER	SC Magdeburg	vs.	FRA	HBC Nantes	
	09.03.2013 15:00 Magdeburg / GER					
037	TUR	Besiktas JK	vs.	GER	SC Magdeburg	
	16.03.2013 15:00 Istanbul / TUR					
046	FRA	HBC Nantes	vs.	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	
	17.03.2013 17:00 Nantes / FRA					
047	TUR	Besiktas JK	vs.	FRA	HBC Nantes	
	23.03.2013 15:00 Istanbul / TUR					
048	ROU	Stiinta Municipal Dedeman Bacau	vs.	GER	SC Magdeburg	
	24.03.2013 20:00 Bacau / ROU					

BESIKTAS JK (Turkey)

The road to the Group Phase:
VELUX EHF Champions League qualification:
22:30, 24:31 against HC Dinamo Minsk
Round 2: 37:29, 33:40 against Odorheiu Secuiesc
Round 3: 20:31, 37:25 against Haslum HK

Group Phase Preview:
After winning the Turkish league and cup double four times in a row since 2009, Beşiktaş have reached the Group Phase of the EHF Cup and aim to go even further.

In the EHF Cup third round, the Turkish champions caused a huge upset in the second leg. After losing the first leg against Norwegian champions Haslum HK 20:31, the chances of progressing appeared to be slim to none, but on their home court coach Mufit Arin and his team played one of their best international matches ever, winning 37:25 and securing a place in the Group Phase.

Arin is already a legend at Beşiktaş, with 18 domestic titles won under his leadership since 2004. But despite this loss, the squad is perfectly rehearsed as the majority have played together for the last eight years, and hopes for more international upsets are high in Istanbul, in particular at home where the club is especially strong, as manager Berk Karahan mentions:

"We haven't lost any game in Istanbul in the last five years of European Cup competitions. Now we want to win all home games in the Group Phase of the EHF Cup. It is not an advantage to be in the same group with Nantes, as they will do their best to qualify for the Final Tournament at home.

"Our club has won 18 domestic trophies in the last eight years and we long for European success. I am sure the spectators will be our eighth player in every home match."

Team captain Ibrahim Demir counts on the team spirit and their experience to make the dream of victory come true: "We have played together for years. This is going to be a great advantage for us. We will try to do our best and I really trust my teammates, as they are good players."

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Arena:
The Haldun Alagas Sport Complex
Alemdag on son Durak Ümraniye
Istanbul
Capacity: 3500

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white	black
Player short	white	black
Goalkeeper shirt	red	blue/green

Media contact:
Email: berk.karahan@bjk.com.tr

Online:
Club website: www.bjk.com.tr
Twitter: @Besiktas
Facebook: Besiktas
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Cup: 11 appearances – Last 16 1998/99, 2005/06, 2010/11, Last 32 1997/98, 1996/97, 1993/94, Round 3 2011/12, 2007/08, 2000/01, Round 2 2009/10, 2003/04

Turkish league: Winners 2004/05, 2006/07, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12

Turkish Cup: Winners 1998/99, 2000/01, 2004/05, 2005/06, 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11, 2011/12

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
7	Ömer Ozan	Arifoglu	TUR	Right Back	20.08.1989	102	196
15	Ercan	Asikoglu	TUR	Right Wing	04.01.1983	95	190
10	Senol	Boyar	TUR	Centre Back	08.05.1984	85	185
19	Oguzhan	Büyük	TUR	Left Wing	18.03.1977	84	179
22	Mesut	Cebi	TUR	Goalkeeper	06.09.1991	105	195
34	Ugur	Coban	TUR	Left Wing	10.11.1988	80	177
26	Ibrahim	Demir	TUR	Goalkeeper	04.10.1975	108	194
21	Kerem	Direk	TUR	Right Wing	19.05.1992	90	190
53	Ramazan	Döne	TUR	Right Back	10.07.1981	106	192
3	Bülent	Erkol	TUR	Right Wing	01.12.1977	96	194
8	Viktor	Ladyko	UKR	Centre Back	30.04.1979	95	194
20	Tolga	Özbahar	TUR	Line Player	24.04.1984	118	197
11	Turgut Ata	Özkar	TUR	Left Wing	18.03.1994	76	176
23	Valeri	Parshkov	AZE	Line Player	10.05.1975	112	189
1	Sevket Altug	Tasdemir	TUR	Goalkeeper	07.07.1981	98	200
35	Okan	Yalciner	TUR	Left Back	12.01.1984	106	202
9	Vladimir	Zelic	SRB	Left Back	10.03.1981	105	203

New signings (including former club):

Left the club (including new club):

- Utku Erguder (end of career)
- Ümit Kirkayak (Yeditepe SK)

Key players

Ramazan Döne:
Born on 10 July 1981

The 31-year-old joined Beşiktaş JK in 2006 from Çankaya Belediyesi. He became the top scorer of the EHF Challenge Cup in 2005/06 with 66 goals in 7 games as well as the top scorer of the Turkish league in 2005/06, 2006/07 and 2009/10. He was awarded the best right back in the Turkish league three times and has played 153 international matches played for Turkey so far.

Tolga Özbahar:
Born on 24 April 1984

The 28-year-old line player came to Beşiktaş JK in 2010 and is recognised as one of Turkey's best players in his position, with 62 international matches for Turkey and being awarded the best line player in the Turkish league three times. Özbahar has scored 22 goals already in the EHF Cup this season, including a 10 goal haul in the Round 2 match against Odorheiu Secuiesc

Coach

Mufit Arin:
Born on 1 September 1962

Arin has had plenty of success as a coach with Beşiktaş JK, dominating theTurkish domestic scene over the past eight years. He is a six time Turkish league champion, six time Turkish cup winner, six time Turkish Super Cup winner, and reached the EHF Challenge Cup semi-final in the 2008/09 season. Arin's notable playing achievement is winning the Turkish league with Arcelik HK in 1983.

CS Ştiinţa Municipal Dedeman Bacău (Romania)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 2: 28:24, 23:22 against Ystads IF
Round 3: 33:22, 22:22 against Maccabi Srugo Rishon Lezion

Group Phase Preview:
CS Ştiinţa Municipal Dedeman Bacău are a new face in the EHF Cup. After three appearances in the EHF Challenge Cup, including the semi-final in 2011, the Romanians qualified for the next level of competition for the first time this season. And after victories against Ystad from Sweden and Tel Aviv from Israel in Rounds 2 and 3, they have made it to the newly formed Group Phase at the first time of asking.

Coach Eliodor Voica, who is also the coach of the men's national team, led Bacău to the runners-up spot in the Romanian league, behind perennial champions Constanta last season.

Bacău can count on a well-rehearsed squad, without any star players, but with a huge amount of team spirit.

Their hopes for this season are a second place finish in the Romanian league again, and reaching the quarter-finals of the EHF Cup, all of this despite the absence of a key player, Adrian Sipos, who is out for six months through injury.

"We want to finish second in our group," claims manager, Ioan Ciobanu, and team captain Ionut Rotaru hopes for the "best possible results and qualification for the next stage."

The Bacău squad consists almost entirely out of Romanian players, with the exception of two Hungarians and one Georgian.

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Arena:
Sala Sporturilor Bacau
Str. Stadionului Nr. 1
5500 Bacau
Capacity: 3600

Colours of uniform:	**light**	**dark**
Player shirt:	yellow	grey
Player short	blue	grey
Goalkeeper shirt	green	yellow

Media contact:
Email: ciobanu_puyu@yahoo.com

Online:
Club website: www.stiintahandbal.ro
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:
EHF Challenge Cup: 3 appearances – semi-finalist 2010/11, quarter-finalist 2008/09, 2009/10

Romanian championship: runners-up 2012

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
13	Radu Cristian	Ghita	ROU	Right Back	22.11.1990	92	189
12	Stefan	Grigoras	ROU	Goalkeeper	18.12.1990	94	194
3	Dragos	Iancu	ROU	Line Player	05.08.1988	98	195
32	Szilveszter	Liszkai	HUN	Goalkeeper	01.03.1987	103	199
9	Costel	Manea	ROU	Right Back	21.08.1984	98	194
5	Bogdan	Moisa	ROU	Centreback	30.01.1993		
24	Marius Ioan	Novanc	ROU	Line Player	08.11.1980	103	194
2	Mihai Andrei	Paius	ROU	Left Back	18.03.1985	100	196
21	Rares	Paunica	ROU	Left Wing	21.03.1987	82	183
8	Ionut	Ramba	ROU	Left Back	08.02.1991	100	198
4	Ionut	Rotaru	ROU	Centre Back	31.01.1986	85	183
20	Adrian	Sipos	HUN	Line Player	08.03.1990	110	198
16	Raducu	Tamas	ROU	Goalkeeper	12.11.1986	92	188
22	Shota	Tevzadze	GEO	Goalkeeper	21.02.1981	120	200
14	Bogdan	Voica	ROU	Left Wing	18.11.1976	88	185
13	Radu Cristian	Ghita	ROU	Right Back	22.11.1990	92	189
12	Stefan	Grigoras	ROU	Goalkeeper	18.12.1990	94	194
3	Dragos	Iancu	ROU	Line Player	05.08.1988	98	195
15	Uelington	Da Silva Ferreira	BRA	Left Back	13.08.1986	100	202
4	Ionut Stefan	Georgescu	ROU	Right Wing	16.06. 1982	88	189

New signings (including former club):

- Uelington da Silva Ferreira (Conversano)
- Marius Novanc (HCM Constanta)
- Andrei Paius (Pandurii Targu Jiu)
- Szilvester Liszkai (MKB Veszprém)
- Ionut Georgescu (BM Ciudad Encantada)

Left the club (including new club):

- Konstyantyn Kyrilenko (Motor Zaporozhye)
- Evgeniy Gurkovskiy (Motor Zaporozhye)
- Stefan Laufceac (Steaua Bucuresti)
- Iacob Sandu (HCM Turda)

Key players

Marius Novanc:
Born on 08 November 1980

Marius Novanc is Bacău's most experienced player. While playing for Steaua MFA București and HCM Constanța, the Romanian line player played both in the EHF Cup Winners' Cup semi-final and the VELUX EHF Champions League Group Phase. He was also the national team captain when Romania beat Russia to qualify for the World Championship in 2011.

Radu Cristian Ghiță:
Born on 22 November 1990

A right back with a powerful shot, Ghiță is one of Romania's brightest talents for the coming years. He is only 22 years old, but has already caused havoc in the opponents' defences in the previous rounds in this year's EHF Cup. He is the team's top scorer with 26 goals in the EHF Cup and he was Bacău's top scorer in the last season's Romanian League with 156 goals in 26 matches.

Coach

Eliodor Voica:
Born on 3 March 1973

Voica is a former Dinamo Bucuresti coach, leading the team to third place in the Romanian league, before transferring to Bacău. He is also the Romanian national team coach since January 2012.

SC Magdeburg (Germany)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 3: 30:27, 26:28 against HC Vardar Pro Skopje

Group Phase Preview:

None of the 16 participants in the Group Phase of the newly formed EHF Cup have been more successful in EHF European Cup competitions than German side SC Magdeburg.

They are the only former winner of the EHF Champions League among the 16 teams in the Group Phase; additionally they won the EHF Cup three times.

Last season Magdeburg missed out on the EHF Cup final, after a one goal aggregate loss to Dunkerque HB Grand Littoral in the semi-final.

This season's goals include qualification for the EHF Cup again, which requires a fifth or sixth place finish in the German Bundesliga, and reaching the EHF Cup Finals in Nantes.

Manager Steffen Stiebler, 2002 EHF Champions League winner as a player, is happy about the draw and the prospect of their away matches.

"We like to face Istanbul, Bacau, and Nantes. It is a challenge for us to play in those countries."

Team captain and Polish international, Bartosz Jurecki, has his eyes set on a place in Nantes.

"We hope that we can reach the quarter-finals, but this is only the next step towards our main goal, to reach the Finals in Nantes."

However, reaching the Group Phase itself was a real high hurdle to clear for Magdeburg, as their third round tie against Vardar Skopje of FYR Macedonia was decided by a single goal over two legs.

SCM won 30:27 at home, but had to fight to hold on to their lead in the second leg in the Macedonian capital as they lost 26:28.

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Arena:
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39114 Magdeburg
Capacity: 7800

Colours of uniform:	light	dark
Player shirt:	white/red	green/red
Player short	white/red	green/red
Goalkeeper shirt	red/orange	blue

Media contact:
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Online:
Club website: www.scm-handball.de
Twitter: @SCMagdeburg
Facebook: SCMagdeburg
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:

VELUX EHF Champions League: winners 2001/02

EHF Cup: 6 appearances - winners 1998/99, 2000/01, 2006/07, finalists 2004/05
EHF Cup Winners' Cup: winners 2001/02,
EHF Champions Trophy: winners 1998/99, 2004/05, 2006/07

German Bundesliga: winners 2000/01
German Cup: winners 1995/06

The squad

No.	First Name	Family Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
22	Kristian	Asmussen	DEN	Goalkeeper	16.04.1971	93	193
17	Lennart	Carstens	GER	Line Player	07.10.1987	104	197
12	Gerrie	Eijlers	NED	Goalkeeper	09.05.1980	95	193
15	Yves	Grafenhorst	GER	Left Wing	15.03.1984	84	186
1	Björgvin Pall	Gustavsson	ISL	Goalkeeper	24.05.1985	90	190
16	Markus	Hammerschmidt	GER	Goalkeeper	25.01.1990	96	193
2	Bert	Hartfiel	GER	Right Back	21.08.1989	98	193
11	Tim	Hornke	GER	Right Wing	04.08.1990	85	189
9	Maximilian	Jahnke	GER	Left Back	28.02.1993	90	192
31	Bartosz	Jurecki	POL	Line Player	31.01.1979	97	192
4	Stefan	Kneer	GER	Left Back	19.12.1985	98	194
21	Niklas	Kupfer	GER	Left Wing	15.03.1986	81	186
7	Kjell	Landsberg	GER	Line Player	03.11.1980	100	192
6	Matthias	Musche	GER	Left Wing	18.07.1992	75	186
13	Jure	Natek	SLO	Right Back	30.03.1982	96	193
8	Ales	Pajovic	SLO	Left Back	01.06.1979	110	197
5	Andreas	Rojewski	GER	Right Back	20.08.1985	94	193
15	Moritz	Schäpsmeier	GER	Right Wing	25.09.1984	95	188
18	Stian	Tönnesen	NOR	Centre Back	02.03.1974	96	185
10	Fabian	Van Olphen	NED	Left Back	30.03.1981	102	194

New signings (including former club):

- Stefan Kneer (TV Großwallstadt)
- Moritz Schäpsmeier (TV Großwallstadt)

Left the club (including new club):

- Damir Doborac (RK Gradačac)

Key players

Bartosz Jurecki:
Born on 31 January 1979

The line player, who has been a part of the Polish squad for a number of years and is the SCM captain, moved to Magdeburg in 2006. His biggest success on club level was winning the EHF Cup in 2007. International success includes winning a silver medal at the 2007 World Championship and a bronze at the 2009 World Championship.

Stefan Kneer:
Born on 19 December 1985

The German international started his career in Eisenach, before transferring to German Bundesliga clubs Balingen and later-on Großwallstadt. Before the start of the 2012/13 season the left back went to SC Magdeburg. Kneer was part of the German squad at the 2013 World Championship in Spain.

Coach

Frank Carstens:
Born on 26 September 1971

As a player Carstens played for German first league club GWD Minden, before he became coach in 2006. After he coached Aurich, he became head coach of first league team Hannover-Burgdorf, then he arrived in Magdeburg in 2010. In September 2011 he also became assistant coach of the German national team.

HBC Nantes (France)

The road to the Group Phase:
Round 3: 29:21, 22:28 against S.L. Benfica

Group Phase Preview:
"Spanish eyes" is not only a famous song, but could also be a new line to describe the character of HBC Nantes: Three newly crowned world champions are in the squad of the French team, playing in only their second season in Europe, but are already among the favourites in the newly restructured EHF Cup.

After Valero Rivera junior, son of the Spanish national team coach Valero Rivera, was the first Spaniard to come, Nantes signed Jorge Maqueda and Alberto Entrerrios before the start of this season. Entrerrios lifted the World Championship trophy in Barcelona as team captain.

The major success of this trio will be a boost for HBC Nantes' upcoming matches of, as is the fact that the French club is the organiser of the first EHF Cup Finals.

If Nantes finish first in their group or is among the three best second ranked teams, they directly qualify for the Finals in May, without having to play the quarter-finals.

Nantes did not have it all their own way either, after a clear 29:21 win in the first leg of Round 3, they were made to fight for their lead, losing 22:28 at Portuguese side Benfica Lisboa.

Gaël Pelletier, President of HBC Nantes, said that the qualification for the Group Phase of the EHF Cup was "a very important objective." He added: "We need international recognition as we are a young club in the elite of handball in France."

"I know that the notoriety of a club comes through his results in European Cup competitions. Our objective is to finish first or second in our group."

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Arena:
Palais des Sports de Beaulieu
5 rue Andre Tardieu
44200 Nantes
France
Capacity: 5000

Colours of uniform:	**light**	**dark**
Player shirt:	white/purple	purple/yellow
Player short	white	purple
Goalkeeper shirt	yellow	black

Media contact:
Email: marina.normand@hbcn44.com

Online:
Club website: www.hbcn44.com
Twitter: @HBCNantes
Facebook: HandballClubNantais
eurohandball.com

Club achievements:

EHF Cup: 1 appearance - Round 3 2011/12

The squad

No.	First Name	Familöy Name	Nat.	Position	Date of Birth	Weight	Height
27	Ronald	Alcindor	FRA	Left Back	04.09.1993	92	205
	Sebastien	Bouny	FRA	Goalkeeper	25.04.1981	87	195
24	Jordan	Camarero	FRA	Right Back	10.03.1992	82	181
	Robin	Cantegrel	FRA	Goalkeeper	13.02.1995		
18	Mathieu	De la Breteche	FRA	Right Wing	14.09.1989	72	177
21	Florian	Delecroix	FRA	Right Back	17.03.1994	84	197
14	Frederic	Dole	FRA	Right Wing	29.03.1975	91	186
8	Alberto	Entrerrios Rodriguez	ESP	Left Back	07.11.1976	102	192
	Pierre	Fabre	FRA	Line Player	13.03.1979	102	191
13	Rock	Feliho	FRA	Left Back	13.08.1982	94	192
19	Borja	Fernandez Fernandez	ESP	Line Player	25.12.1981	123	206
5	Mahmoud	Gharbi	TUN	Line Player	11.02.1982	85	191
10	Gunnar Steinn	Jonsson	ISL	Centre Back	04.05.1987	99	191
20	Edlieck	Kiala	FRA	Left Wing	14.02.1994	78	186
26	Alexis	Landais	FRA	Left Back	14.01.1993	81	185
12	Marouene	Maggaiez	TUN	Goalkeeper	28.07.1983	108	190
15	Jorge	Maqueda Pena	ESP	Right Back	06.12.1988	102	195
	Baptiste	Mourant	FRA	Left Back	25.01.1995		
6	Paul	Mourioux	FRA	Centre Back	28.02.1989	84	186
2	O'Brian	Nyateu	FRA	Centre Back	25.07.1992	85	187

New signings (including former club):

- Gunnar Jonsson (Halmstad)
- Jorge Maqueda (Aragon)
- Alberto Etrerrios (Atletico Madrid)
- O'Brian Nyateu (first professional contract)

Left the club (including new club):

- Kim Ekdahl du Rietz (Rhein-Neckar Löwen)
- Yann Polydore (Cesson)
- Bruno Pages (Bordeaux)
- Nemanja Pribak (Skopje)

Key players

Valero Rivera:
Born on 22 February 1985

The newly crowned world champion has handball in his veins, as his father is the most successful coach in the history of handball with 70 titles on club level with FC Barcelona and the recent world championship title under his belt. Valero junior, playing on the left wing position, started his career in Barcelona, later transferring to Aragon, Algericas, and Octavio, before he left Spain in 2010 to join HBC Nantes.
Last season, Rivera was voted best left wing and most valuable player in the French league and was the league's top scorer. Currently the Spaniard ranks second in the league's top scorer list.

Rock Feliho:
Born on 18 August 1982

The French left back, who became team captain when he arrived in Nantes 2010, was voted "best defender" in the previous season of the French league. Feliho started his professional career in 2000, when joining Sélestat Alsace Handball.

Four years later he transferred for two seasons to HBC Villefranche Handball, before he crossed the German border to play for TSG Münster and later first league team HBW Balingen-Weilstetten, where he was contracted for four seasons, before he returned home to join Nantes in 2010.

Coach

Thierry Anti:
Born on 19 February 1959

Thierry Anti is the coach of HBC Nantes for the fourth consecutive season after he had been the head coach of Paris Handball for six years from 2004 to 2009. Before that he was coach in his home club US Creteil after he had finished his player career there.

Anti led Creteil to four French Cup trophies and added another trophy with Paris to his tally, after winning three league titles as a player with Creteil (division 1) and Pontault-Combault (division 2).

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