



NEWCASTLE  
**EAGLES**  
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT

2019



# FACTS AND FIGURES

2018-19



81 schools participated

7,048 young people took part



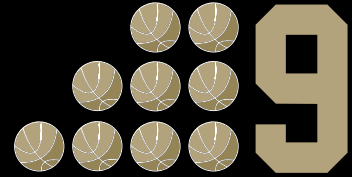
council finals



champion of champions final



all the BBL squad players deliver Hoops 4 Health roadshows



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

419 young people have attended



times or more



76 club teams compete within our junior central venue league



72 players

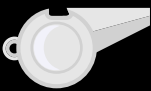
49 club or after school sites

OVER 2,000 attending clubs every week

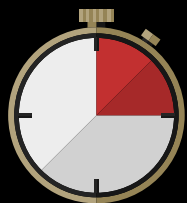


OVER 800 competing in our central venue league every week

12 officiating staff for CVL



officiating staff for CVL



more than 7,000 volunteer hours donated this season



7 foundation trustees

9 full time staff

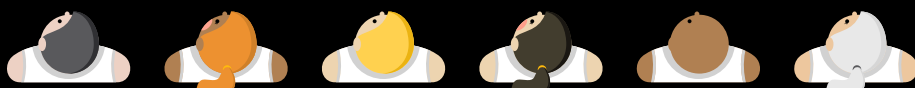
40 part time staff



Little Dribblers 5 to 9 years olds

1,500 receiving coaching

22 school club sites across the region



our clubs cater from 5 years old to senior age groups

ZERO core-funding

# INTRODUCTION

2018-19 was a landmark year for the Eagles Community Foundation, with a long term vision realised when we all moved into the Eagles Community Arena (ECA).

It is impossible to properly articulate in these pages the gratitude to all past and present employees, partners, sponsors, funders, and volunteers who have made this possible. 2018/19 has seen us continue the fine work across the community and in schools, and the most exciting development of all has been the capacity we have as an organization to now host all of our holiday camps, tournaments, leagues and events at our own facility. All of our users have benefited from the outstanding facilities, and we are continually building bridges across the entire North East community to grow our provision, delivery and the opportunities for all interested in sport.

Indeed, the work of the ECF is widely regarded as an exemplar of good practice both within and outside of our sport, and with local and national government partners across the sports development domain - and long may this continue. The aim for this annual report is to provide a flavour of the breadth and depth of our community engagement through the many initiatives, programmes and opportunities which our organization facilitates through its diligent work, amounting to over 200 sessions per week of delivery on an almost year round basis.

I would like to dedicate this report to Fabulous Flournoy, who has led the organization from the front in so many ways. Not only has been the cornerstone of the Eagles from a playing, coaching and leadership perspective, but he has been so instrumental in carrying forward the ethos, standards, inclusivity and professionalism which best represents everything the Eagles stands for as an organisation. It is the aim moving forward that the legacy of Fab's passion, professionalism and positivity, will forever be manifesting in the amazing work we do across the region. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication you brought to the Eagles over the years Fab: you will be missed.

Paul Blake  
Chair of the Trustees

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## 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.**

# EAGLES COMMUNITY ARENA BUILDING THE PERFECT FUTURE



2018-19 saw the complete and opening of our home which meant the song 'The Blaydon Races' would now need a new verse because if you're 'gannin' along the Scotswood Road all the smiling faces are in the new Eagles Community Arena".

Those were the words of ITV Tyne Tees Evening News host Ian Payne at the 42nd Sport Newcastle Awards as he presented both the club and foundation together with the "North East Team/Club of the Year" award in recognition of the arena's immediate and positive impact on the community and sporting landscape.

Our Chief Executive Officer Sam Blake went up to receive the award saying "We have been working towards this for 12 years. And 12 years later we have a house.

"We're very much a family at the Eagles. A lot of us have spent our adult lives behind this sport. We've worked so hard to get what we've got.

"We've had so many people who have made this happen so a massive thank you to everyone.

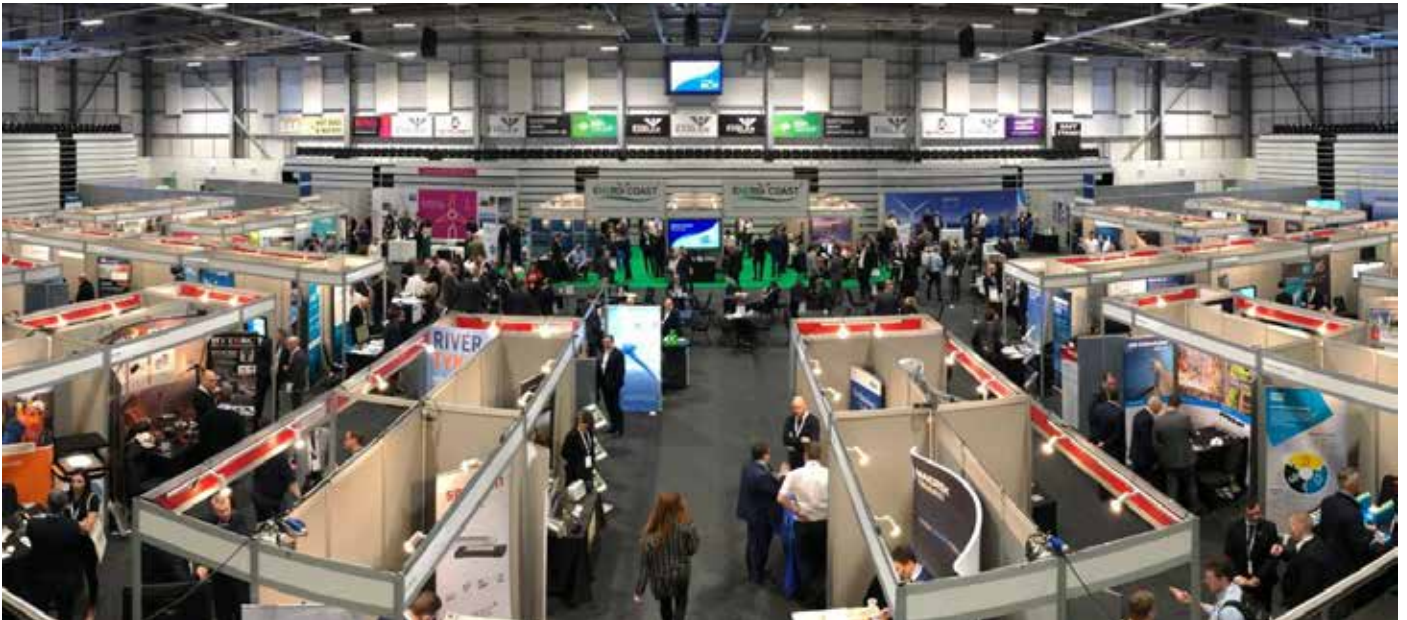
"In our programme we have 2,000 players now who are playing on a weekly basis. On a Friday night it's an arena set-up and then on a Saturday it's all the kids, from 5-years of age all the way through to all the seniors.

"If anyone wants to feel great about sport come to the arena on a Saturday to see all the activity taking place. It will certainly bring a smile to anyone who loves sport and I'm just so proud of it.

"We started off as a very small team, but now we're army and all on this journey together. It will be really strange when everyone thinks it's normal that basketball has an arena in this city and our path is forgotten, but that will be the next generation and in the next 12-years who knows where we'll get to."







## EAGLES COMMUNITY ARENA PARTNERS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A number of schools are benefiting from using our fantastic multi-purpose sports facility for their curriculum lessons. We have engaged children from Dame Allen's, St. Michael's and Our Lady & St. Anne's Primary Schools in the last year, with many schools keen to come on board for next Academic year. This indeed formulates one of our key strategies in alignment with both the business plan and our long-standing vision for the facility: to be a central hub for both PE and other subjects to be delivered through the use of the classroom space within the Arena.

St. Michael's Primary School, the closest school location wise to our Arena, have been extremely happy with the opportunities the Arena has created to support quality teaching and learning:

"Our children have absolutely loved their experience at the Eagles Community Arena. The flexibility of being able to partake in P.E and then follow with curriculum delivery has been fantastic for them. Compared to our school, the space available has really supported their learning experience, particularly in P.E where we have the benefit of a full court, 6 baskets, and leadership from one of the Foundation coaches, who has been so fantastic and engaging with the children"

Major events we have hosted include Mayors Hustings, NHS and CCG Masterclasses, MTK Boxing, Northumbrian Water's Annual Strategy Days, Northumbria Police staff conference, the CIPD Awards

Dinner, Newcastle College Group Conference and Dinner, Newcastle Central Mosque events and more.

The projects, partnerships and activities undertaken across 2018-19 have made it truly a breakthrough year for the Eagles Community Arena.

The facility was designed to support in the growth of our key focus areas derived from our affiliations with the sports' national governing bodies utilising the facility including activities such as netball, volleyball and wheelchair basketball.

From day one the Eagles Community Arena was intended to be a focal point for the local community and a place where we could celebrate the very best that the North East has to offer.

Our continual goal is to accommodate and facilitate as vast and diverse range of sporting and community activities and partner groups. We are proud to have grown our provision in this regard and stayed true to the ethos of the organisation.



**FAB FLOURNOY****A FABULOUS TRIBUTE**

BY DAVE FORRESTER

Fab Flournoy arrived in Newcastle in 2001, just happy to be employed to play basketball. It wasn't a particularly auspicious year. He spent most of his first season injured. However it laid the ground for him to be offered the job as the club's player-coach when Tony Garbelotto chose to move to Birmingham.

Victory and trophies didn't come immediately. It was over three years before the Eagles won their first, at The Brighton Centre in March 2005. But after that it seemed like they didn't stop. Two in 2004-05, a clean sweep in 05-06, another three in 2008-09, another clean sweep in 11-12, another clean sweep in 14-15.

24 trophies in all including 7 league titles. He took the club from the Metro Radio Arena through Sports Central and to the Eagles Community Arena. He was never prouder than on the day of our first game in the Arena in January 2019.

But the story of Fab Flournoy is not one based around numbers or trophies. It is far more than that. It is about standards. The standards of behaviour and excellence that he held himself to as well as those who played under him. And all who met him were struck immediately by his humility. As the public face of the Eagles and in many ways the sport in this country he was front and centre. A grafter. Loyal to a fault. Never an interview turned down, never a sponsor's appointment missed. All the while staying in such incredible shape to be able to play in a professional sports league at the age of 45, some 9 years older than the next oldest participant.

In 18 years in the North East he came to be a voice for the region. He would never miss the opportunity to talk up the North East community. He became an honorary Geordie even when making it to the Palace to collect his MBE from Prince William.

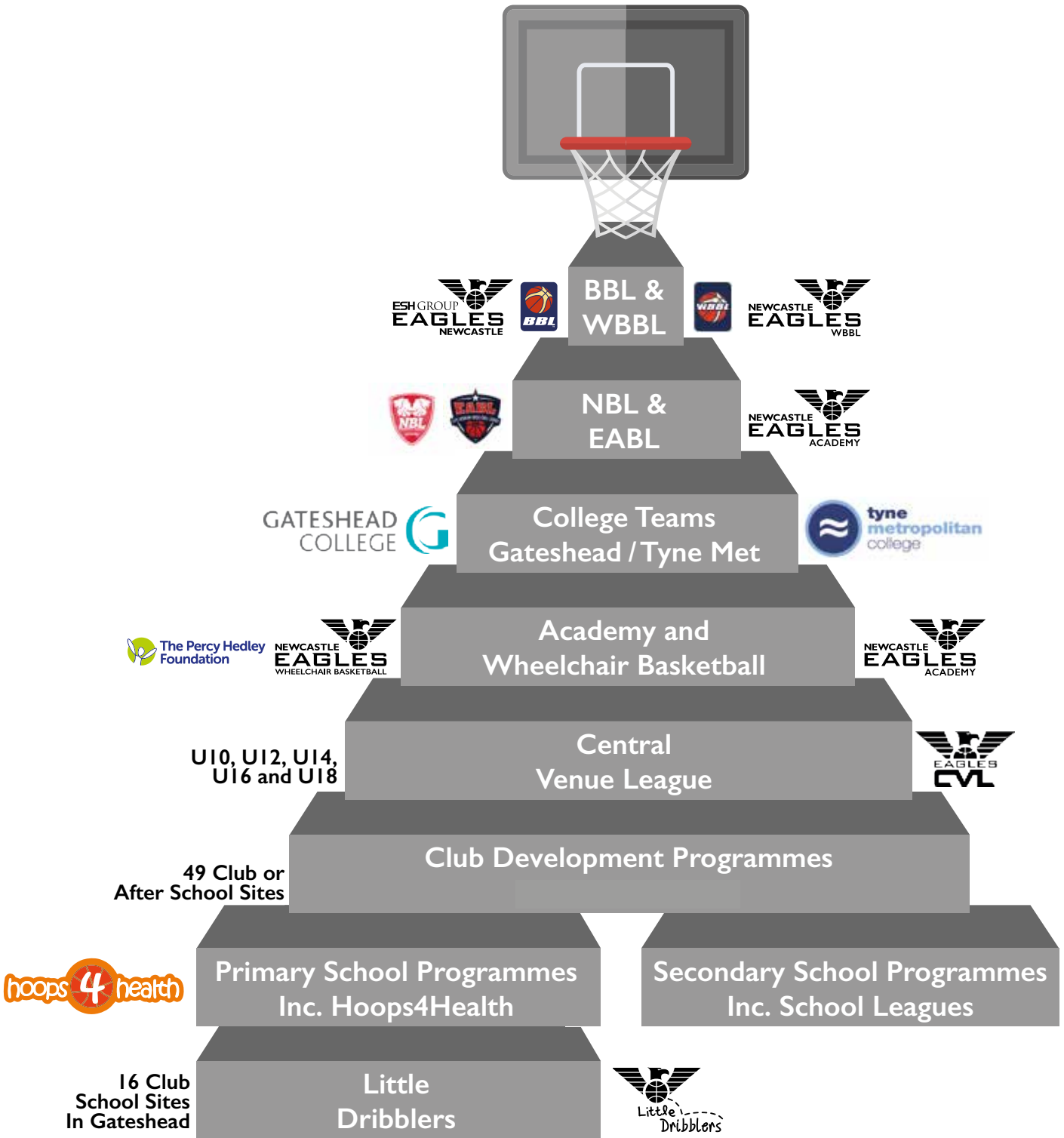
In reality we were lucky to have him for so long, but when the NBA Champions come calling there is no way anyone in this area was standing in his way. It's a truly meteoric jump and one we will of course be watching the Toronto Raptors carefully from afar.

Thanks Fab.





# PLAYER PATHWAY



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

# LITTLE DRIBBLERS



“Little Dribblers” programme has grown exponentially since its initial inception in 2016. From working in only one school initially, we are now delivering this programme across 22 schools in total, with over 1,500 children aged 5 to 9 years old receiving basketball coaching, in many cases for the very first time.

The concept of the programme is to provide blocks of basketball coaching to school children from years 1 to year 4, spanning across both key stage one and key stage two. In doing so, we also offer to supply the schools with the appropriate equipment to facilitate the successful running of the club.

The objective is to provide quality introductory coaching which is fun, inclusive, engaging and exciting for the children, with a wider emphasis on skill learning and development. Specifically, our coaches emphasise the importance of ball familiarity, ball handling, dribbling, agility and control in possession of the ball, and of course the element the children enjoy the most: shooting!

The sessions are a vehicle not only for basketball skills however, but for cognitive and physical development, with a primary aim being to improve the ABC's (Agility, Balance, Coordination) along with any more specific basketball skills.

The benefits of this have been clear. Firstly, schools embracing a holistic delivery model, ensuring ECF coaches are coaching more children across the school year. Moreover, by coaching different age groups, the clubs are able to work within a smaller age range than previously.

The success of the Little Dribblers programme has underpinned the growth of our Eagles clubs, most

notably in Gateshead, where the majority of the schools undertaking this model are based. We introduce basketball to the children at a very early stage in their school life, and we ensure that we design and deliver sessions which are fun, engaging and ultimately a very positive experience for all. This has formed a key rationale behind the strategy, in that it is the primary objective to ensure that we deliver sessions which have a transformative impact. From trying a new sport, to becoming enthused to the extent that when the school programme is finished, the players look to play outside of school at their local community club.

Little Dribblers is at the fulcrum of growth for our participation rates across our ECF Coaching programme, and represents the perfect introductory experience prior to the pupils entering year 5/6, where our Hoops4Health programme becomes prevalent.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS 2018-19

#### GATESHEAD

- Oakfield Infants
- Oakfield Jnrs
- Harlow Green
- Windy Nook
- Kelvin Grove
- St.Peter's
- Glynwood
- Caedmon
- South Street
- Brighton Avenue
- St.Joseph's

#### NEWCASTLE

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

#### NORTH TYNESIDE

- Cullercoats
- St.Mary's
- St.Bartholemews

#### NORTHUMBERLAND

- Prudhoe West Academy
- Wylam First School
- Mickley First School
- Prudhoe Castle First



# PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

## HOOPS 4 HEALTH



### INTRODUCTION

The Hoops 4 Health programme has engaged over eighty primary and middle schools over the academic year.

Our flagship programme, which has been the very cornerstone of our growth as a Foundation from the 2001 inception, has continued to evolve and develop its' quality of provision of a memorable experience for the thousands of year 5/6 children we engage across the region each year.

2018-19 was certainly no different. Each of our 81 partner schools received a player roadshow at the school, along with 4 hours of coaching and the very first sectional tournament to be held at our new Eagles Community Arena.

The partners involved during the year included:

- Esh Foundation
- Change4Life
- Gateshead Housing Company
- Newcastle City Council
- North Tyneside Council
- Northumbria Healthcare Trust Hospital Volunteer Service
- Northumbrian Water

These partners along with the school 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 Hoops 4 Health programme received a player-led roadshow,

followed by four hours of coaching from either a community coach or development officer. Each school also had the chance to participate 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.

Hoops 4 Health programmes run across six local education authorities:

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

### YEAR 5 PARTICIPATION

#### GATESHEAD

SCHOOL	
Crookhill Community	27
Caedmon Community	60
Dunston Hill Community	60
Falla Park Community	45
Front Street	60
Glynwood Community	57
Harlow Green	102
Kelvin Grove	76
Larkspur Community	21
Lobley Hill Primary	57
Oakfield Juniors	60
Ravensworth Terrace	60
South Street	76
St Agnes' Catholic	30
St Peter's Roman Catholic Voluntary Aided	32
Swalwell Primary	21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>844</b>



## NEWCASTLE

SCHOOL	
Bridgewater Primary School	54
Byker Primary School	60
Central Walker CE Primary	22
Gosforth Central Middle School	128
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	75
Moorside Primary	120
Our Lady & St. Anne's	30
St Oswalds Primary School	60
St. Alban's RC Primary School	60
St. John's Primary School	60
St. Lawrence's RC Primary	30
St. Michael's RC Primary School	63
St. Teresa's Catholic Primary School	66
St. Vincent's RC Primary School	84
Tyneview Primary School	25
Walbottle Village Primary School	27
Walkergate Primary	90
Welbeck Primary	32
West Walker Primary School	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1416</b>

## NORTHUMBERLAND

SCHOOL	
Malvin's Close Primary School	59
Morpeth Road Primary School	102
Richard Coates C of E Middle	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>221</b>

## NORTH TYNESIDE

SCHOOL	
Backworth Primary	56
Balliol	41
Christ Church C of E Primary School	24
Collingwood Primary School	110
Cullercoats Primary	64
Denbigh	60
Ivy Road Primary School	26
King Edward Primary School	60
Monkhouse Primary	60
New York Primary School	50
Preston Grange Primary School	60
Redesdale	29
Richardson Dees	30
Riverside Primary	21
Shiremoor	45
Spring Gardens Primary School	50
St Bartholomew's	58
St Columba's RC	57
St Joseph's RCVA Primary	60
Stephenson Memorial	47
Wallsend St Peter's	38
Wellfield Middle School	60
Whitehouse Primary School	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1166</b>

**YEAR 4 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 5,063**



SOUTH TYNESIDE

SCHOOL	
Biddick Hall Junior School	110
East Boldon Juniors	60
Forest View Primary School	75
Hadrian Primary	42
Harton Primary School	90
Holy Trinity	30
Mortimer Primary	80
St Bedes RCVA Primary School	30
St Oswalds Rc Va Primary School	27
Stanhope Primary	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>604</b>



SUNDERLAND

SCHOOL	
Farringdon	120
East Herrington	60
Barnes Junior School	90
Richard Avenue	60
Seaburn Dene	47
St Cuthbert's RCVA	27
Wessington	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>464</b>



## YEAR 6 PARTICIPATION

This academic year the year 6 programme continued to be supported by schools across all six councils with 43 primary or middle schools receiving 4 hours of coaching and participation in a tournament.

Our coaches work with the children on basketball fundamentals of passing, dribbling, shooting and teamwork.

### GATESHEAD

SCHOOL	
Falla Park Community Primary School	40
Glynwood Primary School	60
Harlow Green Primary School	52
Kelvin Grove Primary School	40
Larkspur Community Primary School	30
Oakfield Junior School	60
South Street Primary School	38
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>320</b>

### NEWCASTLE

SCHOOL	
Arthur's Hill Federation - Moorside	60
Gosforth Central Middle School	120
Gosforth East Middle School	20
Gosforth Junior High Academy	120
Kenton Bar Primary School	35
St Bede's RC Primary	32
St John's Primary School	20
St Michael's RC Primary School	32
St Vincent's RC Primary School	29
Walkergate Primary School	58
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>526</b>

### NORTHUMBERLAND

SCHOOL	
Morpeth Road Primary School	60
Richard Coates CofE Middle School	60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>

### NORTH TYNESIDE

SCHOOL	
Backworth Primary School	60
Balliol Primary School	20
Christ Church CofE Primary School	30
Cullercoats Primary School	60
Ivy Road Primary School	30
King Edward Primary School	60
Monkhouse Primary School	30
New York Primary School	60
Preston Grange Primary School	30
Riverside Community Primary School	30
St Bartholomew's Primary	30
St Columba's RC Primary School	30
St Joseph's RCVA Primary School	30
Wellfield Middle School	60
Whitehouse Primary School	25
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>585</b>

### SOUTH TYNESIDE

SCHOOL	
Biddick Hall Junior School	56
Forest View Primary School	36
Hadrian Primary School	42
Harton Primary School	90
Mortimer Primary School	60
Stanhope Primary School	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>314</b>

### SUNDERLAND

SCHOOL	
Farringdon Primary School	60
Seaburn Dene Primary School	30
St Cuthbert's RCVA Primary School	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>120</b>

**YEAR 6 TOTAL PARTICIPANTS 2,299**



## PROGRAMME OUTLINE

The programme is broken down into five stages which are delivered in schools, regional venues and at the home court of our BBL team.

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 1 ROADSHOWS



### STAGE 2 COACHING



### STAGE 3 TOURNAMENTS



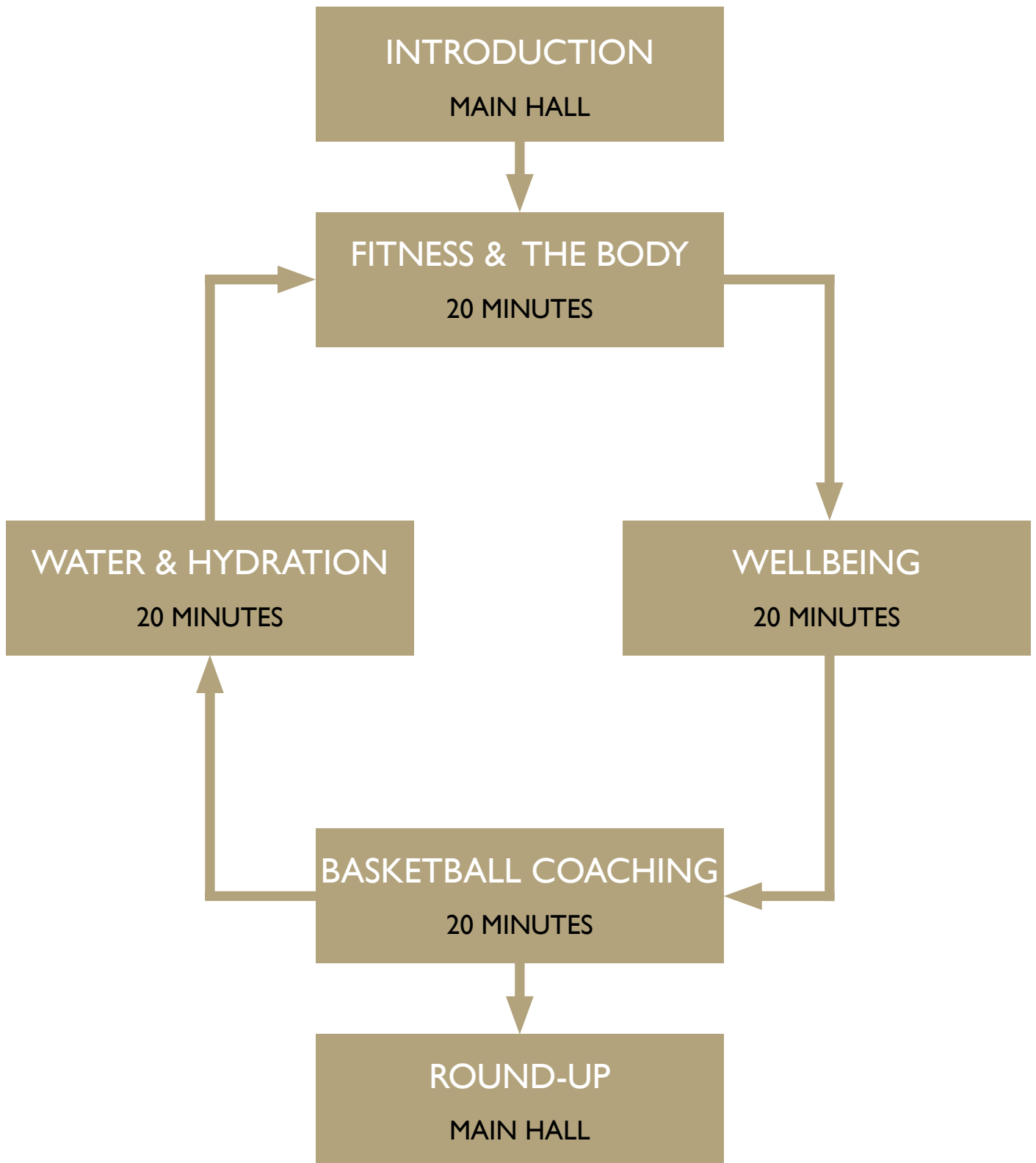
### STAGE 4 TOURNAMENT FINALS



### STAGE 5 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS YEAR 5 ONLY



STAGE I - ROADSHOWS







## STAGE I - ROADSHOWS

A 'healthy living roadshow' is held within each of the schools and is delivered during an afternoon with four Eagles players in attendance.

The afternoon commences with the Esh Group Newcastle Eagles players walking into the school hall, to be greeted by up to 120 excited, smiling children!

The players introduce themselves in turn, and set out the pending activities for the group, before commencing the first activity: the fitness station.

### FITNESS & THE BODY

The young people are asked numerous questions about certain human body parts; heart, lungs, liver and kidneys. They are asked why each of the body parts are important and what their function is. We also talk about how to monitor your heart rate through a pulse check, to then we get everyone to check whilst they are sitting and compare it against after performance. The young people are guided by the Eagles players as to why it is important to stay healthy with weekly exercise and hydration requirements. During this station they also took part in a 5 minute cardiovascular exercise regime such as, running on the spot, high knees and star jumps.

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

### WELLBEING

Our feeling good station was to try and encourage young people to feel good about themselves as well as others. It was trying to make them feel comfortable with taking compliments. We start this station off with getting the children to write down things they are good at within their home, school and sports and then sharing with the rest of the group or with the person they are sat next to. The next task is getting them to think of "wow" words to encourage people for example; Amazing, Fabulous, Incredible etc. After this section we then look at what emoji's we could use to show someone that they are doing well without speaking, things such as a thumbs up etc.

### WATER & BENEFITS OF HYDRATION

This station was designed and produced in partnership with Northumbrian Water, with the aim

being to discuss the importance of sufficient daily water intake. All of the children receive a 'water booklet' to work through during the roadshow. The booklet explains many water facts and positive effects on the body, including enhancing concentration, performance, and the regulation of their body temperature. The children then take part in a game of 'water bingo' to reinforce their knowledge of the subject.

### BASKETBALL COACHING SESSION

This session is designed to get the young people engaged in the sport of basketball. The players make sure that the exercise is fun, interactive and inclusive to the childrens' needs and abilities. They are taught the basics on dribbling, passing and shooting through a series of fun games and competitions. The sessions is designed to ensure all children achieve, all receive plenty of touches on the ball to become engaged and give them a positive feeling for the sport.

### ROUND UP

Once the rotations of the groups are complete the young people all gather back into the hall where they first started. Outstanding awards are then handed out to specific young people for the most enthusiastic, proactive and engaging children across the afternoon. The Eagles players then carry out the 'clap' game for all the young people to participate and challenge themselves, with the winner receiving a ticket prize for their family to attend an Eagles home game. All of the other children also receive a complimentary "Golden Ticket" to an Esh Group Eagles Newcastle BBL game.



## STAGE 2 - COACHING

As part of the Hoops4Health package, all schools receive 4 hours of basketball coaching for year 5 children, taking place during their PE lessons. The coaching is important to ensure that the children receive more detailed instruction which then prepares them for the forthcoming tournament where they compete against other schools across their local council. Our Foundation coaches ensure they receive a strong grounding in the key areas of basketball, including the offensive technical development, and the tactical side of the game including spacing, defensive organisation and decision making in possession. The coaches emphasise the value of teamwork, sharing the ball, and ensuring all players are involved, spreading positive messages around the benefits of working together.



## STAGE 3 - YEAR 5 TOURNAMENTS

### OVERVIEW

For the first time in our history, some of our tournaments across Gateshead, Newcastle and North Tyneside took place at our Eagles Community Arena. The tournaments South Tyneside and Sunderland took place at Temple Park and Sunderland University's City Space respectively.

The regional tournaments enable the young people to put the coaching stage in to practice. All of the schools are invited to enter teams with the aim of the day to have fun whilst taking part in the sport of basketball.

During the morning the schools are placed into groups with the afternoon seeing schools enter knock out tournament with the aim of four school teams progressing to the tournament finals.

During each of the tournaments club exit routes were promoted for continued participation within the sport on a weekly basis.

### TEAMS TOTALS

● <b>Gateshead:</b>	39 teams
● <b>Newcastle:</b>	38 teams
● <b>North Tyneside:</b>	47 teams
● <b>South Tyneside:</b>	26 teams
● <b>Sunderland:</b>	23 teams

### REGIONAL BREAKDOWN

#### Gateshead

● Number of teams:	39
● Number of young people:	312
● Teams progressing to the final:	
— Oakfield Juniors	
— Glynwood	
— Front Street	
— St. Peter's	



### Newcastle

- Number of teams: 38
- Number of young people: 304
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Gosforth Central
  - Gosforth Junior
  - St Alban's RC
  - St John's

### South Tyneside

- Number of teams: 36
- Number of young people: 360
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - East Bolden
  - Holy Trinity
  - Mortimer
  - St. Bede's

### North Tyneside

- Number of teams: 42
- Number of young people: 420
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Balliol
  - Preston Grange
  - St Bartholomews
  - Wellfield Middle

### Sunderland

- Number of teams: 28
- Number of young people: 280
- Teams progressing to the final:
  - Barnes Junior
  - Farringdon
  - Seaburn Dene
  - St Cuthbert's

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
TEAMS:

**173**

TOTAL NUMBER OF  
YOUNG PEOPLE:

**1,384**

## STAGE 4 - YEAR 5 TOURNAMENT FINALS

Following their coaching and regional tournaments, the final four teams remaining from the tournament progress to their finals night at the Eagles Community Arena, where two semi-finals are played prior to the Eagles game and the final is contested at half time.

Each of the participating schools are provided with tickets for teachers, pupils and their families to experience the occasion. All of the participants are greeted on court after the final to receive a medal and photograph in front of the home crowd.

### 2018-19 REGIONAL WINNERS

**GATESHEAD:** Glynwood

**NEWCASTLE:** Gosforth Junior

**NORTH TYNESIDE:** Preston Grange

**SOUTH TYNESIDE:** St Bede's

**SUNDERLAND:** Seaburn Dene

## STAGE 5 - YEAR 5 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

### OVERVIEW

The end of the Year 5 2018–19 Hoops 4 Health programme closed in style this season with the Champion of Champions event.

A winner from each of the local authorities came together to play in a round robin event before an Eagles BBL game.

The top two teams qualifying played at half-time battling it out to become the overall Champion of Champions.

### 2018-19 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

**Preston Grange**

North Tyneside





## STAGES 3 AND 4 - YEAR 6 TOURNAMENTS

This is the 3rd year we have held our annual year 6 tournament, but the first year with all six local authorities together competing at the Eagles Community Arena.

The tournament saw 43 schools and 430 children fight it out for the annual year 6 winner champion title. All schools were thrilled to be participating at the facility, playing on the Eagles court.

Every team put in their best efforts and enjoyed the day, having lots of fun playing basketball. The two finalists were Glynwood from Gateshead, and Preston Grange from North Tyneside.

In a tight game which remained scoreless throughout, Preston Grange took the lead with a basket with 45 seconds to go. Despite Glynwood's best efforts they were unable to level the scores, and Preston Grange Primary School emerge as the 2018-19 Hoops 4 Health year 6 Champions.

### YEAR 6 WINNERS 2018-19

**Preston Grange**

North Tyneside



## PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMMES

# CHANGE 4 LIFE

Change 4 Life is a programme with one key objective: to ensure that through the vehicle of basketball, we can promote the benefits of living a healthier lifestyle.

The programme ensures that we are funded to deliver basketball across nine targeted primary schools in addition to provision at Walker Riverside Academy and across the local community.

### PARTICIPATING SCHOOLS:

- Byker
- Central Walker C of E
- St.Albans RC
- St.Lawrence's RC
- St.Vincent's RC
- Tyneview
- Walkergate
- Welbeck
- West Walker

There is a wide-ranging remit to the programme, manifesting in a variety of coaching opportunities in order to ensure that there are no barriers preventing long-standing participation in basketball. In addition to extra-curricular sessions ("breakfast" clubs, after school clubs), curriculum coaching is also delivered from Reception through to Year 6.

This has the added benefit of helping to provide continuous professional development for the teachers, who are then empowered to deliver sessions or run competitions outside of our own provision.

The programme also encompasses a number of "Healthy Living" Roadshows, through the Hoops 4 Health programme.

The curriculum coaching has been a particular success, with the numbers coming in at above the target for the area. The children within the curriculum all received a minimum of 6 weeks (half-termly) delivery. Indeed, the most positive aspect of the programme, and integral in the achievement of its' ultimate remit is that the widespread holistic curriculum model has ensured that a large number of children who would not be participating in any exercise whatsoever had the opportunity.

This last year saw a higher percentage of children transitioning to an extra-curricular club than seen in previous years. This has been the most significant indicator that this fantastic programme has been, once again, an overwhelming success.

## JEANETTE MURRAY

# FROM CHANGE 4 LIFE TO FRIEND FOR LIFE

BY SUSAN HUNTER

Jeanette started working for the Eagles Community Foundation (ECF) in 2009 and took on the role of Change 4 Life coordinator in 2010. This is not where Jeanette started her journey with basketball however. For that you have to go back to 1976, when she first pulled on her pair of boots to play for Spennymoor.

Whilst playing local league basketball Jeanette went on to become involved with National League Basketball in 1989, where her role progressed to assistant coach role, alongside the former ECF Operations Manager Deirdre Hayes (a partnership that lasted until 2012).

Every weekend of the season Jeanette would either be on the bench assisting coaching or driving the mini bus up and down the country! In the 1990's Jeanette began undertaking her refereeing qualifications, successfully gaining her level 3 award. This is a role that Jeanette still continues to be involved with and she is a highly respected referee in the area. Jeanette uses her experience in this area to also help mentor young

and/or newly qualified referees. Alongside all of this involvement, over the years Jeanette has volunteered her time to coach for the region, playing a key role in coordinating, promoting and running teams in tournaments all around the country.

More recently, Jeanette has become a part of the Basketball England Aspire programme, where her role in developing the young girls played a pivotal part in its inaugural year. This all led to Jeanette winning the Basketball England Inspirational Female Award in 2019. Jeanette did an amazing job over the 9 years she was involved with Change 4 Life introducing so many children to the game of basketball and also promoting a healthy lifestyle.

She was a very popular member of staff and will continue to be sorely missed not just for her many attributes and ability to wear so many "basketball hats", but for her personable demeanour, sense of humour, and positive attitude to all things basketball!

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY CLUBS

Our Community Basketball Clubs are the very heartbeat of our basketball audience. It is no estimation to suggest that a strong majority of active basketball players in the region participate at one of our clubs, a fact we are certainly proud of! Of course, the clubs would not run without a dedicated group of staff, volunteers, supportive parents, and most importantly of all, the children.

Attendance and registration to a community club is a pivotal step in a child's basketball journey. Making the decision to attend training regularly, sometimes without initially even knowing any other players at the club, represents a significant commitment. It is through the community club that the players are encouraged to strive to reach the next level of basketball, a level which takes them beyond the confines of a school-based club with more rudimentary teachings and often less space within which to perform.

Community Clubs provide young players with the platform to improve, and this is further enhanced by their participation and competition versus other clubs in our Eagles Central Venue League (CVL).

Our Community Clubs are uniquely inclusive, with any player who attends the clubs offered the opportunity to participate in CVL, with no trials or long term training required as a general rule. The more that the clubs grow, therefore as does the league, and it helps to provide a sustainable and cost effective competition.

### COMMUNITY CLUB SITES

#### GATESHEAD

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

#### NEWCASTLE

- Gosforth Goliaths (Under 12-18)
- 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)



With the growth of Little Dribblers and the development of the under 10's CVL league across the 2018-19 season.

A key objective of the Foundation is to ensure each of the clubs attain a level of sustainability through the acquisition of membership, sponsorships, and a commitment to fundraising throughout the year.

Each of our clubs are currently at varying degrees of growth, with myriad factors impacting upon their development, such as size of catchment area, court availability, age group restrictions (which can impact upon retention particularly across the youngest children), and exposure to the schools in the local area.

The club which has overseen the largest growth in the last 12 months has been Cardinal Hornets, based at Cardinal Hume School, in Gateshead.

This club has demonstrated through astute planning and organization, exposure to local schools on a widespread basis (through Little Dribblers and Hoops4Health, largely), and proactive and consistent recruitment, that a club can grow quickly.

Ensuring the retention of the children through high quality, age appropriate coaching has been the primary success.

Cardinal Hornets is currently the only club within our programme which offers age groups across Under 6's, 8's, 10's, 12's, 14's and 16's, working with players within a two-year cycle.

This formula has overseen a growth in membership from 53 in 2017 to 97 in 2018.

Replicating the growth of this club and following the same strategic process is the priority across the Foundation.

All of our clubs have at least one Level 2 Head Coach in place, and in most cases a healthy number of Assistant Coaches to support the sessions and matches.

Our clubs are encouraged to engage with proactive and keen parents (and senior players at under 18's level) and get them involved as much as possible.

The Foundation then runs level 1 and level 2 coaching programmes which aim to qualify them as coaches, referees and table officials, so they can begin supporting training and CVL.

## VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION

All of our clubs rely heavily on the support of volunteers and a few of these went the extra mile this year:

### Bryony Vaughan

Newcastle East Griffins' Jamie Clark Memorial Volunteer of the Year Award Winner



Bryony has coached and ran the women's team for the Griffins since the creation of women's Griffins team in 2012. For the first year, this season, two teams have been ran with over 20 women of all levels registered to play and many more training. We are the only club in the North East who are running two senior women's teams.

Bryony's responsibilities involves running the administration (fees, court hire, organisation of fixtures with Durham league) as well as coaching one of the teams and playing in the other. She does this in her spare time and ensures that everyone is welcome to play whether that be ex-national league players or beginners. The growing numbers of new women, returning players and younger girls in the region attending, shows the fun, friendly and inclusive environment she has created, been respectful and helpful to coaches. She is exactly the sort of player we would want our younger players to aspire to be like and has been recognized for this at this year's awards.

### Charis Grey

Ryton Rockets Assistant Coach



The "go to" volunteer at Ryton Rockets Club. She is reliable, organised, approachable and is always willing to help wherever and whenever she can. All the players and parents look up to her and she has earned everybody's respect with the way she conducts herself. The club would not be in the position it is without people like Charis, and I firmly expect that she will continue to progress at a rapid rate as a coach and volunteer.



## CASE STUDY

## SOUTH TYNESIDE BASKETBALL CLUB



## JENNY ONEILL

On Saturday 7th September 2019, Basketball England celebrated the unsung heroes of basketball from across the country in its 2019 Volunteer awards ceremony held at Manchester City's Legends Suite.

Regional winners across 14 award categories gathered to hear the announcement of the National winners. We are incredibly proud to say the 2019 winner of the Harry Errington Volunteer of the Year award was presented to our own regional winner Jenny O'Neill of South Tyneside Basketball Club.

For more than 5 years now Jenny has worked tirelessly in a totally voluntary capacity to assist and support the day to day running of the local community club. From early beginnings as a parent just helping out by starting a register to ensuring memberships and subs were collected and court fees paid, Jenny has always been there to field questions from new club members, book events, assist with CVL team organisation, organise fund raisers and social events for all the children and their parents at the club.

A deputy Head Teacher (and volunteer Cub Scout Leader) Jenny is no stranger to organising young people (and their parents!) her dedication to the club and to the wider Community Foundation is exemplarily and looks set to continue as her own children continue their own journey's into our Academy and coaching and officiating staff.

Coach Calvin George, Head Coach for the last 4 years at STBC says " Jenny is not only a huge support at the club, she has especially played an integral role in the growth and development of the club over recent years, I can't thank her enough and this award couldn't have gone to a more deserving recipient, everyone at the club is incredibly proud of Jenny!"

We congratulate Jenny and celebrate in her success representing the North East's dedication to grass roots sport.

# COMPETITION STRUCTURE

## EAGLES CENTRAL VENUE LEAGUE



Since the very beginning of the Eagles Community Foundation's existence, it has been the single most paramount factor of our work to ensure that we promote and grow the community basketball clubs under our stewardship.

This has never been of greater importance than currently, with the necessity in place to fill our arena at the weekends with players from across the region for the fantastic Eagles Central Venue League, representing all age groups from under 10s to under 18s.

Central Venue League is split into three separate divisions, with blocks of fixtures between 10-12 weeks in place which operate within the school's termly calendar.

The first two blocks across Autumn and Spring terms are structured to ensure that teams are placed to compete against opposition of equivalent and comparable ability. This is to facilitate all games being competitive to the end.

The final, summer term, block, hosts the play-offs. It is the winners on this block alone which can secure the CVL title for their age group.

Representing the first year in which the league was moved from John Spence in North Shields into our home at the Eagles Community Arena, the structure was changed with the use of 3 full size courts, thereby ensuring more fixtures and/or longer matches could be in place for the children.

Overall the league was extremely successful, both in the running of the fixtures, the logistics of the league, and the standard/ progression of the teams who without doubt benefited from additional game time.

### UNDER 10

2018-19 oversaw the introduction of our brand new under 10's basketball league. This has been a complete success, with continual growth from the initial block of fixtures in January to April 2018 (8 teams) to the final block across May to July (14 teams).

Representation was provided from Newcastle East Griffins (2 teams), Cardinal Hornets (7 teams), South Tyneside Basketball Club (2 teams), Kingsmeadow Royals (1 team), Ryton Rockets (1 team), East Durham (1 team).

The concept of this age group is not to 'play for



trophies and championships' - indeed no league tables are maintained - but to provide a positive introductory experience of competitive basketball played in with the correct ethos and friendly culture.

The referees provided guidance and support to the players, all of whom were playing affiliated, structured basketball for the very first time.

The games are played 4 v 4 (not the conventional 5 v 5 format), and the players use lowered basketball hoops (8 feet as opposed to the regulation 10 feet for under 12's and above).

### UNDER 12-18

The standard CVL competition rules apply for these age groups. 2018-19 saw a change in format to coincide with the new arena and the additional court space (3 courts) compared to the previous facility at John Spence School (2 courts).

The additional space has enabled the league to alter the format which has further enhanced the opportunity for player development.

Specifically, teams at under 12's play 2 matches, with a break in between, to encourage coach/player dialogue between games and the opportunity to make interventions and alterations tactically to enhance learning and performance.

Across the under 14's, 16's and 18's, the games are now longer, with teams playing 4 quarters of 10 minutes, with longer warm up time provided. This has enabled coaches and teams to mirror the conditions of college/ senior basketball, with greater opportunity for preparation and a full match experience. This has been well received by all clubs by players and coaches alike.

## COMPETITION STRUCTURE

# PRE-GAME CLINICS & TOURNAMENTS

The past 12 months have been a breakthrough with respect to the vast and varied opportunities which were opened up to the children across the community to experience playing on the Newcastle Eagles BBL game court.

Our pre-game events, all of which included the invite to the Eagles game afterwards, were attended by over 2,000 children ranging from aged 5 to 16.

All of our tournaments were structured to ensure fair competition and therefore provide a positive experience to the children by competing against players of comparable ability.

### DRIVE, DISH, SWISH

Teams to complete over a skills course within a set time frame.

Led by our Foundation coaches, the event challenges the players by regularly changing the course, the conditions, and rules, and as such stretches their abilities in the three key areas of offensive basketball: dribbling, passing, and shooting.

The competition is ran across 2 age groups where skill acquisition is at it's most pertinent:

- Under 8 (Years 2/3)
- Under 10 (Year 4/5)

The winners of last year's competition across both age groups were the youngster from Cardinal Hornets.

### ULTIMATE SHOOT-OUT

A fantastic test of a players' shooting skills. Focusing on shooting off the catch, off the dribble, from different positions, and with different conditions.

The event is an individual competition, where players go through the rounds accumulating scores which are totalled up at the end of the event.

### UNDER 10'S KNOCK-OUT CUP

Held as a competition between our community clubs' under 10's teams with a thrilling half-time final at an Eagles BBL game. Cardinal Hornets defeated Kingsmeadow Royals 10-8 to secure the crown for the second consecutive year.

## RISING STAR

# LEXIE WALTON

Lexie started playing basketball at 7 years old, having been enthused by the sport whilst at Glynwood Primary School, where she participated across the Little Dribblers programme and progressed all the way through to Hoops4Health.

Within school, Lexie played a starring role in Glynwood's year 5 Hoops4Health triumph in 2018 and in their narrow defeat in the 2019 year 6 tournament. Lexie also plays for Cardinal Hornets in CVL, competing as a first year under 12 player.

Her attitude to training, and competitive edge is phenomenal. Girls Academy Head Coach Corrine Vaughan has been praiseworthy of Lexie: "Lexie has excellent technical skills, and combined with a positive attitude and work ethic, all of the opportunities for development lie ahead of her".



Her Cardinal Hornets Head Coach Anthony Forrester is in no doubt of her potential.

"Lexie is an excellent prospect. She has a strong grasp of the techniques and skills, and has competed solidly in Central Venue League as a first year under 12 player in the most competitive division..

"First and foremost, Lexie has a fantastic attitude to basketball. She is always working to improve, and with the support of her family is one of the most committed players I have ever worked with. I look forward to playing a role in her growth as a person and as a player."

## FURTHER EDUCATION ACADEMIES

# GATESHEAD COLLEGE



Gateshead College partnership with the British Basketball 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. You can study any of our full time school leaver programmes in sport or any other subject including A levels and become a member of our Basketball Academy.

You will develop the knowledge and expertise you 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 to develop your basketball skills. Get trained and coached by expert coaches that put your academics first along with developing you into the best basketball player you can be.

- Train, play and develop each week
- Unique development pathway programme to look after all levels of ability, each with a package of benefits
- Up to £6000 of investment in your 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 Basketball team
- Free kit



### DEVELOPMENT PATHWAY

To make sure all our 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.

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 we focus on individual skill development. Formal training begins at 8:45-10:15am.

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

- 15 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 2018/2019

In a rebuilding year in which new coach Drew focused on installing a new system and establishing culture, the team competed very well in a very competitive AoC. As the season progressed the team's performance improved with a notably huge 1 point win against a strong Middlesbrough team and a Runner up finish at league annual 3 on 3 tournament.

- 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



The North East Sport Academy (NESA) Basketball Academy is committed to coaching players of all abilities in a welcoming, supportive environment that encourages confidence, performance and personal development.

The NESA basketball Academy is structured to support players at any level of the game. High level, expert coaching and competition experience are combined in a professional sports setting. The long-standing partnership with Tyne Met College and Newcastle Eagles Basketball enhances learning – encouraging performance, determination and team work, whilst mastering the skills for success.

The North East Sports Academy (NESA) is focused on developing talent and sporting ambition alongside academic studies. A player can study any course at any of the campuses and enjoy the benefits of being part of NESA.

As a NESA Basketball Academy Athlete students benefit from:

- Subsidised training and playing kit
- Up to 10-hours of training and competitive matches each week in superb on-site purpose-built facilities.
- Individually tailored strength and conditioning programmes as well as use of our state-of-the-art sports science and testing lab and rehabilitation support
- Free Unlimited access to the flex fitness gym
- Opportunity to gain basketball-specific coaching and officiating qualifications

TyneMet College NESA Basketballs Schedule consists of 2-hour blocks on a Monday, Tuesday and Friday. Morning training is available from Monday to Friday before class 7.30-8.45 to work on individuals. Competitive fixtures take place on a Wednesday afternoon in the AoC North East regional league.

The Men's and Women's Basketball Development Centre will develop individual skills and expertise both on and off the court. Expert coaches with a wealth of professional playing experience are ready to enhance student's passion for the game to an advanced level.

### HEAD COACH

Shaun Malone as part of a dual role that he shares with Eagles Community Foundation where he is the North

Tyneside Development Officer in which he promotes and develops Basketball within North Tyneside primary and secondary schools.

Shaun, who is a previous student at Tyne Metropolitan College progressing from a level 2 qualification through to a Foundation Degree, was also part of the Newcastle Eagles Academy as well as the NESA Basketball Academy.

Shaun's personal experience of life as a student at Tyne Metropolitan College 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 of his NESA learners are most importantly achieving in their academic studies as well as progressing on the Basketball court.

### SEASON 2018/19

It was a huge year of success on and off the court for all involved in the academy which finished second in a tightly contested league and also represented the North East region at the AOC College Nationals Championships in May 2019, following qualification in the regional championships earlier in the academic calendar.

This year's national championships were hosted by Nottingham University for the third consecutive year.

The team was involved in a number of close games that involved programmes that compete in the Elite and Academy Basketball leagues. The group conducted themselves professionally throughout the competition and represented the region with great pride.

The competitive season came to an end with the annual North East Sports Academy Awards where learners from both our first and second were recognised for their successes on and off the court with award categories such as 'player of the year' and 'student athlete of the year' handed out to the successful nominees.

Looking forward to next academic year we will again have two competitive teams on offer for our learners as well as looking to offer a Basketball tour around Europe to again enhance the experience that a Tyne Metropolitan learner accesses.

The year also saw additional opportunities for learners at the College who were able to access the Newcastle Eagles Academy.

## ELITE PERFORMANCE PATHWAY

# NEWCASTLE EAGLES ACADEMY

In the summer of 2018 our elite level programme formerly known as the School of Excellence was rebranded the Newcastle Eagles Academy.

The players' age varies from under 14 to 23. The trials take place in June and the players are selected from the Eagles Central Venue League (CVL).

### UNDER 14 GIRLS

#### NORTH DIVISION

**Head Coach: Ellen Totton**

This was the first time in few years that there was a girls' under 14 team. All the players came from the Eagles CVL and were new to National League. They competed in the North Division which has a mixture of inexperienced teams but also some big clubs and strong teams.

The girls finished 4th out of the 9 teams in their division with a 10-6 record. They improved consistently over the year and developed new skills and understanding for the game.

With their 4th placed finish, this qualified them for the playoffs in which they made the 2nd round where they lost to a strong Hounslow Hawks team on the road in London.

Out of the current team, three of the players attended a Basketball England selection camp for Under 14s and Under 15s and gained valuable experience whilst competing against the best girls in the country. Their involvement in this shows how great the team performed and was a credit to the whole programme to have that many girls involved.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
1	Manchester Mystics	16	0	48
2	Manchester Mystics II	14	2	44
3	Tameside Royals Blue	12	4	40
4	Newcastle Eagles	10	6	36
5	Lancashire Spinners	7	9	30
6	Mersey Mavericks	6	10	28
7	Derby Trailblazers	5	11	26
8	Tameside Royals White	2	14	20

The 2018-19 Most Valuable Player, as voted by the team, was Yemisi Mefful.

Mefful led the team on the defensive end of the floor and was also a big factor offensively. As with the rest of the team, she showed great attitude, commitment and improvement over the year. She was one of the players to be selected for the England camp and performed so well that she was selected to represent the England Under 15s during the summer at a number of tournaments. She was selected for this team a year young and will be looking to represent the Under 15s again this coming season.

This is a fantastic achievement for her and great for the Eagles girls programme.

**Most Valuable Player:** Yemisi Mefful

**Most Improved Player:** Ciara Weddle

**Best Defensive Player:** Esra Kandemir





**UNDER 14 BOYS**

**PREMIER NORTH DIVISION**

**Head Coach: Calvin George**

The Under 14s finished 8th in the Premier North Division and was a tale of two halves. We were young at this age group, so while the start of the season saw the U14s lose a few games the second half of the season saw them beat some of the top 3 teams in the league narrowly missing out on playoffs.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
1	Manchester Magic	17	1	52
2	Manchester Giants	16	2	50
3	Cheshire Phoenix	13	5	44
4	Northamptonshire Titans	12	6	42
5	Derby Trailblazers	9	9	36
6	City of Birmingham Rockets	8	10	34
7	Leicester Riders	7	11	32
8	Newcastle Eagles	5	13	28
9	City of Leeds	2	16	22
10	Sheffield Sharks	1	17	20

Team culture was great and the participants led by Jakey Weech our teams MVP and Kingsley Onyenekwe who was our defensive player of the year supported each other through the season.

- Most Valuable Player:** Jakey Weech
- Most Improved Player:** Josh Osarenkhoe
- Best Defensive Player:** Kingsley Onyenekwe

**UNDER 16 BOYS**

**PREMIER NORTH DIVISION**

**Head Coach: David Sayers**

The Under 16 boys finished 9th in the Premier North division of National League, finishing with a record of 5 wins and 15 losses. A tough season for a team that was made of several junior players for the age group.

A particular positive was winning 86-83 against Cheshire Wire in overtime in our first game in our new arena. Another stand-out was Luke Jones' 40 plus point performance against Bradford Dragons early in the season. A positive for two individual players was England Under 15 camp call-ups for Leo Leperrier and Joe Sheeran.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
1	Manchester Magic	20	0	60
2	City of Birmingham Rockets	17	3	54
3	Sheffield Sharks	15	5	50
4	Manchester Giants	12	8	44
5	Trafford Magic	11	8	41
6	City of Leeds	10	10	40
7	Cheshire Wire	10	9	39
8	City of Edinburgh	6	14	32
9	Newcastle Eagles	5	15	30
10	Bradford Dragons	2	18	24
11	Derby Trailblazers	1	19	22

Player of the Year went to team captain Elliott Jerrard was player of the season. He was an aggressive and consistent scorer who also provided fantastic work on the boards for a team that was often undersized.

- Most Valuable Player:** Elliott Jerrard
- Most Improved Player:** Joe Hansom
- Best Defensive Player:** Rafe Clark



## UNDER 18 MEN

### PREMIER NORTH DIVISION

Head Coach: Jay Hawman

The team finished 9th with a huge number of positives to take from the season. The team culture was great, every player was 100% committed to every practice and game.

In terms of basketball, they played at a high pace in every game.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
1	Myerscough College	16	0	48
2	Manchester Magic	14	2	44
3	QE York Knights	9	7	34
4	City of Edinburgh	9	7	34
5	Cheshire Wire	6	10	28
6	Sheffield Sharks	6	10	27
7	City of Leeds	5	11	26
8	Trafford Magic	4	12	24
9	Newcastle Eagles	3	13	22

The player of the season was the player who was voted MVP for the team, Sauveur Kande, who has since stepped into a role with the professional BBL team at the age of 18, a testament to his hard work.

Other notable players include Dan Ridley and Cameron Wilson who led the team very well with experience and knowledge..

**Most Valuable Player:** Sauveur Kande

**Most Improved Player:** Joe Moore

**Best Defensive Player:** Jeremy Lievin



## UNDER 23 MEN

### DIVISION 4 NORTH

Head Coach: Graham Heath

This team had an exceptional season for the second time in this division since launching as a new programme for our academy in 2017-18.

The U23s won the league this year with a record of 14 wins and 2 losses under head coach and head of our Eagles Academy Graham Heath, who was assisted by Giwrgos Kyriazo and Luc Heath.

	TEAM	W	L	PTS
1	Newcastle Eagles U23	14	2	28
2	Doncaster Danum Eagles	14	2	28
3	Liverpool Stars	9	7	18
4	Kingston Panthers	9	7	18
5	Myerscough College II	8	8	16
6	Tameside	7	9	14
7	Barrow Thorns	5	11	10
8	Stockport Falcons	5	11	10
9	Cheshire Wire	1	15	2

Coach Heath, who personally won the NBL North Coach of the Year from fellow coaches from across the league, gave the MVP title to Rafael Camargo-Blas for his all round game this season, Chris Linsley for his improvement and to Ishmael Ingram for his leadership. Heath also acknowledged Tom Usher for his consistency and his captaincy.

**Most Valuable Player:** Rafael Camargo-Blas

**Most Improved Player:** Chris Linsley

**Best Defensive Player:** Ishmael Ingram







## END OF SEASON AWARDS

Across the whole Newcastle Eagles Academy two awards are presented, first Most Valuable Player and second the Rachel Rushton Award.

Both awards are held in great esteem across the programme and are awarded to individuals who have gone above and beyond what is expected.

The Academy's MVP goes beyond just the playing on the court although this is an important element. It involves sportsmanship, respect to coaches, officials and their teammates.

It should act as a motivator both for players to push themselves to achieve this recognition as well as the player receiving it to motivate them to work even harder in the future.

### Academy Most Valuable Player

**Presented by Under 23 Team Sponsor Specialist Panels UK Ltd.**

Rafael Camargo-Blas.

The Rachel Rushton Memorial Shield was kindly donated by her family after she tragically passed away after a long fight against cancer. Rachel and her family have been strong supporters of the School of Excellence for over 9 years with Rachel's son Chris coming right through our ranks. The shield is awarded to the programs over all Most Improved Player.

### Rachel Rushton Award

**Presented by Head of Academy Graham Health**

Chris Linsley.



**OVER 55****ACTIVE AGEING INITIATIVE**

The Active Ageing project has been made possible via funding received from the Kellet Trust, at the Community Foundation. Much has been reported in the media around the resultant problems associated with inactivity and social isolation. Therefore, the objective of this project is to provide opportunities for those aged 55 and above to participate in structured programmes in order to grow their exposure to physical activity, and extend the participants' social circle.

To ensure the programme can attract as broad range of the community as possible, in 2018 the building blocks were put in place to grow partnerships across the area and to develop positive contacts and relationships to ensure we can provide a range of stimulating and inclusive activities for all.

Our early successes have been the Table Sports Tuesday sessions where our 9-10 regulars take part in some light-hearted Table Tennis, Table Basketball, Table Football and Table Air Hockey. Walking Basketball is also experiencing an increase in attendance, as the awareness of the program builds. Linking up with Newcastle College in July helped to provide a range of sessions in Mixed Dance, Baby Boogie and Zumba amongst others provided free of charge, this partnership along with new trial sessions will be developed over the next year.

Within the community we have made links with Your Homes Newcastle, in particular their residential schemes targeting the over 55's. To date we have attended 8 different schemes, providing 4 weeks

of sessions to each of them. The long-term objective is to link these schemes together to run a themed tournament, the success of which could then facilitate the progression into a league format.

Our partnerships are key in making the program successful and include Active Newcastle, The Elders Council, Search Newcastle, YHN, Health Works Newcastle as well as Newcastle College and the Community Engagement team at Northumbria Police. All of these partners have helped to spread the word about Active Ageing reaching those that otherwise may not have been reached. Overall, the 2018-19 program was an extremely positive start to the programme, and we look to continue to improve as we go through 2019-20.

**FEEDBACK****Boccia at Bamburgh House**

"Both the tenants and myself have really enjoyed spending time learning a new sport aimed for our tenants. I think its lovely hearing the laughter of the tenants and seeing the tenants making new friends as well as helping with this gentle exercise"

Marie, 67.

**Asian Elders, Search Newcastle**

"The group has enjoyed playing Boccia as they had never played this before it is gentle exercise for them while others sit and watch and cheer them the winning team. As they enjoy having activities and are happy to see you, the number of people attending are 9, 13, 16, 18 I would like to Thank you and Eagles Community Foundation for providing these sessions"

Farida Rehman, Coordinator of Services

**Participant in Table Sports**

As local resident, Tony is pleased the Arena offers something for him and enjoy the social aspect of the group. He likes that "everyone is easy to talk to" and he can enjoy the gentle exercise and working at his own pace. As he lives alone he likes to find positive reasons to venture outside, and this session provides a platform for him to do so. Often some members of the group share a bus ride into town for shopping after the session finishes, which further strengthens what we are trying to achieve with the project: building relationships and friendships.



## ANNUAL AWARDS DINNER THE EAGLES HAVE LANDED

On Friday 24 May 2019 we hosted our first ever End of Season Awards Dinner at our new Eagles Community Arena (ECA) and our first event of its size in our new home.

Just two years beforehand the club and foundation told everyone attending the organisation's 21st birthday party that plans were in motion towards the building our own arena. This inaugural dinner was a huge night for celebration for the whole build project team, second only to the opening of the ECA also a Friday night right at the start of 2019.

While remaining recognisable as the home of Eagles BBL basketball the court had been transformed into a state of the art venue for an awards dinner and night of entertainment, including a 6m-wide video wall behind the stage and glossy-white dance-floor reflecting the high-tech lighting and sound equipment which had been brought in for the glitzy evening.

The evening began with a look back at that opening night and the learning curve the Eagles has been on both during the build and following the big move. After the Friday night game it was straight into a new 'business as normal' for the venue with Central Venue League the next morning, followed soon after by our Academy and WBBL teams moving in and many other events packing a schedule that has not stopped since.

Sam Blake, Eagles Community Foundation CEO, took to the stage telling her story of how the 12-year journey for the ECA project began and thanking everyone involved, from Eagles staff to the funders and partners



in the build, and so many people who have been a part of the organisation along the way many of the people and many of the supporters of both the club and our foundation in the room.

The Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor David Cook, who was part of the council's planning team for the project, told the audience how impressed he was with the final result after all the hard work that had gone into the ECA.

Paul Blake, Newcastle Eagles Managing Director and Chair of the Eagles Community Foundation's board of trustees, took to the stage next to thank all the club's sponsors and foundation's supporters for this season





and through the years that he has been working towards having a venue to call home for the first time in the organisation's history.

Paul talked about what's next, including lots of exciting developments coming for fans and hospitality guests in the first full season starting at ECA, after another busy summer break ahead – only without the need for hard-hats and high-vis this time.

There was lots of fun and games as always at an Eagles awards dinner with a very special game of Chuck-a-Duck, a true or false game and the players led a round of 'The Clap Game' usually found in the Hoops 4 Health roadshows in primary schools except this time played for bottles of champagne and raising much needed funds for the foundation to continue to grow programmes like that.

After a first-class dinner it was on to the 2018-19 End of Season Awards before live entertainment on stage from the fantastic Glen Roughead with a packed dancefloor on the court and a busy bar in the foyer.

## THE AWARDS

### Academy Player of the Year

Rafael Camargo-Blas

### Services to Newcastle Eagles Award

Darius Defoe

### WBBL Team MVP

Giulia Simoni

### BBL Team MVP

Rahmon Fletcher



# BBL TEAM ESH GROUP EAGLES NEWCASTLE

**THEMBA YABANTU**



Gateshead College  
Height: 5'11"  
Place of birth: Newcastle, UK

**JEREMY SMITH**




Nicholls State  
Height: 6'3"  
Place of birth: Louisiana, USA

**VICTOR MOSES**



Georgetown, Kentucky  
Height: 6'7"  
Place of birth: Indiana, USA

**DARIUS DEFOE**



Hackney College  
Height: 6'7"  
Place of birth: London, UK

**EDDIE MATTHEW**



Tyne Met College  
Height: 6'3"  
Place of birth: Newcastle, UK

**FABULOUS FLOURNOY**



McNeese State  
Height: 6'4"  
Place of birth: New York, USA

**DREW LASKER**



Point Loma Nazarene University  
Height: 6'4"  
Place of birth: Texas, USA

**JAMAL WILLIAMS**



Regina University  
Height: 6'5"  
Place of birth: Regina, Canada

**KAI WILLIAMS**



South Dakota State  
Height: 6'6"  
Place of birth: Regina, Canada

**KYLE WILLIAMS**



Norfolk State  
Height: 6'4"  
Place of birth: New York, USA

**RAHMON FLETCHER**



Green Bay  
Height: 5'10"  
Place of birth: Missouri, USA



# BBL TEAM 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	11	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
2000–2001	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	1st	40	30	10	60	Winners	Winners	Winners
2006–2007	BBL	3rd	36	25	11	50	Winners	Runner-up	Semi-final
2007–2008	BBL	1st	33	29	4	58	Semi-final	Runner-up	Runner-up
2008–2009	BBL	1st	33	28	5	56	Winners	Winners	Runner-up
2009–2010	BBL	1st	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	1st	30	23	7	46	Winners	Winners	Winners
2012–2013	BBL	2nd	33	25	8	50	Runner-up	Quarter-final	Runner-up
2013–2014	BBL	1st	33	28	5	56	Runner-up	Quarter-final	Runner-up
2014–2015	BBL	1st	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
2018–2019	BBL	3rd	33	21	12	42	Quarter-final	Quarter-final	Semi-final



# WBBL TEAM

## NEWCASTLE EAGLES WBBL



#	NAME	COLLEGE	HEIGHT	POSITION
3	Giulia Simioni	Florida Southern	5'6"	Point Guard
6	Kalina Axentieva	Southampton Solent	5'9"	Guard
8	Rachael Bland	Northumbria	5'8"	Guard
9	Keziah Lewis	Kent State	5'10"	Guard
10	Maya Price	Ipswich Basketball Academy	6'1"	Foward
12	Georgia Ohrdorf	Metropolitan State Denver	6'	Forward/Centre
14	Adoniah Lewis	Armstrong State	5'6"	Guard
15	Steph Gandy	Michigan	5'10"	Forward/Centre
21	Kara Bonenberger	Pennsylvania	6'1"	Forward
23	Panagiota Themistokleous	Archbishop Makarios III Lyceum	5'11"	Forward
99	Gerda Morkunaite	Northumbria university	5'5"	Guard/Shooting Guard





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Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7AF  
[www.newcastle-eagles.com/community](http://www.newcastle-eagles.com/community)



Purpose-built community sports  
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the Eagles Community Foundation  
since January 2019.  
[www.newcastle-eagles.com/arena](http://www.newcastle-eagles.com/arena)



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