


Claimants to the Throne - 1066

 **Mission** - to assess which contender deserved to be the next King of England

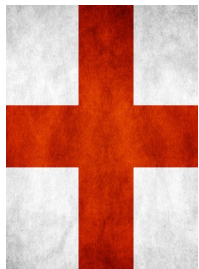
Harold
Score



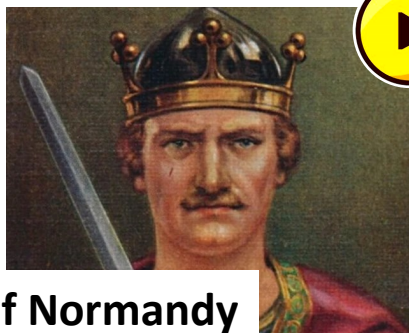
William
Score



Hardrada
Score



Harold Godwinson



William of Normandy



Harald Hardrada

Character



A brave and well respected leader.

Determined, single minded and ambitious.

Claim



As the most powerful noble and the only Anglo - Saxon, Harold believed he should be the next king.

The Witan (group of England's most powerful nobles) decided that Harold should be the next king after Edward the Confessor died.

Promises



Edward 'probably did promise Harold the throne at some point after 1053.'

BBC History

English monks wrote ...

"Harold and his brothers were the King's favourites ..."

Strength



Earl Harold Godwinson was the most powerful noble in England.

He was the Earl of the Wessex.

King Edward has called on Harold to crush a Welsh uprising - which he did successfully. An army of up to 7000 men but not all were well trained.

More



Anglo - Saxon (English)

Harold and his father (Earl Godwin) had both had conflict with King Edward who had temporarily banished

Harold's sister, Edith was married to King Edward the Confessor.

Character



Intelligent, learned quickly and ruthless when needed.

Murdered 30 people in the town of Almecon for making fun of his mother and his nickname .. The Bastard. Skinned them alive!

Claim



In 1002, English king Aethelred the Unready married the sister of Richard III, Duke of Normandy, Edward the Confessor was their son.

William was a distant cousin of King Edward the Confessor ...

Promises



Norman chronicler, William of Poitiers -

'Edward, king of the English, loved William like a son ... he decided that he should be the next king.'

Harold Godwinson had visited William in 1064. William said Harold promised to support his claim to the throne.

Strength



William came from a fighting family. He was used to fighting to keep his land. In control of Normandy from a young boy.

Duke of Normandy

Had an army of between 5000 to 7000 men. Included many powerful - professional cavalry.

More



Norman - (French)

Wanted to build and empire like previous Vikings had.

Norman comes from the work 'Northmen'.

They were descendants of Vikings.

Character



Hardrada meant 'hard ruler'.

His nickname was 'the ruthless'

A brave leader

'One of the last great, Viking kings.'

Claim



His claim was based on an agreement between his father, Magnus and Hardecanut - the king before Edward.

His claim was backed by Harold Godwinson brother - Tostig.

Promises



The English throne was NOT hereditary so he did not accept the promises (possibly) made to Harold and William.

Strength



He was the most feared warrior in Europe + experienced in battles against other Norwegians and other foreign rulers. Already raided English coastal areas,

200 Viking longships and an army of about 8000 warriors.

More



Norwegian

He was the undisputed King of Norway since 1046.

Tostig - brother of Harold = hated by the people of Northumberland - they refused to accept him as their earl because he was cruel and uncaring.