



# PRESS RELEASE (for immediate publication)

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PAHC09/01

## HANDBALL SEASON BEGINS WITH NOTTINGHAM WIN

### University of Nottingham HC 25 – 24 Liverpool HC

Nottingham opened their league campaign with an impressive victory over one of the favourites for the championship. In a hard fought battle between two evenly matched teams, the home side made a statement of intent for the new season, against a Liverpool team which beat Nottingham in both of last season's matches. The backbone of last season's side remained, but new additions to the squad looked to have settled in quickly and made a telling contribution.

Nottingham started brightly, taking control and racing to a 10-5 lead mid-way through the first half. A strong defensive display laid the foundations for some devastating play from both wings, with last season's top scorer Cedric Biguenet and new player Jon Mardaras sharing the goals between them. The pace and finishing power of both players helped Nottingham into a commanding lead, before Liverpool showed their quality by dragging themselves back into the game. In the second half, the teams were more evenly matched, with Liverpool perhaps the stronger side. Nottingham survived a late scare to maintain the slender lead they held until full time and secure an excellent win.

New goalkeeper Mathieu Flotat had an impressive debut in English handball, making several vital saves, while the undoubted stars at the other end were Jon Mardaras and Cedric Biguenet, who scored 10 goals each. Liverpool's goals were shared across the team, with Carlo the away team's highest scorer on the day.

Nottingham started the season as they mean to go on, with an exciting win. They face Manchester University at Sutton Bonnington in the next home match. The match promises to be another exciting contest, with the away team having pipped Nottingham to third place in last season's championship, and a place in the end of season play offs. For more information, see [www.handballclub.co.uk](http://www.handballclub.co.uk)

**ENDS**

### Notes to Editors

The University of Nottingham Handball Club was established in February 1992 and is currently the only handball club in the East Midlands. The men's team of the University of Nottingham Handball Club are taking part in the National Division One North League in 2009/10.

The club trains on Tuesdays (9-10:30pm) and Thursdays (8:30-10:30pm) at Nottingham University Park Sports Centre. Training is open to students and guests, of all levels from beginners up.

More information is available from Ahmad Beltagui, University of Nottingham Handball Club communications officer, 07717226565, [nottingham\\_handball@hotmail.com](mailto:nottingham_handball@hotmail.com) or online at [www.handballclub.co.uk](http://www.handballclub.co.uk)