

### **ANNUAL REPORT**



### **FACTS AND FIGURES**

2019-20



**S**echools participated

4,033 young people took part





council finals

BBL and WBBL squad players deliver Hoops 4 Health roadshows



club or after school sites

officiating staff for CVL

73

club teams compete within our junior central venue league

OVER

week

more than

2,000 attending clubs every

OVER

800

competing in our central venue league every week



7,500 volunteer hours donated this season



**7** foundation trustees

full time staff

part time staff













our clubs cater from 5 years old to senior age groups



extra-curricular school clubs established within the East End of Newcastle

417

young people have attended



times or more



72 players



5 to 9 years olds

1,000 receiving coaching

school club sites across the region

**ZERO** core-funding

THANKS
TO OUR
TRUSTEES

On behalf of the Eagles Community Foundation, thank you to all of our Board of Trustees for their commitment this year: Alan Younger, Dave Forrester, Eric Wilson, Jeff King, Malcolm Dix, Paul Blake and Su Cumming.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Our first full year in the Eagles Community Arena began the way we had all hoped, with the conclusion of a number of projects around the new building and all parts of the business from events to sports provision, food and beverage provision and services for the local community all coming to fruition.

This culminated in our most successful week in the building in February 2020, including two sold out Eagles home games, a sold out GB basketball international against Germany and a highly successful boxing event.

We are all aware of what followed with the advent of COVID 19 and as we know it has been an extremely difficult year for everyone, on both a personal



and work level. The Foundation has had to navigate unchartered territory and has mitigated risks, including the unfortunate but necessary decision to make redundancies, reduce utility and running costs, operate the building on skeleton staffing and the support of Eagles volunteers and the training of staff for new responsibilities.

The Foundation staff were successful in arranging payment holidays on long term loans with payment plans in place to further mitigate risk.

On a very positive note, the Foundation were able to negotiate an Arena Naming Rights deal with Vertu Motor Group, with five years of significant income, helping the charity through this difficult period and laying foundations for future growth.

The Arena has been proud to support the city as a key Vaccination Centre, being a main site for the city. Education has played a large important part in keeping the arena open with our partnership with Newcastle College.

The Foundation has also worked hard to create the right conditions for a 'Return to Play' the core sports in the facility. At the date of writing this more than 850 members have returned to the junior programme. The team continued its outreach with an inventive online delivery of Hoops4Health, delivering a virtual programme into regional schools.

Looking forward the newly named Vertu Motors Arena is looking like it will burst back into life. Existing bookings suggest it will be incredibly busy and the focus is now on the 2022 diary.

There has been an incredible amount of hard work by Foundation employees and support from partners and the local community in turning a corner from the previous set audit. The past five months has witnessed the turning point from covid-19 crisis management to securing the future with guaranteed income and contracts..

Paul Blake Chair of the Trustees

### **CONTENTS**

Eagles Community Arena:		Eagles Central Venue League Pre-Game Clinics & Tournaments	18 19
Partners & Community Engagement Player Pathway	4 6	Further Education Academies	
Primary School Programmes Little Dribblers	7	Gateshead College TyneMet College	20 21
Hoops 4 Health Change 4 Life	, 8 16	Elite Performance Pathway Newcastle Eagles Academy	22
Club Development Community Clubs	17	Over 55 Active Ageing Initiative	26
		Newcastle Eagles BBL & WBBL	27

### EAGLES COMMUNITY ARENA PARTNERS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Schools have continued to be welcomed into the Arena providing a fantastic facility and a great space that is not always available at schools. Children have been coming from St. Michael's, Our Lady and St. Anne's and Dame Allan's. Not only have St. Michael's taken part during curriculum time but have also added an after-school club which has been well attended.

Newcastle Volleyball Club and Riverside Netball remained as the resident sports clubs with both increasing in numbers from the previous season. England Netball and North East Netball have also become regulars at the Arena.

The year started off with the Marching Bank Championships with over 1600 participants, supporters and judges descending into the Arena for a weekend bringing along with them a weekend full of amazing performances and plenty of glitter.

It was a great honour to be asked to host the 2019 World Transplant Games 3x3 basketball event in August. We welcomed athletes from countries across the world with spectators being able to come and watch the event for free.

In November over 700 delegates visited the Arena to the biggest Offshore Wind North East event yet and our biggest expo to date. The whole arena was taking over including seminars and presentations in the hospitality suite and breakout area. In the main arena space, 70 exhibitor stands filled the arena floor.

Basketball fans were treat with the chance to watch GB take on Germany in a Eurobasket Qualifier. BBF chairman Maurice Watkins said, "We are delighted to









**ANNUAL REPORT 2020** 



be able to take such a high-profile game to Newcastle. The city knows all about great basketball and we know the Eagles fans and everyone in the North East will get behind the team in this fantastic new venue. We look forward to working with Newcastle Eagles to put on a great show." What a show it turned out to be with a packed-out crowd witnessing GB taking a confident win against Germany 81-73.

Other major events we have hosted include MTK Boxing, Northumbrian Water Group leadership event, Northumbria Police walk of solidarity, Bidfood expoand the Rugby League World Cup 2021 launch.

In January 2020, the Foundation celebrated it's first birthing of the Arena opening and just over 2 months later had to shut the doors due to the pandemic.

Determined to help support the community during this unprecedented time, the doors were opened in April to give access to the Active Partnership to prepare 2,500 activity packs to help families across the region stay active. With the Arena car park remaining empty we were able to provide the space as a Mobile Testing Unit. The Army were drafted in to run the drive-thru swab testing facility. From June to August the main floor of the Arena was used for StreetGames to bring in over £1 million of food, sports packs and equipment and reading materials that were distributed to families and community groups that were hit hard when the pandemic started.

The Eagles Community Arena won the Community Value and Social Accessibility category at the Lord Mayor of Newcastle's Design Awards ceremony. We also went on to win the final accolade of the evening, the Lord Mayor's Special Award. Sam Blake, CEO, said

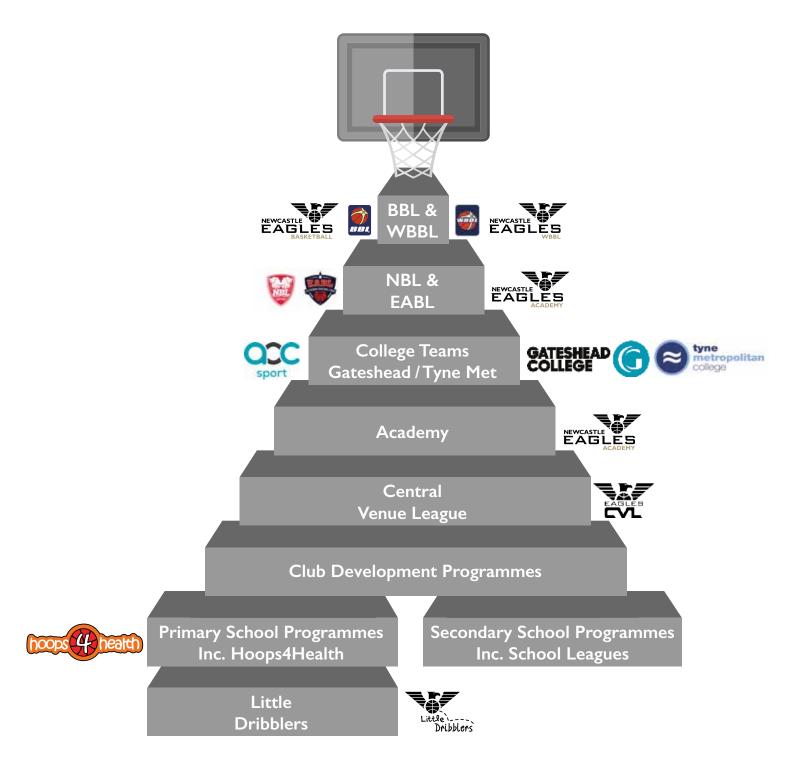




"It's quite overwhelming for the ECA to be honoured by the Lord Mayor. It has been a whirlwind first 12 months with close to 200 events in our first year, hosting some of the largest companies in the region, educational activity with our partners at Newcastle College, local weekly community events, a range of sporting activities that sees close to 2000 people a week playing sport in the venue and of course Eagles home nights."

We remain true to the ethos that the heart of the community drives everything that we do.

### **PLAYER PATHWAY**



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES LITTLE DRIBBLERS



The 'Little Dribblers' is the first rung of the ladder in the player pathway aimed at children aged 5 – 9 years old. In most cases this will be children's first experience of playing basketball. Basketball is a sport that support the fundamental movement skills, running, jumping, throwing and catching. It also can be used to improve hand-eye coordination. In this programme we ensure that the appropriate equipment is available including smaller basketballs that can be more easily controlled by the children and baskets that can be adjusted in height to accommodate all age groups and abilities. The programme is delivered to primary schools as either a breakfast club, lunchtime club, after school club or during the curriculum.

Following on from the success of last year, the foundation has this year worked with 15 primary schools with over 1000 children taken part. The running theme throughout the programme is that children have FUN whilst learning the sport of basketball. We ensure that the sessions are inclusive and engaging. The skill emphasis is around ball familiarity, ball handling, starting and stopping, passing and like players of all ages the favourite skill of shooting.

Children are encouraged to transition from their school-based sessions into their local basketball club. ECF clubs have seen a rise in membership at this age group with additional sessions being added to specific club sites to cater for the demand. Little Dribblers remains the catalyst of providing clubs with a core membership that will eventually grow through the different age groups at the club.

#### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2019-20

#### **GATESHEAD**

- Cloverhill
- Colegate
- Crookhill
- Front Street
- Glynwood
- Lobley Hill
- Wardley
- Kelvin Grove
- Oakfield Infants
- Oakfield Juniors

#### **NEWCASTLE**

- Our Lady & St. Anne's
- Mountfield
- St. John's

#### **NORTH TYNESIDE**

St.Bartholemews

#### **SUNDERLAND**

Ryhope Infants



Throughout the programme we were able to invite some of the pupils to a Newcastle Eagles games where they received a medal for participation in the programme.

The Foundation are aware of the importance of children taking part in sport from a young age and although we promote basketball, we also encourage children to take up or try multiple sports and physical activities.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES HOOPS 4 HEALTH



#### INTRODUCTION

The Hoops4Health programme during the 2019-20 academic year has engaged with 68 primary and middle school. Unfortunately, like many of our programmes, this came to a standstill in March when the schools closed so never got a chance to deliver to those signed up.

Hoops4Health remains the flagship programme at the Foundation engaging thousands of pupils across Tyne and Wear and South East Northumberland. Since 2001, the programme has evolved to ensure key issues are addressed each year. This is delivered in a fun and engaging, safe environment to pupils in years 4, 5 and 6.

The partners involved during the year included:

- Change4Life
- Gateshead Housing Company
- Newcastle City Council
- North Tyneside Council
- Northumbria Healthcare Trust Hospital Volunteer Service
- Northumbrian Water
- Northumbria Violence Reduction Unit

These partners along with the schools themselves have enabled thousands of young people to make informed decisions on the health choices as they move into teenage years and secondary school.

All schools involved within our Hoops4Health programme received a Newcastle Eagles BBL and WBBL player led roadshow, followed by four hours of coaching from either a community coach or development officer. Each school also had the chance to partic-



ipate in their council tournament with each authority's top four teams progressing to the home of the Newcastle Eagles to play on the home court before and at half-time of a game.

Hoops4Health programmes run across six local educational authorities:

- Gateshead
- Newcastle
- North Tyneside
- Northumberland
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland

### PARTICIPANTS 4,033

#### **YEAR 5 PARTICIPATION**

#### GATESHEAD

SCHOOL	
Caedmon Community	60
Crookhill Community	29
Colegate Primary	30
Cloverhill Primary	61
Dunston Hill Community	51
Falla Park Community	27
Glynwood Community	115
Harlow Green	100
Kelvin Grove	50
Larkspur Community	18
Oakfield Juniors	60
St Agnes' Catholic	30
Wardley Primary	90
TOTAL	721



#### **NEWCASTLE**

SCHOOL	
Byker Primary School	65
Central Walker CE Primary	60
Gosforth Central Middle School	120
Gosforth East Middle School	120
Gosforth Jnr High Academy (Visit 1 of 2)	90
Gosforth Jnr High Academy (Visit 2 of 2)	90
Kenton Bar Primary School	81
Hilton Primary	110
Our Lady & St. Anne's	30
Simonside Primary	55
St. Alban's RC Primary School	70
St. John's Primary School	60
St. Lawrence's RC Primary	27
St. Michael's RC Primary School	30
St.Teresa's Catholic Primary School	65
St. Vincent's RC Primary School	30
Welbeck Primary	50
West Walker Primary School	35
TOTAL	1158

#### **NORTH TYNESIDE**

SCHOOL	
Balliol	37
Christ Church C of E Primary School	24
Collingwood Primary School	120
Cullercoats Primary	60
Denbigh	58
Ivy Road Primary School	16
Monkhouse Primary	33
New York Primary School	40
Preston Grange Primary School	60
Redesdale	31
Riverside Primary	23
Shiremoor	47
St Bartholomew's	57
Wallsend Jubilee	95
Wellfield Middle School	90
TOTAL	791

#### **NORTHUMBERLAND**

SCHOOL	
Beaconhill Community Primary	30
Croftway Primary	120
Malvin's Close Primary School	120
Morpeth Road Primary School	120
TOTAL	390

#### **SOUTH TYNESIDE**

SCHOOL	
Biddick Hall Junior School	101
East Boldon Juniors	61
Forest View Primary School	69
Hadrian Primary	39
Harton Primary School	90
HolyTrinity	30
Laygate Community	57
Mortimer Primary	80
St Bedes RCVA Primary School	30
Stanhope Primary	60
TOTAL	617

#### **SUNDERLAND**

SCHOOL	
Farringdon	105
East Herrington	60
Barnes Junior School	84
Hill View	120
Richard Avenue	53
Seaburn Dene	50
St Cuthbert's RCVA	31
Wessington	22
TOTAL	525























#### PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The programme is normally broken down into five stages which are delivered in schools, regional venues and at the home court of our BBL team. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, stage 5 could not go ahead.

Every part of the programme is delivered by the Eagles Community Foundation and these stages will be explained in further depth in the following pages.

### STAGE I ROADSHOWS



### STAGE 2 COACHING



# STAGE 3 TOURNAMENTS



# STAGE 4 TOURNAMENT FINALS

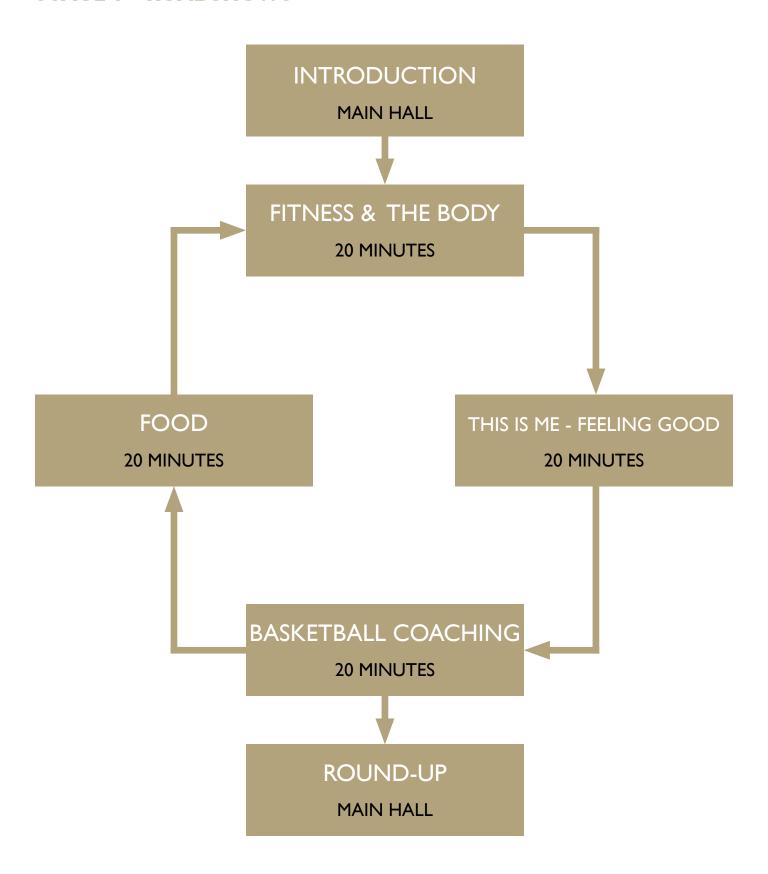


# STAGE 5 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS





#### **STAGE I - ROADSHOWS**





#### **STAGE I - ROADSHOWS**

Each school receives a 'healthy living' roadshow across the afternoon delivered by a group of Newcastle Eagles BBL and WBBL players. When the players arrive, they are greeted by up to 120 wide eyed excited children. The team of players introduce themselves and explain the activities that will take place.

The players will ask the children what they think it takes to lead a healthy lifestyle which leads into the first activity, the fitness station.

#### FITNESS & THE BODY

The fitness station is one of two active sessions within the afternoon. The Newcastle Eagles players ask questions based on keeping active and healthy and what this means within their bodies. Different organs are discussed and the functions they provide. Children are asked to talk about what activities they take part in to help them exercise. To start to get the blood pumping, the children are challenged to keep active for sets amounts of time including running on the spot, star jumps, burpees, high knees and bum kicks.

The participants are then divided into groups, rotating between the remaining stations and players.

#### THIS IS ME - FEELING GOOD

The 'This is Me' station is to encourage the children to be proud of themselves and getting them to realise that you should never doubt yourself or be made to feel different because of the things you do or by the way you look. The players highlight what they might be proud of such as where they were born, what their heritage is or their sporting achievements. Children are asked to come up with an answer on a sticky note which are then all placed on a board. The player reads them out and children are encouraged to clap after each one. Each child has a booklet and they are then asked to fill in the task about what they through they were good at, what made them feel confident and what made them happy.

#### FOOD

When arriving at this station, every heild would receive a card which has one ingrediant on. In their workbook, the children are aksed to fill in a good diary based onwhat they had the day before. The olayer would then go through what thy ate and how children can eat more heailthily by making simple food swaps with the ingredient cards which would go together to make a healthy meal.

#### BASKETBALL COACHING SESSION

This station is the 2nd physical station that the children take part in. Fun games and competitions are used to teach the basic skills of basketball; dribbling, passing and shooting. The sessions are designed so that all children are involved no matter what their skill level or ability is. It shows how inclusive the sport is and the importance of teamwork.

#### **ROUND UP**

When all children are finished on the carousel of stations, they are all brought back together. Pupils who have stood out throughout the afternoon for good behaviour, good engagement and being enthusiastic, receive prizes. The afternoon concludes with the clap game challenge with I lucky pupil receiving a family ticket to a Newcastle Eagles home game. All children receive a 'Golden Ticket' to an Eagle's game and information on how they can join their local basketball club.





#### **STAGE 2 - COACHING**

This stage of the programme is delivered by an Eagles Community Foundation basketball coach or development officer. Each school receives 4 hours of basketball coaching during curriculum time. The coaching sessions are to prepare the pupils for taking part in a tournament (stage 3). The pupils learn some of the rules of basketball including double dribble, travelling, court boundaries and contact. The coach also teaches them the core skills they need to play the game, catching, passing, jumping, dribbling, shooting, footwork and defence. All the skills taught are then put together where the children get the chance to play games. More tactical skills are then taught such as pass and move and spacing out on the court. The coach ensures that all pupils are involved and how important teamwork and communication are.





### STAGE 3 - YEAR 5 TOURNAMENTS

#### **OVERVIEW**

The tournaments are a great way for pupils to put into practice everything they have learnt in their coaching sessions against other schools and there is always a real buzz when the pupils arrive.

All tournaments take place at the Eagles Community Arena except for South Tyneside (Temple Park) and Sunderland (Sunderland University City Space). Unfortunately, due to the lockdown the Northumberland tournament did not go ahead.

The school teams are placed into pools with all teams playing against each other. In the afternoon, the knockout stages begin and conclude with the 4 top teams progressing through to the tournament finals.

Throughout the day sportsmanship and teamwork are promoted with also a rule of a minimum number of girls on court at all time to ensure that everybody gets a chance to play.

Following on from the roadshow, the children are again handed out a leaflet so that they can continue to play basketball at their local club.

#### **TEAMS TOTALS**

•	Gateshead:	38 teams
	Newcastle:	38 teams
	North Tyneside:	30 teams
	South Tyneside:	30 teams
•	Sunderland:	24 teams

#### **REGIONAL BREAKDOWN**

#### Gateshead

- Number of teams: 38
- Number of young people: 380
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Crookhill Primary
  - Glynwood Primary
  - Lobley Hill Primary
  - Wardley Primary





Newcastle

Number of teams: 38Number of young people: 380

- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Byker Primary
  - St. Alban's Primary
  - St. Teresa's Primary
  - Gosforth East Middle

**North Tyneside** 

- Number of teams: 30Number of young people: 300
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Monkhouse Primary
  - Preston Grange Primary
  - Redesdale Primary
  - Wellfield Middle

South Tyneside

Number of teams: 30Number of young people: 300

Teams progressing to the final:

- Biddick Hall Juniors
- Forest View Primary
- Stanhope Primary
- St. Bede's Primary

#### Sunderland

- Number of teams: 24Number of young people: 240
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Richard Avenue
  - Farringdon Academy
  - Seaburn Dene Primary
  - St. Cuthbert's Primary

TOTAL NUMBER OF TEAMS:

160

TOTAL NUMBER OF YOUNG PEOPLE:

1,600



### STAGE 4 - YEAR 4 & 5 TOURNAMENT FINALS

The final four teams that finished top in the their council tournaments are each invited to a finals night at the Eagles Community Arena. This is a great experience for the pupils as they get the chance to play on the Newcastle Eagles court. Both semi finals take place before the BBL game with the 2 winning teams progressing to the final. The final takes place at ½ time of the BBL game in front of a packed out audience. Schools are provided with tickets for teachers and families to be able to come so they can also enjoy the experience and atmosphere.

All pupils are then presented with the relevant medal with the winning team receiving a cup. The teams have a group photograph taken including the sponsor(s). The winning team also get the opportunity to have their photograph taken with the BBL team at the end of the game.



GATESHEAD: Lobley Hill NEWCASTLE: St. Alban's

**NORTH TYNESIDE: Monkhouse** 

**SOUTH TYNESIDE: St Bede's** 

**SUNDERLAND: Seaburn Dene** 









# PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES CHANGE 4 LIFE

Tyneview

Welbeck

Walkergate

West Walker



The Change 4 Life programme gives us an opportunity to work with targeted schools all year round instilling the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and keeping active. The fully funded project allows us to work with 9 primary schools in the East End of Newcastle.

#### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- Byker
- Central Walker C of E
- St.Albans RC
- St.Lawrence's RC
- St.Vincents RC

The C4L coordinator works within the whole school from reception to year 6 delivering basketball in breakfast clubs, lunchtime clubs, after school clubs and curriculum sessions. To strengthen the familiarity that the pupils have with the coordinator, the coach will also pop into the school year at break times and sit with the

children that are provided breakfast at their schools. By being a fully funded programme, this removes the barriers that some children may have in being able to access sport as the schools are based in some of the most deprived areas in Newcastle.

Teachers at the school are also very proactive with their own CPD, picking up new ideas and rills they can deliver to the children when the coach is not there.

All schools were offered to bring pupils to the Eagles Community Arena to take part in competitions on the Newcastle Eagles home court before and during half time of a BBL game.

Almost 300 children took part in the after-school clubs between September and March and over 500 children received curriculum coaching. Delivery was cut short with the closure of schools during the first lockdown.

### **CASE STUDY**

### **GOSFORTH GOLIATHS & RYTON ROCKETS**

VICTORIA JAMES

Not only does Victoria James volunteer at one Eagles Community Foundation Clubs but volunteers at two, Gosforth Goliaths and Ryton Rockets. The best way to describe Victoria would be as an 'all-rounder'. Victoria runs the Facebook pages, does all administrative duties and is always on hand to answer questions from the parents.

On a Saturday you will find Victoria at the Central Venue League all day, organising teams, filling in team sheets and allocating kit which she has also washed.

At Ryton Victoria has done invaluable fundraising and even managed to find a sponsor for all Gosforth kits. Whenever any of the clubs are taking part in any event you can guarantee that Victoria will be there to support in whatever manner is needed.

The head coach at the clubs, Chris Applewhite, said "Simply put, I could not do what I do without her help and guidance."



With all the hours put in to supporting players at both clubs it was fitting that Basketball England recognised Victoria as the Basketball England North East Region Volunteer of the Year.

# CLUB DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CLUBS

The Eagles Community Foundation continue to be proud that we run one of the biggest club development programmes in the country. The continued growth of the club sites is led by the delivery across all school programmes where pupils are transitioning over. This can be quite a big step for some, coming from a school environment they feel comfortable in, into a club. We pride ourselves in ensuring all new members feel welcome when they arrive and are put with the right ability of players. Once in the club setting players are able to progress their skill level and ability as they continue on the player pathway.

Like in most sports, competition is pivotal in the players development giving them the opportunity to play against other teams outside the club setting. At this stage of the pathway no player has to trial to make a team with the mantra being, "if you want to play, then you are on the team."

Although the coach(es) at each club site are an integral part of the club and its success, we are grateful for the dedication of volunteers and parents that provide the relevant support to the club and the club. From administrating, fundraising and kit washing we have an amazing base of volunteers.

#### **COMMUNITY CLUB SITES**

#### **GATESHEAD**

- Cardinal Hornets (Under 6-18)
- Kingsmeadow Royals (Under 8-18)
- Ryton Rockets (Under 10-18)

#### **NEWCASTLE**

- Gosforth Golliaths (Under 10-18)
- Kenton Force (Under 12-18)
- Newcastle East Griffins (Under 10-18)
- Walbottle Wizards (Under 12-18)
- Westgate Hoopstars (Under 10-18)

#### NORTHUMBERLAND

Cramlington Vikings (Under 10-18)

#### **NORTH TYNESIDE**

Tyne Met Tigers (Under 12-14)

#### **SOUTH TYNESIDE**

South Tyneside Basketball Club (Under 8-18)

For the clubs to thrive the main objective is to ensure sustainability. This is achieved through memberships, weekly subs, fundraising and strong school to club links.

With the continued growth of the 'Little Dribblers', this has seen a rise in the number of U10 sessions being added to club sites.

The club sites vary in membership size based on factors such as when it was established, court availability, court size and the number of schools in the area that have received basketball.

The target is that all club sites can cater for U10s, U12s, U14s, U16s and U18s.

Even though the season was cut short due to the pandemic, some clubs saw a substantial growth in membership. Cardinal Hornets cemented themselves as one of the biggest junior development clubs with 180 members. South Tyneside Basketball Club also started to creep closer to the 100 members mark registering over 80 players.

The growth of clubs is the number one priority across the Foundation. With that in mind the Foundation provides Basketball England Level I and 2 coaching courses to ensure there is a sufficient workforce to meet the demand.























## COMPETITION STRUCTURE EAGLES CENTRAL VENUE LEAGUE



The Eagles Central Venue League (CVL) packs out the Eagles Community Arena all day Saturday and a Sunday morning. The league provides competition for all ECF clubs and non ECF clubs to come together to play games. Players come from across the north East Region playing for one of the 73 teams that have entered.

Normally the CVL would run across 10/12 weeks three times a year. Due to the pandemic the 3rd CVL did not take place with the 2nd CVL cut slightly short. Having the ECA as its home allows the league to grow with having access to 3 basketball courts.

The leagues also provides a foundation for young or newly qualified coached to experience game coaching. Also, it is the first ladder of the step for those interested in table officiating and refereeing where they can get mentored and move up through the age groups as their ability and experience improves. The Foundation provides level 1 refereeing and table officiating courts with the local Area Association providing Level 2 courses. As a foundation we are always keen to engage players and parents into these roles as they can get a better understanding of the game.

#### UNDER 10

2018-19 oversaw the introduction of our brand new This age group of competition aims to give players a positive introduction into the game. To ensure the emphasis is on experiencing the game and having fun, no league tables are kept. Referees provide ongoing support throughout the game so that players get a better understanding of the rules. Unlike the conventional game, the U10s is played 4 v 4 across court, shortened games, with lowered hoops. The league is open to mixed teams.

#### **UNDER 12-18**

Games at these age groups switch to 5v5 across a full court. Although a running clock is used, to ensure all fixtures are played, the games start to get closer to a full match experience. The games are a lot longer at this age group and the more technical side of the game starts to come into play with coaches being able to coach offence and defensive plays. Similar to the Under IOs league, the Saturday CVL is open to mixed teams with also girls only teams entering into the mix.



#### PARTICIPATING TEAMS

#### UNDER 10

Cardinal Hornets (7 teams), Cramlington Vikings (I team), Gosforth Goliaths (I team), Kingsmeadow Royals (3 teams), Newcastle East Griffins (2 teams), Ryton Rockets (2 teams), South Tyneside Basketball Club (3 teams) and East Durham (I team)

#### UNDER 12

Cardinal Hornets (5 teams), Cramlington Vikings (I team), Gosforth Goliaths (I team), Kingsmeadow Royals (I team), Newcastle East Griffins (I team), Westgate Hoopstars (I team), Ryton Rockets (I team), South Tyneside Basketball Club (2 teams), Tyne Met Tigers (I team), North Shields (I team) and Morpeth (I team)

#### UNDER 14

Cardinal Hornets (3 teams), Cramlington Vikings (1 team), Kenton Force (2 teams), Kingsmeadow Royals (2 teams), Newcastle East Griffins (2 teams), Westgate Hoopstars (1 team), South Tyneside Basketball Club (2 teams), Tyne Met Tigers (1 team), Gosforth Goliaths (1 team), North Shields (1 team) and Morpeth (1 team)

#### **UNDER 16**

Cardinal Hornets (I team), Gosforth Goliaths (I team), Kenton Force (I team), Kingsmeadow Royals (I team), Newcastle East Griffins (I team), Westgate Hoopstars (I team), Ryton Rockets (I teams), South Tyneside Basketball Club (2 teams), North Shields (I team), Oxclose (I team) and Morpeth (I team)

#### UNDER 18

Cramlington Vikings (I team), Kenton Force (I team), Newcastle East Griffins (I team), Westgate Hoopstars (2 teams), North Shields (I team), Oxclose (I team) Morpeth and Ryton Rockets combined (I team).

### PRE-GAME CLINICS & TOURNAMENTS



What can be more exciting for a youngster than to have the opportunity to play on the home court of the Newcastle Eagles either before or at half-time of a game? Those that had the chance to part in a pre-game or half-time event also got to cheer on the Newcastle Eagles BBL team.

#### DRIVE, DISH, SWISH

This event sees youngsters compete a set of challenges racing against the clock. The course is set up based on the age groups taking part to ensure it is age appropriate yet challenging for the player. The skill areas the players needed to master were in dribbling, passing and shooting. This year saw competitions for Under 8s, Under 10s and Under 12s



#### **GOSFORTH CHALLENGE**

This event is contested by the 3 Gosforth Middle Schools, East, Central and Junior High. Fierce rivalry between the school always adds to the energy of the event. A round robin competition across age groups and genders took place with Gosforth Central Middle School crowned champions.



#### **ULTIMATE SHOOT-OUT**

Ask any player at any age group what they enjoy the most in basketball and most of the time the answer will be shooting. This popular pre game event sees individuals try to accumulate as many points as they can across various shooting challenges. Different conditions are brought in to test the player including shooting off the catch, shooting off the dribble and shooting from various positions on the court.

Other events saw Eagles Community Foundation clubs face up against each other including U12s 4 v 4 South of the Tyne, East v West and Tyne Met v STBC.

The half-time slot also allows us to showcase some of our other programmes and this year included displays from our Academy teams and also Walking Basketball which is becoming a very popular addition to our programme.



## FURTHER EDUCATION ACADEMIES GATESHEAD COLLEGE



Gateshead College partnership with the British Basket-ball League's most successful franchise, Newcastle Eagles, offers talented players a chance to bring out the best in their basketball performance while studying for a qualification.

Young people can study any of the college's full time school leaver programmes in sport or any other subject, including A-levels and become a member of the Gateshead College Basketball Academy.

Students develop the knowledge and expertise they need to go on to university, straight into work or an apprenticeship and gain a nationally recognised qualification whilst training and competing 10 hours every week with expert coaches that put academics first along with developing them into the best basketball player they can be.

The programme boasts::

- A unique development pathway programme to look after all levels of ability, each with a package of benefits
- Up to £6000 of investment in a training schedule
- Up to £1000 per student to help towards travel, competition entries and kit
- Expert coaching staff trained to the highest level
- Dedicated sport campus and a newly upgraded training and playing facility
- Access to physiotherapy, injury clinics and sport massage
- Partnership with Newcastle Eagles
- Free kit

#### **DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY**

To make sure all the academy members stay at the top of their game and are able to improve, we've created a unique development programme with a dedicated package of support for each level.

The Gateshead College basketball schedule consists of 2-hour sessions on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Skill development also known as 'the breakfast club' begins at 8:00am where coaches focus on players' individual skill development, then formal training runs 8:45-10:15.

Competitive fixtures take place on a Wednesday afternoon in the AoC North East regional league.





#### **HEAD COACH**

Gateshead College Academy is run by Head Coach Drew Lasker and assisted by upcoming coach Liam Waugh.

Drew is part of a dual role in which he is a senior player with the Newcastle Eagles professional club.

He is a 16 year professional veteran along with over 20 years coaching and training experience as he is founder of a training academy in Katy, Texas.

- 16 year European professional
- 20 years coaching and training experience
- Point Loma Nazarene University College Hall of Fame 2018
- Represented England in the 2018 Commonwealth Games
- Master Degree from Northumbria University in Professional Sports Coaching

#### **SEASON 2019/20**

In year 2 at the helm, Drew's vision of the programme is slowly coming together. The team saw an improvement in performances in a very competitive AoC.

The academy doubled in size from its previous year and recruiting events were at full capacity.

Teams celebrated signature wins over Middlesborough College and Newcastle University's senior women's team. Unfortunately the programme was abruptly shut down in March due to the pandemic. Training pivotedto online session, which became a huge success for the athletes' skill development and mental wellness.

- Winner of AoC Sport North East league (2011-2012, 2013-2014, & 2015-2016)
- Fifth place Academy Basketball League ABL finish 2015/2016
- Many players representing Newcastle Eagles U18.

# FURTHER EDUCATION ACADEMIES TYNE MET COLLEGE



Tyne Met College run a North East Sports Academy (NESA) across a variety of sports including basketball. The aim of the programme is to allow students to train and learn within a professional arena whilst off the court receiving academic expertise in A levels or vocational subjects, with training slots built in.

The Eagles Community Foundation have partnered up with Tyne Met College to run the NESA programme for over 10 years. The long-standing partnership with the college enhances learning, encouraging performance, determination and team-work whilst mastering the skills for success.

NESA is committed to coaching players of all abilities and genders, in a welcoming, supportive environment that encourages confidence, performance and personal development.

What learners have access to:

- Take on the best in the country in the National EABL Elite Basketball League with the Newcastle Eagles Academy.
- Compete in the AoC North East Regional League on a Wednesday
- Dedicated players have the chance to apply for Free USA scholarship opportunities through unique partnership with Pass4soccer.
- Up to 10 hours of training and competitive matches each week in superb purpose-built facilities.
- Exclusive subsidised training, playing and leisure kits.
- Individually tailored strength and conditioning programmes as well as use of the state-of-the-art sports science lab and rehabilitation support.
- Sport-specific expert workshops in areas such as sport psychology, performance analysis and nutrition.
- Free unlimited access to the Flex Fitness gym. The opportunity to gain basketball-specific coaching and officiating qualifications.
- Access to physiotherapy clinic for injury treatment.
- The chance to enhance employability skills through the NESA leadership academy.
- On-site court facilities for additional training.

#### **HEAD COACH**

Shaun Malone continues his dual role at the Eagles Community Foundation where he is the North Tyneside Development Officer promoting and developing basketball within North Tyneside primary and secondary schools alongside his role at the NESA Academy.

Shaun has himself progressed through the player pathway at the Eagles Community Foundation starting as a junior player, progressing to the academy and then into the NESA Basketball Academy. After successfully completing a foundation degree Shaun then joined the Eagles Community Foundation as a community coach.

Shaun's personal experience of life as a student at Tyne Met as well as his understanding of the importance of being a student athlete encourages him to work closely with curriculum staff to ensure that all his NESA learners are firstly achieving in their academic studies and then progressing on the basketball court.

#### SEASON 2019/2020

The AoC North East Regional League was highly contested with the league being decided on the final day of competition. Tyne Met faced Middlesbrough College in the final fixture with both teams sitting at the top of the league table. Going into the final quarter of the game, only 2 points separated the teams. Unfortunately, due to injuries and Tyne Met getting into foul trouble, it was to be Middlesbrough College that would come out as victors with a 9 point win clinching the title for the season.

4 Tyne Met Players represented the Newcastle Eagles EABL Squad including Edward Boldi, Robert Dodds, James Taylor and Tyrese Nfon.

Jonny Kavanagh and Joan Ducusin have qualified as coaches through the Eagles and Tyne Met partnership and have developed through Shaun's mentoring achieving key roles within the Foundation at both CVL level and in the junior club programme.

This season was another successful year for the off court extra curriculum qualifications for 5 of the students, achieving work placements in CVL.

This year that has seen emphasis on individual player development including breakdown of video analysis with focus on individual statistics, plays and fundamental improvements...

### ELITE PERFORMANCE PATHWAY NEWCASTLE EAGLES ACADEMY



The Newcastle Eagles Academy is the next step up in the player pathway for those with the skill level and ability to excel in the elite level programme.

Each year players attend trials with the top 12 being selected to the team. Those on the cusp of making the team are also invited to attend the coaching sessions as training players.

The age groups represented were U14 boys and girls, U16 boys and girls, U18 Men and U23 Men. Unfortunately, the season had to be cut slightly short due to the lockdown.



#### **NORTH DIVISION**

Head Coach: Ellen Totton

For the second consecutive year an Under 14 Girls team was entered into the National League. With some of last years playing moving up an age group, this gave some new players the chance to step into the fold, giving them their first experience of National League.

Manchester Mystics and Sheffield Hatters dominated the league but the Newcastle Eagles girls had some very convincing wins including 93 – 38 against Mersey Mavericks and 139 – 16 against Stockport Lapwings.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Manchester Mystics	15	0	47
2	Sheffield Hatters	12	I	43
3	Manchester Mystics II	11	5	38
4	Derby Trailblazers	8	8	32
5	Nottingham Wildcats	6	7	29
6	Newcastle Eagles	6	10	28
7	Lancashire Spinners	6	8	26
8	Mersey Mavericks	2		21
9	Stockport Lapwings	0	16	16





#### **UNDER 16 GIRLS**

#### **CONFERENCE NORTH**

Head Coach: Corinne Vaughan

With a group of last year's U14 girls stepping up in age the Eagles were able to enter an U16 girl's teams into the national league. This new group included last years U14 Girls Most Valuable Player Yemisi Mefful, Most Improved Player Ciara Weddle and Best Defensive Player Esra Kandermir.

There were some tight games in the league with Nottingham Wildcats sneaking a 1-point win at their home court but the return leg at the Arena saw the Eagles clinch a 72 - 50 win.

The surprise result was the huge win against City of Sheffield Hatters II with a 108 – 13 stomping win. The Eagles defence was on point in the third quarter, not allowing the Hatters to make a single shot.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Lancashire Spinners	14	1	45
2	Manchester Mystics II	14	2	44
3	City of Sheffield Hatters II	9	6	35
4	Hatfield Flyers	8	6	34
5	Newcastle Eagles	6	9	29
6	Mersey Maverics	4	8	28
7	City of Leeds	4	10	26
8	Liverpool	4	10	26
9	Nottingham Wildcats	2	13	21

# ELLEN TOTTON

We were delighted that Ellen Totton received the All Girls Inspiring Female of the Year honour from Basketball England.

Ellen has been around the programme for a long time starting out as a junior player, moving through into the national league.



Not only is Ellen a positive coaching role model for the girls in our programme but is also an All Girls ambassador for Basketball England in the North East.

To achieve this whilst studying for an undergraduate degree is no mean feat. Ellen plays a pivotal role in both girl's academy teams.



Yemisi Mefful started playing basketball at her after school club at Sacred Heart ran by the Eagles Community Foundation. Her talent was evident at quite an early start and was invited to trial for the North East regional team.



Yemisi then made the transition from school basketball joining Kenton Force basketball club. Although only one of a handful of female players at the club, Yemisi fit straight in, joining the team to compete at CVL every Saturday.

The next step was always going to be an easy choice for the coaches to make as Yemisi was selected to join the Academy and earning 2018/19 Most Valuable Player as voted by her team.

Making a positive impact in the national league gained Yemisi the call up to represent England Under 15s in Spain playing in a triangle tournament against the hosts and Portugal.

Academy coaching, Corinne states, "Yemisi is a very exciting prospect and has made rapid progress after only joining the Eagles Academy in 2018.

"I have coached Yemisi as part of the Academy for the last two years and at regional level before that.



"Her excellent attitude, willingness to learn, made sacrifices and work hard to achieve her goals has enabled her to make great improvements over the last few years.

"Her selection with England is fantastic for the girl's programme and has inspired her teammates and younger players to want to follow in her footsteps.

"Yemisi has taken the opportunities and experiences with England in her stride and I am incredibly proud of what she's achieved.

"I look forward in seeing how she further develops as a player and where her continuous hard work will take her."



#### UNDER 14 BOYS

#### PREMIER NORTH DIVISION

Head Coach: Calvin George

The U14 boys certainly made their mark in this division. With only I game not been played due to lockdown it is highly likely that the boys would have finished with a 10-6 record as they were due to meet City of Leeds (Gold) in the final game who they had beat 81-43 in December.

From November to January the U14 boys went on a 6 winning streak run including a nail biting I point win over York Eagles 61-60. The last game included a huge 105-49 win against Cheshire Phoenix Juniors. The fixture against Cheshire Wire Green saw both teams step up offensively with a high scoring 107-102 win for the Eagles.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Manchester Mystics	14	0	46
2	City of Birmingham Rockets	13	1	44
3	Manchester Giants	10	3	37
4	Newcastle Eagles	9	6	35
5	York Eagles	7	8	31
6	Cheshire Wire Green	4	10	26
7	Cheshire Phoenix Juniors	4	10	25
8	City of Leeds (Gold)	1	12	19
9	Leicester Riders		13	16





#### **UNDER 16 BOYS**

#### PREMIER NORTH DIVISION

Head Coach: Jay Hawman

Manchester Magic might have been sat at the top of the tree when the league was cancelled but the Newcastle Eagles were right on their backs.

A dip in form in November saw the Eagles follow it up with a 10 win stretch only being stopped by Manchester Magic. It was only top teams Manchester Magic, City of Birmingham and Trafford that were able to take wins against the Eagles.

Four times in the season the Eagles netted over 100 points including 104 - 60 win against Cheshire Wire and 111 - 79 win against City of Birmingham.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Manchester Magic	19	1	62
2	Newcastle Eagles	16	5	55
3	City of Leeds	16	3	55
4	Trafford	13	6	51
5	City of Birmingham	12	7	47
6	Derby Trailblazers	10	10	44
7	Liverpool Basketball Red	9	9	40
8	Manchester Giants	7	13	38
9	Cheshire Juniors	5	15	34
10	City of Edinburgh	4	17	31
П	Cheshire Wire	4	16	30
12	York Eagles	4	17	24



#### **UNDER 18 MEN**

#### PREMIER NORTH DIVISION

Head Coach: Dan Kovacs

This was to prove a tough season for the U18 men's team who were unable to get a win all season. The first game of the season against QEYork Knights was to be a high scoring game for both sides with the Knights cementing a 121 – 91 win; Eagles Okoli claiming 30 points.

The closest game of the season was against Trafford Magic. Magic ended the first quarter with a narrow 2 point lead with the Eagles turning it around to take a 4 point lead at the end of the half. The third quarter turned out to be the decisive one with the Magic taking a 28-20 win in the quarter turning the tables back in their favour with a four point lead going into the final quarter. The Magic outscored the Eagles by I point in the final 10 minutes, clinching the 78-73 win.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Manchester Magic	13	0	47
2	City of Edinburgh	13	5	44
3	QEYork Knights	11	4	43
4	Durham&Hartlepool Wildcats	10	6	40
5	Myerscough College	10	4	38
6	WL St. Helens	7	6	31
7	Cheshire Wire	5	12	29
8	Trafford Magic	5	10	27
9	Newcastle Eagles	0	14	20
10	City of Leeds	0	13	17





#### **UNDER 23 MEN**

#### **DIVISION 3 NORTH**

Head Coach: Graham Heath

What a season the U23 men had last year and they didn't disappoint again this year finishing 2nd with only I game left not played in the season. The U23s did not experience defeat until the end of January, starting the season with a run of I3 successive wins.

Myerscough College would be the nemesis team for the Eagles winning both the head-to-heads 79-61 and 78-70.

Lancashire Spinners may have finished top of the pile but when they visited the Eagles home court it was the Eagles who were victors with a 93-73 win with home grown talent Sean Murphy netting 31 points.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
I	Lancashire Spinners	19	3	38
2	Newcastle Eagles U23	16	5	33
3	Tees Valley Mohawks	15	6	31
4	Calderdale Explorers	15	6	31
5	Myerscough College II	14	6	29
6	Teesside Lions	9	10	20
7	Team Sunderland	9	12	19
8	Stockport Flacons	9	12	19
9	Barrow Thorns	7	13	16
10	Tameside	7	14	15
П	Liverpool II	4	17	9
12	Cheshire Wire	0	20	2

### ACTIVE AGEING INITIATIVE



The Active Ageing programme is funded by the National Lottery Community Fund and The Kellet Fund. The objective of running this initiative is to tackle loneliness and social isolation in people over 55 years.

Since its inception almost 250 sessions have been delivered attracting over 260 individuals. Alongside visits to Your Homes Newcastle and Search Newcastle Schemes, regular sessions at the Arena include Boccia, Table Sports and Walking Basketball.

Two Golden Games took place at the Arena giving a carousel of taster sessions including boccia, table sports, walking basketball, walking handball, table tennis, table cricket, new age Kurling, tennis, softball, cricket, Zumba, seated exercises and strength and conditioning.



All participants also got the chance to have a Health MOT. Other partners were invited to the event to set up stalls in the foyer including, NUFC foundation, community police, Mental Health Concern, Elders Council, Elswick Pool, Information Now, Health Works, St. Oswald's, Newcastle Carers, The Grange and Silverline Memories.

The Foundation signed up to the Chatty Café scheme which means that we have 'Chatter and Natter' tables that people can sit at if they



are looking to converse with others. The idea is that if somebody is feeling isolated or lonely in their surroundings they can pop to the Arena and have a cuppa knowing that somebody will be there to have a conversation with.

Newcastle College provided funding to deliver adult sport including those 55 and over. Participants could take part in 6 week blocks of Zumba, seated exercises, table sports, Clubercise and Strength and Conditioning.

# JIM MILNE

82-year-old Jim Milne is always a regular at the Eagles Community Arena and is willing to try any activity that we have going on. Jim lost his wife 2 years ago and became isolated in his home. With the onset of dementia, Jim's local GP signposted him to the Arena. He has become part of the furniture here and always brightens up the place with his beaming smile and his 'get up and go' attitude to life.



Jim said, "One of the reasons why I joined is because I have got dementia and being active is a better way to help you than drugs. Now I have a lot of friends here. We can sit and talk if we don't fancy doing any sport, we all get on really well it's been a good a laugh and it gets us all out the house. I find it not as a saviour but it is now part of my life, it is my life. The staff have also been amazing, they look after you and if you want to know anything they will help. Physically I'm not fast enough anymore but it's exciting playing walking basketball. From taking part in this I can now do things that I couldn't normally do and it's great to get active."

# BRITISH BASKETBALL LEAGUE NEWCASTLE EAGLES





#	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COLLEGE	HEIGHT	POSITION
I	Rodney	Glasgow Junior	Virginia Military Institute	5'11''	Point Guard
2	Mike	Morsell	Towson	6' 6''	Forward
4	Themba	Yabantu	Gateshead College	5'11''	Point Guard
8	Will	Saunders	Charleston Southern	6'7''	Wing
9	Sauveur	Kande	Gateshead College	6'4''	Forward
10	Sade	Aded Hussein		6'10''	Forward / Centre
13	Darius	Defoe	Hackney College	6'8''	Forward
16	Eddie	Matthew	Northumbria University	6'3''	Guard
21	Andrew	Lasker	Point Loma Nazarene	6'3''	Guard
23	Kai	Williams	South Dakota State	6'6''	Forward
33	Nick	Schlitzer	Thomas Jefferson	6'6''	Guard / Forward
34	CJ	Gettys	Rutgers	7'00''	Centre
44	Rahmon	Fletcher	Green Bay	5'10''	Point Guard



# BBL & WBBL CLUB HISTORY









SEASON	DIV	POS	PLD	W	L	PTS	PLAY OFFS	TROPHY	CUP
1996–1997	BBL	7th	36	21	15	42	Quarter-final	1st Round	Semi-final
1997-1998	BBL	3rd	36	25	П	50	Quarter-final	Semi-final	4th Round
1998-1999	BBL	5th	36	21	15	42	Quarter-final	Quarter-final	Semi-final
1999–2000	BBL N	6th	36	10	26	10	DNQ	Quarter-final	1st Round
2000–200 I	BBL N	3rd	36	20	16	40	1st Round	Runner-up	Quarter-final
2001–2002	BBL N	3rd	32	17	15	34	Quarter-final	Quarter-final	Quarter-final
2002–2003	BBL	5th	40	25	15	50	Semi-final	Semi-final	Quarter-final
2003–2004	BBL	6th	36	18	18	36	Quarter-final	1st Round	Quarter-final
2004–2005	BBL	2nd	40	31	9	62	Winners	Winners	Semi-final
2005–2006	BBL	lst	40	30	10	60	Winners	Winners	Winners
2006–2007	BBL	3rd	36	25	11	50	Winners	Runner-up	Semi-final
2007–2008	BBL	lst	33	29	4	58	Semi-final	Runner-up	Runner-up
2008–2009	BBL	lst	33	28	5	56	Winners	Winners	Runner-up
2009–2010	BBL	lst	36	31	5	62	Semi-final	Winners	Quarter-final
2010–2011	BBL	2nd	33	24	9	48	Semi-final	Semi-final	Semi-final
2011–2012	BBL	lst	30	23	7	46	Winners	Winners	Winners
2012–2013	BBL	2nd	33	25	8	50	Runner-up	Quarter-final	Runner-up
2013–2014	BBL	lst	33	28	5	56	Runner-up	Quarter-final	Runner-up
2014–2015	BBL	lst	36	31	5	58	Winners	Winners	Winners
2015–2016	BBL	2nd	33	28	5	56	1st Round	Runner-up	Winners
2016–2017	BBL	2nd	33	23	10	46	Runner-up	Quarter final	Winners
2017–2018	BBL	3rd	33	22	11	44	Quarter-final	Quarter-final	Quarter-final
2010 2010	BBL	3rd	33	21	12	42	Quarter-final	Quarter-final	Semi-final
2018–2019	WBBL	7th	22	10	12	20	Quarter-final	Group Stages	Quarter-final
2010 2020	BBL	Seasor	n cancel	led c	lue to	the CC	VID-19 pandemic	Winners	Quarter-final
2019–2020	WBBL	Season cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic					Ist-Round	Semi-final	





ANNUAL REPORT 2020 29











# WOMEN'S BRITISH BASKETBALL LEAGUE NEWCASTLE EAGLES





#	FIRST NAME	SURNAME	COLLEGE	HEIGHT	POSITION
3	Giulia	Simioni	Florida Southern	5'7	Point Guard
6	Millie	Oates	Sheffield	5'7	Guard
7	Lisa	Коор	BLK Slavia Prague	6'6	Centre
8	Rachael	Bland	Lakehead University	5'9	Guard
12	Georgia	Ohrdorf	Metropolitan State	6'0	Forward
14	Orieoma	Chukwu-Etu	Newcastle University	5'7	Guard
16	Mollie	Arnold	City of Leeds	5'8	Guard
17	Ruth	Thornley	Northumbria University	5'9	Guard
21	Mante	Kvederaviciute	Rutronik Stars Keltern	6'1	Forward
24	Anja	Fuchs-Robetin	Florida Southern	6'2	Forward





Eagles Community Foundation
Eagles Community Arena
Scotswood Road
Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AF
www.newcastle-eagles.com/foundation



Purpose-built community sports arena, events venue and home for the Eagles Community Foundation since January 2019.

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