



2000's

## TWO THOUSANDS (2000's)

### ⚽ Clubs' statewide bid fails; Soccer supremos opt for regional format

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] Feb 5, 2000

THE soccer competitions in Tasmania this year will be based on a regional format, despite representations to Soccer Tasmania by the presidents of all eight of last season's southern-based State League clubs and the president of Metro-Claremont.

The club presidents met late last year and then sent a delegation to meet John Jameson, Soccer Tasmania chairman, and competitions director John McKenna, just before Christmas.

The club presidents wanted the reintroduction of a state league competition, but received no satisfaction from their meeting with the two Soccer Tasmania representatives.

This year, therefore, there will be a Southern Conference League, comprising the eight southern-based State League clubs of last season, together with newcomer Metro-Claremont, and an 11-team Northern Conference League.

Soccer Tasmania's representatives argued any future State League competition would have to be structured on the basis of proportional representation from both the south and north of the state if appropriate sponsorship was to be obtained.

The clubs have now agreed to participate in the nine-team Southern Conference and have signed the relevant licences, although they continue to insist a state league format be adopted in 2001.

The clubs also proposed the re-establishment of an advisory group representing all clubs and which would meet regularly with Soccer Tasmania to voice the ideas of the clubs.

This season's Southern Conference League will consist of University, Glenorchy Knights, Hobart Olympic, Hobart Zebras, Kingborough Lions United, South Hobart, Clarence, New Town Eagles and Metro-Claremont. There will be a bye each week.



2000 saw the return of Eagle old boy George Krambousanos, (formerly with Eagles in the early 80's) at the helm of the senior squad.

The team got off to a flying start, defeating Glenorchy Knights (formerly Croatia) 2-1 in the Summer Cup final, with goals from David Stoddart and Julian Proud. Although not playing at their best, signs were ominous for a good season ahead.

The reserves also took out the Summer Cup when they downed Kingborough Lions United 3-1, with goals by Rodney Bones, Tommy Fotak and Stephen Bukowiecki. Kingborough's goal was an own-goal by Gilbert Steenhuis.

### ⚽ Optimistic George on players' side

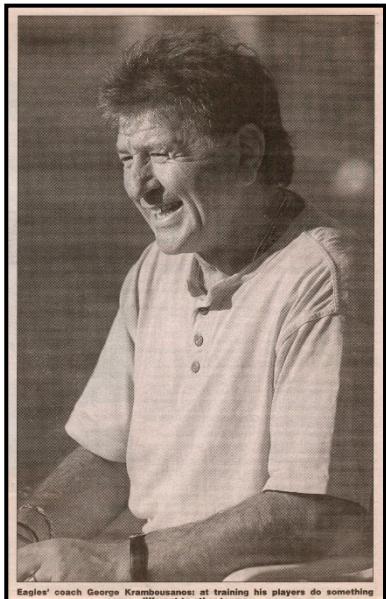
By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2000

GEORGE Krambousanos always has a smile on his face and approaches his coaching responsibilities with New Town Eagles in an optimistic frame of mind. He has absolute confidence in his players and regards them as mature and responsible adults. "My job finishes on Thursday nights after our final training session of the week, and when I've picked the team," Krambousanos said.

"There is no pep talk before a game and very few words are spoken at that time because if we haven't got it together by the time we play, we'll never do it. "I coach, and they play the game, and it is up to them to prepare themselves, so I don't have to set rules for them."

Training sessions are important, and they must be enjoyable as far as Krambousanos is concerned, so everything is done with the ball. "The beauty of Eagles is the training session," he said. "We do something different to anyone else. "When I took over the team this season, people said I had old players, and that hurt my feelings. "My players love to play with the ball, and they do everything with the ball at training and I think that has given them new life."

Something must be working because Krambousanos's philosophy is bearing fruit. Eagles have already won one trophy this season (the Summer Cup), and last Saturday they collected their first win from two outings by thrashing Metro-Claremont 11-3, a score-line not seen very often in the top-flight.



Eagles' coach George Krambousanos: at training his players do something different to other teams.

Eagles have yet to lose under Krambousanos in seven outings, and they have won five of those games. Krambousanos is confident the club can win the Statewide Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy, the first round of which starts over Easter, and he thinks Eagles will do well in the league. "Eagles are playing as well as, if not better, than anyone else," he said.

"Everyone is attending training, I have no favorites, and all the players push themselves. We have depth, and there are young players coming up who are willing to listen and learn. We are all amateurs, and our reward is the satisfaction of winning, but also to have fun and enjoy ourselves."

Krambousanos, who played the game in Tasmania before moving interstate and playing and coaching in Victoria, regards the Glenorchy Knights, Kingborough Lions United, University and Hobart Olympic as Eagles' major challengers, with Eagles and the Knights the two favorites for the league championship.

He has recently completed a coaching course in Sydney and firmly believes that coaches need to be qualified.

He also thinks that every coach would do well to watch a national league team's training session, and he is convinced that local players need to warm up as a team for at least half-an-hour before a game, as visiting interstate sides always do.

Krambousanos had a brief stint as coach of Hobart Olympic a few seasons back before he and the club parted company, but now that he is in charge of Eagles, he is already showing what he is capable of as the supremo of one of the biggest names in Tasmanian soccer.

## **Eagles' avalanche shatters Metro**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 16/4/2000

METRO-Claremont, top of the Wrest Point League soccer competition at the beginning of the weekend, was brought to earth with a thump yesterday, when it was thrashed 11-3 by New Town Eagles at the latter's Clare St headquarters.

The newcomer to the top-flight, had won its opening match at home last Sunday, but away from home yesterday, it proved no match for the might of a rampant Eagles.

It was 1-1 after a mere five minutes, but the writing was already on the wall for Metro as it trailed 5-2 at the interval. Richard Leszczynski, who played for Metro last year before rejoining his former club, where he had made his name as one of the Tasmania's most feared strikers, notched four goals.

Colin Shepherd, the thinking man's David Beckham of Tasmanian soccer, netted a hat-trick, as did skipper David Stoddart. The talented and under-rated utility player, Mark De Vries, grabbed the remaining goal, while for Metro, Adam Tassell scored twice and fellow striker Steve Pettit once.

The win moved Eagles from fifth to second on the ladder, while Metro dropped to fourth.

## **Eagles open gap at the top**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2000

NEW TOWN Eagles opened up a four-point lead at the top of the Wrest Point League soccer competition, when it thrashed second-last Hobart Zebras 8-2 at KGV Soccer Park last night. Eagles scored four goals in the opening 15 minutes to lead 4-1 at the break.

Darren Frost netted twice, while Luke DeVries, Richard Leszczynski and second-half substitute Matthew Holloway, also scored twice. Sergio Pace and Ivica Bolonja netted for the Zebras. Eagles' victory was tempered by the loss through injury of captain David Stoddart, who pulled a hamstring, while Michael Murray was also injured. "We played some great soccer, and we were all over them," said Eagles' coach George Krambousanos.

"It could have been 13 or 14 goals in reality. We were missing Mark De Vries and suffered two injuries during the game, but Darren Frost deserved his senior start and celebrated with two goals, while Matthew Holloway strengthened his claims for place by coming on at half-time and also scoring a couple of goals."

Richard Leszczynski's two goals last night took his season's league tally to six goals. This makes him the equal leading scorer on six goals with Brendan Lakoseljac, of the Glenorchy Knights. The Hobart Zebras' situation is looking grim as their goal difference is becoming alarming. They have drawn one and lost two of their three outings, and their goal-difference is minus eight.



An injury mid-way through the season to top striker Richard Leszczynski left the side short of fire power for two months, and despite some good results throughout the year they ended the season runners up to the Glenorchy Knights.

The Knights were worthy winners defeating Eagles comfortably in their two league encounters.

### Conference League South – Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	16	13	1	2	68	12	40
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>35</b>
University	16	9	4	3	33	22	31
Hobart Olympic	16	8	2	6	28	30	26
Kingborough Lions	16	6	3	7	18	20	21
Metro Claremont	16	5	2	9	32	51	17
Hobart Zebras	16	4	4	8	26	45	16
Clarence United	16	3	3	10	23	59	12
South Hobart	16	2	1	13	22	41	7

Leading Goalscorers: D. Stoddart 9, C. Shepherd 7, Luke De Vries 7



The Premier League side, once again under the guidance of Craig Jones, went one better on last season's runners-up result, by comfortably winning the league title by nine points from the Kingborough Lions, powered by Steven Buckowiecki, who was the league's top goalscorer with 18 goals.

They also added the Top Four Final Series to their list of achievements (having previously won the pre-season Summer Cup), when they defeated Taroona, 3-2 in the final.

### Premier League Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>50</b>
Kingborough	21	12	5	4	50	27	41
Taroona	21	11	1	9	58	57	34
University	21	10	3	8	57	41	33
DOSA	21	10	2	9	36	48	32
South Hobart	21	7	2	12	31	42	23
Hobart Zebras	21	5	3	13	29	42	18
Metro Claremont	21	3	2	16	16	70	11

Leading Goalscorers: S. Buckowiecki 18, T. Fotak, J. Potts 9, B. Zielinski 8

Craig Jones also appeared for the Division 3 side, and contributed a league high 25 goals to enable the team to finish in third place.

### Southern Division 3 Final Standings - 2000

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	21	18	1	2	93	16	55
Hobart Wanderers	21	17	2	2	71	15	53
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>41</b>
Kingston Cannons	21	11	3	7	78	39	36
Kingborough Lions	21	10	1	10	52	43	31
Huon Valley	21	6	2	13	41	75	20
Nelson United	21	2	2	17	14	115	8
Metro-Claremont	21	0	1	20	10	111	1

Leading Goalscorer: C. Jones 25

At the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner held in 2001, the following individuals were recognized for their contribution to the first 40 Years of the White Eagle Sports club. All awards were present by club President John Large.



**Top L-R:** B. Michalkowski, P. Czyzowicz, B. Dora, D. Stoddart Snr, M. Lebski, Z. Orlinski, G. Stepik, W. Ejlak, I. Rosinski, S. Wojcik, E. Rosinski

In 2001 the senior team was under the control of Craig Jones. Jones succeeded Krambousanos as senior coach after a successful stint coaching the reserves.

During this first half of the season, the team performances were very in and out, win one, lose one, and Jones had difficulty trying to find a settled combination, as injuries and subsequent retirements or moves from the club, made it difficult for this to achieve.

Eagles performed well against teams around them on the ladder, but struggled against the better credentialled sides. The last seven games of the season did yield a run of good results, four wins, two draws and one loss, resulting in an eighth-place finish, and having the Club looking forward to the next season with some renewed confidence.

#### **Southern Premier League - Final Standings - 2001**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	18	13	3	2	55	10	42
South Hobart	18	11	4	3	52	22	37
Glenorchy Knights	18	11	2	5	39	22	35
Kingborough Lions	18	9	4	5	31	14	31
Hobart Zebras	18	9	4	5	35	25	31
Metro-Claremont	18	8	3	7	37	24	27
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>27</b>
Hobart Olympic	18	6	2	10	31	39	20
Clarence United	18	2	1	15	21	77	7
DOSA	18	0	0	18	17	97	0

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 12, J. Potts 8

## **Potts making his mark as an Eagles' striker**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] 2001

JOSH Potts has scored four of New Town Eagles' 19 goals in the Premier League soccer competition this season and also netted twice in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy state-wide cup competition. That is not a bad effort for the 17-year-old striker, who is in his first season as a regular senior player.

Last season, Potts made several appearances off the bench, but he now regularly partners Richard Leszczynski, one of the state's best strikers, in attack. Eagles are rebuilding after many years at the top and Potts is one of several youngsters in the senior line-up.

A Year 12 student at Guilford Young College, he hopes to go to University next year, but has not yet decided what to study. He began playing soccer as a six-year-old in Canberra. His father, a retired member of the Royal Australian Air Force, brought the family to Hobart four years ago and the younger Potts joined Eagles on the recommendation of a teacher at Sacred Heart School.

"I don't really feel any pressure playing up front with Richard Leszczynski", Potts said. I just try and do the best I can and hopefully that's good enough. "I'm learning a lot from Richard because he's a good player and I respect him."

Potts is also a referee, and on the days he isn't playing for Eagles, he can be found officiating at under-18 games. "I like to referee because it allows me to know the rules of the game better and to earn a bit of money at the same time", Potts said.

"There's no conflict of interest involved, and it has probably taught me to keep my mouth shut as a player. "I don't see refereeing as my future and I just want to keep playing for as long as I can at the highest level."

Potts said he fancied University for the title and that Eagles would be trying very hard to finish in the top five teams. "We lost a lot of players from last season, and it hasn't been a great year for the club," he said.

"We're rebuilding this year and trying to get a bit of experience and get up to strength again. "We've got a great coach in Craig Jones, whom I had in the reserves last year."

"I'm just happy to be playing in the seniors, although I'm at right-wing at the moment whereas I prefer it in the middle."

Potts is sure to feature more prominently in the goal-scoring charts as Eagles try to get their act together during the rest of the season.

The Division 3 side featuring Scott Young, and David Stoddart - on a break from senior duties - also convincingly won the league title, finishing 13 points ahead of second placed University Bombers.

#### Division 3 - Final Standings - 2001

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	18	15	3	0	76	15	48
Kingborough Lions	18	14	1	3	69	21	43
Taroona	18	12	2	4	49	23	38
Beachside	18	10	1	7	59	44	31
South Hobart	18	7	2	9	43	43	23
University	18	6	4	8	28	34	22
Christian United	18	5	3	10	30	48	18
DOSA	18	4	3	11	28	54	15
Nelson ES	18	4	2	12	23	55	14
Huon Valley	18	1	3	14	22	90	6

Leading Goalscorers: D. Stoddart 38, S. Young 15

In 2002, with Jones still at the helm, Eagles, disaster struck early in the season when a serious bike crash, ended the careers of two of Eagles' most talented players in Darren frost and Josh Potts.

## **Eagles duo hurt in bike crash**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 16/3/2002

TWO of Tasmania's soccer's most promising players have been seriously injured in a motorcycle accident and are in hospital in Victoria.

New Town Eagles seniors midfielder Darren Frost, 25, and seniors striker Josh Potts, 18, were involved in a motorcycle accident near Nubeena last week and were later flown to a hospital in Melbourne for specialist treatment.

Frost was also in charge of the Eagles' under-23 side and was voted Soccer Tasmania's Under-23 Youth League coach-of-the-year last season, while Potts was also a promising referee.

The accident has cast a pall over the Eagles club, which commenced pre-season training on the day of the accident.

"For a club to lose one player of this calibre is a great loss, but to lose two players of such great skill, commitment and club pride is a disaster," said Eagles president John Large.

"The committee, coaches, players and supporters of this close-knit club have rallied together to get over their initial shock and grief to ensure that all that can be done at this stage is being done.

"Our main interest at this stage is to ensure that all we can do for these players and their families is being done and that both players receive the utmost care and attention.

"Our thoughts, prayers and positive reinforcement go out to them at this time.

"The club will issue updated information as it becomes available to ensure that the soccer community as a whole can unite and assist wherever possible."

Large said both players would probably need to spend a number of weeks in Melbourne.



Despite this setback, Eagles had an excellent start to the season, following on from last season's last round fine performances. The first round yielded seven wins and two losses, putting the team in a strong position to challenge for the title. A poor second round however, put paid to any title aspirations and only two wins, one draw and six losses (including losing the last four games of the season) resulted in a disappointing 5<sup>th</sup> place finish.



### 2002 Senior Side

Back: C. Jones (Coach), R. Leszczynski, D. O'Brien, D. Bones, D. Stoddart Jnr (Capt), W. Savage, P. Murray  
 Front: A. Bates, A. Jones, A. Wisby, M. Murray, M. Fong

### Southern Premier League - Final Standings - 2002

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	14	2	2	51	17	44
Glenorchy Knights	18	10	6	2	68	18	36
University	18	11	3	4	62	25	36
Hobart Zebras	18	9	5	4	57	30	32
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>
Hobart Olympic	18	8	3	7	45	40	27
Metro-Clairemont	18	7	3	8	25	33	24
Kingborough Lions	18	5	5	8	29	27	20
Clarence United	18	2	1	15	11	88	7
DOSA	18	0	1	17	6	81	1

### ⚽ Eagles stop Zebras in goal feast

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 3/6/2002

NEW Town Eagles maintained second place on the Premier League soccer ladder, a point behind South Hobart, by downing third-placed Hobart Zebras 4-3 at home yesterday. Andrew Telega gave the visitors a 21st-minute lead, but this was cancelled out in the 36th minute by ace Eagles striker Richard Leszczynski.

Damien O'Brien put Eagles ahead a minute before the interval, but Mark Falzon's strike eight minutes after the resumption made it 2-2. Goals by Michael Fong, in the 68th minute, and O'Brien, in the 78th, gave Eagles a 4-2 lead. Falzon's second goal for Zebras in the final minute proved too little too late.

### ⚽ Magnificent Burn hat-trick inspirational

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 23/6/2002

A MAGNIFICENT hat-trick by Matthew Burn, gave New Town Eagles a 3-0 win over Hobart Olympic in their Premier League soccer match at home at Clare Street yesterday.

Drafted to lead the attack in the absence of Richard Leszczynski, who was interstate, Burn proved lethal, scoring once five minutes before the interval and twice in the last six minutes of the game.

Two of his goals came from crosses by David Stoddart, while another came when he snapped up the rebound following Michael Fong's shot against the woodwork. Olympic, which had more than enough chances to win but was toothless in front of goal, had striker Andre Phillips sent off by referee Owen Laing in the 69th minute after receiving a second yellow card.

Eagles gave a first-class display of counter-attacking and proved deadly in this regard, while Olympic created many useful attacks which were spoiled by poor finishing. The win takes Eagles to within a point of leader South Hobart, which meets Glenorchy Knights at South Hobart today.

## **Striker rues encounter of red-card kind**

By **Walter Pless [THE MERCURY]** - 4/9/2002

NEW Town Eagles' promising young striker Matthew Burn has made six senior appearances in the Premier League soccer competition and scored five goals.

However, his latest senior game ended abruptly on Saturday, when he was sent off early in the second half, after a tangle with an opponent. But Burn was not complaining. "I got gripped around the neck," Burn said. "I try not to retaliate, and as soon as the referee showed me the red card I walked. There's not much you can do about it. I just put my arms up, maybe you can call that retaliation, it's just the way the referee saw it."

Burn had scored Eagles' goal, but it was not enough to prevent his side going down 3-2 to Hobart Olympic. In the previous meeting between the sides at senior level, Burn netted a hat-trick as Eagles triumphed 3-0. With 26 goals, he is the Reserve League's leading scorer, and it is that form that has seen him elevated to the senior line-up on occasion.

He is not perturbed about not being a regular in the seniors as he knows his chance will come. "We've got a pretty strong club, with Michael Fong and Richard Leszczynski up front, so I just try and fit in where and when I can," he said. Rosetta Primary School was his first experience of soccer, and he has played for both the Glenorchy Knights and Eagles at club level.

He has represented Southern Tasmania at youth level but shied away from the Academy of Soccer, despite being earmarked as a precocious talent when he played at under-16 level as a 13-year-old. He was in the Knights reserve side that won the league championship in 2000, but has spent seven years in all at Eagles. His brother Marcus, has also played for Eagles, but is presently with the Knights, and they may well face each other in the Reserve League top-five finals series.

"Marcus plays in defence, and with me in attack, chances are we'll come up against each other if we play the Knights," he said. "It'd be really good, as there's a bit of rivalry between us." Burn is confident the Eagles can go all the way and win the reserve-grade top- five final, having already won the league championship.

Given his scoring prowess, he may, however, be called up for the seniors, who are in the Premier League top-five finals. He may have to sit out the first game if he cops a suspension for Saturday's send-off. But that should make him even more keen to play to his ability when he returns and score the all-important goals in the finals series, which could make up for Eagles' disappointing league campaign this year.

## **Injured Eagles soar again**

By **ELLEN WHINNETT** - 10/9/2002

THEY are two of Hobart's bravest and most inspirational young men. Darren Frost and Josh Potts have fought back from horrific injuries that could have claimed their lives in a motorcycle accident.

Now the two good mates and former soccer stars are destined to spend their lives in wheelchairs, sidelined from the sport they love. But the inner strength and determination that propelled them to the top of the sporting ladder is being turned towards getting on with their lives.

Darren, 26, is returning to work today, as a customer service officer with his former employer, Erico Lightning Technologies. Josh, 18, plans to resume his studies and start a university course next year. And despite the continuing pain, the endless medical treatments and the loss of control of their bodies from the chest down, the pair are determined to remain positive and focused.

"I've got no complaints," Darren said. "I'm alive. That's a bonus." The pair were both talented senior players for the New Town Eagles soccer club, Darren a midfielder and Josh a striker. Darren also coached the Eagles' under-23 side and had been named the state's youth league coach of the year, while Josh was showing his talents as a referee.

About 11pm on January 8, in a moment of youthful exuberance, they jumped on to Darren's motorcycle and headed down the road from their friend's shack at White Beach, where they were staying. They don't remember what happened next, or even who was riding the motorcycle when it left the road and slammed into a tree.

Darren and Josh, who were not wearing helmets, received horrific injuries and were lying unconscious by the roadside until a friend came looking for them. An ambulance was called, and they were later flown to the Austin Hospital in Melbourne, where the full extent of their injuries became clear.

Darren's head was split open, his left eye and ear were damaged, he chipped most of his teeth, suffered a broken sternum, collarbone, shoulder-blade and five ribs, plus punctured his lungs. He also broke his back and severed his spinal cord. Josh received horrific head injuries, which required three metal plates to repair his skull. He broke both cheekbones, his left shoulder-blade and every rib on his left side. His lungs were also punctured.

Josh also broke his back in two places. With their families keeping vigil, the pair lay unconscious in hospital for several weeks, with tubes inserted through their throats to help them breathe. They fought for their lives and eventually they won, returning to Tasmania in July for continued therapy.

Neither suffered significant brain damage. They have kept their handsome looks and their bright personalities. "There's so many more things than just having the use of our legs," Josh said. "Not being able to use our legs isn't the worst of it. "I have my moments when I get depressed and it's like I was planning where my life would go and now I can't go there anymore."

"It's hugely frustrating sometimes. "I don't think I realise yet that this is forever." Josh lives at Lenah Valley with his parents, Chris and Lee, and has set his sights on replacing his manual car and learning to drive an automatic equipped for people who cannot use their legs to drive.

Darren continues to live with his mum, Sue, and her fiancé, Graydon Peppiatt, at Old Beach and is looking forward to starting work today. A former storeman, he will try out a new role in customer service.

"It's just one of those things that happened," Darren said, trying to explain his continued cheerful outlook on life. "I am grateful that I have the use of my hands. The club have been really good to us. The team members came to Melbourne when we were there."

All three Eagles sides have made the play-offs, and Darren and Josh will be on the sidelines when the finals begin on Friday night.

## **Eagles keeper building his reputation**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 19/6/2002

ALLAN Wisby has saved four of the penalties he has faced this soccer season. The 30-year-old New Town Eagles goalkeeper's performance, conjures up visions of Spain's Iker Casillas, who saved three Irish penalties at the World Cup on Monday. Saving penalties is no mean feat, as the advantage is all with the kicker, the goalkeeper not being expected to save.



Wisby is back as the Eagles' senior goalkeeper after missing the past couple of seasons teaching in the UK. He is currently teaching children with disabilities at Kingston High School and puts his elevation to senior status at Eagles down to the fact he completed a good pre-season training regime.

"I was hesitant at first because the club has very good young goalkeepers in Andrew Savage and Sam Kruijver, who could fill the senior spots at any team," Wisby said.

"I think I got the nod because Andrew and Sam weren't able to train regularly through the pre-season because of various other commitments. "I felt a bit uncomfortable in games early on, but I'm getting my confidence back now. "The good thing about the club is that everyone is happy, regardless of whether we're winning or losing."

Wisby believes second-placed Eagles played quite well with only nine men against league-leader South Hobart on Saturday, despite going down 3-1. "I think we could have won," he said. "I think we're still looking pretty good, and the title is not out

of reach, and South Hobart won't go through undefeated." Wisby played as a youth with Metro-Claremont and Juventus, before moving on to Caledonians, and then having three years at Nelson.

Danny Donohue encouraged him and Zlatko Belanic, who is now back in Adelaide, provided him with specialist goalkeeping coaching. Wisby is confident that Eagles has recovered from its lean period in recent seasons and is set for a great future.

"The depth we have at the club is fantastic," he said. "We'll be okay for the next five to 10 years. "Every club goes through lean periods, but I'm confident about the future because we have fantastic players coming through."

Wisby, who is on the club committee, is quieter on the field than many goalkeepers. "I'll tell my defenders what to do if something needs to be said, but I won't keep talking all the time," he said.



#### **2002 Under 22's Side**

**Back:** S. Woolley (Manager), M. Rybak, M. Proud, T. Tarros (Coach), M. Rybak, W. Goddard, S. Pike

**Front:** S. Leon, S. Fong, B. Gilroy, S. Kruijver, A. Bates, S. Woolley, L. Eugster.

The reserves however continued to be very consistent and were once again Summer Cup winners and premiers in 2002.

The outstanding performers being Ben Carter and Matthew Burn. Burn's 26 goals powered the side to an eight-point win, and made him the League's leading goalscorer. He capped a fine year by being adjudged the League's Best and fairest player at the annual awards dinner.

## **New Town Eagles celebrate Reserve title in style**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 25/8/2002

IT took a late goal by Matthew Ford to give new Reserve Soccer League Champions New Town Eagles a 2-1 win over the visiting second-placed South Hobart at Clare Street yesterday. Matthew Burn's goal for Eagles and Mani Thom's strike for South Hobart had made it 1-1 at the interval.

Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2002

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	18	15	0	3	61	15	45
Hobart Zebras	18	12	1	5	48	27	37
University	18	11	2	5	65	22	35
Glenorchy Knights	18	11	1	6	42	25	34
South Hobart	18	10	1	7	66	32	31
Hobart Olympic	18	9	3	6	46	33	30
Kingborough Lions	18	8	1	9	50	30	25
DOSA	18	4	1	13	22	68	13
Metro Claremont	18	3	2	13	34	69	11
Clarence United	18	1	0	17	15	128	3

Leading Goalscorer: M. Burn 26



2002 Reserve Premiership Squad

**Back:** P. Murray (Coach), P. Leimbach, R. Lebski, T. Burn (Manager), S. Bukowiecki, M. Ford, C. Jones, M. Burn, D. Large (Trainer)  
**Front:** A. Bates, B. Carter, I. Calvert, A. Savage, C. Wass, B. Michel, N. Large

In 2003, Jones started the season as senior coach but was replaced by Damien Bones-season. Eagles continued to be very inconsistent, but they did have a say in who would win the premiership, where the top three teams were separated by only 2 points. An early win against Glenorchy Knights (third place) and a win against second placed Hobart Zebras, towards the end of the season were very costly for those two Clubs in the final washup.

## ⚽ Eagles swoop on off-target Knights

By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - April 14, 2003

NEW Town Eagles employed deadly counter-attacking tactics to beat the more fancied Glenorchy Knights 3-1 at home at Clare St in their Premier League soccer match yesterday.

The Knights had more of the play and 29 attempts at goal, but Eagles netted three times with their dozen efforts to steal the three points.

Eagles took the lead in the 10th minute after Chris Jones's corner, Chris Wass heading home from close range. Knights midfielder Tom Huigslot equalised with a deflected shot in the 13th minute, but the diminutive and energetic Sam Fong restored Eagles' lead three minutes before half-time.

Eagles netted a third two minutes into injury time when Janko Begovic was unable to control Knights goalkeeper Tony Bacic's goal-kick and Matthew Holloway gained possession and scored.

## **Knights charge to top of ladder**

By Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - July 13, 2003

GLENORCHY Knights took over at the top of the Premier League soccer ladder on goal-difference from Hobart Zebras after thrashing eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United 7-0 at Lightwood Park yesterday.

Tom Huigslot and Lincoln Conquest both netted hat-tricks against the Lions yesterday, with Josh Fielding grabbing the remaining goal.

The Zebras retained their unbeaten record, but needed a goal five minutes into stoppage time to draw 3-3 with sixth-ranked New Town Eagles at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night.

New Town Eagles were a side transformed from last week, and they led league-leaders Hobart Zebras 3-1 at half-time. Mark Falzon fired the Zebras into an 18th-minute lead after Jonathon Ladic's pass from midfield had unlocked the defence, but Michael Murray equalised in the 27th minute following Richard Leszczynski's excellent work.

Robert Lebski put Eagles ahead in the 36th minute with a penalty, awarded for Josh Heerey's foul on Murray, while Leszczynski lobbed goalkeeper Frank Mainella to make it 3-1 on the stroke of half-time.

Falzon pulled a goal back for the Zebras three minutes after the break with a superb 25-metre volley, but it was not until the 95th minute that Aaron Brazendale netted the equaliser, his shot being only partly saved by Sam Kruijver and the ball slithering over the line before Adam Jones and Philippe Leimbach could react.

## **Swooping Eagles tear up Lions**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 28/7/2003

NEW Town Eagles displaced Metro-Claremont from fifth place on the Premier League soccer ladder by beating eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United 5-0 at home at Clare Street yesterday.

The visiting Lions should have taken the lead in the third minute when Dylan Twine made a good run down the right and crossed the ball into the middle, but Andrew Christmas blazed over the crossbar from 10 metres. The Lions fell behind in the 20th minute following a corner from the left by Christopher Jones. Goalkeeper Adam Coleman only partially punched the ball clear, and it fell to Eagles defender Adam Bates, who drilled the ball into the back of the net from 35 metres.

Richard Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 36th minute, turning Bates's low cross from the right towards the near post past Coleman from close range. Leszczynski added the third eight minutes after the resumption, controlling Jones's left-wing cross and tucking the ball past the advancing Coleman.

Eagles made it 4-0 in the 55th minute, Lebski crossing from the right and Leszczynski setting the ball up for Steven Bukowiecki to drill into the roof of the net from the edge of the penalty area. Bates completed the scoring with his second goal, a 79th-minute penalty, awarded after Lebski had been brought down by Lions substitute Brad Nelson.

### **Premier League Final Standings - 2003**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	18	13	3	2	50	17	42
Hobart Zebras	18	12	5	1	47	19	41
Glenorchy Knights	18	13	1	4	58	24	40
South Hobart	18	9	3	6	40	20	30
Metro-Claremont	18	8	4	6	43	36	28
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>26</b>
Hobart Olympic	18	6	4	8	34	35	22
Kingborough Lions	18	6	2	10	24	37	20
Clarence United	18	1	3	14	24	54	6
DOSA	18	0	1	17	9	88	1

Leading Goalscorers:- R. Leszczynski - 9, S. Bukowiecki - 6.



**2003 Senior Team**

**Back:** T. Burn (Mgr), C. Jones, B. Zielinski, R. Leszczynski, M. Murray, A. Jones, S. Louden, A. Wisby  
**Front:** C. Wass, M. Proud, A. Bates, D. Bones, R. Lebski, S. Bukowiecki

**What coaches Damien Bones and Peter Wass had to say about 2003:**

"To say that the 2003 year for New Town Eagles Seniors was turbulent would be an understatement. The Loss of Craig Jones as coach, coupled with consistent injury problems brought mixed results, and the fact that the morale was still existent at season end is testament to the player's attitude toward the club and the game. To finish only 2 points outside a place in the finals can be considered a good result due to the ever-changing faces in the team and the number of players used."

From the coaches' point of view the season was a good experience. The pressure was high from the outset, and it was suggested that the players take on a more senior and active role in the team. During this time, we were particularly well served by Michael Murray, Steven Bukowiecki and Robbie Lebski amongst others.

Should we have just a bit more luck next year with keeping down injuries, the continued commitment of our players along with our emerging youth, will ensure better performances, therefore greater success in the 2004 season."



**2003 Senior Side**

**Back:** P. Wass (Asst Coach), B. Zielinski, R. Leszczynski, A. Jones, M. Murray, M. Burn, S. Bukowiecki, T. Burn (Mgr)  
**Front:** C. Jones, C. Wass, C. Wilson, S. Kruijver, A. Bates, D. Bones (Player/Coach), M Nidorfer, C. Stingle

In 2003, the Premier Women's team under the guidance of Dale Itchins, and assisted by Corey Slade finished in 2nd place on the back of 21 goals from Casey Lee-Boulter.

#### **What coach Dale Itchins had to say about 2003:**

"The season has been a long and tough one for our women's team, having played five Summer Cup and nineteen roster matches. Training started in February and numbers were similar to last year, with the exception of Blanch Manuel and Emma Lake who decided not to play this season. This left a total of thirteen players, which was a bare minimum to operate with during the year.

We did however sign two new players early into the season to bolster our ranks. Freya Godfrey and Alice Frier joined us from Clarence United where they were playing in the boys competition. Both girls were the youngest in the squad, both being 14 years of age. To protect them, we introduced them to the competition slowly at first, but after a few matches they both acquitted themselves extremely well, and both girls shone for the remainder of the season. Their contribution was invaluable, as we did lose Elissa Wass and Julia Murray to long term injury and with Nadia Paternoster in Italy for several weeks, our squad was operating with twelve from week to week.

This did not affect the team at all, and we finished the season in second position after finishing third in 2002. We powered home over the last 3 months of the competition, winning 11 drawing 1 and losing only 1 match in this time. Our improvement was noted by all opposition teams, and the main keys were an outstanding year by Leesa Collett in goals and our ability to double our scoring from the previous year finishing with 53 goals as opposed to 29 in 2002. Casey Boulter once again led our scoring with 21 goals and finished third in the overall competition, but major contributions from Lauren Jones and Alice Frier added to our strike power over the past 12 matches.

We had a steady back four and when we did make changes all players slotted in well and contributed. Training was frustrating for all, as bad weather dogged all clubs during the winter months. There were many weeks when we didn't or couldn't train, but we actually played better than if we had, so I am all for that method if it works, and you keep winning. Corey Slade was also a major influence as my assistant and his contribution was invaluable for the girls and myself. He had equal input both at games and training and coached the girls on occasions when I could not be there.

Working as a team Corey and myself always managed to push the squad and set high goals for them to achieve, as their results proved. Making the semi-final of the Summer Cup, finishing 2nd in the league and having one of the top three goal scorers was a great achievement, in only their 2nd year of Premier competition. Lauren Jones, Casey Boulter and Lauren Farquhar have also been invited to the Soccer Tasmania awards night, as our leading vote getters.

The average age of the squad is 16, and I believe their general fitness and the girls natural skill and ability contributed to their outstanding improvement on last season. The challenge for the club is to maintain and keep all squad members for the future, and to also campaign for a 2nd team in the Division 1 competition. This will release pressure when numbers are down and provide an incentive for all players at the club to play in the Premier squad. Hopefully we have set up a great platform for the squad, and Corey and I would like to congratulate the girls on their tremendous season, and wish the club and players success for the future. May they achieve much more in their careers."

Team List: - Casey-Lee Boulter; Leesa Collett; Lauren Farquhar; Alice Frier; Freya Godfrey; Nat Jackson; Keryn Jarman; Marie Kierstein; Lauren Jones; Kathryn McLeod; Katherine Meijers; Nadia Paternoster; Jessica Ranger; Natalie Reardon; Elissa Wass

#### **Premier League Women Final Standings - 2003**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	19	15	4	0	73	12	49
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>41</b>
Glenorchy Knights	19	12	2	5	49	19	38
University	19	7	2	10	41	28	23
Hobart Olympic	19	4	1	14	12	79	13
Metro Claremont	19	0	1	18	7	73	1

Leading Goalscorers:– C. Boulter 21, L. Jones 10

## **Zero tolerance for abusive language**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 15/4/2004

TASMANIA'S soccer referees are to adopt a zero-tolerance policy towards foul and abusive language from players and spectators right from the start of the coming season.

The policy will be in force when the southern Summer Cup begins on March 6 and was applied at Sunday's opening round of the northern pre-season Steve Hudson Cup series.

Association Football's Law 12 deals with fouls and misconduct and the punishment for the use of offensive, insulting or abusive language and/or gestures is a send-off.

"The directive is clear to all referees and their assistants and is effective immediately," said Stephen McEwan, the State referees' coach.

"This will not be a popular directive for players and club officials and I would expect to see a few red cards in the early part of the season.

"In the long term, however, referees will feel safe from abuse by players and club officials and this will assist us in retaining referees and could help bring more families back to the game and into the grounds."



In 2004 Mark Leszczynski returned as senior coach after eight years out of the coaching game. Although anchored by a solid central defensive pairing of veteran Scott Young and an emerging Chris Wass, the team once again struggled with consistency, and found themselves in the bottom half of the table by season's end.

A poor first round included only 1 win against lowly Metro Claremont and that occurred in the last game. A stronger second round saw the team lose only one game, and that was against the subsequent premiers. The highlight of the second round was a win against title chasing University, which ultimately contributed to them losing the title.

Finishing in eighth position was disappointing and could have been substantially better, if Eagle had been able to convert a number of their seven drawn games, the highest in the competition, into wins. Their lack of goalscoring power was a big issue, and its goal tally of 16 was the Club's lowest since 1964.

Scott Young was voted the Best and Fairest player for the season, 20 years after winning his first award in 1984.

## **Lowly Eagles shock Uni with 3-2 victory**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 12/7/2004

UNIVERSITY suffered a serious blow to its chances of retaining the Premier League soccer championship when it went down 3-2 to second-last New Town Eagles at KGV Soccer Park yesterday.

University now trails leaders Hobart Zebras by seven points. Eagles moved up a place to seventh, four ahead of last-placed Metro-Claremont and two in front of second-last Hobart Olympic. University took a 15th-minute lead through Alexis Bull, who headed home Greg Taylor's right-wing cross, but Scott Young equalised four minutes later with a header from Damien Bones's corner.

In the 25th minute, a Julian Proud back-pass went straight to Richard Leszczynski, who shot past advancing goalkeeper Andrew Hoppitt. University replaced injured playmaker Colin Shepherd at the interval with teenager Sam Crosswell, who equalised with his second touch of the ball after two minutes. Eagles regained the lead in the 62nd minute when Brian Zieliński collected a cross and cut inside before curling the ball into the net's far corner.

### Premier League Final Standings - 2004

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
University	16	11	2	3	44	21	35
Glenorchy Knights	16	8	4	4	58	31	28
Clarence United	16	6	5	5	32	28	23
South Hobart	16	6	3	7	29	28	21
Kingborough Lions	16	4	4	8	23	25	16
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>16</b>
Metro-Claremont	16	3	3	10	13	37	12
Hobart Olympic	16	2	3	11	14	44	9

In 2005, with Mark Leszczynski remaining in charge, Eagle were bolstered by the signing of Andrew, Scott Telega and exciting goalkeeping prospect Nathan Pitchford from Tilford Zebras.

Unfortunately, the team failed to fire as a unit, and only a three-match winning run at the end of the first round saved them from a last place finish. Leszczynski decided to blood some youngsters into the side to give it some much needed enthusiasm and spark. Ben Whitehall, Cormac Collins and Alexander Leszczynski were given some game time and they repaid Leszczynski with some exuberant performances that provided a glimpse into perhaps a more promising future.

2005 saw the retirement of Scott Young who ended his stellar career by being runner-up to Andrew Telega in the senior Best and Fairest count.

## **Nathan helping Eagles to fly higher**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 15/6/2005

NEW Town Eagles' 16-year-old goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford is proving a more than useful acquisition for the Premier League club as it seeks to regain former glory.

Pitchford joined the Eagles from Hobart Zebras at the start of the season, but he began his career at Metro-Claremont, where his father Stephen, is a life member. "I went through the ranks at Metro and then joined Zebras' under-18s, where there were a lot of the state under-age players I'd played with in state sides," Pitchford said. "I was in the reserves last season, and I joined Eagles this year because of the opportunity to play in the seniors."

"I was offered the full-time senior position, whereas at Zebras, my security as a senior player wasn't confirmed. Eagles offered me a solid spot and it seemed a better opportunity at the time. "I think I'm doing all right, but I'm not at my best. I thought I had a good season last year. "This season I'm a bit down on that, but I think it's probably because of the new environment and stepping up into the seniors, which is a pretty big step." Pitchford has contributed importantly to Eagles' recent upsurge, which has seen them move off the foot of the Premier League ladder and into seventh place in the nine-team competition.

He makes up for his lack of height with extreme agility and bravery, but at 16 he is still growing. He conceded, and then saved a penalty in Sunday's 1-0 loss to South Hobart in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy State-wide competition, but Eagles had won their previous three games. "I think we can crack the top-five," Pitchford said. "The social life at the club is back and spirits are high, and everyone is in a good frame of mind." Pitchford is in Year 11 at Guilford Young and is pursuing health studies, English communication and physical science with a view to studying human movement or sports management at tertiary level.

He also is interested in a professional soccer career and already has been to Sydney and Melbourne. "In Sydney, I had a session with former Australian goalkeeper Jim Fraser, while in Melbourne I trained with Sunshine George Cross," he said. "I'll be going to Melbourne again in November for a trial with George Cross, but I'd really like to go to England at some time."

In the meantime, Pitchford is helping out as a goalkeeping coach with the state under-15s and the Southern Tasmanian under-13s as he is too old for the under-16 squad. He is hoping there are further developments with the state under-19s, whose last outing was against the Victorian Institute of Sport in March this year.

Agility and technique are the most important attributes a goalkeeper needs, according to Pitchford. He demonstrates both in abundance as he strives to help Eagles climb further up the league ladder.

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2004 – Premier League	16	3	3	10	17	35	12	8/9

## **Teenager's strike sinks Olympic**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 20/6/2005

A BRILLIANT goal by 15-year-old striker Ben Whitehall gave New Town Eagles a 1-0 win over Hobart Olympic in their Premier League soccer match at Clare Street yesterday. In the 26th minute, Damien Bones put Whitehall through on the right and the youngster scored with a low drive inside the far post.

Earlier, Eagles midfielder Robert Lebski had come close to scoring with a lob that landed on top of the crossbar. Olympic's best chance of the opening half came in the 34th minute when Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford just managed to get a fingertip to Paul Cairns' free-kick and turn the ball wide for a corner. With six minutes of the first half remaining, Olympic goalkeeper Michael McKenna did well to deny Scott Young, whose fierce free-kick flashed through the defensive wall.

Whitehall almost added a second in the 59th minute when Brian Zielinski's pass put the youngster through the defence, but his shot rebounded off the far post before being cleared.

In the 65th minute, an error by Richard Sampson allowed Whitehall through on goal, but the alert McKenna was quickly off his line and saved at the youngster's feet. Olympic brought on super-sub Kosta Grillas midway through the second half, but he was allowed few chances by the Eagles defence.

"I've got to be happy with the 1-0 result," said Eagles coach, Mark Leszczynski. "But we made it hard for ourselves there in the second half in stages, but we got away with it and I'm glad for the young guys." Ian Parker, Olympic's coach, said his side was second best all day, all over the park.

## **No underage selection for talented Ben**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - WED 22/6/2005

NEW Town Eagles' 15-year-old senior Premier League team striker Ben Whitehall is a soccer star of the future. The youngster scored a superb goal on Sunday to give Eagles a 1-0 win over Hobart Olympic and he was unlucky not to add to his tally. In the second half, he hit the post and then had another effort blocked at his feet by Olympic's goalkeeper Michael McKenna.

The goal, in the 26th minute of the match, was created by Damien Bones, who played the ball through for Whitehall to run on to and score. The unassuming Whitehall was modest about his goal. "It was all right, I suppose," he said. "The through-ball was bouncing so I thought I'd just have a hit and it went in." Whitehall, a student at New Town High School, has been playing soccer for 11 years and joined Eagles from Hobart Zebras.

"Soccer is pretty much my life," he said. "I love it. "When we moved to New Town, I didn't know which club to play for, but a lot of my mates were playing for Eagles, so I followed them, I suppose. "It's been great. It's excellent." What is amazing is that Whitehall is not a member of the state under-15 or under-16 squads which will participate in the national talent identification series in Sydney later in the year.

"We were living in Molesworth, and everyone worked on weekends, and I couldn't really find a way to get to training, such as in Devonport," Whitehall said. "I got the forms and filled them out, but because I never got to training and couldn't really get up to places such as Devonport, I just didn't go along any-more, but I'm hoping to next year."

Whitehall was delighted with Sunday's win against third-placed Hobart Olympic, which took seventh-placed Eagles to within a point of Olympic. Whitehall would like to make a career in soccer, but his immediate aim is to play at the highest level possible. He's a player to watch and it's a pity he's not going to Sydney with a state underage side.

### **What coach Mark Leszczynski had to say about 2005:**

"The season overall was not as successful as we would have liked. We had a big turnover of players, and this meant that we blooded a lot of young players, something that needed to happen sooner rather than later.

The future of the club is dependent on these young players stepping up to the next level. A concentrated effort must be made by both the club and players to realise the potential that undoubtedly exists and not to waste the opportunities that present themselves by not being professional in our approach to training and game days.

We struggled during the year with our inability to put the ball in the back of the net, and I think this contributed to some poor on field performances due to a lack of confidence. We all know that we were competitive in 90% of the games, and there is a fine line between winning and losing. If we had won 2 more games, we would have found ourselves in the final 5 and anything could have happened.

The club is moving in the right direction, and unfortunately, I can't be involved in coaching for at least the next 12 months due to circumstances beyond my control. I would however like to wish the guys all the best in the future. I strongly believe that we have the potential to get to the top. We now need to work hard to make sure this is achieved.

Thanks to all the players for all the hard work they put in during the year I would also like to thank all the coaches for their help during the year, especially Peter Wass for his input and work at training with the keepers.

Also, to William, Debbie, Amber and John Large for their help with player strapping and physio during the year. And last, but not least, the committee, for all their hard work and support during the year, that most of the time goes without any accolades.

I hope everyone has a good night and best of luck for next year."



The highlights of 2005 were provided by our premier women, and under 17 teams. Both won their respective competitions, and in addition to the premiership, the women's team also won the summer cup. This was a remarkable achievement, as it

was touch and go whether the club would even field a women's team, and but for the persistence of coach Craig Jones, 2005's success may not have happened. Bliss Cantrell ended the season as the club's top goal scorer with 28 goals.



2005 Premier League Women – Premiers & Summer Cup Winners

**Premier League Women Coach Craig Jones had this to say about 2005:**

"Thinking the team would not exist this year because of no coach, I decided to make a few calls. Two weeks prior to the summer cup kick off, we had 9 of our original players back and were desperately looking for new players.

Mustering a team of only 13, we entered the Summer Cup. The rest is now what we call history. We won the Summer Cup and went on to being this year's 2005 Premiership winners. For the squad well what can I say, I think they know with all their efforts came the rewards. The scary thing is that they are only going to get better. Super effort, I am so proud of you all!"

The under 17 team under the guidance of William Cuellar had a fantastic season, and is a prime example of how good coaching at an early age can lead to good players in the future. Of this team, six players would make the senior team, five of whom would be regulars for a number of years.

**Under 17 coach William Cuellar to say about 2005:**

"This year I saw the result of six years of hard work with the majority of these players coming from the West Hobart Red team to their transition to club soccer. Finally, I was able to assemble a group of players that could play well together, that played the way I wanted them to play, and that were hungry enough to take the premiership for the second year in a row. All the players in this team deserve recognition for the effort they put in this year, for sticking together and because they are all talented players.

I think one of the best rewards for a youth coach is to be able to develop his/her players, and then see them move up into the senior teams. This season, I was very pleased to see that many of my players move up, and do an excellent job in these teams.

Bennie Whitehall moved to the senior squad, got his picture in the paper, and became a legend in his own lunchbox. Albie Leszczynski moved to u19's and later made his senior debut. Mark Page, Ali Assi and. Mathew Lacy played for various senior teams, and did a great job.

This season's special mention goes to our team captain Andrew Clark, who played for all the senior teams, u19's, Div.1, Div.1 reserves, Senior Reserves, and Seniors. Andrew led our team to a second Premiership, made himself available for any team he was required for, and scored a massive 25 goals for our team.

I am proud to say that my job with these players is done and from here it will be the job of the senior coaches to continue to develop such an excellent group of players."

**The full team for the record was:**

Ben Ashwood, Ali Assi, Gezachew Atalay, Mohamed Bangura, Andrew Clark, Alexander Crichton-Gill, Samuel Hogget, Mathew Lacy, Sahr Lahay, Alexander Leszczynski, Ethan Menzie, George Nelson, Mark Page, Adam Robertshaw, Ben Whitehall, Sebastian Wishart



**Under 17 Premiers 2005**

**Back:** W. Cuellar (Coach), M. Bangura, a. Robertshaw, A. Crichton-Gili, E. Menzie, S. Hoggett, A. Leszczynski, M. Lacy  
**Front:** G. Atalay, B. Ashwood, M. Page, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, S. Wishart, G. Nelson, S Lahay



From 2006-2008 Ian Parker was in the senior hot seat trying to help Eagles recapture their past glories and regain their reputation as a feared opponent in Tasmanian soccer.

## **Parker to coach battling Eagles**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 22/12/2005

IAN Parker has been appointed coach of Premier League soccer club New Town Eagles for the next two seasons, replacing Mark Leszczynski.

Parker coached Hobart Olympic to fourth place last season and Metro-Claremont for three seasons before that. This year, Eagles finished second-last in the nine-team competition. "I'm looking forward to the challenge, and it will be a challenge," said Parker. "I know a number of their players already, but I don't know a lot of their younger kids."

Parker said he was interested in acquiring a midfield player and a centre-back. "I think we can work around the other positions, especially with some of the young kids coming through," he said.

"Obviously, anyone who wants to come from Olympic is quite welcome to come along for pre-season training, which will start at New Town High School on January 3 at 6pm and continue every Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. "Hopefully, we may pick up a couple of them. As far as Olympic goes, I wish Farrell Shaw all the best."



Armed with some talented up and coming players, Parker managed to guide the team to two successive Summer Cup Final losses in 2006 and 2007, but as with the coaches before him, the consistency and application required to achieve good results was missing.

Parker an exciting and attacking forward and midfielder in his playing days, adopted a very defensive approach to games that produced very few goals, 22 in 18 games, and little excitement, which was a disappointment for the club's supporters, who had been brought up on a diet of exciting, attacking, play.

## **Last-gasp goal lands vital points for Lions**

By Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - July 2, 2006

AN Adam Hinkley goal three minutes into injury time gave second-placed Kingborough Lions United a 4-3 away win over fourth-placed University in their Premier League soccer match at Olinda Grove yesterday.

The win moved the Lions to within four points of leaders Glenorchy Knights, who were surprisingly held to a 2-2 draw by Hobart Zebras at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night.

Third-placed South Hobart suffered a shock 3-2 loss to second-last New Town Eagles at Clare Street yesterday, a result that moved Eagles up a place to eighth at the expense of Metro-Claremont, which is away to Hobart Olympic today at the Athletic Centre.

Eagles led South Hobart 3-0 at half-time through goals by Ben Whitehall, Nathan Brown and Andrew Telega, the latter with a free-kick. South dominated the second half and scored through Bart Beecroft and Daniel Brown, but an equaliser proved too elusive.

## **Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - July 16, 2006**

After a goalless first half, New Town Eagles beat Hobart Olympic 2-0 away at the Athletic centre.

Nathan Brown scored the first in the 67th minute after Andrew Telega had headed down a free-kick, while Adam Shackcloth grabbed the second five minutes from the end after Olympic goalkeeper Michael McKenna failed to gather the ball.

Eagles' goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford had another fine game, saving superbly in several one-on-one situations.

Eagles have now earned seven points from a possible nine in their past three games but remain eighth, four points ahead of ninth-ranked Metro and three adrift of seventh-placed Hobart Zebras.

## **Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - July 23, 2006**

New Town Eagles made it 10 points from a possible 12 from their past four games, when they beat Hobart Zebras 2-1 at KGV Soccer Park on Friday night, to move level on 16 points with their opponents.

The first half was scoreless, but defender Christopher Wass headed Eagles into the lead from only their second corner of the match in the 69th minute.

Zebras were level within four minutes, when Ricky Self fired low and hard inside the right-hand post from the edge of the box.

Nathan Brown, who took the corner that resulted in Eagles' first goal, grabbed a last-minute winner when he tapped the ball into an empty net.

# **Eagles make it six wins in a row**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 21/8/2006

NEW Town Eagles notched their sixth win in a row yesterday when they beat second-last Metro-Claremont 4-2 away at North Chigwell. The win lifted Eagles one place to sixth on the Premier League soccer ladder. In yesterday's other match, Kingborough Lions United held third spot with a 2-1 home win over fifth-placed Hobart Zebras at Lightwood Park.

Zebras dropped to seventh on the ladder as a result of the loss, while Kingborough is level on points with second-placed South Hobart, which has a superior goal-difference.

Eagles' 16-year-old striker, Nathan Brown, made a triumphant return to his former club by scoring twice in the opening half and having a third effort disallowed. Brian Zielinski made it 3-0 for Eagles in the 58th minute before Metro captain Shane Kent pulled a goal back midway through the second half.

Zielinski then made it 4-1 before Darrin Chaffey scored for Metro with 12 minutes left. Adam McKeown was a livewire for Metro, with numerous shots at goal, while Eagles' Alexander Leszczynski created danger with his crosses.

In the Reserve League, eighth-placed New Town Eagles thumped ninth-placed Metro 6-0 at North Chigwell. Scorers were George Nelson (2), Mark Page, Josh Hadfield and goalie Matthew Burn, playing in the outfield (2).

## Premier League Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	18	14	2	2	74	28	44
Kingborough Lions	18	10	4	4	48	28	34
South Hobart	18	11	1	6	44	27	34
University	18	9	6	3	37	18	33
Clarence United	18	7	4	7	38	34	25
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>
Tilford Zebras	18	6	4	8	43	40	22
Hobart Olympic	18	6	4	8	26	30	22
Metro Claremont	18	2	4	12	23	56	10
Hobart United SC	18	0	3	15	18	83	3

Leading Goalscorer: N. Brown 9

## What coach Ian Parker had to say about 2006:

"It is always difficult to know where to start when composing a report or review of the season. Having seen the team play a number of times over the last few seasons, I knew they had some emerging talent (credit to their youth coaches) so accepting the job as senior coach was not a difficult decision and it was a challenge I was looking forward to.

Pre-season training went well with good numbers turning up. From these numbers a squad was chosen for the pre-season summer cup. We reached the final with some fine performances from a number of individuals, but lost to University 2-0. To make the finals for the first time in a few years was a good start to the season for both the club and the players, and I was quite optimistic about the coming season.

For those who don't know, we had the youngest squad of players in the competition, and as with most young players their form tended to fluctuate. Given the fact a number of them were playing their first full season in the premier competition, I knew we would face some difficult games, and possibly suffer some heavy defeats. I was prepared to accept this with a view of looking to the future. The experience these young players would gain would be invaluable and would stand them and the club in good stead in the years to come.

The first half of the season was disappointing in terms of results, (a win and a couple of draws) but in a number of those games we played some good attractive football, so we all remained optimistic. In the second half of the season, things started to click, the chances we were creating started to go in and the results began to go our way (we won't mention the last game of the season though). We were the form side of the competition with a draw and six wins in a row, finishing mid-table. We know as a coaching / playing group we have a long way to go but if we keep making little steps forward, keep chipping away and stay focused I know the future looks bright.

To all the players, I know I haven't mentioned you individually because you all contributed throughout the season, thank you for your commitment and dedication to the cause. To Mark Broadbent (reserves coach) and Pop thank you, your input and

support is appreciated. To all the other coaches of the youth and women's teams, keep up the good work, your help in developing these players is invaluable.

To Peter Wass, my right-hand man, my job was made so much easier because of your tireless work, advice and support, thanks Pete. To Vicky and staff who work in the kiosk, well done, to my partner and soul mate Amy, thanks for putting up with me. To the committee who have done a fantastic job in pulling this club together, often with little support.

To the sponsors of the club thank you, your help in supporting this club is very much appreciated. Thank you to all the supporters who came to watch us week in, week out, we do hear you, even the advice given to the opposition and sometimes the officials.



The Premier Women's team were unable to repeat the successes of 2005, but still had a strong year finishing runner up in all three competitions, Summer Cup, Statewide Cup and League. They did however have the golden boot winner in Bliss Cantrell who 30 goals in the roster matches and 7 in other competitive matches to give her a total of 37 goals for the season.

Four players from the team were selected in the southern team, Bliss Cantrell, Lauren Farquhar, Ashley Roberts and Casey Boulter and all four were outstanding in both games against their northern opponents, and were a major reason why the southern team was so successful.



Lauren Farquhar



Ashley Roberts



Alice Frier



Kathryn McLeod



Bliss Cantrell

#### Premier League Women Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	16	16	0	0	88	10	48
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>36</b>
University	16	5	1	10	18	44	16
South Hobart	16	5	1	10	17	49	16
Kingborough Lions	16	0	2	14	4	61	2

Leading Goalscorers: B. Cantrell 30, L. Farquhar, L. Jones 10

The top performers in 2006 were the Division 1 Reserves team coached by Damien Bones. They went undefeated during the season, and also had the leagues' top goalscorer in the ageless Richard Leszczynski, who fired home 26 goals.

#### Division 1 Reserves Final Standings - 2006

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>48</b>
Kingborough Lions	18	14	1	3	69	21	43
Taroona	18	12	2	4	49	23	38
Beachside	18	10	1	7	59	44	31
South Hobart	18	7	2	9	43	43	23
University	18	6	4	8	28	34	22
Christian United	18	5	3	10	30	48	18
DOSA	18	4	3	11	28	54	15
Nelson	18	4	2	12	23	55	14
Huon Valley	18	1	3	14	22	90	6

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 26, D. Bones 10

The 2007 season started badly with a season ending injury to goalkeeper Andrew Savage in the first game of the Summer Cup pre-season series.

## **Baptism of fire for new Eagles goalkeeper**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 04/4/2007

NICK Rundle has had a shock introduction to the southern Premier League soccer competition.

The 21-year-old goalkeeper from Devonport played only his third game for New Town Eagles on Saturday and the team conceded four goals.

In their previous outing, the Summer Cup final, the Eagles lost 5-0 to Hobart Zebras.

Conceding nine goals in two games is a nightmare, but Rundle is taking it well.

"We drew 0-0 in the first game I played and I scored a goal and saved one penalty in the subsequent penalty shoot-out," Rundle said.

"We are regrouping. We were all right in the first half on Saturday and even better in the second, but we conceded some unlucky goals.

"We've got a few things to work on, but I haven't been at the club long enough to really work out what's wrong."

"It's very difficult for a goalkeeper and I'm not used to conceding so many goals."

Rundle played for Devonport City for the past five years, the last two spent in the senior side. He moved to Hobart in November for a change and wasn't going to play this year.

However, Eagles team manager Peter Wass heard he was in town, phoned him and convinced him to give it a go.

Rundle has always been a goalkeeper and his time at Devonport culminated in a league premiership win.

However, the club has fallen on lean times now because of the loss of several players and coaching problems.

Rundle has quickly noted the differences between soccer in the South and the North.

"There seems to be more ball control and skills here, and a different style of play," he said."

"I'm not used to defenders passing the ball around at the back."

"I'm used to defenders just clearing the ball first time."

## **Pitchford keeping his hopes high for top spot**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 25/4/2007

GOALKEEPER Nathan Pitchford has returned to New Town Eagles after two months with Victorian State League 2 (South-East Division) club Clifton Hill United.

Pitchford, 18, was a star performer for Eagles in the Premier League last season, but now has to fight for a first-team spot with Nick Rundle.

Following an injury to Andrew Savage in the first game of the Summer Cup pre-season series, Eagles were without a goalkeeper until they signed former Devonport City keeper Rundle.

Pitchford returned to Tasmania on April 14 and has made two appearances in the reserves.

"The standard I was playing at in Victoria was just a little above here and, because I was missing family and friends, it just wasn't worth staying there," Pitchford said.

"The first touch of players over there is excellent, but the passing still goes astray after that. Whereas here, most attacks come over the top of the defence, over there I found goalkeepers were confronted more by crosses as attackers get behind defenders in wide positions."

"Playing out from the back is also a massive part of the game over there."

Pitchford watched Eagles lose the Summer Cup final for the second successive season, but feels the players will soon click, just as they did last year when they strung together seven consecutive victories in the second half of the season.

He is looking forward to competing with Rundle for the senior berth.

"I rate him very highly and I'll have to work very hard to get back the No. 1 spot," he said. "No one should be able to come back and just push someone out, and Eagles have done the right thing."

## **Draw points to brighter future for New Town**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 05/6/2007

NEW Town Eagles turned an important corner on Sunday when they earned their first point of the Premier League soccer season with a 2-2 draw at home to Metro-Claremont at Clare St.

It ended a run of 10 consecutive losses for Eagles, stretching back to last season. The point was not enough to lift Eagles off the foot of the ladder, but it kept them within two points of second-last Metro and four adrift of eighth-placed Taroona.

"It was a handy point, for sure," said Eagles' 25-year-old captain and sweeper Andrew Telega. "We're certainly improving, but we've just got to get a little bit more positive. "We go a goal down and a lot of heads go down, so we just have to try to keep the young guys positive now."

Eagles have introduced a few older and experienced heads in recent weeks, such as former skipper and defender Damien Bones. Graham Reeks, who has moved to Tasmania from interstate after originally coming from the UK, is also having an impact on the side.

He played his first full game on Sunday and snatched the equaliser in the dying minutes with a header, after having hit the post early in the match. There is also talk of former ace striker Richard Leszczynski making a comeback. He is scoring prolifically in the social league competition.

"We're trying to work out what the problems have been," Telega said. "We've been lost for ideas. "We've got a young side that performed well at the end of last season, so nothing has really changed. It's just a case of getting the boys' heads up and their attitude right.

"It's a difficult time for me as captain, so I'd hate to think how our coach [Ian Parker] is feeling at the moment." Telega said. The team had been confident about getting a point off Metro. "The coach and I have asked a couple of the more senior guys to come back, both for training and for possible inclusion in the side to try and lift the heads of the young guys," he said.

"We need to get a bit more experience back into the side. "We just need to get our attitude right and start playing the ball properly and, hopefully, things will start to click.

"There's a good atmosphere at training and everything is positive." Eagles' next big test is on Sunday when they entertain league leaders Hobart Zebras at Clare Street. Zebras are unbeaten, have a six-point lead at the top of the ladder, and they beat Eagles 5-0 in this year's Summer Cup final.

## **Mighty Zebras stumble**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 11/6/2007

PREMIER League soccer leaders Hobart Zebras slipped up yesterday when they were held to a 1-1 draw away to bottom-side New Town Eagles at Clare St.

After a goalless opening half, the Eagles took the lead through an own-goal after veteran Richard Leszczynski headed the ball into the danger zone, but Mark Falzon salvaged a point for the league-leaders with a well-taken goal.

The Eagles are now a point adrift of second-last Metro-Claremont and six behind eighth-placed Taroona.

## **Eagles break through against 'sleepy' Knights**

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 22/7/2007

A GOAL in the opening minute gave New Town Eagles a 1-0 win, their first victory of the Premier League soccer season, over deposed champions the Glenorchy Knights.

A simple cross from the left by Scott Telega and a header by Adam Shackcloth decided the match before the Knights had time to wake up. It could have been more by the end as Shackcloth should have had a hat-trick, but his finishing was poor when twice faced with only goalkeeper Ben Peter to beat.

The Knights' experiment of playing Jonathon Ladic in attack to partner Tom Huigsloot was a failure, and he reverted to his midfield role in the second half.

The Knights were poor in attack and Huigsloot and Nick Harrison squandered half-chances by trying to be clever and back-heal crosses into the net.

Huigslot was also thwarted by Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford after he made a mess of a goal-kick and gifted possession to the powerfully built Knights striker. Harrison hit the outside of a post with one effort, but the Knights never quite looked serious and had the look of a team in decline.

The win lifted second-last Eagles to six points, three clear of last-placed Metro-Claremont and two adrift of third-last Taroona.

#### Premier League Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tilford Zebras	18	13	4	1	59	17	43
South Hobart	18	13	3	2	47	13	42
Hobart Olympic	18	11	3	4	39	20	36
Clarence United	18	10	4	4	33	26	34
Glenorchy Knights	18	7	3	8	32	38	24
Kingborough Lions	18	6	3	9	25	31	21
University	18	5	3	10	28	39	18
Taroona	18	4	2	12	19	47	14
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>
Metro-Claremont	18	1	5	12	22	54	8

Leading Goalscorers: Alex Leszczynski, A. Shackcloth 3



#### Summer Cup Final 2007

**Back Row:** W. Savage, A. Leszczynski, S. Telega, N. Brown, A. Telega, B. Zielinski, S. Buckowiecki, C. Jones, I. Parker (Coach), M. Broadbent (Asst. Coach) **Front:** A. Shackcloth, B. Whitehall, A. Clark, N. Rundle, E. Menzie, J. Hadfield, G. Nelson, C. Collins

The success story of 2007 was the Division 2 side which went through the season undefeated, winning their competition by 14 points, and also securing the pre-season summer cup.

The team coached by Damien Bones scored a massive 123 goals, 29 of which were scored by evergreen striker Richard Leszczynski (the League's top goalscorer). Matt Fennell chipped in with 18, Damien Bones 15 and Carl Turk 13.

This team was promoted to Division 1 for the 2008 season.

## Division 2 Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
N.T. Eagles White	21	20	1	0	123	27	61
Clarence Utd Spirit	21	15	2	4	64	27	47
Uni Dynamo	21	13	4	4	62	33	43
Hobart Olympic	21	11	2	8	57	52	35
Uni Bombers	21	10	4	7	33	37	34
Glenorchy Knights	21	9	1	11	52	49	28
Beachside	21	8	4	9	56	59	28
Clarence Utd Black	21	9	1	11	46	69	28
N.T. Eagles Red	21	8	2	11	52	57	26
South Hobart	21	3	1	17	18	88	10
Ethiotas FC	21	2	2	17	34	80	8
Tilford Zebras	11	1	0	10	9	28	3



In 2007 the Premier Women started the season with Craig Jones back at the helm but a move to Melbourne after the Summer Cup meant Andrew Law would take over this role and guided the team to third place on the ladder with Bliss Cantrell once again being the standout performer with 27 goals.

## Premier League Women Final Standings - 2007

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nelson ES	18	17	0	1	124	11	51
University	18	13	1	4	63	21	40
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>32</b>
South Hobart	18	10	1	7	44	30	31
Tilford Zebras	18	4	2	12	14	36	14
Clarence United	18	3	2	13	13	98	11
Glenorchy Knights	18	2	0	16	16	105	6

Leading Goalscorers: B. Cantrell 30, L. Farquhar, L. Jones 10

### What coach Andrew Law had to say about 2007:

"After the Summer Cup I took over from Craig Jones as coach of the team, as Craig moved to Melbourne. Throughout the season the girls played well. We had some highs as well as some lows. Our high was beating Nelson 3-2 in a roster game, and our low was losing 3-2 to Clarence in the State-wide Cup semi-final.

Throughout the season, we brought in some new players from the u16 team. Caitlyn Nichols, Chloe Donoghue, Erin Lee and Aimee Datlen filled in for players who had other commitments, and weren't able to play, and they acquitted themselves well. During the season attendance at training was low, and this showed in the second half of most games, as fitness levels started to wane.

As captain of the team, Kathryn McLeod showed great leadership, by putting in 100% each game. Ashley Roberts was always solid in the back line, and Lauren Farquhar playing in the middle, helped the back line out by stopping attacks coming forward, as well as helping the forward line out by scoring a few goals. Jess Ranger was a great little player, who with a bit more self-confidence could be a champion player.

Rebecca Wiggins was in goals, and at times would pull off some fantastic saves. Alice Frier up forward was always trying to make goals, and doing all the running for Bliss Cantrell, who was a natural goal scorer, and ended up second top goal scorer for the league."



In 2008 relegation was brought into the Premier League to replace the play-off regime that had existed in 2006 and 2007, whereby the team finishing last in the Premier League faced a play-off match against the team that won the Division 1, title to determine the final makeup of the league in the following season.

FFT's stance was that it wanted to strengthen the competition by reducing the number of teams able to compete in it, but given the myriad of different relegation / promotion scenarios (and number of teams participating) that had played out since 2000, looking at it from an outside perspective, it seemed that decisions were being made by those in the FFT hierarchy that either had a vested interest in some of the club's themselves or were being influenced by others who did.

Going from a play-off scenario for the last placed team, to the two bottom teams being immediately relegated, and the third last team facing a play-off, was a significant change when you consider what had previously occurred, when high profile teams such as South Hobart and Olympia had escaped relegation in previous seasons because it was deemed that relegation and promotion was not necessary for the competition.

The South Hobart one in 2000 was totally baffling, as the league was expanded to a 10-team competition by bringing in a DOSA team that had finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 1, hardly a competition strengthening strategy as their subsequent results showed.

Given Eagle's performances in the previous few years, the season was always going to be a topsy turvy ride for both the players and supporters alike. To add to the pressure, Eagle's would be without coach Ian Parker during the season, as he would be overseas for eight weeks. In his absence the team would be coached by Stephen Pitchford.

## Southern Premier League 2000 – 2008

Year	Teams	Last	Relegation	Pts	Second Last	Pts	Other
2000	9	South Hobart (2 W)	NO	7	Clarence Utd	12	Decided to expand the league to 10 & Promoted DOSA who finished 5th in the Div.1 competition
2001	10	DOSA (0 W)	NO	0	Clarence Utd	7	DOSA - Goal Difference ( - 80)
2002	10	DOSA (0 W)	NO	0	Clarence Utd	7	DOSA - Goal Difference ( - 72)
2003	10	DOSA (1 D)	YES	1	Clarence Utd	6	DOSA - Goal Difference ( - 79) 2004 - 9 team league
2004	9	Olympia (2 W)	NO	9	Metro	12	
2005	9	Metro (0 W)	NO	6	NTE	12	
2006	10	Hobart Utd (0 W)	Play Off	2	Metro	12	
2007	10	Metro (1 W)	Play Off	8	NTE	12	
2008	10	Taroona (0 W)	2 Relegated	3	Metro	8	2009 - Eight team league

## ⚽ Time in charge runs out for Eagles' innovator

By Walter Pless [THE MERCURY] - 03/6/2008

NEW Town Eagles' assistant coach Stephen Pitchford will hand the reins of the senior team back to Ian Parker next weekend. Pitchford has been in charge for five games while Parker has been in England. In that time, Eagles won once, 2-1 away against Metro and lost four times. They are eighth on the ladder.

The team had two points when Parker went overseas and now has five, but the battle to avoid relegation is well and truly on. The bottom two sides, currently Metro and Taroona, are automatically relegated, while the third-last faces a play-off against the Division One champion.

Pitchford has been innovative during his time in charge and has adopted an unorthodox 2-6-2 formation. "We have played a 2-6-2 for the past three games," Pitchford said. "I simply dispensed with a sweeper to allow us more players in midfield and to allow us to be in possession for longer periods and to restrict opposition freedom through the middle of the ground.

"It has worked to the extent that we have certainly had more possession, and have attacked opponents more freely than earlier in the season, but we have not yet converted that success into points, which is what we need." Pitchford is well aware of what is required to avoid relegation.

"The key to avoiding the bottom three places is scoring goals," he said. "With only four goals in eight games, we have been struggling, but the recent increase in shots, and shots on target, is encouraging and we believe that wins over Clarence, Kingborough and Taroona in the first three matches of the second round will be important." Pitchford has enjoyed his time in charge of the senior side. "It has been a challenging period," he said. "We lost Jayden Wiggins and Scott Telega before I started, and Amadu Koroma overseas, as well as Matthew Rybak to long-term injury."

"This has meant blending in players from the reserves and, at the same time, changing to playing attacking soccer. The way all players have accepted the challenges has been terrific. The first high, I suppose, was the first win of the season over Metro.

"The second high was the way in which the players embraced the change to a 2-6-2 formation against South Hobart, while the third high was the way in which the team fought back against University and played attacking soccer for 90 minutes.

"The low was losing to a last-minute, against-the-run-of-play goal to University. Also, the goals that are conceded to basic errors or loss of concentration.

When Ian returns, my advice to him will be that we should continue to consider the attacking formation where the opposition appears to be susceptible to its strengths."

The proof of the pudding will be on Friday night, when Eagles take on reigning champions Hobart Zebras at KGV Park.

## **Taroona gets the boot out of top league**

By Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - August 3, 2008

TAROONA was relegated from the Premier League soccer competition when it lost 3-0 at home at Kelvedon Park yesterday to sixth-placed Clarence United.

Taroona has just three points from its 15 games to date and, with three games remaining, cannot catch third-last New Town Eagles.

Ben Hamlett netted two goals and Dwayne Walsh one for Clarence, which led 2-0 at the break.

Metro looks almost certain to join Taroona in Division One next season after it went down 2-1 at home at North Chigwell yesterday to seventh-placed Kingborough Lions United.

Eighth-placed New Town Eagles did its own cause a lot of good when it gave fourth-ranked Glenorchy Knights a 5-1 hiding at KGV Park on Friday night.

Knights struck first through Peter Frank in the 17th minute, the youngster hammering home a low cross from Marcus Burn.

Alex Leszczynski equalised in the 40th minute with a marvellous volley, while Damien O'Brian gave Eagles a 2-1 lead at the break when he netted a penalty, awarded for Jayden Wiggins's foul on Jacob Malakoff.

Malakoff added Eagles' third in the 61st minute, converting Jamie Vernon's cross. Two goals in the final 10 minutes by Andrew Clark completed the Eagles' finest and biggest win of the season.

Knights, who were without Janko Begovic and Anthony Grundy, had Tony Dzelalija sent off 15 minutes from the end with the score at 3-1.

Metro was never in the hunt against the Lions and two first-half goals by the visitors effectively ended the contest. In the 12th minute, Mark Iseli headed home Ross Hinkley's free-kick, while in the 22nd minute, Charles White nodded home another Hinkley set-piece.

Metro pulled a goal back four minutes from the end when Terry Kent's perfect pass put Jason Dawes through and he rounded goalkeeper Jason Voss and rolled the ball into the unguarded net.

## **South stays ahead of hunting Zebras**

By Walter Pless - [Sunday Tasmanian] - August 17, 2008

SOUTH Hobart maintained its three-point lead over second-placed Hobart Zebras on the Premier League soccer ladder with just one round remaining after both won their matches on the weekend.

South beat bottom side and relegated Taroona 4-0 away at Kelvedon Park yesterday, while Zebras came from behind to down second-last and relegated Metro 4-2 at home at KGV Park on Friday night.

In the battle to avoid eighth spot and a promotion/relegation play-off against the Division One champion, seventh-placed New Town Eagles moved three points ahead of eighth-ranked Kingborough Lions United by thrashing third-placed Hobart Olympic 7-1 away at the Athletic Centre yesterday.

Goals by Billy Gasparinatos, David Abbott and Hugh Ludford, the latter with a penalty, gave South a 3-0 half-time lead against Taroona, while Simon Burritt netted the fourth. Burritt was a late inclusion in the South line-up after Shae Hickey withdrew. South also completed the signing yesterday of former Oldham Athletic, Macclesfield and Staleybridge Celtic professional Daniel White.

The 24-year-old striker will make his debut next weekend in South's final league match, against Metro, when a draw will be enough to give the club its first league title since 2002.

Zebras received a shock when Metro's Scottish import, Steve Pettit, fired the visitors ahead after just three minutes and, although Henry Fagg equalised in the 29th minute, a goal by Jason Dawes in the 33rd minute gave Metro a 2-1 lead at the interval.

Three goals in six minutes in the second half gave the Zebras victory and temporary top spot on the ladder on goal-difference. In the 63rd minute, Daniel Lapolla volleyed home from the edge of the box to make it 2-2, while in the 67th minute, Paul Cairns turned sharply before driving the ball past substitute goalkeeper Simon Land to put Zebras in front for the first time.

It was 4-2 in the 68th minute when a cross from Cairns hit Lapolla's knee and the ball looped over Land and into the net.

Eagles were much too good against an Olympic side that was woeful in defence and which had eight players cautioned and coach Farrell Shaw sent behind the fence by referee Dirk Gadd.

The energetic and enthusiastic young Eagles side, led 4-0 at the interval through goals by Nick Ferrall, Adam McKeown, Jamie Vernon and Wade Savage.

Vernon, McKeown and Savage then each scored again, as Eagles raced to a 7-0 lead with just 15 minutes remaining.

Adam Hedge headed Olympic's consolation goal from Chris Tsakiris's free-kick in the last minute.

## **South ready to seal title Morton's outfit a strong favourite**

By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - August 22, 2008

SOUTH Hobart can win the Premier League soccer title for the first time since 2002 by either beating or drawing with second-last and relegated Metro at home at South Hobart tomorrow.

Ken Morton's South Hobart outfit must be considered a strong favourite as it goes into this 133rd clash with Metro since 1941. South will have a strong line-up with the return of central defender Matthew Brown from overseas, despite the absence of suspended striker Billy Gasparinatos.

Defender Alex Holmes is injured, but Morton may give new English signing, striker Daniel White, a run at some stage. Metro has nothing to lose and will be dangerous, especially with the inclusion of Scottish import, striker Steve Pettit, who has scored in each of his two games to date.

If South Hobart loses, the title will go to Hobart Zebras if they beat seventh-placed New Town Eagles away at Clare Street on Sunday.

Zebras will miss midfielder Paul Cairns through suspension, which means there will again be a place for either Josh Thorpe or Dylan Fennell.

Eagles finally hit the jackpot last weekend with a 7-1 thrashing of third-placed Hobart Olympic and this should make them confident.

Eagles are desperately trying to avoid eighth place, the "prize" for which is a promotion/relegation play-off against the Division One champion, which is likely to be Hobart United after its 5-1 win over Nelson Eastern Suburbs on Wednesday.

Eagles will be without striker Jamie Vernon, but midfielder Damien O'Brian is available again after missing the Olympic match.

Coach Ian Parker has had a good record with Eagles since returning from the UK, losing just one of eight games, so Zebras will have to be at their best, especially if the title is at stake.

Sixth-placed Clarence United is not safe from the dreaded eighth spot but can avoid that by beating fifth-placed University at home at Wentworth Park tomorrow. Clarence have flattered to deceive at times this season and, after losing 3-0 at home to Glenorchy Knights last weekend, a victory is far from assured.

Eighth-placed Kingborough Lions United hosts bottom side and relegated Taroona at Lightwood Park on Sunday and has everything to play for as it fights to avoid the promotion/relegation play-off.

The Lions have a game in hand - against University on 31 August - and a good win against Taroona to improve their goal-difference will enable them to breathe a little more easily, depending on how other results go.

Taroona, as in the case of Metro, has little but pride to play for, but it can also influence other events -- in this case, that dreaded eighth position on the ladder -- and so may be an awkward opponent for the Lions.

Hobart Olympic is assured of third place - win, lose or draw - against fourth-placed Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park tonight. Knights could lose fourth spot and this incentive may be enough to spur them to victory against an Olympic side that submitted meekly to Eagles last weekend.

## **Draw keeps Eagles' hopes alive**

By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - August 25, 2008

NEW Town Eagles kept alive hopes of avoiding the promotion/relegation playoff in the Premier League soccer when they held Hobart Zebras to a 1-1 draw at Clare St yesterday.

Eagles are seventh, a point ahead of eighth-ranked Kingborough Lions United, and have a better goal-difference.

Lions have one match left - away to fifth-placed University next Sunday - and need a win to leapfrog Eagles and avoid the dreaded eighth spot.

Lions beat bottom side Taroona 5-1 at home at Lightwood Park yesterday, Greg Freeman and captain Marcello Marchioli each scoring a brace and Charles White netting one.

Taroona replied through Hamish MacGregor.

Ben Crosswell almost put Zebras ahead in the ninth minute, but his shot hit the angle of crossbar and post.

He made amends midway through the first half when he ran on to a long clearance from goalie Frank Mainella and shot past Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford.

Eagles were awarded a penalty in the 84th minute for Michael Connolly's foul on Adam McKeown and Damien O'Brian scored with his spot-kick to make it 1-1.

Mainella and midfielder Brett Pullen were playing their last games before retirement for Zebras, who finished second, five points adrift of champion South Hobart.

## **Lions lift to climb out of danger**

By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - September 1, 2008

KINGBOROUGH Lions United avoided an eighth-place finish in the Premier League soccer competition by beating fifth-ranked University, 2-1, away at Olinda Grove yesterday.

New Town Eagles, whose coach and several players were watching the match, have now finished eighth and will meet Division One champion Hobart United in the home-and-away promotion/relegation play-off, starting next weekend.

The Lions leapfrogged Eagles into seventh spot and should have won more easily.

The visitors had a Brett Andrews penalty saved by Ryo Matsuo, an effort by Greg Freeman disallowed for off-side, and missed several sitters through Freeman, Charles White, Andrews and Ross Hinkley.

University came back strongly in the second half, but managed only one goal - a header by Taka Manaka, from Jon Foley-Donoghue's corner in the 72nd minute.

Freeman had given the Lions the lead in the 42nd minute and then set up captain Marcello Marchioli for the second two minutes later.



Although the team did perform more consistently, the number of drawn games (six), meant that at season's end, they found themselves in the relegation play-off position by an agonising two points.

Supporters may have entered the relegation play-off against Division 1 premiers Hobart United with a sense of trepidation, but the club's predicament did not seem to affect the players, or at least they didn't show it, and this was borne out in their overall performance in the two-legged relegation / promotion play-off.

## **By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - September 5, 2008**

Premier League club New Town Eagles which finished eighth meets the Division One champion, Hobart United, at KGV at 7pm tonight in the first leg of their promotion/relegation play-off. Eagles will have Ben Whitehall back, but midfielder Jacob Malakoff is unavailable.

"We're in for a tough game because they're enthusiastic and have speedy forwards," said Eagles coach, Ian Parker. "We'll approach this game in a professional manner. The boys are ready for it," he said.

Hobart United's main weapons are strikers Akuel Guot, Samson Rume and Jacob Kuel and they will test an Eagles defence that can be vulnerable to pace at times.

United coach Tony Tarros has been watching Eagles in recent weeks and is confident of coming up with a tactical plan to beat them.

The second leg will be played at the same venue and the same time next Friday.

## **By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - September 7, 2008**

New Town Eagles virtually assured itself of Premier League survival after beating Division One champion Hobart United 5-1 at KGV Park on Friday night in the first-leg of the promotion /relegation play-off.

Adam McKeown, with two goals, and Damien O'Brian, Chris Wass and Adam Shackcloth with a goal apiece, were Eagles' scorers, while United replied through a penalty by Jacob Kuel.

## **By Walter Pless - [The Mercury] - September 14, 2008**

New Town Eagles ensured their Premier League survival when they beat Hobart United 6-1 at KGV Park on Friday night to make it 11-2 on aggregate over the two legs.

Victorian fly-in Damien O'Brian hit a hat-trick.

Goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford also scored with a free-kick from inside his own penalty area, the ball bouncing over his opposite number, Nathan Grandin and into the net.

Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown completed Eagles' tally, while Peter Otto scored a consolation goal for United.



### **2008 Senior Team**

**Back:** I. Parker (Coach), C. Wass, Alex Leszczynski, J. Clamp, D. O'Brien, W. Savage, B. Pope, C. Stingle.

**Front:** J. Malakoff, A. McKeown, A. Clark, N. Pitchford (Capt), M. Page, N. Ferrall

**Premier League Final Standings - 2008**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	18	14	2	2	56	13	44
Tilford Zebras	<b>18</b>	12	3	3	68	27	39
Hobart Olympic	18	11	3	4	46	34	36
Glenorchy Knights	18	9	2	7	39	31	29
Clarence United	18	8	2	8	33	36	26
University	18	7	4	7	33	36	25
Kingborough Lions	18	6	5	7	32	42	23
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>21</b>
Metro-Claremont	18	2	2	14	23	56	8
Taroona	18	0	3	15	17	72	3

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 5, D. O'Brien 5

**Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2008**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	<b>18</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>
Tilford Zebras	18	14	2	2	64	22	44
Clarence United	18	10	1	7	46	30	31
Kingborough Lions	18	10	1	7	38	30	31
Hobart Olympic	18	10	1	7	47	41	31
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>26</b>
University	18	7	1	10	37	51	22
Taroona	18	3	2	13	25	58	11
Metro FC	18	3	1	14	21	57	10
Glenorchy Knights	18	2	1	15	18	63	7

Leading Goalscorers – G. Atalay 8, J. Marshall, J. Hyland 5

The highlight of 2008 was the premiership achieved by under-17 girls team. Under the guidance of Andrew Law, they won their league by two points from Clarence United. Leading Goalscorers: were Morgan Ross 12, Tiarna Ford 9, and Rachel Archer 8.



2008 Under 17 Premiers coached by Andrew Law

**Girl's Under 17's Final Standings 2008**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>39</b>
Clarence United U14	15	12	1	2	65	18	37
Taroona	15	7	1	7	47	52	22
Clarence United	15	7	0	8	38	42	21
Kingborough Lions	14	2	0	12	26	59	6
University	14	2	0	12	16	53	6



**2008 Reserves Team**

**Back:** G. Atalay, A. Cox, M. Duval, R. Wilson, S. Somerville, C. Minty, J. Malakoff, W. Ashwood

**Front:** J. Marshall, K. Lebski, M. Page, A. Johnston, N. Ferrall

A very experienced Division 1 team, featuring a number of ex-senior players, also had a successful season winning the pre-season summer cup and finishing runners-up to Hobart United in the league.

**Division 1 Final Standings 2008**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart United	21	17	3	1	83	22	54
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>52</b>
Beachside	21	14	3	4	63	31	45
Nelson	21	7	6	8	48	43	27
Kingston Cannons	21	6	4	11	45	66	22
Kingborough Lions	21	5	2	14	50	78	17
Christian United	21	4	3	14	31	62	15
Huon Valley	21	2	2	17	18	83	8

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 16, M. Fennell 12.



### 2008 Division 1

**Back:** A. Jones, M. Fennell, D. Crowle, T. Fotak, S. Vernon, S. Calvert. **Front:** D. Page, M. Nidorfer, M. Proud, R. Ketchell, R. Leszczynski

### Memorable Mercury quotes from Dorf & Chopper During the Season:

"Some of the boys are still fuming over comments made pre-season by Nelson's coach that our squad is old," said Eagles joint-coach, Marty Nidorfer. He also mentioned his players' liking for the disco scene, but they won't have to worry about that this weekend as, come Sunday afternoon, they'll be dancing with the stars at Clare Street."

"This is a must-win game, not helped by the fact that half the boys will be away on new recruit Kim Wiggins's stag weekend,"

"After last week's loss, there's no use crying over spilt milk. We'll be out of the frypan and into the fire against Hobart United and must be prepared for their skillful, attacking brand of football."

"Our discipline on the field has been atrocious, with several send-offs and yellow cards, and although we won't win the Fairplay Award, the lads have been asked to improve in this department."

"After Wednesday night's game against the Cannons, there were more tight hamstrings than the strings on Andre Rieu's violin."

The lads are tired from a busy schedule, which could count against us, but I'm sure they still have some petrol in the tank."

"Richard Ketchell's goal last weekend was worthy of an SBS highlights reel, and we will need him firing on all three cylinders again this Sunday. A compulsory club function on match eve is of concern. Our squad has a high number of two-pot screamers and club identity Bogdan Dora has been asked to keep an eye on our table, ensuring nobody breaks team rules."

"Marty Nidorfer and Alan Wisby have been dropped to the reserves this week to hopefully assist in a reversal of form. I want our guys to attack from the start and will therefore be ditching the negative defensive style of play initiated by Nidorfer."

"Local soccer identities Ronnie Bolton and Andy Baxter have been asked to mediate differences between our coaching staff's philosophies and selection decisions."

"We will be better this time around on their home ground, as players are now familiar with the surrounds. In our first game there, players were a bit confused with the pitch coexisting with the football oval, so much so that Matthew Fennell almost celebrated when an errant strike on goals sailed through the AFL goal posts."

■

In 2009 and 2010, the Eagle senior team was coached by George Krambousanos, his second stint at the club as head coach. 2009 got off to the worst possible start with the early loss of Eagle's senior goalkeepers Nathan Pitchford and then his replacement Andrew Savage to season ending injuries. Krambousanos drafted in experienced keeper Michael Soszynski to fill this important role.

Not only did the club lose its senior keepers, it also lost a raft of talented players due to injury and other commitments: Jakob Malakoff, Nick Ferrall, Cormac Collins, and Jacob Kavanagh (to name a few) from the 2008 team. Krambousanos took these setbacks in his stride and transformed the team into a robust attacking outfit that possessed a great desire to push forward and try to score goals, hallmarks of the great 80's and 90's sides.

This more ambitious approach made Eagle a difficult proposition to come up against and has provided some welcome enjoyment for their supporters. In the past two season's, Eagle finished just outside the play-offs, and with a little more commitment and self-belief, the current crop of players could start pushing for premiership glory.

Over the history of the club, youth has played an important part in its success. The under 18's side in 2009 coached by Barry Pope and Matt Rybak, pulled off a stunning victory in the Knock-Out Cup Final against a strong Clarence side winning 2-1. This team included up and coming players of the future in Ferrall, Quan, Ayres and Gonzalez.

## **It's moments like these they need Minty**

By WALTER PLESS - [The Mercury] - 24/3/2009

CRAIG Minty was thrown in at the deep end on Saturday but showed he has what it takes.

The 17-year-old, is third-choice goalkeeper at New Town Eagles, but with first-choice Nathan Pitchford injured and out of action for the next few months, Minty was understudy to Andrew Savage for Saturday's Premier League match against Kingborough Lions United.



Minty takes a cross v Juventus at South Hobart

Three minutes before half-time, Savage snapped an achilles tendon and was taken to hospital, where he had surgery on Sunday. He suffered a similar injury on his other leg two seasons ago.

Minty came on with Eagles 1-2 down, and he went on to concede four more goals as the Lions ran out 6-3 winners.

But the young custodian pulled off two brilliant saves near the end to deny Greg Freeman, who had already netted a hat-trick at that stage.

"I felt pretty nervous when I came on," said Minty, who stands at 188cm and whose father Malcolm was also a keeper.

Minty has been playing in the under-19s and reserves but it looks now as if he will be in the seniors for some time to come.

He played school soccer with Dominic College until Grade 7, when he joined Eagles, and he has now been with the club for three years.

"We'll have to go with the young fellow now," Eagles coach George Krambousanos said.

"He has to realise he's coming up a few levels and the game is a little bit faster and stronger."

"He's a tall boy and he'll be right. We'll play him against Hobart Olympic next weekend."

## **Eagles owe much to SOS keeper**

By WALTER PLESS - 21/5/2009

MICHAEL Soszynski is one of the reasons for New Town Eagles' present run of success in the Premier League soccer competition. The goalkeeper answered an SOS from coach George Krambousanos, who had just one goalkeeper for the senior team, Craig Minty, 17. Nathan Pitchford and his understudy Andrew Savage, have both been sidelined for the season with leg injuries.

Soszynski, 27, had played for Krambousanos before. He began his Tasmanian career with Eagles before moving on to Taroona, Hobart Olympic, South Hobart (with which he won the Premier League title in 2002) Beachside and Hobart United. He spent 2006 with Adelaide Polonia in the SA Premier League, after returning from Europe, where he was with Leigh RMI, Altrincham FC, and Droylsden FC. "These clubs were all in the English Conference League," said Soszynski.

"I was also the train-on keeper with Chester City and Bury in League Two, and Stockport County in League One. I also trialed with Legia Warszawa and Crakowia in Poland."

Of his return from retirement, he said: "It was initially only going to be for a period of six to eight weeks, but it has since been determined that Nathan Pitchford is now going to have to sit out the remainder of the season."

Soszynski has played in six of the Eagles' eight games since joining the club this season. They are sixth on the ladder and performing well. They are well clear of the relegation zone and could end up among the leading four sides, thanks in no small part to their keeper.



### **What coach George Krambousanos had to say about 2009:**

"Well, it all started back in the year 2000, when I last coached the club; we won the summer cup and finished second to Glenorchy Knights. For no particular reason, I decided to step down from the coaching position. It was the biggest mistake that I have made in my coaching career. Branded "the coach that keeps moving from club to club" (for personal reasons), I found myself not wanted; not because of my coaching ability, but more because I wouldn't stay in one place for more than a year or two.

From year 2001-2008, I attended as many New Town Eagle games as I could. I decided that I had unfinished business with the club and would apply for the job in 2009 if available. And the rest goes like this...

We had a great pre-season attendance between 30-45 players, assisted by the reserve coach Rodney Bones, and u19 coach Kevin Clamp.

The start of the season, the Summer Cup, gave us an idea of what we were up against for the rest of the 2009 league. Our group included South Hobart, Tilford Zebras and Hobart Olympic. These three teams finished first, second and third in 2008. First game we lost to South Hobart 6-nil. Second game we won 1-nil against Hobart Olympic. Third game we lost 6-nil to Tilford Zebras.

Never have I, as a coach, been beaten with such scores. This competition gave me an insight into areas that we had to work on to be competitive for the year 2009, these being attitude, discipline, team bonding and the ability to believe in ourselves. After the Summer Cup we had three weeks to bring it all together before the league season started.

During these three weeks we lost our number one keeper, Nathan Pitchford, in a practice game against Launceston City. Our first league game we played against Glenorchy Knights and lost 4-3. We started the game with three of our strongest players on the bench for personal reasons. They all started in the second half and turned the game around.

In the second game we played Kingborough Lions and lost 6-3. In this game we lost our second goalkeeper, Andrew Savage, when he snapped his achilles tendon. At that moment, the score was 2-1 to Kingborough Lions. Young Craig Minty, came on after playing in the reserves. Everyone realised that he was very nervous, as he unexpectedly required to on to the field, and although the final score was 6-3, he made some great saves and showed his potential.

After these two games we started to become a team, and the lads started to believe in themselves. After speaking to my co-captains, Christopher Wass, Nathan Pitchford and my manager Peter Wass, I rang to enquire about a third keeper, Michael Soszynski. They all agreed to the approach, so I rang him. This is how the conversation went:

**GK:** Hi Michael, How are you going?

**MS:** I was waiting for your phone call.

**GK & MS:** Have a laugh.

**GK:** Would you like to put the gloves on and keep for New Town Eagles.

**MS:** I can only play 5 games.

Not only did he play 5 games but, he also played for the rest of the season as well as trained the other keepers throughout the season. My coaching staff and I would like to say a very special thank you to Michael and hope that he can continue coaching our keepers next year as he did a fantastic job.

The first round we finished with 9 points, our positive results were as follows: Hobart Olympic (1-0), Clarence United (1-0) and University (3-0).

The second round was not so good. Although we had a very positive win against Kingborough Lions (4-1) and a good draw against Tilford Zebras (3-3), these were the only games we accumulated points.

The third round was the one that had all the other clubs talking. We lost one game to Tilford Zebras. We drew against Glenorchy Knights (1-1), Clarence United (2-2), Hobart Olympic (1-1) and South Hobart (2-2). We Won against Kingborough Lions (5-2) and University (2-0). This gave us 10 points for the round, a total of 24 points, which was only 2 points below the top 4 in the league. It was the first time in many years that the Eagle have scored so many goals!

There were some challenges however... During the year we had four players at University in Launceston, Cormac Collins, Alex Leszczynski, Nathan Pitchford and Shane Kent as well as Alex Gordon working up there. Although these players attended training sessions with clubs in Launceston, it still made it hard for us to work as a team.

I am happy with the team effort for 2009, but we have higher aims for the 2010 season."

#### Premier League Final Standings - 2009

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	15	3	3	49	15	48
Tilford Zebras	21	13	3	5	74	40	42
Glenorchy Knights	21	11	3	7	50	43	36
Clarence United	21	7	5	9	38	43	26
Kingborough Lions	21	6	6	9	41	47	24
Hobart Olympic	21	7	3	11	34	55	24
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>23</b>
University	21	4	2	15	19	56	14

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 11, C. Collins 5, A. Gordon 4, Alexander Leszczynski 4



### **2009 Senior Team**

**Back:** G. Krambousnos (Coach), A. Savage, C. Was, W. Savage, J. Vernon, M. Soszynski, A. Gordon, Alex Leszczynski, N. Pitchford, J. Muir (Trainer)  
**Front:** J. Kavanagh, M. Page, A. Clark, A. McKeown, J. Malakoff, M. Rybak



In 2009 our senior women's team were once again coached by Andrew Law and finished a creditable fourth in a season which was heavily affected by poor weather.

#### **What coach Andrew Law had to say about 2009:**

"This year has certainly been a different year than any other that I have ever coached. The year started off with the loss of our captain from last year to the state U15's (Nikita Bird). Erin Lee stepped in as captain, as this will be her last year playing in Tasmania. She is off to Darwin with her family, and I would like to wish them all the best for the future.

The year started off nice and dry with firm football pitches, and the team performing very well as a squad. We got some new players into the squad, Molly Appleton from NSW showed great knowledge of the game and was very adaptable, able to play from midfield to goalkeeper and another new player, Reilly Smith was very strong on the left and teamed up well with Aimee Datlen.

Olivia Mulcahy was quiet at first, but as the year progressed, she became a very valuable team player. Laura Claridge took over as the number one goalie this year and did very well. Rhiannon Wickham and Rhiannon Griggs put up strong performances in defence, but unfortunately, we lost Rhiannon Griggs to a foot injury which put her out for several months. We also lost Megan Patterson to a serious knee injury which required surgery and the rest of the season off.

Our midfield players were Sophie Pyke, Frances Jay and Rachel Archer. Our strikers Morgan Ross (vice-captain) and Tiarna Ford both scored goals consistently throughout the year. Gemma Dwyer only started playing with us last year and has really proven valuable to the team. This year she played from the back line to the midfield, as well as up forward, even scoring a couple of goals.

Things were going well, and we were on top of the ladder until the rain started! It didn't stop. We had seven weeks without a game and the team couldn't train due to ground closures. As a result, we finished in the middle of the group. I'm looking forward to next year when we can hopefully train and play all season. "

### Women's Division 1 - Final Standings 2009

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	15	13	1	1	60	13	40
Hobart United	15	12	0	3	52	15	36
Kingborough Lions	14	10	1	3	43	24	31
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>24</b>
Taroona	14	7	1	6	30	29	22
University Blue	16	4	2	10	26	30	14
Clarence Utd Black	13	2	6	5	23	27	12

Leading Goalscorers: T. Ford 10, M. Ross 5, A. Datlen 5

## ⚽ Malakoff one of rising young guns at Eagles

Walter Pless - Tuesday, March 17, 2009

Last Friday evening, when New Town Eagles found themselves 2-0 down against Glenorchy Knights after just 38 minutes, Eagles coach George Krambousanos knew it was time to call on the cavalry.

One of the three substitutions he made in and around half-time, to try and pull the game out of the fire, was 16-year-old midfielder Jacob Malakoff.

Malakoff settled into his midfield role like a veteran and helped his side get back into the game. Eagles performed admirably in the second half, and just lost by the odd goal at the end 4-3. Malakoff, a Year 11 student at The Friends School, was a southern representative at 14 and decided to join Eagles at that time, when he was in Year 9.

He played reserves for a season and a half, but is now a regular member of Eagles' senior side. "I think I'm going well, although it was a bit disappointing not to start on Friday," Malakoff said. "I think we'll go better in our next game." Malakoff made his senior debut as a 15-year-old in 2007, when he came on as a substitute for 5 minutes, but he became a regular early last season. He used to play as a right-winger and then as a defensive midfielder, but is now generally used in a central midfield role.

"I thought we were worth at least a draw against Knights," Malakoff said. "We just let in a couple of sloppy goals, and we'll have to work on that. "We need to get a good start this season and get as far away from the bottom as we can. "If we can do that, then maybe we should try and make the top-four. "I think we should try and get the spot behind Zebras and South Hobart, if possible. "It's an important year because of automatic relegation for the bottom team, so first of all, we need to get away from University and Kingborough, the sides that will probably battle things out with us."

Krambousanos believes Malakoff has huge potential, given his self-discipline, attitude, willingness to attend training, skills and awareness on the field. He needs to be a little more of an extrovert on the pitch and put on some weight," Krambousanos said. "I rate him as a player who is going to be very good and he's a delight to coach."



2010 once again failed to live up to expectations for our senior women's side. Losing five players from the 2009 team, meant the team did not participate in the Summer Cup looking to rebuild, before the start of the season.

A slow start to the campaign was always going to be difficult to make up, and despite scoring the equal most number of goals in the competition, they could only manage fourth place. The last 10 games of the season however, showed what they were capable of, winning five and drawing three, and only losing games against the top two sides in the competition.

### Women's Division 1 - Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	20	12	3	5	49	26	39
Nelson ES	20	12	2	6	52	27	38
Clarence United Red	20	9	3	8	40	45	30
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>26</b>
Metro	20	7	3	10	25	44	24
Taroona	19	2	4	13	22	46	10

Leading Goalscorers – C. Nichols 18, T. Ford 12, A. Datlen 7

The men's team also failed to fire and finished in fifth place, with only six wins for the season, although they did finish reasonably strongly with three wins and two draws from their last seven games.

#### Premier League Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	18	3	0	61	15	57
Tilford Zebras	21	11	5	5	49	38	38
Glenorchy Knights	21	10	5	6	40	35	35
Clarence United	21	7	7	7	39	41	28
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>24</b>
Kingborough Lions	21	7	3	11	29	39	24
Olympic Warriors	21	2	7	12	25	47	13
Taroona	21	3	4	14	23	50	13

Leading Goalscorers – A. McKeown 13, Alexander Leszczynski 8



#### 2010 Senior Team

**Back:** P. Wass (Manager), M. Iqtadar, J. Vernon, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, N. Pitchford, Alex Leszczynski, S. Louden, C. Wass, G. Krambousanos (Coach)  
**Front:** B. Whitehall, S. Kent, S. Strang, A. Clark, E. Menzie, M. Page, A. McKeown

#### Premier League Reserves Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	24	19	2	3	99	25	59
TIS	24	17	3	4	93	33	54
Clarence United	24	17	3	4	58	30	54
Glenorchy Knights	24	12	1	11	56	52	37
Tilford Zebras	24	10	3	11	54	49	33
Kingborough Lions	24	7	4	13	37	56	25
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>21</b>
Taroona	24	4	3	17	24	74	15
Olympia FC Warriors	24	4	2	18	29	76	14

Leading Goalscorer – M. Fennell 16



**2010 Reserves Team**

**Back:** R. Wilson, B. Pope, M. Fennell, S. Strang, C. Minty **Front:** K. Lebski, Hay, J. Hadfield, A. Shackcloth, R. Abraham

## **Eagles striker shoots for golden boot**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] – 19/5/2010

ADAM McKeown is fast becoming one of the Southern Premier League's most lethal strikers.

The target man is in his third year at senior level for New Town Eagles, but early season signs indicate this could be his most prolific.

The quick-footed forward, who is the pinnacle of Eagles' attacks, has netted eight goals in nine league matches and added a cup double to his account against Nelson Eastern Suburbs in the first round of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy on Saturday.

McKeown is now only two goals shy of his 2009 season total, sits third on the goal scorers chart and is responsible for exactly half of his team's league goals.

"I think it could definitely be my best season yet. I've been fairly happy with the start, but while I've scored a few I've also been frustrated by a number of misses," McKeown said.

McKeown trails the more established frontrunners - Hobart Zebras' Ben Crosswell and South Hobart's Jonathan Lo by one goal, but the striker is optimistic he can keep in touch in the race for the league's golden boot.

"They [Crosswell and Lo] are both pretty outstanding players, but hopefully I can match them goal for goal."

But McKeown maintains his main aim is not centred on individual performance but on his team's success.

"The main thing is I want to make sure the team goes well before anything individual; individual achievements are just a bonus." A wise commitment from the 20-year-old - the Eagles have finished in the bottom three for three seasons running and currently sit in a familiar position in the bottom half of the table.

But McKeown believes the tide has turned for the Eagles and the side can finish in the top four this season to qualify for the Statewide Finals Series. The Eagles' hopes of finishing fourth may rest on McKeown's scoring exploits.



McKeown scoring against South Hobart

The Division 2 side coached by Marty Nidorfer were the pre-season cup winners and runners-up in their league competition.

#### Division 2 Final Standings - 2010

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Glenorchy Knights	20	15	0	5	69	33	45
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>39</b>
Kingborough Lions	19	10	3	6	48	38	33
Uni Dynamo	20	8	4	8	46	36	28
Olympia FC Warriors	19	8	2	9	40	42	26
Southern FC	20	0	0	20	13	87	0

Leading Goalscorers: R. Leszczynski 12 , J. Vernon 8, B. Michel 7

2010 saw the passing of the influential Don Finegan, who was lured out of “retirement” in the mid-70’s by Eagle, to help overhaul the club’s playing list, and he was an integral part of a very successful period in the club’s history.

#### ⚽ Vale Don Finegan

Walter Pless – 3/5/2010

Dominic (Don) Finegan, a mover and shaker in local football circles from the 1950s to the 1970s, passed away in Hobart last Friday at the age of 80.

Don, as he was known, played with South Hobart in the same era as Bert Hudson. He was later to become a leading referee and an administrator with two of the big clubs of the time, Olympia and White Eagles.

Don was a top referee in the 1960s and, after retiring from that facet of the game, became chairman of Olympia in the late 1960s and early 1970s. He also coached Olympia’s reserves during his time as chairman of the club.

He then moved to White Eagles for a number of years and served on their committee while also coaching some of their junior sides.

Don’s son-in-law, Denis Laing, was a referee at the top level in Hobart during the 80s and 90s, while grandson Owen Laing played for Calies and White Eagles and also turned his hand to refereeing at the same time.