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v Oldham

Don Valley Stadium

Friday, 15th March, 2002

Kick-off 7.30pm

Northern Ford Premiership Club of the Year



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The Star



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view from the board

I WOULD like to welcome the directors, supporters and players of Oldham to Don Valley Stadium this afternoon.

Oldham have had it extremely tough so far this year, losing both their ground and their coach with the season barely started.

Don Valley Stadium may have its critics as a rugby ground but we have always been treated well by them and we are grateful that we have such a facility available.

Both ourselves and Oldham have been harshly treated by Super League in recent years, but both clubs have bounced back and been recognised as the NFP Club of the Year for the way they have conducted themselves both on and off the field. Our next aim is to emulate Oldham and reach the NFP Grand Final.

I would also like to welcome the two Sheffield universities to the stadium tonight and hope that the annual varsity game was a huge success.

As an alumni of Sheffield University, I always enjoy these encounters and I am delighted that AMCO have sponsored a trophy for this evening's match which should serve to strengthen the bonds between the Eagles and student rugby league.

A question that I'm often asked is if I ever regret becoming involved with the relaunch of the Eagles. I can honestly say that I don't because what we did was the right thing to do.

If we hadn't done what we did then there would be no professional rugby league played in the city and it is questionable whether any rugby league would be played in the schools either.

As it is, the schools development work is thriving and the team is performing admirably on the field.

There was, however, a point in that first season when I did seriously wonder whether we had done the right thing. That point coincided with the last visit here of

Oldham and our ninth consecutive defeat, with a trip to leaders Leigh to come.

The monumental victory at Hilton Park the following week blew away those doubts and we face Oldham tonight with eight consecutive home league wins under our belt a mere two years later.

After less than two and a half seasons, there are only three NFP clubs who we have not yet managed to defeat (four if you include this season's NFP newcomers – roll on the last league game of the season) and this is our only crack at Oldham this season with two each to come against Dewsbury and Rochdale.

I would also like to extend a warm welcome to Teamtalk 252 to tonight's game. They are covering the game on national radio and, given the extremely poor media coverage that rugby league receives, it is excellent news that a radio station is willing to give coverage to the Northern Ford Premiership. It's a just pity that BBC Radio Sheffield don't see it that way.

Teamtalk 252 is broadcast on 252 metres on the long wave and has an exclusive rugby league show between 6pm and 8pm on a Sunday

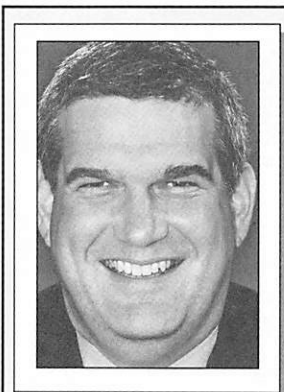
evening which is well worth a listen.

This is our last home game before the NFP takes a break and the new National League Cup kicks off.

It is possible that you may have heard some less than complimentary remarks about this competition, but you can rest assured that you will not have heard any from the Eagles.

It's four years since this club won any major silverware and we feel that we have as good a chance as any of winning this trophy. Please come and support the team in our home games to ensure we qualify for the quarter-finals because, let's face it, nothing beats the excitement of cup rugby.

Enjoy the game and make plenty of noise for the radio listeners.



By Ian Swire, Chairman,
SHEFFIELD EAGLES

Sheffield Eagles

Don Valley Stadium,
Worksop Road,
Sheffield S9 3TL
Tel: 0114 261 0326

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Fred Sprague

Matchday Hosts

Steve Dickinson, Andrew Flower

Programme Editors

James Collins, Angie Gregory



mark aston's tubbs talk



DON'T believe in looking for excuses - I look for solutions.

I also believe that you don't just win - you win well. And you win because you work hard and you prepare well.

When Howard Cartwright and I and all the coaching staff can look in the mirror and say we have done our job well and training has gone right, that's how it should be.

Equally, I want the players to be able to say that and to go on the field for a game knowing they have prepared mentally and physically and are ready to do their job.

If that's not the case then no excuses - let's find the answers and get it right next time.

It all came right against Batley a few weeks ago - that's the standard we have got to set ourselves.

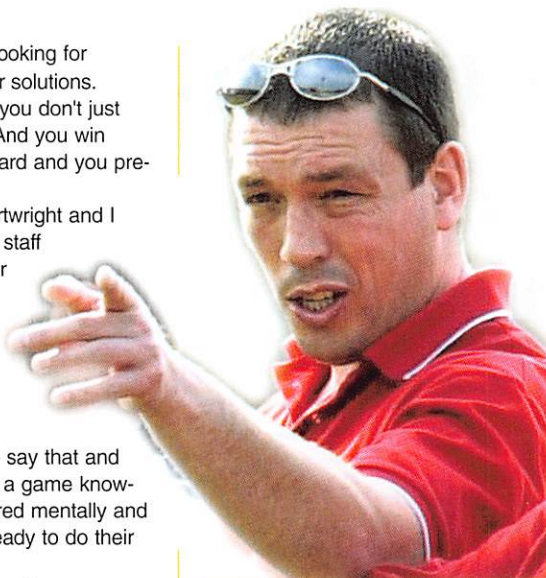
Against Hunslet we won - that's a fact in black and white - but we didn't win the way I wanted us to win.

We had a good start and got ahead, then we eased off. Credit to Hunslet, they didn't. They played for 80 minutes and 'won' the second half on points scored.

We were guilty of raising our game just enough to win.

When we wanted to, we upped the tempo and pulled away. But then we were guilty of cruising and I don't like cruising because before long you get a smack in the chops from sides that play for 80 minutes.

Sides like Hunslet and, last week,



*Column sponsored by
Reg Vardy Citroen*

Speaking of shouting, get behind the side - it matters and it helps

Swinton aren't the best in the Northern Ford. They know that, but they keep playing.

They know that things will come right at some point and they will get their rewards.

They'll give someone a shock and make them suffer.

A couple of years ago we went to

the league leaders Leigh on the back of nine defeats but we went home happy with the points.

It's a message we have got to learn - there are no easy games in the Northern Ford. Some teams have an edge in class, but they are all dangerous.

You can't make any assumptions based on league position or recent results.

The team have to be prepared and mentally ready to play for 80 minutes. We've got to learn that.

Today's visitors, Oldham, are a case in point.

Things have been a bit uneven for them this season. They have had to find a new home and they lost their coach, Mike Ford, to the Ireland rugby union coaching team.

But Oldham are a side that are coming back. They have a strong squad and must still be one of the favourites for a top-nine spot at the end of the season.

This is possibly the toughest game in the Premiership at Don Valley this season. If the lads play for 80 minutes, we're in there with a shout.

And speaking of shouting, get behind the side - it matters and it helps.

I hope you enjoy the game and we're all celebrating an Eagles win.

Tubbs

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view from the pitch

34-12: Hawks humbled

Gavin Brown

Although overall it was a disappointing performance, the positive thing that came out of the Hunslet game was the result – two more league points. We kept our unbeaten home record in the league and we know we can improve.

The tries we scored in the first half were from a lot of moves we practise in training and that aspect was pleasing.

But our intensity level dropped. I think we found it a bit easy after our last couple of games and, instead of lifting our game and blasting teams away, we let ourselves get dragged down.

At least after the game I could enjoy receiving the Supporters Club Player of the Month Award for January. I didn't expect to win it again after taking the

award for December, but I was very pleased to know the fans are happy with my game.

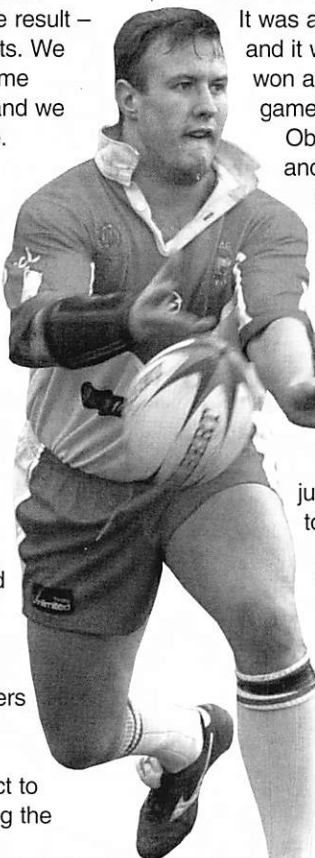
Gareth Dobson

It was a good two points and it was vital that we won again after the Batley game.

Obviously, as a team – and personally – we were disappointed with the performance, but at the end of the day a win is a win, and I guess it shows how much the team is progressing.

We're not happy just to win, we want to win and play well.

***Hard to please:
Gareth Dobson
says winning
isn't enough
for the Eagles.
They want to
win and play
well***



Ian Brown

We set off like a house on fire and I thought we were going to rack up a big score, but after the first 20 minutes we eased off. To be fair to Hunslet, they got in our faces in the second half when we started slow and made a few errors.

I wasn't particularly happy with my own performance, but at least my injury is now totally cleared and I feel I'm back to 100 per cent fitness.

Lee Trasler

We played well for the first 20 minutes, scoring a point a minute. Then it was like Leigh East coming back to haunt us.

At half-time things were still feeling good. Everyone still seemed excited and up for the second half, but that just didn't carry through on to the pitch.

It was a bad day at the office, but we came away with another two points.

We started off really well, but after we scored the early try we thought it was going to be an easy ride and sat back. Full credit to Hunslet, they came back at us in the second half and gave us a game. But they shouldn't have been able to do

Wayne Flynn

that. They are not as good a team as we are. We should have put our foot down and put 50 points past them.

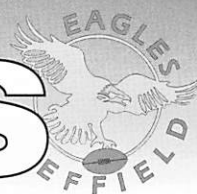
I think if Hunslet had started well and come out all guns blaz-

ing, we'd have thought we had a game on and perhaps played better. Instead, we didn't stick to our game plan and everyone was playing as an individual, so it went pear-shaped.

It was a win, but not a good one.



spotlight on the visitors



EVERYTHING was upbeat at Oldham at the end of last season. They had come fourth in the league and then fought their way through to face the now-promoted Widnes Vikings in the NFP Grand Final.

In a few short years, from defunct Oldham Bears, chairman Chris Hamilton had built the club back into championship contenders.

He had taken on board one of the two best British coaches in the game, Mike Ford, and, with other willing associates, had seen Oldham become a force to be reckoned with.

Then, as we too often see in rugby league, it all went wrong. First, Oldham Athletic made it virtually impossible for the Roughyeds to use Boundary Park through politics and greed.

With only three weeks to go to the start of the new season, they were without a ground. Hamilton commented

The third big impact at the club was the defection of Mike Ford. Yet again, Hamilton showed his resourcefulness and initiative, stating amid the turmoil: "My determination for the battle has strengthened and been recharged, and I am looking forward to flying the flag of Oldham rugby league into the future."

Naturally, the upheaval affected results on the field. Beaten by Hull and Leigh, the team finally notched a win against York at Hurst Cross, the home of Ashton United of the Unibond Football league.

Over 1,000 fans turned out on a foul day to see the victory achieved under caretaker coach Mark Knight.

Drubbed by Dewsbury the following week, Oldham made it two wins on the trot at home by beating Chorley 34-2. They ran

Workington close and then had a field day against struggling Gateshead.

Chris Hamilton then pulled off a

masterstroke, convincing John Harbin, formerly of Wakefield Wildcats, to move in as head coach.

His side did not beat Huddersfield Giants, but for much of the second half it looked as if they might – this despite conceding three tries in the opening 20 minutes.

So, with a new ground and a new coach of proven ability, Oldham should now be able to put their shaky start behind them, although they are still seeking their first away win of the season. Lets hope they don't find it at Don Valley!

Ones to Watch

Phil Farrell - Youngest brother of Wigan captain Andy who also plays loose forward. As co-captain he did not miss a game last season and has been a consistent and dedicated member for the squad for two years.

Bryan Henare - The Kiwi back-rower brings Super League experience from St Helens. He joined Oldham midway through last season and played a prominent role in the battle to the Grand Final.

John Hough - The hooker was the first player to sign for the club when it reformed in 1997. He has played 87 out of a possible 90 matches. This year, changes to his working life have seen his on-field form improve, especially when it comes to bossing the midfield area.

History of Results

Season	Date	Comp	H/A	Res	For	Ag
1999/2000	2/4/00	NFP	H	W	6	28
2000/2001	18/3/01	NFP	A	L	16	24

at the time: "While it has always been a difficult and sometimes uneasy relationship between the two clubs, we have reached the point of no return."

The problem of finding a new ground, coupled with the inclement weather, made it impossible for Oldham to start their campaign until week three.

And talking of threes, things always seem to come in them.

The Eagles faced Oldham a year ago at Boundary Park. The first half was all Eagles, which perhaps led them into a sense of false security, for, in blizzard conditions, Oldham came back into the game in the second half.

Tries from Gibbons, Roden and

Last Meeting

Rich, plus six Rich goals, more than countered Steve Walker and Andy Poynter tries and Richard Goddard's four goals.

With hindsight, the turning point came via a wrong option as

the Eagles failed to take a kickable penalty that would have levelled the score at 18:18.

The gamble failed, Oldham's defence held out and then made sure of a victory with a try in the 77th minute.

● **Final score: 24-16**



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DEALERS

eagles fan focus



AT a lively first Fans Forum of the season, at the Stumble Inn, Ian Swire, Brian Aston, Mark Aston, Howard Cartwright, several players and Eagles supporters all had a chance to air various views about the club and the performances so far this season.

Mark Aston had plenty to say about the youthfulness of the squad, repeating his feelings about where the team had got to so far, and where he hoped it would be over the next few seasons. Results so far were what had been expected and the next three games before the start of the National League Cup would be crucial.

It was agreed that the team was beginning to gell and, with having a youthful policy, could go far. The players all agreed that while training was difficult after a full day's work they were enjoying what they were doing.

Several of the fans brought up the problem of support, publicity and selling the club. Eagles chief executive Brian Aston repeated what has been said so many times before, that the supporters had to sell the club to others and not leave it up to the odd one or two who already did a lot.

The debate was lively and many good suggestions came out of the discussion. They have given the Supporters Club something to work

on and something for the management to approach – and the fans themselves need to play their part.

But the main emphasis of the evening was that the Eagles are not a one-man club and therefore it is up to everyone involved with the club, from spectators through to matchday volunteers, and players through to management, to pull their weight and make the club successful on the field and off it.

The players present were asked questions about their performances. Their responses were all positive and encouraging.

Gavin Brown, Supporters' Player of the Month for December and January, was pleased with how things were progressing both on the pitch and in the schools.

Fans were keen to praise the introduction of team mascots on matchdays and the impressive impact this makes, as well as the fantastic opportunity for kids to meet and chat to the players. Everyone felt this aspect of matchdays was integral to Sheffield Eagles as a club.

If you didn't make this Fans Forum, you missed an entertaining and informative evening, so make sure you're at the next one! Watch this space for further details.

Nigel Borham,
Supporters Club
chairman



Golden moment: Winner Malcolm Barrett, of Eagles sponsors GMB, is presented with his cash prize by Eagles player Paul Wells

Gamble and strike gold

Don't forget to buy a Golden Gamble ticket before our match kicks off and you could be today's lucky cash-prize-winner.

The draw takes place pitchside at half-time and so far this season the draw has included cash prizes of over £300. Tickets are only £1 (on sale prior to kick-off).

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eagles in action

THE Eagles beat the weather and a Swinton side spurred on by a desperate need for a win to claim the points.

It was action all the way for the fans who made the trip across the Pennines on a bitterly cold day as the Eagles scored their second away win of the season.

After taking an early lead, the Eagles lost it and then battled back to level the scores before sealing the game with six minutes to go.

The win lifts the Eagles to seventh in the Premiership and extends their unbeaten league run to four games.

Swinton may have cash problems and don't have a point to their name in the Northern Ford, but they played well above their league position as they forced the Eagles to dig deep to claim the victory

No-one typified that better than prop Jon Bruce, **pictured**, who turned in a massive strength-sapping 64 minutes of tackling and driving the ball forward before being substituted.

"It was hard," said Bruce. "We let them play, we were off the pace a little bit. They were desperate for a win but we got there."

Strong-running Bill Kershaw, full-back Andy Poynter, who remained calm under pressure, centre Neil Kite and winger Ian Brown all produced the goods.

The game

match facts

Swinton 8 Eagles 14

Swinton: Gallagher; Woods, Russell, Thorpe, Mead; Dean, Fitzpatrick; Leatham, Barraclough, Hansen, Shae, Holdstock, Newall. Subs (used): Butler, Hudson, Loughlin, Wingfield.

Eagles: Poynter; Ian Brown, Kite, Foster, Rayner; Gavin Brown, Rhodes; Bruce, Dobson, Trasler, Kershaw, Freeman, Flynn. Subs (used): Callaghan, Adams, Craig Brown, Brent.

Scorers: Swinton: Tries - Barraclough; Goals - Thorpe 2. Eagles: Tries - Rayner, Kershaw, Gavin Brown; Goal - Gavin Brown.

Eagles Man of the Match: Jon Bruce.

Referee: Steve Presley (St Helens).

Attendance: 437.

● Gigg Lane, Sunday, March 10, 2002.

kicked off in a monsoon on a Gigg Lane pitch which was as barren of grass as Swinton's soccer landlords Bury FC's bank balance is of money. But it produced high-octane action.

The Eagles should have taken a lead within two minutes when Ian Brown and Kite sent second row Wayne Freeman crashing over only for referee Steve Presley to call a highly doubtful forward pass.

On four minutes, stand-off Gavin Brown engineered a move which had Poynter busting into the line before passing to winger George Rayner who crossed by the flag.

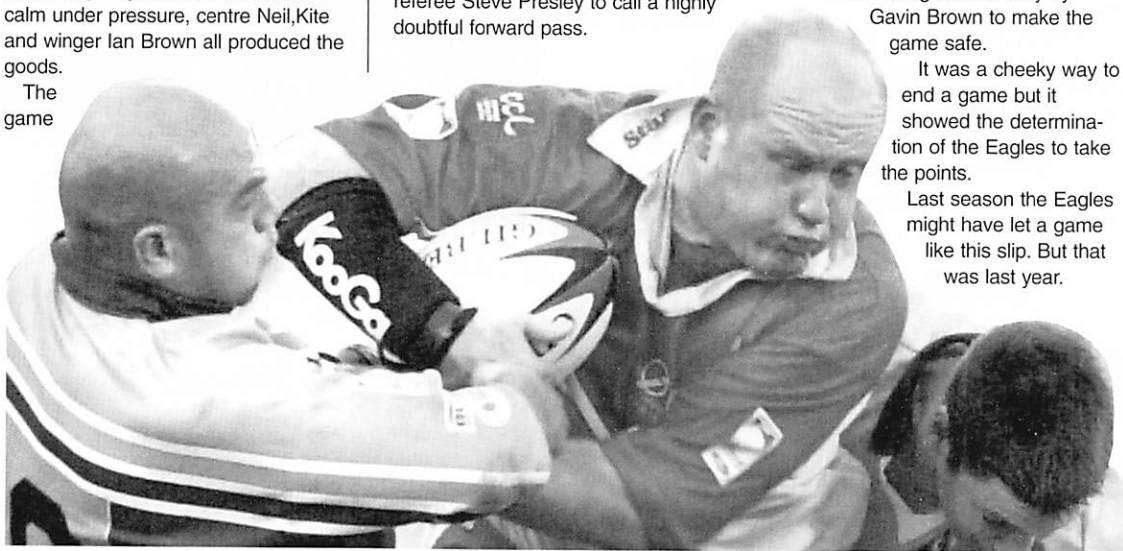
It seemed set for an Eagles points rush but lowly Swinton, inspired by former Halifax stand-off Craig Dean and using the experience of props Lee Hansen and Andy Leatham, refused to roll over. Hugh Thorpe reduced the lead with a penalty. Four minutes before the break, the Eagles defence froze as hooker Rob Barraclough went in from dummy half with Thorpe adding the goal for a 8-4 lead.

The Eagles should have levelled on 45 minutes but Scott Rhodes was unable to get out a final pass on the line. Relief came four minutes later when hooker Gareth Dobson and Rhodes opened the way for Kershaw to cross.

Gavin Brown, back on after treatment for a head wound, gave the Eagles the lead on 70 minutes with a penalty for a spear tackle on Lee Trasler. Swinton weren't allowed to come back this time and a 20-metre break by substitute forward Guy Adams was followed by a darting run from the play-the-ball which featured an outrageous dummy by Gavin Brown to make the game safe.

It was a cheeky way to end a game but it showed the determination of the Eagles to take the points.

Last season the Eagles might have let a game like this slip. But that was last year.



in action



AFTER storming into a match-winning lead with five first-half tries, the Eagles lost their way against a limited but battling Hunslet Hawks.

With a signed ball being kicked into the crowd after every Eagles try it looked like the stocks would be tested, but in the end only six happy fans went home with a souvenir.

Struggling Hunslet refused to give in and outscored the Eagles by two tries to one in the final 40 minutes.

The South Leeds side can thank the determination of skipper and loose-forward Mick Coyle for the way they fought back.

He was well supported by new signing and former Eagles star David Mycoe at scrum-half who gave a reminder of his glory days in the 90s.

For the Eagles, Andy Poynter was impressive, Scott Rhodes and Gavin Brown had their moments and Jon Bruce produced a power show.

But the side totally failed to produce the kind of together performance that had blown away Batley in the previous game.

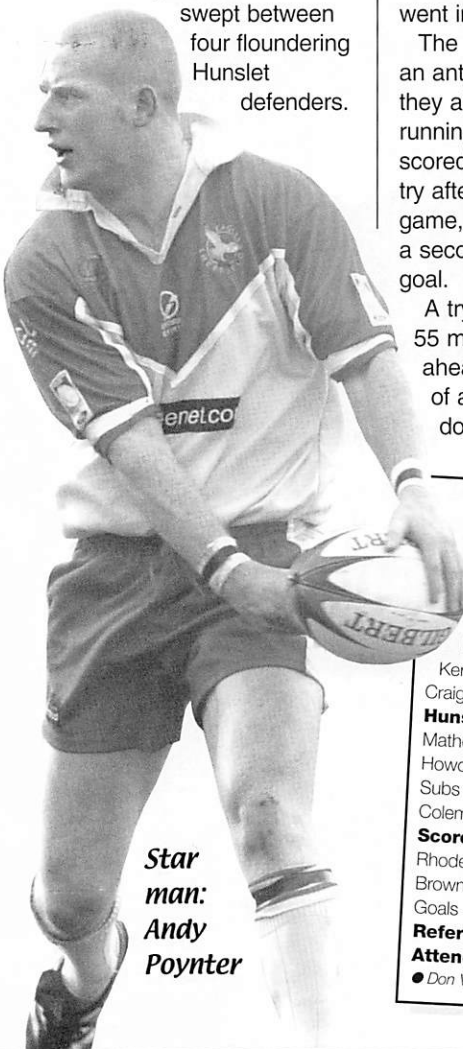
The only consolation was that the unbeaten home record at Don Valley in the league this season remained intact.

Eagles opened the scoring on only two minutes when centre Matt Foster took a long pass from Gavin Brown to cross in the corner.

Second row Andy Brent passed

the 100-points mark for the club on 10 minutes when he took the final pass from Poynter who had split the Hunslet defence with a burst into the line.

Foster added a second try and Rhodes scored the best of the game when he swept between four floundering Hunslet defenders.



Star man:
Andy Poynter

Rhodes then set up the pass from Neil Kite to sweep in. Gavin Brown, who faced a series of difficult touchline kicks, converted two of the tries.

Hunslet were reeling and had to be content with a penalty on five minutes from Kieron Allen as they went in at half-time 24-2 down.

The second half proved to be an anti-climax for the Eagles as they allowed Hunslet to make the running. Winger Bryn Powell scored an 80-metre interception try after the restart and, late in the game, centre Lee Bargate added a second with Allen kicking one goal.

A try from winger Ian Brown on 55 minutes kept the Eagles well ahead but it almost had the feel of a consolation score so downbeat was their play.

match facts

Eagles 28 Hunslet 12

Eagles: Poynter; Rayner, Kite, Foster, Ian Brown; Gavin Brown, Rhodes; Bruce, Dobson, Adams, Kershaw, Brent, Flynn. Subs (all used): Craig Brown, Trasler, Freeman, Howieson.

Hunslet: Allen; Powell, Bargate, Naylor, Mather; Dyson, Mycoe; Ibbotson, Howcroft, Briggs, Caunt, Skerrett, Coyle. Subs (all used): Sanchez, Firth, Atha, Coleman.

Scorers: Eagles: Tries – Foster 2, Brent, Rhodes, Kite, Ian Brown; Goals – Gavin Brown 2. Hunslet: Tries – Powell, Bargate; Goals – Allen 2.

Referee: Nick Oddy (Halifax).

Attendance: 1,058.

● Don Valley Stadium, 3rd March, 2002.



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freddy's fun page

Introducing today's Eagles Mascots

Today's Team Mascots who are from Abbey Lane Primary and Whiteways Primary schools, with Head Mascots Billy Ashton and Jawaad Baroo

Eagles Head Mascot

Lawrence Billy Ashton

Age: 9

Favourite players:

Richard Goddard and Gavin Brown

Eagles fan: Yes, converted by Gavin and Richard!

Lives: Meadowhead

Brothers/sisters:

None

Other sports:

Football, and swimming



Other info:

Enjoys camping and outdoor activity

Eagles Head Mascot

Jawaad Baroo

Age: 10

Favourite players:

Gavin Brown and Richard Goddard

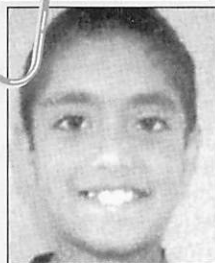
Eagles fan: Yes, since Gavin and Richard came into school

Lives: Fir Vale

Plays for: None, just practises with the Eagles at school

Brothers/sisters:

No



Other sports:

Football and running

Other info: Likes any sports that involve running as he is very fast.

Ee-guls! Ee-guls!

Hi there, Eagles fans! It's Freddy, your superstar No 1 Eagle, here.

Welcome to Don Valley for an evening game! I'm a real night bird and love these late kick-offs. The bird's-eye view from the top of the floodlights is fantastic. Kid-E wants to put his own eerie up in the lights, but I won't let him. He's not ready to fly the nest yet.

Anyway, last home game we gained two valuable points against Hunslet. It was a hard-fought game, as I had predicted. The Hawks came strong in the last quarter. I particularly enjoyed Neil Kite's outrageous dummy – I was still looking in-field, along with the Hunslet defence, when Neil was celebrating his touchdown!

And what about our kicking? Did you

like the way Kid-E and I kicked out those signed balls into the crowd each time we scored? Thanks very much to our friends at Fitness Unlimited for providing the balls. After the way the team started, we were a bit worried we might run out of balls – we only had 10!

Rest assured we have been in-training this week and will try to spread our kicks about so you can all have a chance at winning. Hopefully, by the end of the season, we'll be as good as Gavin is at kicking those conversions!!

Back to tonight's game and our opponents, Oldham. They are a bit special, like us. As the Bears they played in Super League and I remember many a good tussle with them. Let's hope for another good game but two points to the Eagles at the end of 80 minutes. Don't forget we've

got that unbeaten home league record to maintain.

I'd also like to congratulate my pals at Hillsborough Hawks U11s. They beat local rivals Hoyland Vikings 44-30. It was sweet revenge for the Hawks who were beaten here at Don Valley by the Vikings earlier this year.

Don't forget to listen out for our special Lucky Programme Draw at half-time. The number is on the back of your programme and someone will win VIP tickets to see Pop Idols live at Sheffield Arena courtesy of Sheffield International Venues.

Anyway, enjoy the evening, whichever team you're supporting. Keep an eye out for those balls flying your way. Get behind the lads and see you at the next home game!

Freddy

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developing the grass roots



HI everyone, welcome to Don Valley Stadium.

Apologies for an error in the Hunslet programme notes. The date for the nine-a-side festival in Rotherham was 13th March, not 3rd March.

So anyone who took a quick exit from our game against Hunslet thinking some entertaining rugby was being played at Herringthorpe Playing Fields would have been disappointed!

The nine-a-side hopefully went smoothly on Wednesday (I am writing these notes before it took place) and, with nine teams entered, it is a promising start to the co-ordinated activity within the colleges and sixth-form arena.

The finals of the South Yorkshire Schools cups will take place at the Hillsborough Arena on Tuesday and Wednesday, 19th and 20th March (next week).

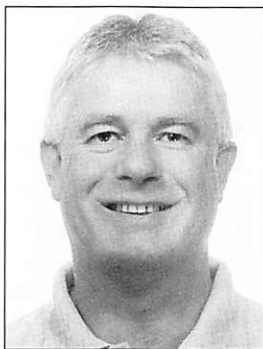
Years 8 and 10 will play on Tuesday, with Years 9 and 11 playing on Wednesday.

All the games will kick off at 4.30pm. If you can, please call along and lend your support.

Each of the cups, to be presented to the winning school, have been sponsored by AMCO, and thanks go to them for their support.

Following the Easter schools break, we will be organising some secondary-school rugby league festivals around the area to enable additional participation in the sport.

At the events will be some of the newer schools to have been supported by the Eagles development



**By John Kain,
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

‘ No game can take place without match officials and it is pleasing to see new people taking up the whistle and becoming qualified to control games ’

programme, as well as there being representation from schools who are very supportive of the game.

Letters will be sent to the schools shortly, and if you would like your school to be represented why not get your friends to pull a team together and speak to your PE teacher to enter teams? The teachers can also

speak to me for additional information.

As mentioned previously, the primary-school coaching programmes started on 18th February, and the first 'tag' festival for the schools will take place as a curtain-raiser to our game against Gateshead on Friday, 12th April.

On the same day will be a media launch for two major elements of the Eagles and rugby league development in the area, so watch this space and the Press at the time to hear more.

If you arrived early today you would have caught the annual Varsity game between Hallam and Sheffield Universities, and elsewhere in the programme (P22) you should be able to read more about the game.

One of today's events between the Varsity match and our main game is the presentation of certificates to newly-qualified match officials, some of whom will have played a role in the Varsity game.

As we all know, no game can take place without match officials and it is always pleasing to see new people taking up the whistle and becoming qualified to control games. Please give them all a round of applause and encouragement for the future.

If I have not yet spoken with you and you either want to be involved with development activity in your area, or believe we can support your organisation, please contact me on 07932 107436 (mobile) or at the club on 0114 2610326.

See you soon, and enjoy the evening.

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Wednesday

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Ann Rushby

Thursday

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Julie Taylor

Friday

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Richard Hill

£5 consolation prizes: 15

The draw was made by
Brian Aston, Chief Executive

Persuade a pal ...

EACH and every Eagles supporter is capable of adding at least one member to the Goldrush Lottery.

It is the lifeblood of Sheffield Eagles and without a successful lottery your club will struggle to survive. Act now before it's too late!



Holiday prize draw

The latest lucky winner of a luxury holiday, drawn on Friday, 8th March, is Daz Marshall-Rush, from the agency of Nathan Smith.

Join today!

If you haven't joined the Goldrush yet, or would like more information on how to become an agent, call in at the Eagles Club Shop today and speak to Carol or Adrian.

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Brent on destruction

Andy's power too much for opponents

WHEN Andy Brent enters the action things start to happen – and quick. He may have started on the bench but when he joins the action, often in tandem with power prop Jon Bruce, it can be try time.

The burly winger turned utility forward is coming to terms with being something of a super-sub.

Not that the number on the shirt worries Andy.

"I'm not too bothered. It can be 17 or starting. I don't really mind," he said. "I think that the coaches see me as a bit of an impact player and sometimes I can come on and lift the team a bit."

"If that's my best job for the team then I'll do that. Some people like to start and don't like being on the bench, but that's not me."

"It's a 17-man game and if I'm doing my bit for the team and achieving a win then I'm happy coming off the bench."

Aston on Andy

Andy has done well over the last couple of years. When we brought him to Sheffield he was a winger or a centre.

We asked him to move into the forwards with the big guys and I think the progress he has made has been outstanding. He's a tough kid, he's got a good work ethic.

He's still got a lot to learn but at 25 he's still got the best years in front of him.

Andy is one of the survivors of the original squad of players Mark Aston and Howard Cartwright rushed to bring together when the Eagles were voted into the Northern Ford Premiership in December 1999.

He came to the club with Wayne and Glen Freeman from Bramley who the Eagles replaced in the league.

Andy was a winger with the Leeds club and admits he was bit of a mystery to the Eagles coaches who soon suggested that he switch to the forwards.

"To be fair, Mark didn't know me that well. I came on a bit of a trial basis at first. I started on the wing but Mark and Howard thought that it would be best for me if I played in the forwards," he said.

"I wasn't too sure that first season but I had a good off-season. They gave me advice on how to run and positional play and the move into the forwards has benefited me."

Change is something Andy has come to accept.

His rugby league journey started after school when he signed for the Wigan Academy as a full-back but found that the Warriors had another promising candidate for the number one shirt – Kris Radlinski!

So it was out to the wing and meeting up with another player who is now with the Eagles.

Andy said: "I signed for Wigan when I was 16, as a full-back and played in the Academy."

"But the same year I signed Kris Radlinski signed so I ended up on the wing, and the second year it was me on one wing and Ian Thompson on the other."

"I'd never played on the wing before but I stayed there most of my professional career for the Academy at Wigan, and in the old

First Division at Dewsbury and then at Bramley."

Now it's Andy Brent the forward and it looks like there is no going back.

In the off-season Andy worked hard at the weights and has added a stone to his to his 6ft 1in frame to tip the scales at 15st 3lb.

His performances at prop or in the back row are gaining him quite a reputation in the Premiership and there's more to come.

Andy said: "In some respects it's easier playing prop – second row's quite hard and you're constantly tackling."

"But I've been quite lucky in that if I do play second row I tend to come inside Gavin Brown and he helps me out a lot and talks me through the game."

"And, like any game, the more you play in a position the better you get. I'm only 25 and I'm still learning. I've got the best years in front of me."

Off the pitch things are also going well for Andy. He was recently promoted at the firm in Leeds where he works as fabricator making patio doors and show cubicles.

"It's all going well at the moment – can't grumble," added Andy. "I've put on a bit of weight, which I need to play in the forwards, but I've kept my pace so if I get away I'm laughing."

"I've put on a bit of weight, which I need to play in the forwards, but I've kept my pace so if I get away I'm laughing"



Handy Andy: Andy, pictured in the last home match, against Hunslet, has been a perfect replacement for the Eagles, coming off the bench to devastating effect

Keep up to date with the Eagles in **Star** ... Reports from all the matches, home and away



view from the stand

Narky about Parky

HAVING started this season, as usual, with high hopes not only for the Eagles but also for the standard of refereeing, I find one hope flying high and the other dashed into the ground.

It is, of course, part of the rugby league way of life to have a good go at the referee. If your team is not winning, then it has to be the ref's fault. And if they are 30 points up with two minutes to go, then with a better whistle-blower it would be 40 points!

We criticise them for not awarding penalties and letting the opposition get away with murder. But we also criticise them, as at the Hunslet game, for blowing up too much and not allowing the game to flow.

We are a hard bunch to satisfy, perhaps. But what we all really want, as Tubbs has often said, is some consistency.

I have to agree with Steve Simms when he said that of paramount importance is that we get a Referees' Director as quickly as possible, because, even in Super League, the standard is not good.

If you have not got people pushing for places, then apathy creeps in. We don't just need a director for the current guys, but some kind of promoter

to get some new and enthusiastic blood in too.

A few nights ago I sat down to watch that chat-show lad from Barnsley on the BBC and his special guest. At last, I thought, we are going to get some proper RL talk from two of the most well-known fans in the world on national TV. What a coup! What great exposure for the game.

Parkinson, a one-time director at Wakefield Trinity, is always visible in the Challenge Cup Final crowd, and Russell Crowe, Oscar-winning actor, is a staunch supporter of the Rabbitohs, who have just made a comeback into the NRL after one of the toughest off-pitch battles in the history of Aussie RL.

What did we get? Nothing. Not a remark, not a question, not even a hint of Crowe's passion for the game. Parky, thy should be ashamed of thissen! Unless the pro-rugby-union BBC cut out any mention of the greatest game?

Staying on the subject of media, we are now into Super League 7 and, for those with Sky, Friday and Saturday evenings are once again stay-at-home nights.


But what about Sundays? If you cannot get to a game, there are the dismal West-Yorkshire-biased commentaries on Radio Leeds but, other than that, nothing.

Until now! The Teamtalk organisation have taken over the longwave 252 frequency. From 6pm to 8pm, you can now enjoy League Talk.

The first hour is a round-up of the weekend's action and the second hour had special guests. Last week they were David Waite and Shaun McRae. Lines are open for phone-ins and e-mails. Give it a listen on longwave 252 or Sky Digital 910. I guarantee

the presenters are more enthusiastic and less M62-bound than any you've ever heard.

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**Supporting
the Eagles**

Rugby players have a bit of a reputation for getting themselves into embarrassing situations and Sheffield Eagles players are no different.

Can you guess which members of the team this happened to? (Answer in our next programme)

Two Eagles players decided to ease their bumps and bruises by paying a visit to their local

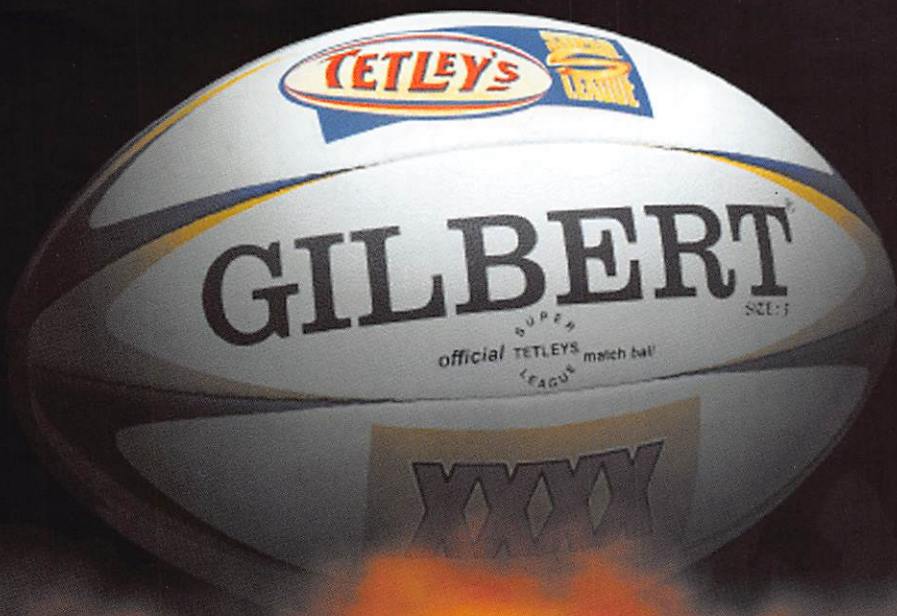
health suite. The first player, being the reserved, shy type, changed into his swimming trunks and left his mate to head into the sauna.

Player No 2, being slightly less reserved, stripped off completely and walked straight into the sauna to be faced with raised eyebrows and giggles from the females attending the mixed session!

Who's who?

Sheffield Eagles: Sponsored by Reg Vardy Citroën





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Gee up for the Grand National

OUR annual Grand National prize draw is likely to be the last major fund-raising event of this season, so it is more important that every Eagles supporter gets behind this event and helps to maximise its success.

No doubt most people reading this will have heard about the financial struggles of Gateshead Thunder and Swinton Lions, two clubs fighting to continue in existence.

By taking part in our Grand National Draw you can help ensure the Eagles are not another faller in the field of rugby league runners.

TICKETS: £1

PRIZES:

1st	£500
2nd	£250
3rd	£150
4th	£50

Winners: Ticket-holders who have drawn horses that finish in the first four of the big race at Aintree.

● Draw takes place Tuesday, 2nd April.

Golf Day

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Price includes:

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- Green fees
- Team prizes
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- Hospitality on the 11th tee
- Meal on completion of your round from 3.30pm onwards
- Prize presentation approximately 6.00pm.

Forthcoming Events

**On the eve of the 2002 World Cup competition meet
a star of England's 1966 World-Cup-winning team!**

**Gentlemen's Evening with
Gordon Banks (plus
comedian Lee Roberts)**

Wednesday, 20th March.

Baldwins Omega.

7.15pm for dinner at 7.45pm.

£27.50 per head including
superb four-course dinner.

**Luncheon Club
with Duncan McKenzie**

Friday, 5th April.

Baldwins Omega.

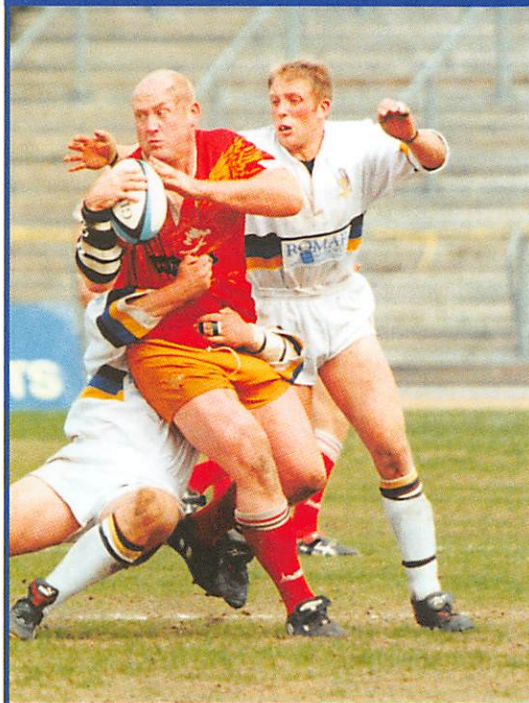
Noon for lunch at 12.30pm.

£19.50 plus VAT per head
including superb three-course
lunch.

Full details and booking forms for the above events are available from the Eagles Club Shop, by telephone on 0114 261 0326 (please ask to speak to Brian Aston or Angie Gregory) or by e-mailing angie@sheffideagles.com



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don valley matchday entertainment

Win VIP tickets to see Pop Idols!

Don't forget to listen out at half-time to see if you win today's Lucky Programme Prize Draw sponsored by Sheffield International Venues.

Is yours the Lucky Programme Number?

Today's prize is two VIP tickets to see the Pop Idols show live at Sheffield Arena on 22nd March. But, remember, you

must claim your prize today!

Simply come down pitchside with your winning programme.

● **Today's pre-match entertainment includes our resident team of cheerleaders, the Eagle-etts.**

THE Sheffield Varsity challenge game for the AMCO Trophy was taking place this evening, 5.15pm kick-off, and if you arrived early, or came especially for the game, I'm sure you would have been suitably entertained.

Varsity of any sport usually brings out a great competitiveness, and frequently the tables are turned and the favourites beaten.

Who are the favourites then? Probably Hallam on recent performances – just as last year when they won by a substantial margin, although the two teams had drawn earlier in the year.

This year is evenly matched so far with a very close game in the National Cup. Going into the last minute, either team could have won with Hallam holding a slender lead.

A last-minute try for Hallam earned them a 27-18 win and consigned Sheffield to the plate competition. Hallam were subsequently knocked out of the cup while Sheffield are into the last eight of the plate tournament.

The two clubs gain excellent support from their sponsors, with Novafone supplying a new kit for the Sheffield team, while the Porterbrook Pub on Eccleshall Road sponsor Hallam.

The Walkabout pub in Sheffield also looks after the Sheffield team post game (strong association between alcohol and varsity sport!)

At present, the Eagles are developing a number of relationships with university clubs.

With so many students involved in rugby league, we are encouraged to help whenever possible and identify opportunities for students to become associated with our club.

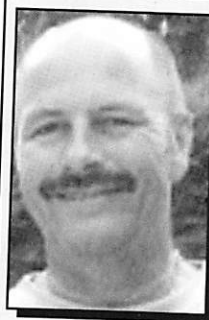
Not only are there opportunities on the playing front, with both Hallam and Sheffield represented in our senior squad, there are links to the development programmes and, in the broader business, there are endless ways in which students can become involved with us.

All you need do is ASK and we can discuss personal opportunities.

Don't be shy, step forward and ask if we can help you. Contact me on 07932 107436 (mobile) or at the club on 0114 2610326.

Enjoy the game.

**John Kain,
Development
Manager**



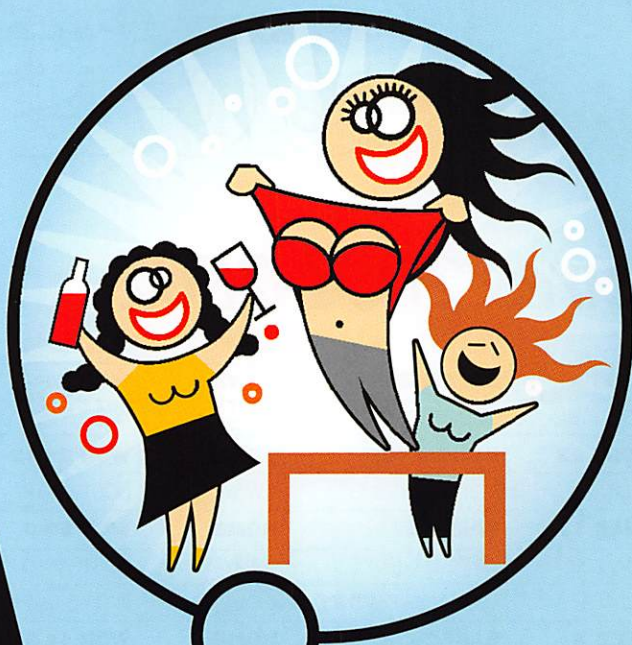
Nigel's Sad and Useless Factfile

● The Eagles have previously played two games on 15th March. In 1987 they beat Dewsbury 28-6 and in 1992 they beat Workington 36-18. Both games were played away from home.

● The last time the Eagles won at Don Valley against Oldham was way back in 1996 on 19th May when the final score was 23-10.

The club is always looking for new ideas on how to improve the matchday entertainment here at Don Valley. Naturally, budget has a big influence on exactly what can be done, but if you have any views on how we can improve our matchday presentation, whether it is the music played or other facilities you would like to see made available, then please make your point of view known. You can write to the usual address, fax on 0114 261 0303. Or you can e-mail the club at angie@sheffildeagles.com. All suggestions are welcome.





Goodnight?



Goodmorning





eagles facts and

Fixtures 2001-2002

SUN DEC 2 WORKINGTON AWAY LOST 12-10

SUN DEC 9 GATESHEAD HOME WON 34-2

SUN DEC 16 HUDDERSFIELD AWAY LOST 30-10

SUN DEC 23 DONCASTER HOME WON 36-12

SUN JAN 6 FEATHERSTONE AWAY LOST 28-18

SUN JAN 13 KEIGHLEY HOME WON 60-0

SUN JAN 20 WHITEHAVEN AWAY LOST 32-10

SAT JAN 26 LEIGH EAST (CC R3) HOME WON 34-12

SUN FEB 3 BARROW HOME WON 34-26

SUN FEB 10 WAKEFIELD (CC R4) HOME LOST 26-6

SUN FEB 17 BATLEY AWAY WON 34-12

SUN FEB 24 CHALLENGE CUP FIFTH ROUND

SUN MAR 3 HUNSLET HOME WON 28-12

SUN MAR 10 SWINTON AWAY WON 14-8

FRI MAR 15 OLDHAM HOME 7.30pm

SUN MAR 24 HULL KR AWAY 3.00pm

Sun Apr 7 Hull KR (NLC) away 3.00pm

Fri Apr 12 Gateshead (NLC) home 7.30pm

Sun Apr 21 York (NLC) home 3.15pm

Thu Apr 25 Doncaster (NLC) away 7.30pm

Sun May 5 Featherstone (NLC) home 3.15pm

FRI MAY 24 CHORLEY HOME 7.30pm

WED MAY 29 GATESHEAD AWAY 7.30pm

SUN JUN 2 ROCHDALE HOME 3.15pm

SUN JUN 9 LEIGH AWAY 3.00pm

SUN JUN 16 YORK HOME 3.15pm

SUN JUN 23 DEWSBURY AWAY 3.00pm

SUN JUL 7 HUNSLET AWAY 3.00pm

SUN JUL 14 WORKINGTON HOME 3.15pm

SUN JUL 21 ROCHDALE AWAY 3.00pm

FRI JUL 26 BATLEY HOME 7.30pm

SUN AUG 4 YORK AWAY 3.00pm

SUN AUG 11 DONCASTER AWAY 3.00pm

SUN AUG 18 DEWSBURY HOME 3.15pm

SUN AUG 25 SWINTON HOME 3.15pm

SUN SEP 8 HUDDERSFIELD HOME 3.15pm

1	2	3	4	5	6
Poynter 1T	Rayner	Hewitt	Foster	I Brown	G Brown
Poynter 1T	Rayner 1T	Hewitt 1T	Foster	I Brown	G Brown
Poynter	Rayner 1T	Hewitt	Foster	I Brown	Callaghan
Poynter	I Brown 2T	Hewitt 1T	Kite	Wells	G Brown 1P 5C
Poynter	I Brown	Hewitt	Kite 1T	Wells	G Brown 1T 3C
Poynter	Wells	Kite 1T	C Brown 1T	Foster 2T	G Brown 8C
Poynter	Wells 1T	Kite 1T	Goddard	Thompson	G Brown 1C
Poynter 1T	Wells	Kite	Hewitt	Thompson	G Brown 5C
Poynter	Wells	Kite	Hewitt	Raynor	G Brown 2T 4C 3P
Poynter	Wells	Kite	Foster	I Brown	G Brown 1C
Poynter 1T	Rayner	Kite 1T	C Brown	I Brown 1T	G Brown 4C 1P
Poynter	Rayner	Kite 1T	Foster 2T	I Brown 1T	G Brown 2C
Poynter	I Brown	Kite	Foster	Rayner 1T	G Brown 1T 1P

Lucky Programme Number

Win VIP tickets to see Pop Idols!

Listen out at half-time for today's Lucky Programme Prize Draw sponsored by Sheffield International Venues. If the number corresponds with the one on the back page of your programme, you've won!

Today's prize is two VIP tickets to see the Pop Idols show live at Sheffield Arena on 22nd March. But, remember, you must claim your prize today! Simply come down pitchside with your winning programme.



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SHEFFIELD EAGLES**



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Rhodes	Trasler	Dobson 1T	Hill	Kershaw 1T	Goddard 1T 1P 4C	Flynn	Callaghan	Bruce	Freeman	Brent
Rhodes	Trasler	Dobson	Hill	Kershaw 1T	Goddard 1C	Flynn	Adams	Brent	Freeman	Bruce
Bettinson	Howieson	Dobson 1T	Bruce	Kershaw	Brent 1T	Flynn	Callaghan	Tillyer	C Brown 1T	Adams
Bettinson	Howieson	Dobson	Bruce	Kershaw	Brent	Tillyer	Callaghan	Trasler 1T	C Brown	Adams
Callaghan	Howieson	Dobson 1T	Trasler	Kershaw	Freeman 3T	Flynn	Goddard 1T	Brent 1T	Adams	Bruce
Callaghan	Howieson	Dobson	Bruce	Kershaw	Brent	Flynn	Rhodes	Adams	Trasler	Freeman
Callaghan 1T	Adams	Bettinson	Bruce	Freeman	Goddard 1T	Flynn 1T	Rhodes 1T	Trasler	C Brown 1T	Brent
Callaghan	Adams	Dobson	Bruce	Freeman	C Brown 3T	Flynn	Rhodes	Howieson	Trasler	Kershaw
Rhodes	Howieson	Dobson	Trasler	Kershaw	Freeman	Flynn 1T	C Brown	Brent	Adams	Bruce
Rhodes	Howieson	Dobson	Trasler	Kershaw	Freeman	Flynn	Foster 2T	Brent 1T	Adams	Bruce
Rhodes 1T	Bruce	Dobson	Adams	Kershaw	Brent 1T	Flynn	C Brown	Trasler	Freeman	Howieson
Rhodes	Bruce	Dobson	Trasler	Kershaw 1T	Freeman	Flynn	Callaghan	Adams	C Brown	Brent

Eagles 34 Oldham 20

(Divisional Premiership Final, 17th May, 1992)

DARYL Powell returned after a four-match suspension to inspire the Eagles to victory with a hat-trick of tries against Oldham.

Although Mick Cook retained the captaincy, it was Powell who led the way as he scored Eagles' first three tries and sent David Mycoe away for a fourth as Oldham threatened to come back into the game.

After only five minutes, he timed a short, sharp burst almost to perfection to go in off Richard Price's pass, with Mark Aston adding the goal. Although Oldham hit back almost immediately with Platt completing a 50-yard raid down the left, Price and Powell repeated their double act for Powell to touch down again, Aston again goaling.

Ian Sherratt was then dismissed for a high tackle on Powell, who recovered sufficiently to find himself on the end of an astute Aston pass to put the Eagles into a 16-4 lead.

Despite being a man down, Oldham drew level in the 58th minute as tries from Ged Byrne and Keith Newton, both goaled by Tommy Martyn, epitomised their fighting spirit.

A try by David Mycoe edged the Eagles back in front but Scott Ranson, who had scored against the Eagles in the 1989 final, raced 30 yards for another try.

Eventually the Eagles' extra pair of legs began to tell and a try for Tim Lumb, with two goals by Aston, eased their fears. A last-minute try by Keith Mumby was the icing on the cake. Powell's hat-trick earned him the Tom Bergin trophy as Man of the Match.

Team: Mycoe; Gamson, McAllister, Powell, Plange; Price, Aston; Broadbent, Cook, Waddell, Laughton, (Lumb), Hughes (Mumby), Farrell.
Scores: Tries – Powell 3, Mycoe, Lumb, Mumby; Goals – Aston 5.

HOW THEY STAND

NORTHERN FORD PREMIERSHIP

(Up to and including Sunday, 10th March)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Huddersfield	11	0	1	0	369	90	21
Leigh	9	8	1	0	350	117	17
Rochdale	10	8	1	1	298	159	17
Hull KR	10	8	0	2	244	126	16
Whitehaven	10	7	1	2	234	112	15
Featherstone	10	7	1	2	256	170	15
Eagles	11	7	0	4	288	176	14
Workington	12	7	0	5	268	209	14
Dewsbury	10	6	0	4	297	184	12
Doncaster	9	5	1	3	232	166	11
Batley	11	5	0	6	199	257	10
Barrow	11	4	0	7	259	232	8
Oldham	9	3	1	5	208	200	7
Keighley	10	3	0	7	154	369	6
Chorley	11	2	0	9	188	332	4
Hunslet	11	2	0	9	146	398	4
York	10	1	0	9	101	370	2
Gateshead	11	0	1	10	106	312	1
Swinton	8	0	0	8	74	292	0

YOUR PROGRAMME



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Pictures by Steve Braithwaite and
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Sheffield Eagles fully support the 'Let's tackle racism in Rugby League' campaign and welcome all players and supporters, irrespective of their racial or ethnic origins. Racism has no place in our game and racist chants are totally unacceptable. Please allow EVERYONE to enjoy the game.



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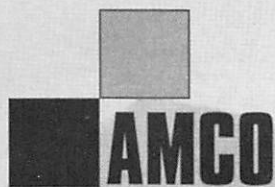
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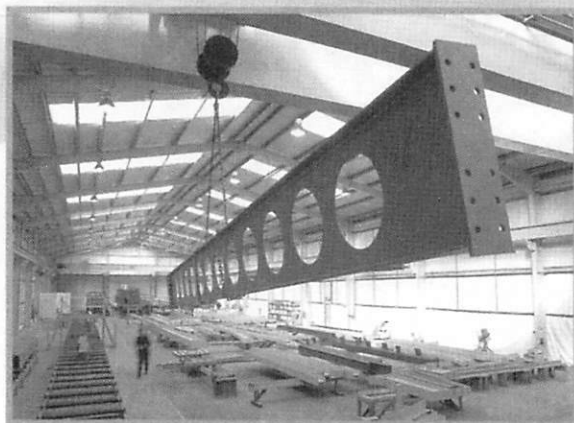
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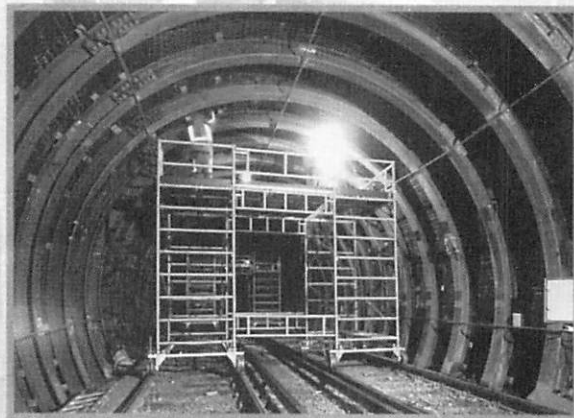


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Top-nine place - now that's Knocking on Heaven's Door

SORRY, but I have to admit that I am a Bob Dylan fan.

Bob doesn't have the personality of Dylan out the Magic Roundabout but he did write a mean song.

What's this got to do with rugby league - not a lot.

But Bob penned a song called Times Are A-Changin', and, over the last couple of years, things have certainly changed at the Eagles.

Think back to March 2000. The side was still suffering a giant hang-over after going out of the Challenge Cup to an amateur side.

On March 12 the Eagles travelled to Keighley at the mid-point of what was to be a nine-match losing run.

It wasn't a happy day. Cold, wet, and the lads played like men mounting the scaffold and got stuffed 36-2 with Martin Woods the prime executioner.

At that point, any win would have been a blessed relief.

What a difference this season.

A top-nine new-First-Division slot looks a realistic bet and, more amazingly, we can even moan when we win!

Last home game, the gold and reds raced into a 24-2 lead over Hunslet.

The stock of ten signed balls which were available to be kicked into the crowd after every Eagles score looked to be going down fast.

It looked like they would have to bring the odd ball and a pen as well as water during breaks in play to

refresh the stocks. Then it went a bit quiet and we were treated to only one more Eagles try, to two from the Hawks.

After the game, the general consensus was that we could have all gone home at half-time in terms of entertainment.

Shame on us. We're a fickle lot.

That was a win - two points. It says a lot that the side can ease off and cruise to a win. The coaches won't like it. Coaches are perfectionists, who want 80-minute effort.

It's a dangerous way to play because sides do stage comebacks

**‘ Amazingly,
now we
can moan
when the
Eagles win ’**

and, when they get on a roll, it can be difficult to stop.

But think on. We've reached a point where the side can play badly and win.

Don't speak too soon for the wheels are still in spin.

But we won't sink like a stone. Times, they are a-changin' (with apologies to Bob D).

IT'S also a sign of the times that before tonight's game we had the

chance to watch the annual Sheffield v Hallam varsity match as a curtain-raiser.

Paul Wells, Jack Howieson and Simon Tillyer all have university links.

University rugby league has come back after a few years in the doldrums.

Oxford and Cambridge even turned to David Waite and Brian Noble for advice before their clash - good publicity for the game.

I don't know if Eddy Waring can take a break from heavenly It's a Knockout.

But I bet he would have a smile on his face.

Back in the late 1960s, Eddy helped out in a quiet way the then-fledgling universities competition, which included Sheffield.

He even plugged the games so well on the BBC that a couple of thousand turned up at Headingley to watch the season's knockout final between Leeds and Bradford. Sadly, Leeds won.

I remember him doing a rugby league night to help raise funds for the Bradford University side, which played its first games in shirts loaned by St Helens.

I've got the photo to prove it!

I hope the university lads enjoy their game and we find a new Jack, Simon or Paul.

If you have been reading this, thanks.

I hope you win the Golden Gamble.





eagles player sponsors

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eagles awaydays



Hull KR ... Sunday, 24th March, Kick-off 3pm

Directions by Road

Take M1 South to M18. Follow M18 until it joins the M62 East. Continue on M62 towards Hull. Take A63 (under Humber Bridge) and keep on Clive Sullivan Way (dual carriage-way) over flyover past the Marina on right and straight through traffic lights. Follow signs to docks/Heaton. Continue straight on until traffic lights signposted Craven Park and turn left. At next lights turn right. Craven Park is about 400m on your right.

Ticket Prices

Adult £9.00 (standing)
£12.00 (seating)
Concession £5.00 and £7.00
Junior £5.00 and £7.00

Parking

£1.50

Programmes

£2.00

Refreshments/Bars

Visiting spectators can use the bars on the first floor of the West Stand. A lift is available for the disabled.

No alcohol is allowed outside the bar area. Anyone carrying bottles, cans etc will be refused admission.

Refreshment facilities are available on both sides of the stands.

Safety

Spectators are not allowed to use the grass banks as viewing areas.

Anyone doing so will be ejected from the stadium.

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For bookings, contact Don Powell on 07947 791 084 or Pete Scandrett on 07759 298 371.

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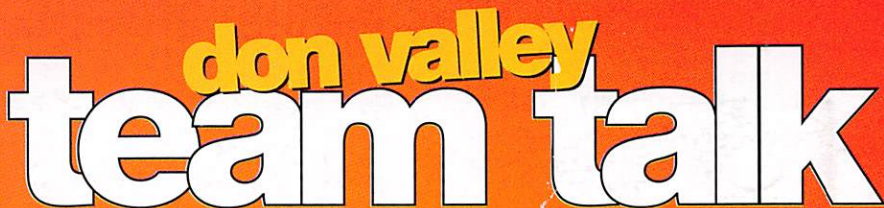
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