



2010's

## **TWENTY TENS (2010's)**

2011, the club's 50th year since its inception in 1961, was the start of a turbulent and traumatic period for the club.

It started with the potential of being a memorable one. The senior side having finished 5th in 2010 just outside the top four, had the ability to not only break into the top four, but to go all the way. The big question mark was whether Krambousanos as coach, could get the consistency out of his players that had been lacking over the past two seasons, that vital ingredient that wins you trophies.

There was no shortage of talent, and in Pitchford (the best keeper in the league), Anderson, Wass, Leszczynski, Gordon and McKeown (who finished runner-up in the Vic Tuting Medal in 2010), you had players in key positions that were some of the best in the state.



Gordon beating his man v Glenorchy Knights



Anderson holding off Marchioli (Kingborough Lions), Clare Street Oval

## ⚽ Premier battle to rage

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Mar. 9, 2011

THE Southern Premier League soccer season kicks off on Friday in what promises to be a competitive but gruelling 21-game campaign for the eight sides involved. Soccer reporter Julius Ross assesses the title aspirants, top-four favourites and relegation candidates for the forthcoming season.

### **SOUTH HOBART**

**Coach: Ken Morton - 2011 prediction: 1<sup>st</sup> - 2010 finish: 1<sup>st</sup> - Home Ground: Darcy St. South Hobart**

SOUTH will start the 2011 campaign as undisputed favourite to claim a fourth-consecutive title, but the label may come as both a blessing and a burden.

After going undefeated in 2010 to lift the league trophy for a third season running, South has continued its rich vein of form, scooping the Summer Cup-Steve Hudson Cup double last weekend and will be brimming with confidence. But remaining unbeaten in consecutive seasons is unlikely, with most clubs out to topple the champion and end South's recent authority.

Having lost a number of key players from last year's premiership side, South has managed to recruit strongly, signing Luke Huigslot, Matthew Ferguson and promising striker Brayden Mann, while youth players have also stepped up to fill the void left by outgoing players. South possess strength across the park, with a sturdy back four led by Daniel Brown, a midfield directed by Shae Hickey and a forward line featuring the speedy Kostas Kanakaris.

#### **HOBART ZEBRAS**

**Coach: Romeo Frediani - Prediction: 2nd - 2010 finish: 2nd - Home Ground: KGV Park, Glenorchy**

On paper, Zebras have perhaps the strongest squad in the league and on that basis should be strong title contenders.

The midfield combination of Ricky Self, Jonathan Ladic and Paul Cairns is arguably the most experienced in the competition; while Henry Fagg and Andrew Telega form a strong partnership at the back, with Jayden Welch, Dwayne Walsh and Daniel Lapolla providing firepower up front.

Add to that, eight new signings, Liam Scott, Seth Otte, Sam McIntyre, Adam McIntyre, Luke Cripps, Brett Andrews, Craig Minty and Akuel Guot and Zebras have a fearsome squad. But their hopes for the title rest on whether Romeo Frediani can make the squad gel. Zebras have finished runner-up to South the past three seasons and 2011 provides an excellent opportunity for them to halt South's modern-day dominance.

#### **CLARENCE UNITED**

**Coach: Andrew Brown - 2011 prediction: 3rd - 2010 finish: 4th - Home Ground: Wentworth Park**

At the beginning of 2011, United looked to be in serious strife when a mass exodus of players depleted its senior ranks. It was a worrying sign for Clarence, but the uncertainties were alleviated when they signed three South Koreans - Jae Ho Lee, Seung Woo Park and Kyu Jun Kim - who have illustrated superb technical skill in pre-season.

United added 17-year-old Italian Ben Mascolo to their squad, while a number of players who have stayed loyal to the club, such as Mattias Toghill, Matthew Lewis and Joseph Stevens, will play key roles.

United's new signings have transformed the club's 2011 prospects from potential relegation candidates, to a shot at a top-four finals berth, and with coach Andrew Brown announcing this will be his final year at the club, expect Clarence to fire on all cylinders.

#### **NEW TOWN EAGLES**

**Coach: George Krambousanos - 2011 prediction: 4th - 2010 finish: 5th - Ground: Clare St, New Town**

The last time Eagles finished in the top four was back in 2000, illustrating the club's perennial struggle in the lower half of the table.

But 2011 brings extra motivation to a club entering its 50th year, which could end the continued battle for finals football. Eagles were only four points off finals qualification last season and have shown signs of steady improvement in the Summer Cup this year.

The team boasts the best goalkeeper in the league in Nathan Pitchford, while striker Adam McKeown who finished runner-up in the Vic Tuting in 2010, has grown into an extremely effective striker.

Eagles have utilised Clare St, which some clubs have coined The Graveyard, to pinch valuable points in big matches and the key to this season will be to add away points to their home tally.

#### **OLYMPIA WARRIORS**

**Coach: Chris Hey - 2011 prediction: 5th - 2010 finish: 7th - Home Ground: Warriors Park**

Olympia started last year with the promising outlook of a new coach, new players and rebadged name and logo, but ended the season with just 13 points and avoided relegation on the final match day.

The outlook is much brighter for the Warriors after an impressive Summer Cup showing this season, but Olympia will have to focus on consistency to ensure it is not dragged into the relegation mire this season.

The club claimed a huge coup in signing veteran goalkeeper Michael McKenna and dual Vic Tuting Medalist Josh Fielding from Knights in January. His experience will blend well with talented teenagers Jayden Hey, Ben Phillips, Brady Cronk, Alex Nandan and Warren Wadawu.

But a big question mark remains over the club's depth, which is integral to Premier League survival, and whether the club's new AstroTurf pitch will provide a home ground advantage.

#### **KINGBOROUGH LIONS**

**Coach: Geoff Freeman - 2011 prediction: 6th - 2010 finish: 6th - Home Ground: Lightwood Park**

Lions underachieved in 2010, losing 11 matches, but they finished just four points shy of the top four and were 11 points clear of the relegation zone. But with a squad packed with genuine ability they should have earned a finals appearance.

The Lions usually intimidating form at The Den, Lightwood Park, waned last season and the team can no longer be confident they can use their home ground advantage to poach points off visiting teams.

They had a mediocre Summer Cup this year, but there are many positives heading into this campaign, namely an influx of quality players, including one of the state's most talented youngsters in Will Abbott, which will strengthen the core playing group.

The Lions failed to roar in 2011, but should produce a more exciting campaign this season.

#### **GLENORCHY KNIGHTS**

**Coach: Nick Harrison - 2011 prediction: 7th - 2010 finish: 3rd - Home Ground: KGV Park**

Knights have finished comfortably in the top four of the Premier League for the past three seasons, but that run is likely to end in 2011.

Much of Knights' recent success has been due to the performances of dual Vic Tuting medalist and club captain Josh Fielding, who made the shock move to Olympia. Couple Fielding's exit with the departure of mercurial striker Amadu Koroma to Melbourne Knights and there is a decent chink in the Knights' armor.

Responsibility will fall to new captain and goalkeeper Ben Peter, Alex Holmes, Tom Sherman and Corey Smith to keep the team focused, but Knights may have to blood some new youngsters.

#### **BEACHSIDE**

**Coach: Brett Pullen - 2011 prediction: 8th - 2010 finish: 1st [Division One] - Home Ground: Sandown Park**

The new boys on the block gained promotion after an undefeated season in Division One last year, but expect that streak to come to a swift end when Beachside start tackling Premier League opposition.

In their first ever foray into the top tier, Beachside will be strong favourites to be bottom of the table come August, despite having sprinkled their squad with promising new signings.

Player-coach Brett Pullen, Nathan Robinson, Bernhard Klasen, Ricky Eaves and Tom Gordon bring a wealth of experience, but as an ageing side, they may struggle.



The season started well, and a good first round saw Eagle third after seven games, the highlight being a draw against South Hobart which showed they could match it with the best. There were some lows however, including a 1-0 loss to Beachside.

## **Draw has coach smiling**

**By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 21 MAR 2011**

NOTHING could separate South Hobart and New Town Eagles in their Premier League match yesterday as they played out a pulsating 1-1 draw.

Eagles consolidated second place on seven points, two behind early league pacesetters Clarence United, while South remain four points adrift in third. "It was a great result," Eagles coach George Krambousanos said.

"We actually came here to win the game, but the goals were great from both sides. I think we had the better chances in the second half, but credit to both teams, it was one of the better games so far this year. It's going to be a very interesting year."

South came out firing and had a goal on the board after just five minutes, when Eagles fell asleep on a Kostas Kankanaris corner and left Jim Pennicott unmarked, to poke into the Eagles net with ease. But Eagles replied when Ben Whitehall beat his marker in getting to Simon Strang's cut-back and powered home the equaliser on 14 minutes.



In early April, Eagle signed their first import player since the eighties, a 20-year-old Korean Yeon-Sun Jo. A quick, highly technically gifted player, who although lacking a physical side to his game, gave Eagle a different attacking option. His professional approach to training also helped lift the other players in the squad. Unfortunately for Eagle, he was only available for two months, for he would have been very handy in the end of season play-offs.

# ⚽ New Korean import flies to Eagles' nest

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 12 April 2011

New Town Eagles have signed a 20-year-old Korean midfielder-cum-striker in time for their Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League game against Clarence United at Clare Street next Sunday at 2.30pm. Clarence United has three Korean imports in their side and the presence of the Eagles import will add spice to what should be an exciting fixture.

Yeon-Sun Jo has signed for Eagles and will be cleared to play. "We have been looking for another midfielder or striker, and now we have our man," said Eagles coach, George Krambousanos. "We had an opportunity to go for Jo, and we've done it."

"He has already trained with us once and I'm delighted with what I've seen. "He loves the game, and his first touch is excellent, and he'll be a valuable addition to our team." Jo speaks very little English, but there appear to be no communication problems between the player and his new teammates, according to Krambousanos.

"Football speaks all languages and that's certainly the situation in this instance," said Krambousanos. "The club and the players have welcomed him with open arms. "I'll see how his fitness goes and then will decide whether he will play against Clarence."

## Eagles close in on ladder leaders

By JULIUS ROSS

NEW Town Eagles beat Kingborough Lions 3-1 at home yesterday to move within two points of ladder leader South Hobart, which played last night.

The Eagles have been flying high this season, with only one loss in nine games.

Yesterday's loss was Kingborough's sixth.

"All is going well. The damage was done in the first half," Eagles coach George Krambousanos said.

An excellent chip over the Lions' defence by Michael Anderson opened the door for striker Adam McKeown to slot home the Eagles' opener in the 25th minute.

New Town's Jo Yeong-Sun impressed for the second week running and his cross two minutes later forced Lions' captain Marcello Marchioli to poke the ball into his own net.

Yeong-Sun then put Ben Whitehall's accurate through-ball past Lions' keeper David Leamey in the 31st-minute as the Eagles raced to a 3-0 half-time lead.

The Lions threatened to forge a comeback when Ryan Bevan replied five minutes into the second half but, despite conjuring a number of great chances, they failed to find the net again.

"On the balance of the game, Eagles certainly deserved the result," Lions

coach Geoff Freeman said yesterday.

On Friday night, Olympia Warriors suffered their seventh loss of the season, going down 2-1 away against the Hobart Zebras.

The alarm bells have been ringing in the Warriors' camp for some time but grew louder on Friday, with the club facing another weekend at the foot of the table.

There was early hope for the Warriors when Adam Hedge placed an excellent left-foot shot past Troy Kaden in the 28th minute to give Olympia the lead.

Warriors' goalkeeper Mike McKenna then produced a great save to deny Dwayne Walsh from the penalty spot but Walsh made up for his mistake, earning another penalty three minutes later.

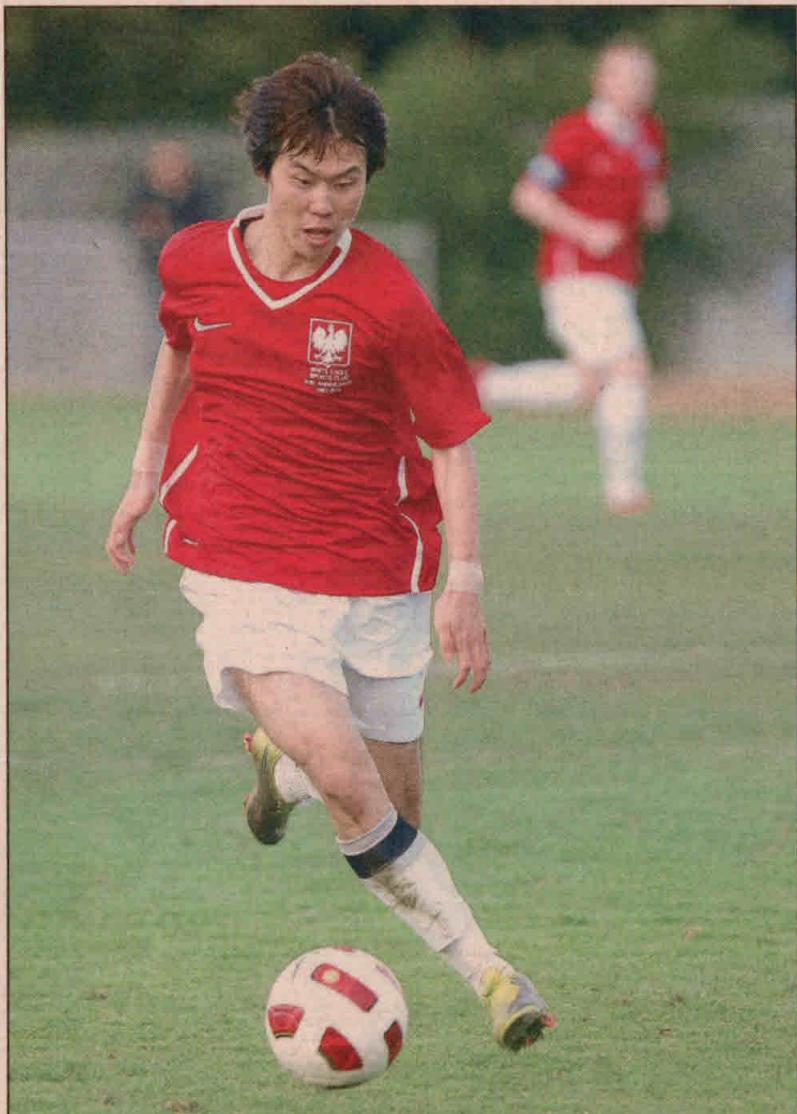
Walsh stood aside for Jonathan Ladic to convert successfully past McKenna to level the score at 1-1.

On the stroke of half-time, the Zebras dealt the final blow.

Luke Cripps released Walsh with a fantastic through-ball and the striker made no mistake.

Hobart dominated in terms of chances in front of goal but Olympia coach Franco Previdi believed his side should have scored a draw.

"I'm disappointed with the result, I thought that we deserved at least a point," Previdi said.



**RUNNING HOT:** New Town Eagles player Jo Yeong-Sun proved a key play-maker against the Kingborough Lions yesterday.

Picture: LUKE BOWDEN

The second round also started well with a win over Olympia, and continued with a 4-0 win over Beachside, but losses to South Hobart 4-1, Zebras 5-2, and Knights 2-0, showed up the inconsistent side of the team. Following the loss to the Knights in early June, the club was rocked by the departure of coach Krambousanos and his assistant Kevin Clamp, who resigned from their posts, citing "inappropriate behaviour of under-19s players who were watching a senior game on the sidelines and a lack of commitment from senior players" as the reasons why they quit.



**2011 Senior Team**

**Back:** S. Strang, A. Bates, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, Yeon-Sun Jo, G. Krambousanos (Coach).

**Front:** Row: A. Clark, b. Whitehall, N. Pitchford, M. Page (Capt.), A. McKeown

## **Young louts spur coach to call it quits at Eagles**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 15 JUNE 2011

NEW Town Eagles coach George Krambousanos surprisingly pulled the plug on his reign as senior coach on Monday following his side's 2-0 loss to Glenorchy Knights. However, a disheartened Krambousanos stated after the match the result was not the determining factor in his decision to call it quits.

Instead, Krambousanos cited inappropriate behaviour of under-19s players who were watching the senior game on the sidelines and a lack of commitment from senior players. Krambousanos was displeased at the club's failure to take action and control the behaviour of the youth-team spectators who were close to the coaches' technical area.

"It's OK to be able to play football, but you need to help one another, you need to talk, you need to communicate," Krambousanos said. "I'm a sad man to be honest with you because there are some good lads here. "I still need to talk to the committee, but I've had enough, maybe a change for them might help them a little bit and a change will help me a lot, I know that for sure."

There were also suggestions Krambousanos was ready to resign following his side's 4-1 loss to South Hobart three weeks ago, when he cited his senior players were lacking commitment. Eagles had been flying high at the start of the season but have lost three matches in a row, which has seen them slide down the table from second to fourth in recent weeks.



Krambousanos was replaced by Steven Pitchford, father of goalkeeper Nathan, who was already acquainted with Eagles having served as caretaker coach for a period in 2008.

# **Stephen Pitchford speaks about his appointment as new Eagles coach**

Walter Pless | Friday, 24 June 2011

Stephen Pitchford is the new coach of New Town Eagles for the remainder of the current Premier League season. The 52-year-old is looking forward to arresting Eagles' recent slump in form and I spoke to him about the challenge ahead.

**WP:** Tell me about your playing career.

**SP:** Stephen Pitchford: U14 Southern team, U15 & U16 State teams, Metro U19's at 13 and seniors at 15. Played at Metro from 1972 until about 1996 – winning a few club B&F and top goal-scorer awards. Then at PO Saints, DOSA, New Town Eagles, Croatia Glenorchy and Metro Socials.

**WP:** What coaching qualifications do you have?

**SP:** I successfully participated in the Youth Licence Goalkeeping course held by the VSF and run by Jim Fraser in Melbourne in December 2002. I completed a Youth Licence Coaching Course (FFT- David Abela) in November 2005. In December 2005 I successfully completed a Futsal Level One Coaching course (FFV). Completed the Senior Licence Course (FFT- David Abela) in November 2007 and the new Goalkeeping Coaches Certificate (FFT – Dean May) in January 2011. Referees Instructor Level 2 (FFA)

**WP:** Tell me about your coaching career.

**SP:** Player-coach at Metro in early 1990's. Reserves coach Glenorchy Knights 1995. Player-coach at DOSA – two stints – second as non-playing. Assistant coach Southern-U13 and U14 development squads in 2002, 2003. Coach of Zebras U18s in 2004. Assistant coach New Town Eagles 2008.

**WP:** What is your aim at Eagles for the rest of the season?

**SP:** To finish in top 4 and thereby have the players gain some finals experience.

**WP:** Is this an appointment just for the rest of this season?

**SP:** Yes, with the club and myself reviewing at season end.

**WP:** How do you view the culture at Eagles, given that it has come under some criticism?

**SP:** Senior squad is a close-knit bunch. Sometimes support from other squads and supporters has been over the top in terms of actions and/or words, but given the numbers at training this week across the top three squads there is a healthy commitment which bodes well for the rest of the season.

**WP:** Is it hard to have a son in the senior squad?

**SP:** Not for the most part. Nathan has established his place in the squad through his commitment to the team and club despite living in Launceston. We don't always agree on tactics when United play Arsenal, but both appreciate each other's views.

**WP:** How does this appointment affect your position as chair of the Referees' Standing Committee?

**SP:** When it appeared that a senior coaching role was a possibility, I informed FFT that I would be standing down as Chair of the Referees Standing Committee to avoid any perception of a conflict of interest.

**WP:** What is the hardest thing about coaching in Tasmania?

**SP:** Most coaches have full-time jobs outside of the coaching role. This means that not only the coach, but close and extended family are impacted. Time spent in attendances at training, and games and club functions are publicly seen but there is significant other time devoted to research, planning and internal club/player communications that I believe most don't understand or appreciate. The lack of easily accessible coaching development opportunities is also an issue in Tasmania. The time and funds required to achieve higher coaching qualifications, such as C Licence, means that few coaches get exposure to advanced coaching methods in a structured learning environment.



Pitchford quickly turned the club's focus away from off-field issues to on-field success and helped stabilise an already close-knit playing group.

A draw against Olympia whilst between coaches, saw Eagle in 4th place with two thirds of the season's matches played. The draws continued, against Clarence, Kingborough and Beachside, before an exhilarating 2-1 win over South Hobart, who had previously been undefeated for 63 games. Another draw against Zebras was followed by a loss to Knights, and fourth place was looking anything but certain. Yet another draw, 3-3 with Clarence in the final game, secured fourth place and a spot in the finals with seven wins, nine draws and five losses.

# South's 63-game win streak ends

By JULIUS ROSS

SOUTH Hobart suffered a premiership hangover yesterday as they capitulated 1-2 away to New Town Eagles just a week after wrapping up the Southern Premier League title.

Eagles delivered a double blow at Clare St by halting South's celebrated unbeaten run, which had extended to 63 matches.

Many had predicted that with four games remaining South would go a second season without loss.

However, Eagles produced a valiant and spirited display to undo South's record run.

"It's a big achievement, South have won for 60-odd games ... we will always be the team that stopped that run," Eagles coach Steven Pitchford said.

"I thought it was a fantastic effort by our boys ... the three points are very important at this stage of the season for us."

Eagles gave themselves a huge boost for a top-four finish by drawing level on 28 points with third-placed Clarence United.

Eagles fell behind early when Liam Scott turned in Luke Huijsloot's cross in the 15th minute, but then responded when Ben Whitehall curled a sensational free kick into the top corner of the South net in the 37th minute.

Eagles suffered two first-half injuries and were forced to restructure, but continued to fight South's attacking forays in the second period.

They were rewarded when Adam McKeown slotted Josh Quan in on goal and Quan dinked the ball over the advancing Sam Kruijver with 12

## Double victory for the Eagles

minutes remaining, for an historic win.

"Disappointed to lose in the manner in which we lost today, having said that, congratulations to Eagles, they worked very hard and took their opportunities and got themselves three valuable points," South coach Ken Morton said.

**I thought it was a fantastic effort by our boys**

On Friday night, Clarence United and Hobart Zebras played an eight-goal thriller at KGV Park.

Both teams started slowly, but found their rhythm in the final 10 minutes of the first half as a Ben Hamlett double and a Jayden Welch strike saw the match tightly poised at 2-1 to Clarence at the break.

Clarence sacrificed a one-goal lead on three occasions in the second half, as Henry Fagg, Andrew Telega and Ricky Self cancelled out the lead Hamlett had established and Kyu Jun Kim and William Malovenek had extended.

Self's strike, the all-important final equaliser, came in the 90th minute.



### Premier League Final Standings 2011

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	3	2	77	22	51
Tilford Zebras	21	11	7	3	65	40	40
Clarence United	21	9	8	4	42	45	35
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>30</b>
Kingborough Lions	21	9	2	10	42	47	29
Glenorchy Knights	21	5	5	11	31	51	20
Olympia Warriors	21	5	4	12	34	53	19
Beachside	21	1	4	16	22	57	7

Leading Goalscorers: A. McKeown 17, Alexander Leszczynski, Jo Yeong-Sun 4

The finals campaign was always going to be a difficult one. The win over Northern Premiers, Prospect Knights, was a fantastic event for the club. A hat-trick from Eagles' top marksman Adam McKeown, gave Eagle a 3-1 win. It gave supporters reward, for their faith in the playing group, and a belief that Eagle were a good football side.

The win over Devonport in the semi-final was extremely hard on the players, as it was a very physical game for the entire 90+ minutes. With goals from Clamp, McKeown, and Gordon, a 3-2 win was achieved against the odds, and a final spot secured. To succeed on the road for the second week in a row, was indeed a surprise to those outside the club, but a real expectation from within the playing group.

## **Time to settle the scores**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 27/8/2011

One last chance for glory remains in Tasmanian soccer for four northern and four southern sides as the Statewide Finals series kicks off this afternoon.

### **Hobart Zebras vs Devonport City, KGV Park, 12.30pm**

Devonport City will be kicking themselves after dropping points against their two major rivals in the final two weeks of the league season, to hand the Northern Premier League title to the Prospect Knights last weekend. That may provide extra motivation for coach Tom McGinn's men, who will be out to rectify their errors against Zebras. But City should be concerned about their form.

"Three or four weeks ago, I would have said we'd have a very good chance in the finals, but the last three weeks we've really stumbled," McGinn said.

Zebras coach Romeo Frediani will also be disappointed his squad is yet to win any silverware this season, but with a fully fit side, the Zebras may hit their straps at the right time. "Devonport have always been a tough team and this week will be no exception, but we'll continue to play attacking football," Frediani said. Zebras have big-match players in Ricky Self, Jonathan Ladic and Luke Cripps to see them over the line, but City boasts Chris McKenna, the state's top scorer with 28 goals.

### **Prospect Knights vs New Town Eagles, Prospect Park, 2pm**

Prospect Knights have been on cloud nine after securing their first Northern Premier League title in 52 years. But they will have to quickly readjust their focus against a strong Eagles outfit that claimed the scalp of South Hobart earlier this year. Knights has averaged three goals a game this season and boasts talented striker Matthew Sessay and experienced midfielder Ben Crosswell.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford is wary of that record, but will have a shot-stopper in son and keeper Nathan, who is back from suspension.

### **Northern Rangers vs Clarence United, NTCA, 2pm**

Rangers and Clarence meet in the knockout stage for the third year running and a close final is expected, considering penalties in 2009 and extra time in 2010 were needed to determine a winner. Rangers will enter this match bitterly disappointed, after conceding their Northern Premier League title on the final day of the season. "We're obviously looking for a good run in the Cup to make up for last week's disappointment," Rangers coach Adam Whitemore said. Rangers' best and fairest Derek Schipper and Todd Hingston will be key in the midfield.

United will be at full strength and will attempt to expose Rangers with Jae Ho Lee and Kyu Jin Kim, who have scored 10 goals each this season.

### **South Hobart vs Ulverstone KGV Park, 3pm**

With coach Ken Morton's South Hobart seeking a second consecutive treble, Ulverstone presents an interesting first challenge for the Southern Premier League and Milan Lakoseljac Trophy winners. South was humiliated in their last game after reshuffling their line-up to test out some youngsters, and was punished by Olympia Warriors 1-3.

"We didn't defend well last weekend, we need to lift the confidence, to defend well as a team and go forward from there," Morton said. Morton has brought back his big guns, including captain Daniel Brown, and South is ready for Ulverstone. Former Ulverstone product Brayden Mann may be a key figure against his old team, but South are likely to look to experienced players such as Tom Roach and Shae Hickey to dictate the pace of the match.

## **Southern rivals await in finals**

Mark Baker - The Examiner - Aug. 26, 2011

BRAGGING rights are up for grabs today when the top four Northern Premier League sides face their Southern rivals in the state final series.

Northern champions Prospect Knights play New Town Eagles, who finished fourth on goal difference. Sean Harris comes into the starting 11 as Chris Pickering is unavailable. Coach Dane Hudson said his side knew very little about New Town but was looking forward to its first outing as Northern premier.

Adam McKeown has scored 17 times for the Eagles this season and finished only one goal off the Golden Boot award won by South Hobart's Andy Brennan. New Town also beat South Hobart this season, which was only the side's second loss in more than 50 games.

Northern Rangers resume their rivalry with Clarence United with the honours even after three games with a win each and a 2-2 draw. Coach Adam Whitemore said Luke Tuma will replace Gabriel Tams, while decisions about one or two players struggling for fitness will be made this morning.

Whitemore said Clarence would match Rangers formation-wise, and their Korean imports would certainly be a test. "We're looking forward to a really big challenge, but are confident of getting the result," he said.

"Games against Southern opposition are always difficult as they play in a league where the overall quality and intensity of games is much higher. We've got the quality to beat them, but will need to match that intensity and work rate."

Third-placed Devonport City has an early road trip to play Tilford Zebras at 12.30pm at KGV. Kieran Mulraney is unavailable for the Strikers, with a few players, including captain and NPL Golden Boot Chris McKenna, struggling with niggling injuries.

Coach Tom McGinn said he wanted his side to start playing in the first minute of the match, not the 46th minute as it had been in recent weeks. "We just want to play our own game and hopefully start to take our chances," he said.

Ulverstone faces the tough task of playing Southern premier South Hobart, which is coming off a 3-1 loss in its last league game of the year against Olympia FC.

## **Devonport keeps finals hopes alive**

**Mark Baker - The Examiner - 27/8/2011**

DEVONPORT City remains the only Northern Premier League side in the statewide final series after Prospect Knights, Northern Rangers and Ulverstone lost yesterday.

Northern premiers Knights bowed out after giving up a 1-0 half-time lead, to lose 3-1 against New Town Eagles. A flat Knights took time to get into the match, but went ahead after Matty Sesay was dragged down in the box by keeper Nathan Pitchford, and Greg Duffy slotted home the spot kick. New Town equalised when Adam McKeown headed in a corner at the front post after the restart.

McKeown got his second when he was allowed time to trap the ball in the box and shoot, and got his hat trick from the spot, after he was fouled in the box.

Tilford Zebras had the better of the first half against Devonport, and went ahead when Ricky Self's drive from 20 yards took a terrible bounce over the keeper. Nathan Gratton made it 1-1, 10 minutes into the second half, when he brought the ball down in the area, and slotted a goal from six yards.

Daniel McGinn put Devonport ahead five minutes later, after being played through one-on-one by Chris McKenna, with the captain making it 3-1 when he headed in Simon Wilson's cross.

Rangers conceded a goal 10 minutes either side of half time against Clarence United, with the first looping over goalkeeper Marshall Pooley, and the second going through his legs on a short corner. Clarence was awarded a penalty after the ball bounced up off a player's foot and hit his hand to make it 3-0. Chris Hunt pulled a goal back for Rangers, when he finished off Andrew Nicholson's pass, but they could not finish any more of their chances.

Ulverstone took it up to South Hobart in the first half, but conceded two unlucky goals from Liam Scott, including a deflected shot and a high ball misjudged by the keeper. South Hobart were too good after the interval, putting three more goals past Ulverstone, including two from their former striker Brayden Mann and one from Hugh Ludford.

### **RESULTS**

Prospect Knights 1 lost to New Town Eagles 3, Northern Rangers 1 lost to Clarence United 3, Tilford Zebras 1 lost to Devonport City 3, South Hobart 5 def. Ulverstone 0

## **Grand final spot awaits Devonport**

**Mark Baker - The Examiner - Sep. 2, 2011**

DEVONPORT City can book a place in the state grand final next Sunday, with a win against New Town Eagles today. The Strikers need to win at Valley Road, to secure a final appearance, after the A-League clash between Melbourne Victory and Brisbane Roar at Aurora Stadium.

Kieran Mulraney comes back into the squad, but coach Tom McGinn would probably go with the same starting 11 that beat Tilford Zebras 3-1 last week. The game holds even more significance for Devonport, as it will be McGinn's last game in charge after five years. He is travelling to the UK next week with his son Daniel, 15, who has trials at several clubs.

"I'd love to see the boys get through to the grand final," McGinn said. "For the guys to take the same field as professional A-League players would be fantastic, and I'd expect a lot of the real soccer fans to stick around, so it would be an experience they'll never forget."

McGinn said a lot of the talk this season had been about Devonport being a one player side, dependent on captain and Northern Premier League Golden Boot Chris McKenna. "You can always rely on Chris to get you one or two goals, but the key for us is the other players who have to get up there." McGinn said 2011 had been a tough year for Devonport, as it had never really played 90 minutes of soccer.

"The problem with Devonport is that it has been a second half team, and we can't afford to keep coming back from 2-0 down at half time," he said. "We have to get into it from the first minute not the 46th."

## **Eagles using road trip to stay focused for finals**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Sep. 3, 2011

NEW Town Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford is unfazed by his side's second journey up north in as many weeks in the Statewide Finals series.

Pitchford believes the four-hour trip to Valley Road, to face Devonport City at 2pm today, will be beneficial, allowing his side more time to focus on the task at hand: advancing past City to the competition's final.

Eagles were drawn against northern Premier League champions Prospect Knights, at Prospect Park in the quarter final; a fixture they were expected to lose, but they upset the Northern Premier League champions 3-1.

"The boys performed very well up in Launceston last week, and we don't think the longer trip this week will be detrimental; it will give us more time to concentrate on the game," Pitchford said. Eagles will go into the match against City, with an unchanged line-up, with the hope of reaching a first Statewide final in over a decade.

City coach Tom McGinn is wary of the threat posed by the Eagles, but will avoid converting to a man-marking structure to negate deadly striker Adam McKeown. "They're in excellent form; they've knocked off both the Southern and Northern Premier League champions in the past six weeks," McGinn said.

McGinn will take heart from his side's 3-1 away victory over Hobart Zebras last week, and will welcome back Kieran Mulraney, which bolsters his squad. In a repeat of the 2009 final, Clarence United and South Hobart will clash at 4.30pm at KGV Park in the second semi.

United were victorious 3-1 in 2009, but only Michael Moschogianis, Joseph Stevens, Matthew Lewis and Mattias Toghill remain with Clarence from that squad.

Luke Huigslot, who scored the decisive two goals in the final, has since made the switch from Clarence to South, which makes for a tantalising showdown against his former club.

But Clarence coach Andrew Brown now has a talented trio of Koreans, Kyu Jun Kim, Jae Ho Lee and Yeon Sun Jo, while South has a formidable squad, arguably more talented than two years ago.

"We'll have to play well, defend well and be creative in attack," Morton said.

### **Semi Final - Results:**

**Devonport 2 Lost to New Town Eagles 3 (1-2), South Hobart 3 defeated Clarence 0 (2-0)**

## **Eagles out to halt South juggernaut**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 10/9/2011

NEW Town Eagles last statewide success was in 1997, but the club may draw inspiration from more modern soccer history, when it faces favourites South Hobart in the Statewide Grand Final tomorrow at Aurora Stadium.

Nine weeks ago, Eagles became the first club in 63 games to halt the unbeaten South juggernaut, inflicting an historic 2-1 defeat on the league champions, a week after they had wrapped up the title. That match may have been effectively a dead rubber for South, but Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford believes his side has improved even more since the encounter and presents a formidable challenge.

"We've played much better over the last couple of weeks [than we did against South]," Pitchford said.

Eagles, one of the finals series underdogs, have been in white-hot form to knock out Northern Premier League Champions Prospect Knights, and Devonport City, and will field a fit, unchanged line-up. "In the second half of the Prospect game, I think we showed that we can apply ourselves for the full 90 minutes which is what is required to get a result over South," Pitchford said.,

With their last Statewide triumph 14 years ago, victory tomorrow would be an incredible way to cap off the club's 50th year. "We're just concentrating on winning the game, rather than thinking about what it might mean afterwards," Pitchford said. "You don't get to play in grand finals that often, so you need to take your chances when you can."

"Everyone is in high spirits; we'll go into the game confident, confident but respectful," Morton said. "We know what Eagles did to us, and we know what they have, they're good fighters and are dangerous. Ben Whitehall is a hell of a good crosser of the ball, McKeown is a great finisher, and the team has a lot of physical strength as well."

Last week's 3-0 semi-final win over tricky foe Clarence United, was overshadowed in the dying seconds, when right-back Jim Pennicott twisted his knee and tore his ACL joint, ruling him out of the final. Liam Scott is his likely replacement, allowing Jonathan Lo to retain his starting spot. The match is at 4.15pm.

**STATEWIDE GRAND FINAL LINE-UPS**

**SOUTH HOBART**

Substitutes:  
Nick DI FALCO  
Dylan POSTMA  
Hugo BLADEL  
Cameron WILLIAMS  
Mark MONCUR

**NEW TOWN EAGLES**

Substitutes:  
Alex GORDON  
Chris STINGLE  
Chris WASS  
Jeremy MARSHALL  
Liam FERRALL (GK)

**TOMORROW: 4.15pm Aurora Stadium, Launceston**

The Grand Final against South Hobart was as expected, an intense affair. South played their normal possession game, but after having fallen behind in the 18th minute, Eagles equalised on the stroke of half time through Nick Ferrall, to engender fear in their opponents, that they could repeat their round 18 success. Although both sides had chances to score, the game remained tied at the end of normal time. Extra-time of 30 minutes, was to prove just one bridge too far, and South went on to win 3-1.

## **South Hobart grabs title**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Sep. 12, 2011

SOUTH Hobart was crowned statewide champions yesterday in a gruelling grand final against a courageous New Town Eagles outfit which succumbed 3-1 in extra-time at Aurora Stadium. Eagles pushed the reigning Southern Premier League champion all the way in 90 minutes, forcing the match into extra-time after the sides were locked at 1-1. South had led through Shae Hickey's excellent curling strike on 18 minutes, but Nick Ferrall equalised in first-half injury time with a well-placed shot past South keeper Sam Kruijver.

The next 45 minutes failed to separate the sides as Eagles challenged South's superiority, but the breakthrough came in the 100th minute, when Tom Roach's left-footed goal gave South the advantage in added time. As bodies tired, South's captain Daniel Brown was dismissed for a second yellow, allowing Eagles a glimmer of hope.

Eagles stopper Nathan Pitchford outstanding to deny South several times, but Andy Brennan rounded the keeper and scored into an empty net to seal the result with five minutes remaining.

The victory gave South its third major trophy in 2011, completing a clean-sweep and second treble in two seasons. "We made it a bit of battle; we maybe should have had the game finished in the first half and we certainly had enough chances in normal play, but you've got to give credit to Eagles, they kept battling away," South coach Ken Morton said. Eagles were aiming to end their club's 50th year on a high, but despite their daring and endeavour, they were unable to complete a fairytale run.

"The boys were asked to give 100 per cent and it's pretty obvious given their state at the end of the game they didn't leave anything out there," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said.



Alexander Leszczynski tries to clear a corner under intense pressure from Andy Brennan



**Division 3 – 2011 – Runners up – Coached by Ben Michel**

**Back:** F. McCann (Manager), I. Gregory, A. Swadling, A. Russell, D. Kruijver, J. Cairns, C. Andree, R. Wilson, C. O'Brien, B. Michel (Coach) **Front:** D. Grabek, N. Knight, C. Crawford, R. Ketchell, K. Lebski, D. Reeve, A. Kelly, B. Leonard, J. McGuffie, G. Newton

**Absent:** M. Murray, J. McCann

**Division 3 - Final Standings - 2011**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia FC	18	15	1	2	57	19	46
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>46</b>
Phoenix Rovers	18	9	4	5	50	37	31
University	18	8	6	4	41	28	30
Clarence United	18	7	3	8	36	33	24
Barnstoworth	18	6	4	7	33	41	22
Taroona	18	5	4	9	34	44	19
Kingborough Lions	18	5	2	10	31	45	17
Beachside	18	3	1	14	25	56	10
Nelson	18	2	0	14	22	62	6

Leading Goalscorers: J. Cairns 20, N. Knight 10



Division 3 players, Michael Murray and Jack McCann

# 50th Year Celebrations

In April 2011, Eagles celebrated their 50th Anniversary, with a dinner held at the Bellerive Cricket Ground, with 180 in attendance. Also, as part of the 50th Anniversary Celebrations, soccer writer Walter Pless conducted a number of interviews leading up the big event.

## David Stoddart is one of the great names in New Town Eagles history

Walter Pless | Thursday, 03 March 2011

A brilliant midfielder and a Tasmanian representative, the 44-year-old now resides in Melbourne. But he does come back to Hobart frequently and watches New Town Eagles play. He will definitely be attending the 50th anniversary celebrations of the club, scheduled for 8-10 April this year.

Stoddart was a role model for all young players. I do hope that youngsters who may be struggling to earn a place in a team, or whose team is struggling against the odds at present, read this interview because Stoddart's career clearly shows that the difficult times can be followed by the good times, as long as one works hard and makes the most of one's skills.

The interview also brings out the importance of team stability and team-work. The best Eagles team in which Stoddart played often went unchanged, week in, week out. We tend to forget that in this day and age, when clubs often field a different side each week and when making substitutions almost seems an integral part of the game.

I caught up with David in Melbourne and asked him about his time with Eagles.

**WP:** Are you playing football in Melbourne?

**DS:** I played for a few years with Melbourne Uni but haven't played for about 3 years.

**WP:** When did you first join White Eagles?

**DS:** I started playing U/13 for Eagles in 1979 and did so until I left for Melbourne.

**WP:** When did you first play in the seniors?

**DS:** In 1983, when I was 16. I was one of a number of youngsters who played in the infamous 1983 campaign, when we got relegated. I recall one game where the entire midfield were 16-year-olds and playing against quality opposition. It wasn't pretty, but that hard year certainly made you appreciate the successful years that came later.

**WP:** How long were you with the club, and how long were you in the seniors?

**DS:** I played with the seniors from 1983 until 2001 or 2002, and then moved to Melbourne in 2003.

**WP:** Which was the best Eagles team you played in, and why was it the best team?

**DS:** As far as results go, the 1997 team won everything, so it has to be up there. In terms of the best quality, the period between 1988 and 1991 produced four premierships and the team just had a will to win that is hard to replicate. We were lucky enough to have a very stable team for quite a while and a number of us had developed together and were very committed to each other as a team. We approached every game believing we were going to win, not through cockiness, but through a belief that we could outscore the opposition. The records will show that we drew very few games and often had the best goal-difference, despite conceding quite a few. Even when we went behind, we always thought we could peg it back. We had a very fortunate and rare combination of high quality and huge determination. An examination of the old tables from 1988-1991 says it all. Played 75, Won 62, Drawn 6, Lost 7, For 241, Against 86.

**WP:** You must have worked under several coaches. Who were they and what influence did they have on you?

**DS:** All of them have their particular aspects which you could highlight. Eugene Mycak certainly instilled a high level of professionalism, fitness and determination that would still be a benchmark today. Mark and Andrew Leszczynski allowed you to play with freedom and to enjoy yourself. But I've also worked under Steve Darby and for some representative games, Ken Morton and Alex McDonald.

**WP:** What do you think of the State League concept in Tasmania?

**DS:** As someone who's been through just about every model there is, I really enjoyed the State League days. Travelling to the away games was a great bonding process. It gave variety to the season, while still maintaining the local rivalries with your own region's teams. Unfortunately, in the previous incarnation, Northern teams got relegated each year to the point that I think there were 8 southern teams and only 2 northern teams.

**WP:** Which position did you play, and what was your role in the team?

**DS:** Pretty much my whole career was in an attacking central-midfield role. Generally, my role was to be the distributor to the forward line and then get forward as much as possible. With players like the Leszczynski's and Colin Shepherd, it wasn't too hard. I also enjoyed a year playing at full back and occasionally went up forward.

**WP:** Who were the best players you played with?

**DS:** At Eagles, the most talented player I played with was Andrew Leszczynski. But I was also lucky enough to play with Richard, Mark and Chris Leszczynski, Scott Young, Colin Shepherd and Neil Morrison for long periods. Peter Groenewoud was the best keeper and, barring injuries (and the occasional howler), would have had a long career in the National League. As far as opposition players go, I always enjoyed playing against Ian Parker, Craig Nichols, Sergio Pace, Brett Pullen. I think Romeo Frediani was one of the best around until his bad injury.

**WP:** Which personal honours have you won in Tasmania?

**DS:** I was lucky enough to win some individual awards. I think it was 8 Eagles best-and-fairest awards, a Vic Tuting Silver Medal, and a goal-scoring award. But the premierships and cups outweigh those things in importance quite comfortably.

**WP:** Will you be attending the Eagles reunion?

**DS:** I certainly will be, and I hope to catch up with many old friends that weekend.

## Andrew Leszczynski still a prominent figure at New Town Eagles

Walter Pless | Wednesday, 06 April 2011

Andrew Leszczynski is one of New Town Eagles' greatest players and he played in some of the club's finest and most successful teams. This weekend is Eagles' 50th anniversary and the 46-year-old Leszczynski is looking forward to the celebrations and to playing in a veterans' match on Saturday. I spoke to Andrew about his career, the club and the 50th anniversary event.

**WP:** When did you first start playing for Eagles?

**AL:** Andrew Leszczynski (AL): In 1978, in the under-15s coached by Eamonn Kelly.

**WP:** How long did you play for Eagles?

**AL:** In the seniors from 1980 until 1995. I coached the seniors from 1997 to 1998 and I've been playing in the club's Division 3 side from 2000 until last year. I'll be playing in the Eagles' Over-35 side this season.

**WP:** Is this coming weekend and the 50th anniversary celebrations special to you?

**AL:** Very special. I have spent a large part of my life either supporting, coaching, playing or helping administer the club. All my closest life-long friendships have been forged through my involvement with the club.

**WP:** Which was the best Eagles team you played in?

**AL:** Definitely the 1988-91 period, when we won four premierships and numerous cup competitions. We had a very settled squad with only minimal changes each year and those changes usually made the side stronger. We had a great appetite for not only winning but trying to win in style. Our aim in every game was to try and attack and put goal pressure on the opposition and, because we had so many goal-scoring options, we were very difficult to contain for a whole game.

**WP:** Was it strange to have three of your brothers in the team with you?

**AL:** Not at the time, but looking back now, it was an amazing achievement for the family. We had all areas covered as Chris was a full-back, Mark played in central defence, I played in mid-field for much of my senior career, and Richard played up front. Eagles has had an amazing number of brothers and sisters that have played for the club over the years.

**WP:** Which honours did you win with Eagles, at a personal level, and at a team level?

**AL:** Eagles' 'Best and Fairest' award in 1983 and 1987, Eagles' senior leading goalscorer in 1983, 1987 and 1988. As a player, I won premierships in 1981, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, and 1995. We have won every cup, and most more than once. These included the Summer Cup, the Cadbury Jubilee Trophy, the Charity Cup, and the State-wide Cup. As senior coach, we won everything in 1997, the year I was named as the FFT Coach of the Year.

**WP:** Will you ever coach at senior level again?

**AL:** I don't know. I was senior coach from 1997 until 1998 and I've been coaching the Eagles' under-13s since 2010.

**WP:** Which was the most memorable game you played in?

**AL:** There are many to choose from, but one which really sums up Eagles in my playing career was a game against Olympia (coached by Eugene Mycak) in the 1993/94 Summer season. I was coming back from injury and was a substitute. We were being outplayed and were trailing 3-0 at half-time. Dale Itchins, the senior coach at the time, put me on at the start of the second half at left midfield with instructions for the team to really go for it. We attacked from the start, got an early goal and were starting to get on top, but because we were pushing a lot of players forward, we left ourselves exposed a bit at the back and Olympia had a great one-on-one chance with our keeper, Allan Wisby, to probably seal the game and stop our fight back. Wisby pulled off a fantastic save that basically kept us in the game and, from there, we just steamrolled them and ended up winning 5-3 and we should have won by more. It was great to be part of this game and I scored the equaliser, which made it better. This game is a good example of our resilience and sheer desire to win, despite seemingly being down and out.

**WP:** Can you remember the best goal you ever scored?

**AL:** It was in a game in 1983, the year that we got relegated, and it was at KGV against Olympia. It was towards the end of the game, and I received a pass just inside my own half, near the scoreboard side of the ground. I took off on a run down the line and I was being chased by Olympia's right-fullback, John Paplos. As we got closer to the goal, the Olympia central defender, Michael Edwards, came across to give the full-back a hand, and just as they were about to tackle me, I cut inside both of them. I was now just outside the corner of the box and, although I had no-one in front of me, I decided to shoot. I hit a perfect rising shot that the keeper, Robert Harrison, basically could only watch hit the back stanchion in the opposite top corner. Unfortunately, we lost that game 8-1.

**WP:** How was your scoring record?

**AL:** I probably missed more than I scored, but I usually managed double figures each year that I played, except in 1995, in my last senior-team season, where I played full-back. Scott Young wasn't too keen on letting me past the half-way line.

**WP:** What is the future of the club?

**AL:** Although the last 10 years have been disappointing compared to the previous 20, I do think that in the last few seasons we have turned the corner, and are starting to show the sort of application required to succeed on a regular basis. It would be nice in our 50th year to really have a tilt at some silverware.

## **Eagles mark 50 years of club achievement**

**JULIUS ROSS 15/6/2011**

NEW Town Eagles will embark on a trip down memory lane this Saturday as part of their 50th anniversary celebrations. The club has organised a "past versus present" match as a curtain-raiser to the southern Premier League fixture against Hobart Zebras at Clare Street, to revive Eagles history on the pitch. Kicking off at 10.30am, the past versus present match will pit former Eagles players from the previous five decades against the club's leading under-18 and under-19 players.

The squads will change for each half so more than 30 former players can relive their individual contribution to the club over the past 50 years. "The match will tie in all of the decades the club has been involved in the local game and the links and the friendships made through the club and the game will be evident," organiser Martin Nidorfer said.

"It will highlight that soccer is not only a pathway to keep fit but it is also a pathway socially as well." Several past players have been in training for the occasion in order that spectators can witness a glimpse of their former glory. "Some of them have been training since January," Nidorfer said. "These guys are quite serious, and they've made sure they will be match-fit for the occasion. "They're all keen on getting a kick and catching up over the weekend for the celebrations."

Some of the club's leading former players, such as David Stoddart, have made their way down from the mainland, while Bogdan Dora, a member of the Eagles' inaugural side, will take the kick-off for the second half with current senior coach George Krambousanos.

## **Zebras almost spoiled Eagles' party**

**Forestry Tasmania Southern Tasmania Premier League (Clare Street, Saturday, 9 April 2011) – Walter Pless**

New Town Eagles 3 (McKeown 23, Leszczynski 70 pen, 90)  
Tilford Zebras 3 (Walsh 52 pen, Welch 61, Ladic 84) - HT: 1-0 Att: 120 Ref: C Phillips

New Town Eagles: Pitchford - Clark, Bates, N Ferrall, Page - Whitehall (Leszczynski 68), Strang, Anderson (Cox 68), Barabara - Gordon (Clamp 68), McKeown (Subs not used: Quan, Vernon)

Tilford Zebras: Kaden - Fagg, Telega, Muller, Hall - Welch (Cripps 74), Ladic, McIntyre, Andrews, Scott - Walsh (Subs not used: Guot, Minty, L Engels)

New Town Eagles almost had their 50th anniversary celebrations spoiled by Tilford Zebras, but an excellent goal in the final minute enabled them to salvage a point. Zebras started the better side and should have scored at least three times but for poor finishing and the alertness and skill of Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford. Eagles took the lead through a counter-attack midway through the opening half, Juma Barabara's lob from the left enabling Adam McKeown to advance on goal and beat Troy Kaden with his shot. There was a doubt about the legality of the goal as McKeown appeared to control the ball with his arm, but Mr Phillips was in no doubt and let the goal stand.

Zebras did not equalise until 7 minute after the break. Michael Anderson pushed Brett Andrews in the back as he went for Henry Fagg's free-kick floated into the box and Mr Phillips correctly awarded the visitors a penalty, which was despatched by Dwayne Walsh. Zebras hit the front just past the hour-mark when Matt Hall attacked down the left and played the ball square for Jayden Welch to score from close range. Walsh almost added a third, but his shot flew narrowly wide of the far right-hand post.

That was the signal for Eagles coach George Krambousanos to bring on all three of his substitutes in an endeavour to swing things Eagles' way. It worked, and Eagles equalised in the 70th minute through a penalty awarded for Hall's foul on Barabara. Alex Leszczynski, who had only been on the pitch for a couple of minutes, scored with the spot-kick.

Three minutes later, Liam Scott forced a corner after good approach work involving Sam McIntyre and Walsh. Six minutes from the end, substitute Jacob Clamp handled, and Zebras were awarded a free-kick 25 metres from goal and almost dead in front. Jonathon Ladic rifled his kick through the wall and into the roof of the net with Pitchford getting a hand to the ball but unable to stop it.

Eagles were desperate not to lose all three points and they kept searching for an equaliser. That came in the final minute when Simon Strang slipped the ball through to Leszczynski on the left and he cut inside before chipping a splendid curling ball around Kaden and inside the far post to make it 3-3.

### **New Town Eagles coach, George Krambousanos, said:**

"I thought we had about three or four players who were a little bit flat in the first half. "We had a bit of a chat, okay. We scored that goal, which put us in front. "Look, they weren't doing that much. They did have control of the midfield, but they weren't doing anything with it, so we kept on playing the same plan that we had. "Second half, we came out, but we actually lost control of the game. Three changes, two goals. Well done. And two excellent goals by Leszczynski. I'm very happy and the three that went on did their job. That's the way it is. "We pushed three up front in the last ten minutes, and we scored two goals."

**Tilford Zebras coach, Romeo Frediani, said:**

"The first half, I thought, was really good. We created a lot of chances. Really, we should have put them away in the first half. "If you don't score goals and take your opportunities, then the game becomes harder, which it did. "They scored on the break, and we were 1-0 down. The second half was much better in that we scored a few nice goals. "Yeah, the boys worked hard. I mean, there were a few positional errors, and they caught us right at the end. A bit disappointing, but one point is better than none. We'll keep going on from here."



**New Town Eagles Line-up v Juventus – 9th April 2011**

**Back Row:** G. Krambousanos (Coach), P. Wass (Manager), S. Strang, Alex Leszczynski, M. Anderson, J. Clamp, J. Vernon, D. Cox, E. Gonzalez, J. Quan, K. Clamp (Asst. Coach), **Front Row:** D. Frost (President), A. Bates, A. McKeown, A. Clark, B. Whitehall, N. Pitchford, M. Page, J. Barabara, N. Ferrall, J. Muir (Trainer)

## **Eagles veterans pit their skills against fledglings**

By WALTER PLESS

As part of New Town Eagles' 50th anniversary celebrations last weekend, the club's veterans came back onto the park. Two Eagles teams of veterans played a half each against the club's current under-18 side at Clare Street.

The match ended in a 3-3 draw and there were some nice goals to enjoy. Alex Ayres, one of Eagles' most promising youths, scored a ripper of a goal for the under-18s, while Mark 'Spider' Leszczynski netted for the veterans. There were some famous faces on view from Eagles sides of the past spanning the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s. The veterans' match was followed by the senior Southern Premier League match between Eagles and Tilford Zebras, which also resulted in a 3-3 draw.



The Division 1 Women's team had a fine season, just missing out on the premiership by 2 points to Metro. In the 15 game roster Eagles amassed an impressive 133 goals for and only 19 against. The teams boasted three of the top four goalscorers in the league in Hayley Arnol (1st) – 37 goals, Tiarna Ford (2nd) – 33 goals and Caitlyn Nichols (4th) -28 goals. They also made the semi-finals of the Statewide Cup defeating Premier League team Kingborough United 5-2.

# Eagles Celebrate 50 Years

By Walter Pless



**N**ew Town Eagles celebrated their 50th anniversary in April. The club was formed in 1961 as White Eagles and worked its way into the Tasmanian first division after taking out the second division title within a couple of seasons.

The name change to New Town Eagles - the club is located in the Hobart suburb of New Town - came in 1997 when Soccer Australia banned ethnic club names.

The weekend celebrations began on the evening of Friday, April 8, with a players' reunion at the Polish Club and was followed the next day by a veterans' game at Clare Street, the home ground of Eagles. This match featured many former Eagles stars, including the four Leszczynski brothers, David Stoddart, Zlatko Belanic and Scott Young. Stoddart came from

Melbourne and Belanic from Adelaide for the event.

The main event that afternoon was the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League match between Eagles and Tilford Zebras, which ended in a 3-3 draw. Eagles are third on the table at the time of writing.

That evening, the Red and White Ball was held at the Bellerive Oval and was attended by 200 players, supporters and officials of the club.

The club has had some famous names in its ranks. Steve Darby, the current assistant coach of Thailand, and former Melbourne Knights coach and national coach of Malaysia, Ken Worden, were both at the club in the 1970s and 1980s. Former player George Krambousanos is the current coach, while Darren Frost is the longest serving president in the club's history.



The four Leszczynski brothers are household names at the New Town Eagles club.

### Women's Division 1 - Final Standings - 2011

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Metro FC	15	13	0	2	74	16	39
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>37</b>
Olympia FC Blue	15	10	2	3	74	16	32
Southern FC	14	7	2	5	30	39	23
Olympia FC White	15	7	2	6	29	61	23
Tilford Zebras FC	15	5	1	9	43	36	16
Woodbridge SC	15	3	2	10	25	70	11
Clarence United	13	2	2	9	19	77	8
Huon Valley	15	1	0	14	10	103	3

Leading Goalscorers: H. Arnol 37, T. Ford 33, C. Nichols 28, M. Ross 10



#### Women's Division 1 2011

**Back:** A. Law (Coach), C. Nichols, R. Smith, R. Lubiana, O. Mulcahy, G. Dwyer, A. Dwyer, T. Prichard

**Front:** E. Wiggins, T. Ford, E. Claridge, C. Preston, M. Ross, H. Arnol, A. Stewart

The 2012 season started with an air of optimism, after the disappointment of losing out in the Grand Final the previous year. Steven Pitchford was retained as coach, and the majority of the side from 2011 remained intact, although the loss of Alex Gordon was disappointing.

It appeared however that Eagles had found the last missing piece of the jigsaw when they picked up Liam Scott, a talented, hard-working player, with an abundance of skill but more importantly a winning mentality. This was the first season that Eagles participated in the Hudson Cup, and the Sunday games against Northern opposition, were used to identify potential senior players from amongst the Reserves and Under 19's. Eagles finished with three wins and two losses.



## ⚽ Challengers have South in sights

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - Mar. 14, 2012

The 2012 Southern Premier League season kicks off on Friday night and promises to be one of the most intriguing and unpredictable campaigns in recent years. The Mercury's soccer reporter Julius Ross evaluates the prospects of the eight sides.

WITH a Tasmanian State League looming in 2013, clubs will be desperate to demonstrate their on-field credentials this season, while South Hobart's recent supremacy is expected to come under serious threat from the chasing pack.

#### **HOBART ZEBRAS**

**Coach: Eamonn Kelly - 2012 prediction: 1st - 2011 finish: 2nd - Home ground: KGV Park**

Eleven points separated second-placed Zebras from champions South Hobart last season, but new coach Eamonn Kelly has promised no such gap will exist this season.

A stern taskmaster with a proven record at Glenorchy Knights, Kelly has seized the challenge of lifting Zebras to the Premier League summit, for the first time since 2007.

The Zebras have finished runner-up in four consecutive seasons, and despite continuing their trend as second-placed finishers in the Summer Cup on the weekend, they will use that result as impetus to launch a realistic title tilt.

Based purely on their experienced and talented crop of players, including Aaron Brazendale, Ricky Self, Jon Foley-Donoghue, Henry Fagg, Dwayne Walsh and Jayden Welch, and Kelly's ability to command results, the Zebras are strong title favourites.

Kelly's side has already toppled South on the field in the Summer Cup, but the ultimate challenge presents itself over a gruelling 21-game season and with excellent strength in depth, they are well prepared.

#### **SOUTH HOBART**

**Coach: Ken Morton - 2012 prediction: 2nd - 2011 finish: 1st - Home ground: Darcy St**

South has been the league's powerhouse for the past four seasons, but their dominance is in severe danger if the Zebras and Kingborough Lions can carry their pre-season form into this year's campaign.

Several core players from last season's championship-winning side have left the club and only Loic Feral, Hugh Ludford, Shae Hickey and Matthew Ferguson remain as the experienced leaders of a youthful first-team. Pressure falls on the young shoulders of teenagers Nick Morton, Hugo Bladel, Dylan Postma and goal-scoring sensation Andy Brennan, alongside new signing Bobby Eaves.

With a weakened squad, South's grip on the trophy is vulnerable. But Morton has enough talent and a powerful winning mentality for a fifth title a serious shot.

#### **KINGBOROUGH LIONS**

**Coach: Matthew Rhodes - 2012 prediction: 3rd - 2011 finish: 5th - Home ground: Lightwood Park**

With a new coach, new personnel and a first trophy since 1985 already under its belt, Kingborough has thrived under the fresh approach of incoming coach Matthew Rhodes in 2012.

Lifting the Summer Cup on the weekend has provided the motivation for the Lions to launch an assault on the title this season, and they appear to have all the right ingredients of a championship-winning side.

Led by their inspirational captain Marcello Marchioli, the Lions have a solid defence, commanded by 2011 Vic Tuting runner-up Marc Iseli and striking options in David Cooper, Tom McDonald, Joel Schuth and Ryan Bevan.

Rhodes has also brought in golden boot winner Danny Cowen from Metro, and he has demonstrated versatility in attack and defence. While a title may be a little wishful for the Lions, expect them to have a decent crack at toppling South.

#### **NEW TOWN EAGLES**

**Coach: Stephen Pitchford - 2012 prediction: 4th - 2011 finish: 4th - Home Ground: Clare St**

In their 50th year last season, the Eagles performed well above par. They earned their first finals berth since 2000, reached the final of the top four Statewide Finals series and ended South's 63-match unbeaten streak.

Credit must go to coach Stephen Pitchford who turned the club's focus away from off-field issues to on-field success. Pitchford will look to stabilise his already close-knit playing group in a season where they must strive for consistency to achieve a second consecutive top-four finish.

#### **OLYMPIA WARRIORS**

**Coach: Franco Previdi - 2012 prediction: 5th - 2011 finish: 7th - Home Ground: Warrior Park**

Olympia is a proud club with a passionate group of supporters, but their performances in the past two seasons have reflected a team wrestling with survival.

Last year president George Mamacas had to send an SOS to sister club South Melbourne for two imports to help bail them out of trouble.

While imports have not been forthcoming this season, Warriors seem to have found the answer to last season's goal scoring woes, with Warren Wadawu, Kosta Grillas, Nick Meredith and Josh Fielding leading the way.

That may lift them out of a relegation battle this season, but there is still plenty of work before finals action is achievable.

#### **GLENORCHY KNIGHTS**

**Coach: Chris Hey - 2012 prediction: 6th - 2011 finish: 6th - Home Ground: KGV Park**

The Knights hoisted themselves out of relegation trouble last season when they enforced an early managerial change. But the coaching merry-go-round continues with Chris Hey now the man in the top job, which has affected stability.

Hey's task to ensure the Knights return to finals football is a challenging one. He has brought in son Jayden and Eagle Simon Strang, while Jacob Huigslot has returned to the fray and Justin Letiko looks promising.

However, consolidation may be necessary this season, before the Knights can establish themselves as a force similar to the one that dominated the league in the mid-2000s.

#### **CLARENCE UNITED**

**Coach: Ronnie Bolton - 2012 prediction: 7th - 2011 finish: 3rd - Home Ground: Wentworth Park**

Second-last may seem a harsh prediction, but unless Clarence improves dramatically, this campaign could be a difficult slog. Charismatic coach Andrew Brown's nine-year term at United, came to an end last season, and the club moved quickly to instil competent women's coach Ronnie Bolton.

But Bolton has had to grapple with the loss of three of United's key Korean imports from last season: Jae Ho Lee, Seung Woo Park and Kyu Jun Kim. The trio were instrumental in Clarence's third-place finish last year, and while Ben Parker, Ben Hamlett, Mattias Toghill, Matthew Lewis, Emmanuel Tsakiris and Nathan Rees remain, Bolton's side has lacked a cutting edge during pre-season.

New signings Hugh Richardson and Adam Hedge from Olympia and Scotsman Aaron Cairns, add much-needed depth and leadership, but United must show plenty of heart this season.



The League campaign started well, and despite two losses in the first round, five wins put Eagle in second place. The introduction of post-match ice baths during the first round was a contributing factor in maintaining the injury-free status of the squad, and a highlight of each weekend for the players as they fought each other to be first in. A loss to Olympia and a draw against Zebras was offset by a win against South Hobart to maintain second spot at the end of the second round. A draw against Olympia stalled the run, but a magnificent win over South put Eagles back on course.

In the Lakoseljac Statewide Cup, wins against Clarence 1-0, Prospect Knights 5-1, and Taroona 5-1, earnt a spot in the final against Glenorchy Knights. A nervous start saw Eagles fall 2 goals behind, and despite playing well they could not make up the deficit, eventually succumbing 3-2.

## **⚽ Zebras to face hostile reception at 'the Graveyard'**

**By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - April 6, 2012**

THE New Town Eagles supporter squad, the Clare Street Elite, will be in full voice today, when their side welcomes Hobart Zebras to Clare Street for the first time this season.

Known as the Graveyard by some opposing clubs, the Eagles home ground is a fortress for Stephen Pitchford's side, which is seeking its fourth consecutive victory at 2.30pm today.

But the Zebras travel with the determination to erase last week's unimpressive 0-4 loss to South Hobart. Results last season between these sides suggest a high-scoring, close encounter, with two fixtures at Clare Street producing 3-3 draws.

"We are looking forward to our first truly home game of the season," Pitchford said. "We will be wary of them rebounding from the defeat at South last week."

Pitchford has a full squad to select from, but may feel inclined to promote Liam Scott after he impressed off the bench last week.

The Zebras will need to shore up their defence, which has leaked 11 goals this season, the same amount as strugglers Glenorchy Knights and University.

Arguably an even more tantalising fixture is the clash between early-season battlers University and Olympia Warriors at Olinda Grove from 2.30pm.

With the loser likely to grapple with relegation throughout the season, both Uni's Gary Slicer and the Warriors' Franco Previdi have described the match as vital.

"It's a very important match. Every game is important, but particularly this one given the timing and the positions both teams are in at the moment. "They're struggling for points, we're struggling for points," Slicer said. Alexis Bull will be a key absentee for Uni, while Slicer is sweating over the fitness of Julian Proud.

Olympia has Josh Fielding back from suspension, but Jamie Walker, Stuart Page and Warren Wadwau are unavailable. "It's going to be tough. We need to be realistic, at the moment we are at the bottom, we just need to battle hard to get three points," Franco Previdi said,

In another intriguing fixture at 2.30pm, the Kingborough Lions have sacrificed home advantage against Glenorchy with Lightwood Park out of action.

The showdown will take place at KGV Park, the Knights' home ground, turning the tables slightly. But the Lions should still be the roaring favourites to knock off a Knights outfit which has lacked a cutting edge.

Keeper Trent Rosignol will make his senior debut for the Knights, as coach Chris Hey relegates out of form Ben Peter. "I don't think we could have asked for a tougher start to the season," Hey said.

At 6.30pm, Wentworth Park plays host to a huge match between leaders South Hobart and Clarence United. United conceded 20 goals in three games against South last season, but new coach Ronnie Bolton has promised that record will end this season.

## **Eagles go top**

Walter Pless | Sunday, 08 April 2012

It's strange to see New Town Eagles perched on top of the Southern Premier League ladder. But that is exactly where they are after they downed Tilford Zebras 4-3 at home at Clare Street on Saturday afternoon and previous leaders South Hobart lost 3-2 away to Clarence United at Wentworth Park on Saturday night.

It was the second consecutive loss for the Zebras, who conceded four goals in both those defeats. They dropped to fourth on the ladder, which must be of concern to coach Eamonn Kelly.

Olympia Warriors remain last after they could only draw 2-2 away to University at Olinda Grove.

Glenorchy Knights moved into sixth place by overcoming the previously unbeaten Kingborough Lions United 3-2 at KGV Park in what was a home game for the Lions as their Lightwood Park pitch is still recovering after a botched repair job.

Eagles earned a penalty in the opening minute of their match against Zebras when visiting goalkeeper Craig Minty brought down Alex Leszczynski, who had been put through by a long ball out of defence by Andrew Clark. Leszczynski tucked away the spot-kick with ease, sending Minty the wrong way. Minty, a former Eagles man, had a miserable homecoming to Clare Street. He had to be replaced at half-time after suffering concussion after a collision with Eagles striker Adam McKeown.

Zebras were level midway through the first half when Jon Foley-Donoghue released Ricky Self on the right and his short cross from inside the box was headed beyond keeper Nathan Pitchford and under the crossbar by Kurt Engels.

In the 25th minute, Zebras hit the front when Clark botched a back-pass and gifted the ball to the speedy Dwayne Walsh, who easily beat Pitchford in a one-on-one situation. McKeown headed narrowly wide for Eagles from a free-kick in the 32nd minute, but he made amends two minutes before the break when he nodded home Ben Whitehall's right-wing cross to make it 2-2 at the interval.

Minty had been concussed in a challenge from McKeown and did not reappear for the second half. In a controversial move, Zebras put Rowan Heggie in goal rather than their substitute goalkeeper, Kieron Siedler, who, in fact, was not even on the bench. Heggie has been a keeper in Futsal and was no stranger to the position. Once he settled down, he acquitted himself well and turned a dangerous shot over the bar in style.

Clark ventured forward for Eagles in the 56th minute and gained possession when Zebras gave the ball away in midfield. He played a neat one-two with Whitehall before steering his shot past substitute keeper Rowan Heggie to put Eagles 3-2 ahead. Henry Fagg hit a marvellous volley out of nowhere into the top right-hand corner of the net in the 69th minute to make it 3-3 as the match entered an exciting final 20 minutes.

With 12 minutes remaining, McKeown broke clear down the right flank and scored with a low shot past Heggie and inside the far post to give Eagles a 4-3 win.

### **New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

Look, obviously, at the end of the day, you win by a goal and take three points home anytime when you play Zebras is excellent. I thought we probably should have finished them off a bit better at the start of the second half when they had their new goalkeeper in, and we had a few chances. He looked a bit suspect, but he ended up playing pretty well towards the end.

Again, my blokes, at 3-3 you would have thought that Zebras might have finished over the top of us, but our blokes just kept going and going and got that fourth goal and finished off.

**Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:**

After half-time, we were still in it.

A stupid penalty we gave away. No need for it. One-nil down in the first few minutes.

It makes it hard when you've got to replace that sort of man (goalkeeper Minty) in that position. To the boys' credit, I thought in the second half we were still in the game and we got to 3-3. I thought two of their goals were blatantly off-side, and not by a yard, but by five yards.



Eagles' keeper Nathan Pitchford leaps for a corner [PlessPix]

## **Eagles end Northerners' prospects in Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy**

Walter Pless | Thursday, 12 April 2012

New Town Eagles played with a confidence worthy of league leaders, a position they attained on the weekend when they beat Tilford Zebras 4-3, and South Hobart lost 3-2 to Clarence United.

The home side looked confident and were certainly not in awe of the reigning Northern Premier League champions, Ben Crosswell and all. Michael Anderson was assigned to man-mark Crosswell and he did an excellent job until being substituted after 72 minutes. By that time, Eagles were leading 4-1 and the game was over.

Crosswell had been given few chances. When he did manage a shot, it was tame and directed straight at the goalkeeper. His frustration told when, in the 65th minute, he was shown the yellow card by Mr Barker. Prospect Knights were in a good frame of mind even when behind and it was good to see that they did not make an issue of decisions that went against them.

They took it in their stride and good-naturedly accepted the referee's call. They encouraged their young players and did their best, even though it was not good enough to come away with a win.

Liam Scott headed Eagles in front from Alex Leszczynski's delicate chip from the left in the 11th minute, the ball looping over keeper Kristan Beardwood, who was unable to react. The visitors were level 3 minutes later when Eagles showed their defensive frailties at a corner. When the ball came out to the edge of the box, Tim Claxton drove a low shot through a crowd of players that left keeper Nathan Pitchford unsighted and helpless as it flashed into the net.

The Northerners were not level for long. In the 28th minute, Eagles prised open the Prospect defence on the left and McKeown squared the ball for the advancing Jacob Clamp to side-foot home from 12 metres. Leszczynski should have added a third in the 32nd minute when he had only Beardwood to beat from the right of the box, but he lost his composure and blazed wildly, high and wide of the target.

The visitors were not entirely without prospects however, and with a minute of the first half remaining, Andrew Compagne broke through, only to be denied by the alert Pitchford. Leszczynski again shot wide in the 52nd minute as Eagles' greater fitness began to tell. Prospect hit back again, however, when Crosswell got onto the end of a long kick by Beardwood in the 57th minute and beat David Cox, but Pitchford blocked the shot in style.

Beardwood was called into action on the hour-mark and parried a McKeown effort wide for a corner. In the 62nd minute, Mark Page crossed towards the far post from deep on the right, and McKeown stooped low to send a header flashing past Beardwood and into the net, and make it 3-1 for Eagles. Eagles were completely in control by this stage and McKeown might have had another goal in the 64th minute, but he spurned the chance and shot wide.

Two minutes later, Leszczynski did the same as Eagles created chances, only to let the visitors off the hook. In the 68th minute, Nathan Balyman seemed to be caught in two minds as to whether to clear or control the ball. He did neither and surrendered the ball to McKeown, who squared it for Leszczynski to score and make it 4-1.

In the 75th minute, Leszczynski added Eagles' fifth when he flicked the ball nonchalantly into the air and turned and volleyed it home. Prospect Knights were not quite finished, and in the 77th minute, Toby Omenihu broke clear down the inside-left channel after substitute Adam Bates missed his clearance completely. But Omenihu's last touch was a little too strong and the ball escaped him allowing Pitchford to make a timely clearance.

To Prospect's credit, they refused to lie down and Pitchford had to block a Crosswell shot 4 minutes from the end. Fortunately for the keeper, it was directed straight at him. With 2 minutes remaining, Eagles fashioned a beautiful build-up, that should have been capped by a goal, but Clamp shot wide.



**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

A 5-1 score-line might say that [it was an easy win], but they made us work really hard, certainly in the first half and again in the early parts of the second. Obviously, once you go a couple of goals up in a cup match, and given the style of football we were playing, I think it made it hard for them to get a touch of the ball. We didn't convert all our chances. We played really good approach football, put some of our shots on target but that last pass occasionally wasn't quite there. But I was very pleased with the performance.

**Prospect Knights coach, Anton Balyman, said:**

Obviously, the result wasn't close, but we had three or four blokes out, so we knew it was going to be tough coming down here. White Eagles are a good side, so credit to them. They knocked the ball around really well early, which put us under pressure from the very start, so we were chasing our tails all day. We were beaten by a better side by a mile.

## **Eagles trounce University and perch on top of the ladder**

Walter Pless | Sunday, 22 April 2012

New Town Eagles opened up a 2-point lead over South Hobart at the top of the Southern Premier League with this 6-2 win over second-last University at home at Clare Street on Saturday. Reigning champions South Hobart could only draw 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United the same afternoon.

Eagles had the better of the opening half-hour, Liam Scott thumping a great shot against the University crossbar, while the students relied largely on sporadic counter-attacks.

In the 32nd minute, Eagles hit the front when University goalkeeper Martin Piesse did well to block a shot from Alex Leszczynski and Adam McKeown swept home the loose ball. University were level 5 minutes after the interval, when Miles Barnard hit a great shot from range, that hit the back of the stanchion inside the goal-frame and rebounded into play.

Two minutes later, Leszczynski restored Eagles' lead from a free-kick from just outside the box, while another two minutes passed before McKeown made it 3-1 for the home side with a low drive from the right.

Patrick Watts squandered a good chance for the visitors on the hour when he broke through the Eagles defence, but with only keeper Nathan Pitchford to beat, he lifted the ball over the bar. In the 66th minute, McKeown completed his hat-trick after collecting Scott's pass from the left and lobbing the ball over the advancing Piesse.

McKeown notched his fourth goal of the match with a brilliant first-time volley out of the blue, from just outside the box in the 71st minute.

Ben Whitehall, who had replaced Leszczynski, made it 6-1 with a fine free-kick from 22 metres in the 73rd minute. Watts pulled another goal back for University 7 minutes from the end after a corner, but it was a mere consolation goal for the students, who were well beaten at that stage.



**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I thought we went out and played some really good football today and created plenty of chances. By half-time, we hadn't taken many of those chances and they were certainly well in the game. They gave us a wake-up call with a cracker of a goal from 35, and then within about five minutes, we were two goals in front.

We got a few more after that and could probably have gone on with it a bit more. But a 6-2 win against anybody is pretty good. We're two points clear now, so hopefully we'll be able to maintain that going forward.

**University's assistant coach, Saleh Bintalib, who coached the side in the absence of Gary Slicer, said:**

Obviously, a very painful result to swallow. Honestly, when we got the equaliser, I honestly thought that we were coming back into the game very strongly. Very, very disappointing to see defensive lapses made at this level of football. The boys will just have to learn from the mistakes we made today. It's back to the drawing board.

## ⚽ **Eagles end Taroona's fairy tale and qualify for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final**

Walter Pless | Saturday, 26 May 2012

Taroona were the sole survivors from the second tier of Tasmanian football going into this semi-final of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy competition. They had produced two giant-killing feats to reach this stage by disposing of Premier League opponents, but even home-ground advantage was of no use in this contest.

Football Federation Tasmania had cleared the ground for play after an inspection in the morning, while the referee, Mr Kopra, gave his okay following an afternoon pitch inspection. New Town Eagles kicked off and immediately put the home side under pressure. It took just over six minutes for the visitors to take the lead following a fine attacking move started on the left, and finished when David Cox sent over a deep cross from the right for Alex Leszczynski to bravely beat keeper John Burridge in the air and head home. Eagles continued to attack, with Adam McKeown missing a couple of chances to increase their lead, but his shots always flew just wide. Leszczynski was also foiled by a good save from Burridge.



Alex Leszczynski heads Eagles' opening goal [PlessPix]

Taroona found it difficult to mount attacks, and when they did, they broke down in the final third, as they gave the ball away. Eight minutes after the interval, Leszczynski made it 2-0. A throw-in on the left saw the ball worked over to the right and a poor header by a Taroona defender went straight to Leszczynski, who held off a challenge from Llewlyn Tubb to shoot home. There were claims of off-side and Mr Kopra had to consult his assistant Mr Natoli, but he then awarded the goal.

Eli Luttmer pulled a goal back for the home side, when he nipped in ahead of Jacob Clamp, and headed home Darragh Carey's excellent corner from the left. In the 69th minute, Eagles restored their two-goal buffer. Ben Whitehall's throw-in from the right found Leszczynski, who outwitted a defender and crossed. Burridge could only help the ball on, and Clamp struck it into the roof of the net from point-blank range.

Cormac Collins made it 4-1 with a far-post header from Whitehall's free-kick from wide on the left. McKeown should have added a fifth in the 79th minute, but his half-volley was directed straight at Burridge. Five minutes from the end, substitute Jeremy Marshall made it 5-1 when Clamp lost control of the ball and it fell to Marshall, who drilled it past Burridge.

Marshall almost had a second in stoppage time, but his shot came back off the crossbar. The match ended with an attacking run by Taroona substitute Marcus Atkinson, who forced a fruitless corner. Eagles will meet the winner of the other semi-final between Glenorchy Knights and South Hobart, who play at 1pm at KGV Park tomorrow [Sunday] after their scheduled match on Friday night was postponed because of ground conditions.



**Taroona coach, Andrew Tye, said:**

No fairy tale finish today. I think the boys needed to be at their very best today to beat Eagles. I don't think they were at their best. They tried hard. One-nil at half-time and I think we were definitely in the contest. We made a few changes. Second goal knocked the wind out of our sails a bit, I think. Got it back to 2-1 and I thought we were there and then they took it away from us. Congratulations to Eagles.

**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I thought it was a very good effort by our boys. First half, I thought we dominated play and created plenty of chances but just didn't put them away. Second half, we continued in the same vein but put some of our chances away. A couple of really good goals and a couple of other really good moves went close. Very happy. To be honest, [I'd like to meet South] in the final. I think if the Knights got up over South in the semi, they'd be really, really buoyed by that and dangerous. I'd be happy to play either, to be truthful.

## **Eagles beat Knights comfortably in dress rehearsal for Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final**

Walter Pless | Sunday, 03 June 2012

New Town Eagles moved to within 2 points of leaders South Hobart with this comfortable 4-0 win over Glenorchy Knights at home at Clare Street. The result leaves Knights in second-last place and they will be hoping that University don't get home against Clarence United this evening.

Blayne Hudson had the first chance of the match for Eagles after a mere 5 minutes, but his powerful shot cleared the bar. Knights responded with an effort by Simon Strang, but Eagles defender Mark Page headed off the line.

Eagles hit the front in the 21st minute in a move that was started and finished by Liam Scott. He played the ball wide to the right to Ben Whitehall, who knocked the ball inside to Adam McKeown, who was bundled over in what appeared to be a foul. Mr Barker played the advantage and the ball fell for Cormac Collins to set up Scott, who hammered it home inside Trent Le Rossignol's left-hand upright.

The first half ended with Collins shooting wide, but there was not much to separate the two sides other than Scott's goal. Jacob Huigsloot, one of the Knights' better performers on the day, went close in the 56th minute with a drive that flew just wide of Nathan Pitchford's right-hand post.

Eagles won a penalty in the 61st minute, but it was controversial. Matthew Nowicki's tackle on McKeown seemed fair, but he may just have tripped McKeown a split second later as the ball rolled free. Alex Leszczynski ended the controversy by tucking away the spot-kick to make it 2-0 for the home side.

Four minutes later, Eagles killed off the match when Collins netted their third with a low drive from an angle on the right of the box, the ball flashing across Le Rossignol and inside the far post. Huigsloot went off injured with 10 minutes remaining and the Knights were a man down because they had used their quota of three substitutes.

Four minutes from the end, Hudson was rewarded for a strong display when he rifled home Eagles' fourth from just inside the box after a corner from the right. This was a very disappointing display by the Knights, who had played so well last weekend against South Hobart in the semi-finals of the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy. One just never knows which Knights team is going to turn up on any given day for a match. This one seemed more like their reserve side. But, then again, Knights' reserves beat Eagles 7-2 in the curtain-raiser.



**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

Yeah, yeah, very pleasing, especially the second half when we actually converted three goals. I think, at half time, it was probably there for either side to take, and our boys stepped up and took it. We converted the penalty and got a few different scorers on the board as well. We're now only two points behind them [South Hobart] and I think they'll know we're there and possibly the next few weeks will be very interesting in the season.

### **Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:**

I think we'll turn out tomorrow, to be honest with you. Look, to start off, credit to Eagles. They played some good football given the conditions. They knocked it around well, they played the simple ball. You know, the first goal was, you know, perfectly set up for the conditions - in to feet, lay it back and a good strike by young Liam [Scott]. And, they continued to play that way all game.

Our passing game wasn't there. We tried to knock it around a little more, but we were chasing shadows, and just our general execution around the park, with people not willing to take responsibility. It's very, very disappointing. I think some of them left their minds in their car or at home today.

## **Knights take Cup in upset; early goals get Eagles rattled**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 12/6/2012

AN explosive opening 16 minutes from Glenorchy Knights proved the decisive element of its cracking 3-2 Milan Lakoseljac Memorial final upset over New Town Eagles last night.

Lifting the trophy named in honour of its club great for the first time since 2005, was an emotional victory for coach Chris Hey and his tenacious team, who burst out of the blocks from the first whistle. "I honestly believed that we could win it," Hey said. "I said all along that it would have to be a very good performance to stop us with the attitude of the players, which has continued through this competition."

There was a telling contrast in body language before kick-off, with the Eagles appearing cagey, while the Knights were raring to go. Knights, deemed the underdog before kick-off, shocked an electrifying crowd of more than 700 inside just three minutes with the opener. With Eagles defence sound asleep, Aaron Marney threaded a through-ball to Jason Dawes who slotted home under keeper Nathan Pitchford to establish a quick-fire lead.

The Eagles were clearly rattled and were reeling at 2-0 down 13 minutes later, as Marney netted the game's second goal. But the match started to shape as a classic, when the Eagles were thrown a lifeline in the 31st minute. Knight, Sam Johnson, was pinned for a clumsy challenge on Adam McKeown in the penalty area. Alex Leszczynski blasted the spot-kick home to halve the deficit and the Knights' lead started to look precarious.

But Eagles were made to pay for another lacklustre showing early in the second period, as Simon Strang lashed home a superb goal from a tight angle just seven minutes after the break. In almost a carbon copy of the first half, the Knights began to fade out, despite being 3-1 in the lead, and the Eagles pressed for a goal to kick-start a comeback.

And New Town found one, through a cracking Liam Scott strike into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area with 20 minutes to spare. In a pulsating finale to the match, the Eagles just couldn't find the right side of the net, striking the side netting of the goal twice as the Knights ran down the clock for a famous victory.

"[We feel] pretty deflated," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "I think tonight we felt a bit flat, obviously."



**2012 Laskoseljac Cup Final Team**

**Back:** S. Pitchford (Coach), C. Collins, L. Scott, D. Cox, J. Clamp, M. Anderson, A. Leszczynski, J. Marshall, J. Quan, A. Bates

**Front:** J. McCormack (Trainer), B. Hudson, M. Page, N. Pitchford, A. Clark, B. Whitehall, A. McKeown, S. Bunt

# ⚽ Eagles down South to make Southern Premier League more interesting

Walter Pless | Monday, 18 June 2012

Second-placed New Town Eagles kept the interest in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League alive, by beating leaders South Hobart 2-1 at home at Clare Street, to move to within a point of the reigning champions. A minute's silence was observed before kick-off in memory of Tracey Ross, whose sons Will and Sam play for South Hobart. Tracey was the wife of Brett Ross and the daughter of noted former coach Duncan Summers and his wife Judy.

An error by Andrew Clark and goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, enabled South Hobart to take the lead after just five minutes. Clark slipped as he attempted to stay with Andy Brennan, while Pitchford allowed the striker's shot from just outside the box to slither under him and roll over the line and into the net. Eagles picked themselves up however, and two goals in five minutes shortly afterwards put them in front. They held the lead until the end to earn three valuable points.

In the 13th minute, South Hobart failed to clear a corner won by Cormac Collins. Ben Whitehall floated the ball in and two of South Hobart's defenders headed the ball straight up in the air inside the penalty area. The third touch was also a header, but by Eagles' Michael Anderson, who served the ball up for Adam McKeown to volley home and make it 1-1. It was a marvellous strike by McKeown and he and Brennan had thus ended their goal droughts.

Five minutes later, Eagles produced a brilliant attack, beginning with Nathan Pitchford's goal-kick. Not one South Hobart player touched the ball before the goal. The move reached its climax when Collins centred from the left, and although Matthew Ferguson produced a fine save from Alex Leszczynski's header, Leszczynski was on hand to hit the ball against the under-side of the crossbar and over the line. The ball bounced back out and so Leszczynski headed it into the net just to be sure and gave Eagles a 2-1 lead.

Nick Morton had a chance to level in the 33rd minute, but he missed when positioned at the far post, after a left-wing cross. South Hobart replaced the injured Bobby Eaves with Hugo Bladel in the 36th minute, and he played in midfield rather than at the heart of the defence, which has been his most recent position.

In the 38th minute, Loic Feral, back from France, played an excellent ball down the left for Brennan to run onto. He rounded keeper Pitchford but shot into the side-netting. In the closing seconds of the first half, Pitchford did well to save a shot from the marauding Hugh Ludford, who had gone into the attack for a few minutes. Liam Scott fired over the bar shortly after the start of the second half, while Leszczynski was also wide with a low shot, as Eagles kept up their momentum.

In the 57th minute, Eagles were fortunate not to concede, when South Hobart fullback Cameron Williams, venturing forward for a corner, fired low but narrowly wide. With five minutes remaining, Scott found himself in a one-on-one with Ferguson but somehow placed his shot straight at the goalkeeper. Three minutes from the end, a glancing header by Morton was fielded by Pitchford just under the bar.

South Hobart had plenty of possession and their team-work was good, but they lacked penetration and that telling shot that could have turned the game.

Eagles were resolute and stuck to their task throughout the match. They refused to be overawed by their opponents. David Cox played well at the back, while McKeown produced a vintage performance. His back-heel to Collins in the build-up to Leszczynski's goal was all class.

■

## **New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I think you're always nervous when you're only a goal in front. It only takes a slip and the ball is in the back of the net. But we continued to push and create chances when they were pushing at us. There's only four or five points between the top four teams now, so the second half of the season will be really, really important.

To me, it was a team effort, and right across the park I think they worked for 90 minutes, and I just think it's a magnificent performance by a team that could quite easily have been demoralised by a grand final loss. To come out here against the top team, and play as well as they did, I just think it's fantastic.

## **South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:**

They were the better team. They played with more life than us, played with more energy. Their game was very predictable, but they play it, and they play it well, so credit to White Eagles today. We were second best.

Hugo [Bladel] has obviously been away, so for him to come back into midfield and pick up the pace was difficult. That's where he wants to play. He thinks he's a midfield player, so we put him in there to do a job and that didn't happen today. We were second best in midfield. I think the depth on the bench is all right.

When Ince came on he gave them a few problems with his pace. Everybody's in the same boat. White Eagles are the same as we are. If we get injuries, suspension or whatever, your first team is depleted, and you rely on your back-ups, and that's what we've done today and today we weren't good enough.

We didn't have any penetration today. The pitch wasn't made for good football. I mean, some of the first touches from all the players was bad today. If your first touch is bad, it gives them a chance of the ball and McKeown is quick, Leszczynski is a good target man to bounce the ball, off and young McKeown works hard to get into goal-scoring positions, so it was maybe too much possession today and they could hurt us, and a couple of times they did.

They had really good breakaways. Liam [Scott] maybe should have done better when one on one with the keeper, but we'll learn from it.

Andy [Brennan] missed one and Nick [Morton] missed one at the back post. There were a couple of chances where we maybe could have gone in at half-time 2-2, or maybe with our noses in front and it's a different game. We thought we were doing okay, because we fancied coming uphill in the second half. The pitch is a bit longer this end, but this side of the field is very heavy going and the touches were difficult for the players to get it down and play.

#### Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 17 June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	12	8	2	2	31	8	26
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>
Kingborough Lions Utd	12	5	6	1	31	21	21
Clarence United	12	6	2	4	27	22	20
Tilford Zebras	12	4	4	4	34	30	16
Olympia Warriors	12	3	2	7	25	31	11
Glenorchy Knights	12	2	3	7	17	27	9
University	12	0	4	8	10	48	4

## ⚽ Eagles roll the champs

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 18, 2012

NEW Town Eagles blew the southern Premier League soccer title race wide open yesterday, rolling reigning champion and league leader South Hobart 2-1.

South entered the match four points clear at the top of the table and threatened to extend that lead out to seven points to cement itself as formidable title favourites.

But second-placed Eagles had a different agenda, and recovered from an early setback, bouncing back from a disheartening Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy final defeat last Monday.

The Eagles got off to a poor start as Andy Brennan squeezed a shot under keeper Nathan Pitchford in the fourth minute. However, the Eagles responded strongly and Adam McKeown flashed home a superb drive from outside the penalty area on 13 minutes to level the ledger.

Four minutes later, Alex Leszczynski gave the Eagles the lead, forcing a shot over the line off the crossbar after a classy save from South keeper Matthew Ferguson.

Eagles midfielder and man of the match Liam Scott failed to kill off the match with minutes to go. "They were the better team; they played with more life than us, played with more energy. We were second best," South coach Ken Morton said.

## ⚽ Eagles shape as serious threat

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 20, 2012

TWO themes emerged from the weekend in the southern Premier League. The New Town Eagles are not just title pretenders, and University could be destined for the drop, unless it can pull off a miracle in the final half of the season.

The Eagles closed the gap on ladder leader South Hobart to just one point with a 2-1 victory over the champions on Sunday, preventing its rival from blowing out to a seven-point lead.

The Eagles' victory came nearly 11 months on from its last 2-1 victory over South, which ended South's record-breaking streak of 63 unbeaten matches.

But Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford defined Sunday's result as more important. "I think [Sunday's victory] was even better. We knew that we could beat them, it was just a matter of putting in a good performance on the day," he said.

"The top four teams [are separated by] four or five points now so the second half of the season will be really, really important."

Former South Hobart left-back and Eagles central midfielder Liam Scott proved a nemesis for his old club and was named man of the match. "We put pressure on South and they folded under a bit of pressure," Scott said. "Two-one is a good result for us, and the Premier League is back open."

But the league may not be a two-horse race between South (26 points) and Eagles (25). Kingborough is five points off the leaders, and Clarence United is only two wins adrift.

Heading into the final nine rounds, the title race is promising to be the most fascinating in years. But at the other end of the league, things appear a little more clear-cut. University's 0-2 loss against Glenorchy Knights on Saturday leaves it bottom, winless and five points behind the second-last Knights.

But coach Gary Slicer isn't giving up on the team's season just yet. "It was a bit disappointing, but overall the boys can hold their heads up high," he said.

## **Eagles' record on line**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - June 30, 2012

MUCH of New Town Eagles' success this season has to be credited to its formidable form at its Clare St home. With an unblemished record at its home ground in 2012, visiting sides fear facing an Eagles outfit that boasts the best home form in southern Premier League soccer.

If the Eagles can make that six out of six today against Kingborough Lions from 2.30pm, they will leapfrog South for the second week running as the two front-runners yoyo on the ladder.

"It's handy to be able to pick up points at home, but I think that we have been reasonably consistent across the whole season in terms of creating chances," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "Lions know that they really need to win today to stay in the race, which makes them tricky opponents."

Ben Whitehall is likely to return to a starting role at the expense of Jeremy Marshall for the Eagles, but the dangerous Cormac Collins remains sidelined with a knee injury. Lions are smarting from a narrow 1-2 loss against South last week. In the Lions' 2-1 win over the Eagles in round seven, coach Matthew Rhodes's decision to place Danny Cowen as a man-marker on Adam McKeown worked a treat.

Rhodes is likely to employ his utility in the same role. Flu has swept through Clarence United this week, and one of its most dangerous players, Aaron Cairns, is a casualty for tonight's match against Glenorchy Knights at KGV Park from 6.30.

Cairns will join Matt Lewis (hamstring) on the sidelines, but Ronnie Bolton will have keeper Carlos Ortiz available, after a four-week suspension. "This is a tough game for us, but we will look forward to playing at KGV against the Knights, in what should be a keenly contested affair," Bolton said. In contrast, the Knights have keeper Trent Le Rossignol suspended.

## **Eagles score six without reply for second week in row**

Walter Pless | Sunday, 01 July 2012

New Town Eagles knocked in six goals without reply against the visiting Kingborough Lions United, to go 2 points clear at the top of the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League. It was Kingborough's heaviest defeat in the league this season. South Hobart coach Ken Morton was watching.

His side can regain the lead on Sunday with a win over Olympia Warriors at South Hobart. It took Eagles just 18 seconds to take the lead, and the Lions did not touch the ball, until keeper David Leamey had to pick it out of the net. A series of passes in an attack down the right, ended with Alex Leszczynski back-heeling the ball for Adam McKeown to fire home from close range.

It was 2-0 in the 3rd minute, when Whitehall played the ball across the face of goal for Jacob Clamp to score easily. Kingborough recovered their composure by the 8th minute and Ryan Bevan's low drive clipped the outside of Nathan Pitchford's right-hand post, while seconds later, Pitchford did well to get down to a powerful shot from Joel Schuth.

A minute later, Schuth failed to connect with a high ball that should have provided him with a headed goal. Marc Iseli brought down McKeown for a penalty in the 12th minute, and Leszczynski converted the spot-kick to make it 3-0, against a now shell-shocked Kingborough outfit, that had no answer to Eagles' speed and tenacity. The home side could smell blood and were in the mood for a slaughter.

On the half-hour, McKeown almost had a second, when Andrew Clark drove the ball forward. The ball took a slight deflection and floated to McKeown stationed at the far left-hand post. His header was turned against the underside of the bar by Leamey, before the ball was cleared.

Two goals in four minutes just after the hour-mark, continued the Eagles rampage. Liam Scott netted in the 62nd minute, after a well-executed attack, while Mark Page made it 5-0 in the 65th minute as the Lions capitulated.

The visitors and the home side made several substitutions at this stage. For Eagles, it was to give their substitutes a run. For Kingborough, it was a desperate ploy to attempt to salvage something from the game and limit further damage. It didn't work for the Lions.

With 7 minutes remaining, McKeown rounded the advancing Leamey on the right and stroked the ball home for goal number six. Just before that, McKeown had two good chances. His low shot was well stopped by Leamey, while he headed an inviting cross over the bar shortly after.

Schuth was unlucky not to pull a goal back for the visitors with 10 minutes left, his powerful shot coming back off the crossbar. It was the second week in a row that Eagles had scored six goals and kept a clean sheet. That is an ominous sign for the other teams in the competition, as we reach the business end of the campaign.



Kingborough keeper David Leamey can't keep out Alex Leszczynski's penalty [PlessPix]

**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

A very good performance backing up from last week. A really good start for us, simple passing moves resulting in goals. We probably should have finished off a bit better in the second half, but the fact we kept going for 90 minutes on a pretty heavy field - although not as heavy as it might have been - was really good to see.

We brought three boys off the bench who continued to put in as well and the pressure kept going. "Very good to have a clean sheet again and, hopefully, we'll be able to continue in the weeks ahead.

It should have been double figures, probably, looking at some of the shots. Sometimes we held onto it and probably didn't finish as clinically as we'd like, but if you're knocking in six in a game, then you can't complain.



Eagles' Mark Page celebrates his goal. He was shown a yellow card for his troubles [PlessPix]

## **Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:**

It was terrible. When you give away a goal in the first 15 seconds, you're always in trouble. The truth of the matter is, and people can say what they like, we've been struggling in midfield all year.

We've put stopgaps in there, and at the moment we haven't got a genuine midfielder that can control the game. We're losing in there every week. How we are where we are, sometimes I wonder.

Until we can get that midfield right - and we keep trying people in there - we're going to struggle. At the moment, we're just filling gaps in there, and some of our better players haven't had a great year either. It's always hard.

## **Top two fight to the death**

July 2, 2012 by The Back Post - Alex Luttrell

The Back Post brings you a special feature from our newest contributor, Alex Luttrell, who explores the 2012 southern Premier League title race. After the fourteenth week of games, just one round remains in the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League and it is shaping up to be the closest two-horse title race since the start of South Hobart's tenure in 2008.

Both South Hobart and New Town Eagles, who sit in first and second place, respectively, are currently engaged in a fierce duel, with South currently holding a slight edge atop the table despite the Eagles defeating the defending champions three weeks ago.

After 14 games, South have managed 10 wins, two draws and two losses and are on 32 points after they held off a determined Olympia Warriors 4-2 at Darcy Street. Eagles sit on 10 wins, one draw and three losses on 31 points after they brushed aside any hopes Kingborough had of winning the league with a 6-0 demolition at Clare Street.

The Eagles have not won a premiership in the Southern League since 1986, but won the Tasmanian State League Minor Premiership and Finals Series in 1997. The Polish-orientated club has not merely obtained a total of two Southern titles since their inception in 1961, but have eight State League trophies under their belt and they do know about success.

However, South Hobart have a much more prominent history, having collected 21 Southern trophies since the club's formation in 1910, over 101 seasons up till 2011. Statistics point to South Hobart success again this year, having won the last four Southern Premier League titles as well as a number of other trophies under the guidance of Ken Morton.

The closest the Eagles have come to the premiership recently was in 2000 under George Krambousanos, where they finished runners-up to Glenorchy Knights.

So far two out of three head to head encounters having been played between the two, with South winning 1-0 on the 14th of April and the Eagles getting the best of South on the 17th of June. This recent 2-1 win for the Eagles over their nearest title rivals has strengthened the squad and the belief within themselves to topple South's phenomenal four-year Southern Premier League run.

Eagles' coach Stephen Pitchford commented on the impact of the game for the remainder of the season. It's a psychological advantage in terms of having the confidence to go out and beat whoever you play and the fact we've been able to do it more than once over the top side [South Hobart] gives them confidence going into other games. We've certainly got the ability to win all of the remaining games and I think we're getting better in terms of creating chances and it will be how we convert those chances in the big games.

South coach Ken Morton also commented on his sides recent loss to its nearest rivals and its implications for their fifth championship running I think the loss to Eagles has had a positive effect on us. You have to learn from your defeats and push on, and while we truly respect the Eagles our aim is to keep going forward.

It had a big impact on the season because if we had won that we would have gone seven points clear. Now it will make us put in good efforts every week. I think we all need to stay injury free, avoid red cards and avoid any silly results. Morton was also aware that the situation atop the table is very close and could come down to the very end. Obviously, we've got our noses in front now and that's where we want to stay but at this time of the year when in this situation at the top you can't afford to lose silly points.

You've got to grind results out now and I think we've got the experience to do that. There's still a backbone of experienced players in Hugh Ludford, Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Matthew Ferguson to give us stability. The title may very well be decided in their final meeting in week 19 on the fifth of August at South's Darcy Street fortress, depending on each sides' consistency in their run home and Morton was cautiously optimistic on South's chances.

I think that the clash with the Eagles will be an important one and that might have some bearing on who wins the league. I think it was in 2008 when it was pretty tight at the top of the table, so we've been there before, and we just have got through this next round of matches undefeated. We need to play our own game and focus on sharp passing and movement off the ball. The last game at Clare Street, they played their own football and we got sucked in and played a bit longer than we wanted.

He also believed that the players' and training situations will combine for the club's endeavour to take out the league, or at least make a good fight to the death, which was exciting. Fitness wise we're not doing any extra, so we're just working on some sharper stuff. We still have 14 to 15 players to pick from in the squad, so injuries are not a problem. We just have to go over tuning up basic skills as a collective unit with the young lads coming through too.

In the Eagles camp, Pitchford also suggested that the recent loss in the Milan Lakoseljac final to the Knights has helped his players bounce back and play better by learning from mistakes.

He was also well aware that the season could come down to week 19 but nothing would change their playing style regardless of the stakes. Only having players missing due to suspensions, injuries or work commitments would alter game plans. He suggested they will go about beating the champions in the same way they did three weeks ago by not holding back on the attacking pace.

We're confident [for the South game] but not over-confident. We have a fairly good squad of fifteen to sixteen players, and we get full performances in fast, small-sided games at training, and I think that's part of what enables you to play well each week. I'm confident that they have the ability to do it as a squad. The points we've dropped this year have been in games where we've certainly had more chances than the opposition but haven't put them away. We can't be frightened to keep playing attacking football.

He also believed that his squad played well enough to beat South Hobart at Darcy Street in the first game but couldn't convert their chances in their 1-0 loss.

#### Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 30th June 2012)

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New Town Eagles	14	10	1	3	40	16	31
South Hobart	13	9	2	2	33	9	29
Clarence United	14	7	2	5	30	25	23
Tilford Zebras	14	6	4	4	38	31	22
Kingborough Lions Utd	14	5	6	3	32	29	21
Olympia Warriors	13	4	2	7	27	32	14
Glenorchy Knights	14	2	3	9	18	31	9
University	14	0	4	10	10	55	4

## ⚽ Eagles wipe the floor with Knights

Walter Pless | Monday, 23 July 2012

New Town Eagles controlled this match from start to finish and, although they only led 1-0 at the break, they finished the job in the second half against a Glenorchy Knights outfit that was lacking in ideas and technically deficient. If you cannot pass, you cannot play football, and that summed up the hosts' performance

Knights coach Chris Hey said his side had lost possession 52 times in the first half alone. He praised some of the young substitutes he brought on, but was bitterly disappointed by the lack of fight and endeavour of his older players. He gave credit to Eagles and said they played good and precise football and that they worked for each other from the outset and they 'wanted it more'.

Knights were not helped by the absence of midfielder Jacob Huigsloot (suspended), striker Simon Strang (injured) and goalkeeper Trent Le Rossignol (injured). They found themselves behind after only 4 minutes, when Adam McKeown glanced home Ben Whitehall's right-wing cross. The ball seemed to nestle inside the far left-hand post in slow motion, as the Knights defenders could only look on. McKeown almost added a second in the 8th minute, but his shot hit the side-netting.

In the 11th minute, Knights keeper Ben Peter showed he still has it when he brilliantly tipped Jacob Clamp's header over the bar for a corner. In the 28th minute, Peter was at full stretch to his right to turn McKeown's effort wide for a corner. There was a brief glimmer of hope for the Knights 4 minutes after the break, when Aaron Marney should have scored, but he fired over the bar.

That was it for the home side. In the 55th minute, a long throw-in from the right by Whitehall found Leszczynski in front of goal and he was given time to control the ball, turn and pick his spot and make it 2-0. With the Knights still reeling, McKeown made it 3-0 a minute later, tapping home Leszczynski's cross from the right. Jason Dawes had given the ball away in midfield and Mark Page had released Leszczynski down the right to create the chance.

In the 59th minute, the situation almost got worse for the Knights as Liam Scott smacked a marvelous shot against the crossbar after Leszczynski, with his back to goal, had done a tap dance on the edge of the box, and mesmerised the defenders before setting up his team-mate with a short pass. Three minutes later, McKeown completed his hat-trick when he hammered home a Leszczynski cross from the right to make it 4-0.

With 9 minutes remaining, McKeown challenged Alex Holmes in the air for a free-kick from midfield, and Holmes could only nod it past his own goalkeeper for Eagles' fifth goal. The visitors' sixth came 5 minutes from the end through substitute Cormac Collins's header.

Eagles pulled back to within 3 points of leaders South Hobart with this victory, but their goal-difference is vastly inferior to that of South Hobart, which could cost them in the end.



#### **Glenorchy Knights coach, Chris Hey, said:**

In the first half, we were lucky to go in 1-0 to be honest with you. They were dominating play. We talk week in and week out about not running with the ball. We ran with the ball today. We turned the ball over trying to play 20 and 30-yard penetrating balls which were cut out and which is not what I want us to do.

We were still in the game at half-time. We changed a few things about. I thought they were getting down the right side, so I tried to pull Jayden [Hey] over to combat that and get forward. Two early goals and, yeah, I don't know really why I coach, to be honest with you, with that performance.

People just don't care and then play their own games. We spoke about the importance of this game today and the potential for the T-League and, you know, I'll be honest with you, for those games you'd be lucky if there were four players that I'd maintain for next year. It's a disgrace that players can drop their head and play like that and not care. It's as simple as that.

#### **New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I think the second half was really good. We actually converted a few chances. In the first half, we had enough of the play but didn't put enough away. In the second half, we simply converted and played simple football at the end.

We needed to not get too far behind South in the goal-difference as well as stay within the three points. When we play them in a couple of weeks it's a really big game for us. We were worried that today could be a danger game with Knights. They've managed to cause us problems in the past.

I think at half-time there was that hope for them, and the boys came out at the beginning of the second half and put it to bed, really, so it was very pleasing. All our subs got onto the park and had a run, and it was a very convincing performance.

## **Eagles have easier run-in to title, but South Hobart remain favourites**

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 24 July 2012

With just four rounds of games to go, South Hobart and New Town Eagles are realistically, the only two sides capable of winning the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. And the two sides meet at South Hobart on Sunday, 5 August 2012, in a crucial showdown. If New Town Eagles win this encounter, they could find themselves level on points with the reigning champions.

But South Hobart have a vastly superior goal-difference, which could in the end, decide the title. It's worth a point, in fact. South Hobart currently lead with 41 points, three more than Eagles. South's goal-difference is plus 43, while Eagles' is plus 31.

New Town Eagles could be considered to have a slightly easier run-in to the title, because they must still play bottom-side University, whom they have already beaten 6-2 and 6-0 this season. They may have to make it a baker's dozen next time. They play Tilford Zebras at home at Clare Street, South Hobart away at South Hobart, University at home at Clare Street, and Kingborough Lions United away at Lightwood Park.

Eagles have beaten Zebras 4-3 and drawn 1-1 with Zebras in their two meetings so far. They lost to South 1-0 away from home and beat South 2-1 at Clare Street. Eagles have lost 2-1 to the Lions at Lightwood and beaten them 6-0 at Clare Street.

South Hobart, who are going for their fifth consecutive Premier League title, must travel to Wentworth Park to face Clarence, where they have already lost 3-2 this season. But South did win the return at South Hobart 3-0. They then entertain New Town Eagles at home, where they won 1-0 earlier in the season, before completing their season with a home game against Kingborough Lions United and an away fixture against Olympia Warriors at Warrior Park.

In their two previous meetings with the Lions, the first was a 1-1 draw and the second was won 2-1 by South. South beat Olympia 3-0 at Warrior Park and 4-2 at South Hobart in the two meetings to date. The forthcoming possibilities are endless, therefore, and there could be many a slip between the cup and the lip.

Eagles may need the help of another team to take at least a couple of points off South Hobart while Eagles still need to win all their matches. But South Hobart must remain slight favourites, if only because of their superiority in terms of goal-difference. And, because with all other things remaining equal, Eagles must beat South away from home on 5 August. Even if they do, they will have to annihilate University at Clare Street the following week to try and improve their goal-difference.

I'll stick my neck out here and say that I think South Hobart will collect a fifth consecutive Southern Premier League title. They have recently recruited Konstantinos Lantouris from Melbourne Victory and his two goals on the weekend against Tilford Zebras show why he was signed. South coach Ken Morton always pulls a rabbit out of the hat when needed, and this is one such conjuring act. But he must also be given credit for his coaching. While many coaches 'train' their teams, Morton coaches his sides.

How else does one explain South Hobart's position at the top of the ladder at this late stage of the season? This is a side that has just four players in the starting line-up from last season's team. This represents a massive but successful rebuilding process. Neither South nor Eagles can afford to slip up in any of their remaining games, so it all makes for the most exciting finish to the league in years.

**Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League - (As at 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2012)**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	17	13	2	2	55	12	41
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>38</b>
Clarence United	17	9	2	6	35	26	29
Kingborough Lions Utd	17	6	6	5	38	36	24
Tilford Zebras	17	6	5	6	42	40	23
Olympia Warriors	17	6	3	8	36	41	21
Glenorchy Knights	17	2	4	11	19	41	10
University	17	0	4	13	11	71	4

## **Flu grounds four Eagles ahead of crucial game**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - July 29, 2012

INJURY and illness may pose a setback for New Town Eagles' bid to secure a top-four spot as they prepare to clash with Hobart Zebras at Clare St at 2.30pm tomorrow.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford had four players recovering from the flu during the week, while Michael Anderson has been ruled out for the remainder of the season after injuring a medial ligament against South Hobart.

On a brighter note for the Eagles, both Alex Leszczynski and Alex Gordon have overcome injuries sustained against South 12 days ago, while David Cox, Chris Stingle, Jeremy Marshall and Jacob Clamp will vie Anderson's spot.

"Our squad is keen to build on success of the South match and will look to convert possession into more goals than in recent games," Pitchford said.

Zebras are five points clear of third-placed Eagles and want to consolidate second place.

Kingborough Lions, two points adrift of the Eagles, can pounce on any slip-up over the final three fixtures, but they face league champions South Hobart at Lightwood Park at 2.30pm tomorrow.

South lost its unbeaten run against the Eagles two weeks ago, but recovered in the Milan Lakoseljac Memorial Trophy with a 4-0 win over Tarroona.

Clarence United's hold on fourth spot has slipped recently and it will be searching for a victory against Glenorchy Knights at 6.30pm tomorrow to prevent a late Lions surge.

The talking point will be the relegation decider between Olympia Warriors and Beachside on Sunday at 2.30pm. Cellar-dweller Beachside will host second-last Warriors at the Tropicana in a do-or-die match for the home side. Warriors need three points to guarantee safety, while a Beachside win will make the final rounds very interesting.

"We are aware it will be a tough game at Sandown," Olympia coach Franco Previdi said.

## **Eagles send out powerful message with thrashing of Zebras**

Walter Pless | Monday, 30 July 2012

New Town Eagles had a point to prove to everyone and they did it by smashing Tilford Zebras 6-0 at Clare Street on Sunday. They may have missed the cut in terms of membership of next season's Victory League, but they showed they are still in contention for the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title. The result still leaves them 3 points adrift of leaders South Hobart, whom they meet next week, but they did improve their goal-difference somewhat with this result.

Zebras were on the ropes early and down for the count by half-time, having Jon Foley-Donoghue sent off for two yellow cards in quick succession just before the break. The visitors did revive somewhat in the latter stages of the second period despite being down to 10 men, but it was far too late, and Eagles keeper Nathan Pitchford thwarted them on every occasion.

Eagles opened the scoring in just 20 seconds when Adam McKeown sent over a pin-point cross from the right and Alex Leszczynski was given time to control the ball and pick his spot from point-blank range. Leszczynski made it 2-0 in the 4th minute after Liam Scott played McKeown through and he set up his team-mate to beat Michael McKenna.

McKeown then took on the role of executioner, scoring a simple third for Eagles on the quarter-hour and hitting a fourth from Ben Whitehall's free-kick seconds before the break. The free-kick was awarded for Foley-Donoghue's foul on Scott, which earned the Zebras player a second yellow card. Moments earlier, he had been cautioned for a foul on the same player.

Zebras had had a few half-chances in that first period, mainly through the endeavour of Nicholas MacDonald, who is certainly holding his own in the top-flight since being promoted from the reserves. Ricky Self and Foley-Donoghue had token efforts that did not pose any problems for the home side.

But Eagles had also squandered some chances in the opening 45 minutes as McKeown, Leszczynski and Michael Anderson let Zebras off the hook. Six minutes after the resumption, Jacob Clamp made it 5-0 when the ball ricocheted to him after McKenna had blocked Scott's shot.

Eagles had a lucky break in the 70th minute when Anderson's attempted clearance, while under pressure from Fagg, rebounded off a team-mate and struck the woodwork. Fagg got to the rebound but Pitchford produced an excellent save. Substitute Chris Stingle missed an absolute sitter in the 76th minute for Eagles. McKeown did the hard work by picking his way along the by-line on the right before presenting his team-mate with an open goal, but Stingle mis-kicked and the chance went begging.

In the 78th minute, MacDonald missed from close range for Zebras, who were somehow managing to stay in with a chance of scoring. A minute later, the visitors conceded a sixth goal when McKeown was put clear on the left and he easily rounded McKenna before slipping the ball into an unguarded net. The Zebras still had something left, however, and Pitchford did well to turn Jal David's shot over the bar for a corner in the 81st minute.

A minute later, Mark Page had to clear off the line after Eagles failed to deal with a corner as Pitchford was unable to catch the ball cleanly in the air. Pitchford regained his composure and, in the next minute, did well to tip Ricky Self's shot over the bar for another corner. The home side saw out the match with a second clean sheet and a second 6-0 score-line in consecutive matches.

Football Federation Tasmanian may not have had current on-field performance as a criterion for selection in the Victory League, but this Eagles performance made one wonder why not. Have FFT possibly thrown the baby out with the bath water?



**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I think [this sent out] that we're one of the best teams in the competition, and probably the State, and those that say otherwise have obviously got it wrong. The boys were pretty keen to turn it on today, obviously, and the message in the sheds before the game was to go out today and play our football and not to worry about external factors that we can't do anything about. All we can do is play our football. And, today, I think they did really well.

The 10-man factor is always an interesting thing. We scored early in the second half and we hoped to score a couple more. I mean, we had the chances, but with 10 men, they certainly had a few chances as well. I think probably our keeper helped us keep a clean sheet today. If you score six goals in a game, you've got to be happy with that.

**Tilford Zebras coach, Eamonn Kelly, said:**

Bitterly disappointed. Bitterly. A really woeful performance, and no reason for it. No reason for it. First 10 minutes, we were out of the game. End of story. Pitchy [Nathan Pitchford] had a great second half.

We lost count of how many shots we had on target, and we hit the crossbar twice, we hit the post twice. That's what he's there for. That's what a goalkeeper is there for, to stop balls going in. Pitchy did a great job today. We conceded six, but you can't blame McKenna for too many of them. 'A couple of boys played well in the second half. Jal David had a good second half, and Ricky Self came out, Ryan Smith had a better second half. It's just unpredictable.'

## **Title goes down to the wire**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 3/8/2012

THE momentum is with New Town Eagles, history points to South Hobart and recent results forecast a tight showdown for the southern Premier League title on Sunday. Second-placed Eagles aim to derail South's tilt for a historic fifth consecutive title at Darcy St from 2.30pm.

The Eagles, who trail South by three points and have an inferior goal difference, must win to have any hope of snatching the title. New Town knows the task at hand, but its recent form, which has seen it forge an unbeaten streak of nine matches, including a 2-1 victory over South, shows it has nothing to fear.

"It's obviously going to be another big game again," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said. "We've taken it to them in every game that we have played, and we've beaten them a couple of times in the last 18 months, and we think we can do it again."

Liam Scott, leading scorer Adam McKeown and the lethal Alex Leszczynski are likely to play a part on Sunday.

# ⚽ Eagles win vital 3 points against South but destination of the title still in South's hands

Walter Pless | Sunday, 05 August 2011

New Town Eagles kept their championship hopes alive with this 1-0 win over leaders South Hobart on a heavy and slippery South Hobart pitch. Both sides have two games remaining and the title may well be decided on goal-difference. South Hobart now have a goal-difference of +43 and Eagles one of +38. South Hobart still have to play fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United at home and fifth-ranked Olympia Warriors away, while New Town Eagles must entertain wooden-spooners University at Clare Street and then travel to Lightwood Park to face the Lions.

Today's match was an excellent advertisement for Tasmanian football and featured the two best sides in the State. The sad thing is that this New Town Eagles side will not be in the top-flight Victory League next season. Judging from their on-field performance today, they certainly deserve to be there.

There were some outstanding examples of individual skill from players on both sides. Inconsistency is a problem, though. Too many times, players demonstrated superb ball control and technique, only to then give the ball away with a bad pass or poor shot. Having said that, both sets of players gave 100 per cent to the cause and displayed some marvelous teamwork, making this the best game I have seen this season. This was despite the treacherous conditions which saw players slipping and falling over at times in awkward situations.

Liam Scott and Ben Whitehall showed marvelous ball control for Eagles, while Michael Anderson did what was required to keep Andy Brennan scoreless. He even took time out to send long and mostly accurate passes forward to his team-mates. David Cox was very good as sweeper and Mark Page and Blayne Hudson played with gusto and confidence in a solid Eagles defensive arrangement in front of goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford, whose distribution was sometimes haphazard but who handled every shot or cross - except one near the end - flawlessly.

Jacob Clamp and Cormac Collins did what was required in midfield and won their fair share of possession to send their team into attack. Both had scoring chances, but Clamp was off target with his header, while Collins had a stinging shot well saved by Mark Moncur.

Up front, Alex Leszczynski had a powerful match in the conditions. Every time he was in possession, it spelled danger for South, and it was his tremendous shot against the woodwork that provided the alert Adam McKeown with the decisive goal. Leszczynski should, in fact, have scored in the 4th minute when he was given time and space to pick his spot, but he dragged his low shot wide.

McKeown had a poor game given his high standards. His first touch was often lacking, and his passes were often misdirected. One could see he was annoyed with himself. But it was his quick thinking and clinical finishing that won the game, and it showed he is not the league's leading marksman without reason. He typified a characteristic of all good strikers - they may do nothing for most of the match and then pop up with the winner. The conditions probably did not suit him, but if Eagles win the title, he will deserve much of the credit as he now has a tally of 24 goals in 19 games.

South Hobart produced their normal disciplined, measured and highly skilled performance in tricky conditions and on an uncertain pitch. Indeed, they might have salvaged a draw on a dry day. Midway through the second half, Nick Morton's shot was goal-bound but stuck in the mud just short of the line.

Goalkeeper Mark Moncur, who replaced the injured Matthew Ferguson, was as reliable as ever and could not be blamed for the goal. Skipper Hugh Ludford was excellent at the back and frequently ventured forward as a 'libero', always threatening, and always passing accurately and thoughtfully to team-mates. Why Eagles gave him the liberty to do this was perplexing. Greg Duffy and Cameron Williams were very good as the fullbacks but were forced to carry out their defensive duties more than usual because Eagles were aware of their attacking qualities and negated these to a large extent. Duffy did have a good chance near the end, but Williams was well marked at set-pieces.

Hugo Bladel partnered Ludford in the centre of defence. He slipped and fell a couple of times early on in the slippery conditions, but recovered to have a solid game. He seems to have regained his confidence, but Eagles did not pressure him as much as they might have done. South Hobart's midfield of Shae Hickey, Loic Feral and Bobby Eaves played well, but Eagles' pressure ensured that none of the trio was able to determine the outcome. The power of Feral and Eaves in the conditions was complemented by the fine skills of Hickey, but credit must go to the Eagles midfield for sticking to their tasks and making life difficult for an engine room that has often been at the heart of South's success.

The loss of Eaves just before the break with a suspected fractured cheek bone was a blow to South and led to then changing their formation slightly for the second half, with Morton dropping deeper into midfield and substitute James Ince playing wide on the right flank. It was not until the second half that South got on top in terms of chances and shots and Morton and Brennan began to look dangerous. Konstantinos Lantouris had a quiet game and Page only rarely gave him a look in.

Eagles started on the offensive and Hudson, Leszczynski, twice, and Whitehall all squandered chances in the opening 9 minutes as South were forced on the back foot. Scott was outstanding in the middle against his former club. His ball control was first-class, and his anticipation and intelligent play were exemplary.

South's first chance came after 21 minutes following Duffy's deep cross from the right. Page hesitated and allowed the ball to come to earth, gifting possession to Lantouris, whose shot took a deflection and looped high into the air. It came down just under the crossbar, but Pitchford caught it before it could cross the line. In the 24th minute, Moncur did well to block at Collins's feet and concede a corner.

South survived a torrid situation two minutes later as confusion reigned inside the box following Moncur's blocking of a Collins shot from the left. The ball rolled loose and was eventually cleared off the line with no Eagles player able to get a decisive touch. In the 29th minute, a free-kick from deep on the right by Whitehall found Clamp, but his header was off target.

Eaves sent in a rare South Hobart shot on goal in the 39th minute, but Pitchford scrambled to his left and fielded the ball comfortably. In the 41st minute, Bladel needlessly gave the ball away in a dangerous position but escaped punishment as Eagles failed to take advantage of the lapse.

Two minutes before the break, McKeown shot harmlessly over the bar after Leszczynski had expertly chested the ball down and into his path to create the chance. In the closing seconds of the first half, Eagles created an intelligent and precise attack involving McKeown and Leszczynski, but when the ball went to Whitehall wide on the right, he drove his shot wide of the far upright.

South came out for the second half in a positive frame of mind and soon imposed their style on the match. In the 50th minute, instead of clearing the ball, Eagles conceded an unnecessary corner. Hickey floated the ball into the box and Whitehall was thankful when the ball glanced off his head and at goal but was caught by Pitchford.

A minute short of the hour-mark, substitute Ince drove his shot straight at Pitchford as South started to accumulate shots at goal. In the 61st minute, Brennan sent an effort narrowly wide, and it began to look as if Eagles were in real danger of going behind.

Morton's missed chance came in the 67th minute, but Eagles relieved the pressure somewhat 10 minutes later when Leszczynski chipped a good chance over the bar from range. Collins and Clamp were replaced by Josh Quan and Jeremy Marshall 13 minutes from the end and the fresh legs proved a boon for the visitors.

In the 82nd minute, Ludford was perfectly positioned at the near post to head a Whitehall corner off the line. Eagles regained possession and Whitehall managed to get to the byline on the left and cut the ball back for McKeown to shoot, but the ball flew straight into Moncur's arms. It was a great chance and McKeown was clearly disappointed with himself.

The breakthrough came in the 84th minute when Quan won the ball against Duffy near the left touchline and played a perfect diagonal ball to Leszczynski in the inside-right channel. The Eagles striker lined up the ball and hit a tremendous rising shot from 22 metres that hit the underside of the bar with Moncur helpless. The ball rebounded down and out and McKeown pounced instantly and before Bladel could react, heading the ball into the net for the only goal of the game.

South brought on Max Clarke in place of Lantouris for the final two minutes, but the youngster did not have time to have an influence on the game. Eagles were ecstatic at the final whistle, and rightly so, but the title is still South Hobart's to lose.



**South Hobart coach, Ken Morton, said:**

We're still in with a chance. It was a strong performance from us today and a great performance from Eagles as well. I think we're still there. We're still in with a shout.

I think it was strong performance from both teams. Both teams worked hard. I think it was 90 minutes of strong football.

I think Eagles had the better of the first half and they put us under a lot of pressure. In the second half, I think we got on top and started to dominate. It was a good game of football.

**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

A very important win, obviously, and it means we're now in with a chance. We're still five goals in goal-difference behind and that's a big gap to make up over two games. We've got to go out and win first of all, and then look at the goals. I thought in the first half today we were very good and could have easily been a couple of goals up.

South came at us and got a bit of dominance in the middle of the park. We were lucky enough to hold out. A set of fresh legs in the last 15 minutes probably helped us and a perfect strike by Alby [Alex Leszczynski] and a striker doing his job by following up. It's what McKeown and Leszczynski have been doing all season.

But everybody contributed today. I mean, Ando [Michael Anderson] kept Brennan totally out of the game. Ben Whitehall kept working hard all day out on the wings and it was a real team effort where they did what they'd been asked to do for most of the 90 minutes. I think that's how we've tried to play all year and now we've got a chance to get some reward.

## **Eagles in last-gasp stunner**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - 6/8/2012

NEW Town Eagles produced a stunning winner in the final six minutes of a classic southern Premier League soccer clash against South Hobart yesterday, throwing the title race wide open. Eagles brought the house down with striker Adam McKeown's last-gasp goal in the 84th minute that handed the Eagles a vital 1-0 victory.

Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford couldn't hide his delight as Alex Leszczynski rocketed a shot on to the crossbar before McKeown headed home the rebound for the only goal of the day. The goal decided a nervy top-of-the-table clash at Darcy Street and put New Town equal on points at the top of the table with South.

With both on 44 points, only goal difference (43 to 38 in South's favour) separates them with two matches left. "[Five goals] is a big gap to make up over two games," Pitchford said. South still has the upper hand in the final matches.

"I think we're still there, we're still in with a shout," coach Ken Morton said.

## **Title race ends in thriller South needs rout to scuttle Eagles**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] - August 18, 2012

TODAY, after the final round of the season, a new chapter in southern Premier League soccer history will be written. At around 4.15pm one team will be celebrating winning the title while another will be left to rue a near miss.

With leader New Town Eagles locked on 47 points with second-placed South Hobart, the champion could be decided by the slightest of margins in an exciting season finale.

If South prevails, it will be the first time a team has won the southern top-tier competition for five consecutive seasons since it claimed five crowns between 1919 and 1923.

However, New Town is in the box seat to end South's recent supremacy, thanks to superior goal difference, and all the pressure is on South in the goal-scoring department.

If both teams win, South will need to outscore Eagles by at least four goals. If the Eagles lift the trophy, it will be the club's first piece of silverware at the senior level since 1997.

With the final four games of the league campaign all kicking off simultaneously from 2.30pm today, both sides face difficult away trips against sides still fighting for places in the top four.

Eagles will travel to Lightwood Park to tackle fourth-placed Kingborough Lions, while South takes on a resurgent Olympia Warriors hoping to sneak into a finals position at Warrior Park.

The Eagles know all about failure at the final hurdle, about the pain of defeat and missing out on silverware by the narrowest of margin, having lost two finals in the last two seasons.

Their aim today will be to start well to be in a position to put the Lions out of the match early. "Kingborough were very good against us last time at Lightwood, and have a strong squad capable of matching any team in the competition on their day," Eagles coach Stephen Pitchford said.

"Having said that, we are confident that our current form is as good as at any time during the season. "There is a belief within the squad that we can win this encounter, and hopefully the title."

A big positive for the Eagles is Michael Anderson recovering from a knee injury and is likely to start, while Jacob Clamp and Blayne Hudson are in the mix for starting berths.

Lions coach Matthew Rhodes, who will swap David Cooper for Felix Kang in the forward line for this clash, guided his side to a 2-1 victory over New Town in round seven at the Den earlier this year and a repeat could shatter the Eagles' title hopes.

South will be strong favourites against an injury-stricken Olympia, given the Warriors have lost captain Josh Fielding, Craig Stockdale and Janko Begovic (suspension) as Ken Morton's side aims to make history with a fifth title.

Clarence United can secure third spot with victory over Glenorchy Knights at Wentworth Park, while Hobart Zebras, who recently slipped to sixth, can sneak into the top four with victory against University at Olinda Grove.

## **Eagles lose title on last day**

Walter Pless | Tuesday, 21 August 2012

New Town Eagles, sitting on top of the ladder at the start of play, threw away the Forestry Tasmania Southern Premier League title with this 3-2 loss to fourth-placed Kingborough Lions United. Virtually all that Eagles had to do to collect the title was to win. The only way second-placed South Hobart could then have pipped them for the honours was to beat Olympia Warriors by five or six goals.

As it turned out, Eagles lost, while South scored a penalty and a goal in stoppage time to down the Warriors 2-1 and it was they who collected a record fifth title in row. Eagles started in promising fashion and Alex Leszczynski had two early chances, including one that rolled over the line but was ruled out because of a foul on the Kingborough keeper.

But it was the Lions who took a shock lead after 17 minutes. Joel Schuth floated a corner in from the right and Eagles goalkeeper Nathan Pitchford flapped at the ball and succeeded only in placing it at the feet of Marcello Marchioli, who was in space beyond the far post. Marchioli volleyed a spectacular shot into the back of the net from an angle as Jeremy Marshall failed to cut out the chance.

Two minutes later Eagles were level, as Liam Scott played the ball forward and Adam McKeown flicked it wide for Leszczynski, whose cracker of a shot beat Andrew Duncan at his near post and ricocheted into the net off the underside of the bar. The visitors went ahead in the 32nd minute when Mark Page's long ball into the Kingborough box was skillfully

flicked on and into the net by McKeown, who, moments earlier, had been unlucky when his shot took a slight deflection and hit the outside of the right-hand post.

Eight minutes after the interval. Kingborough levelled through Wade Hawkins. Joel Schuth crossed from the left and Nick Di Falco nudged the ball wide to Farquhar, who slipped it through for the onrushing fullback. Hawkins evaded a couple of tackles before slotting a left-footed shot past the diving Pitchford and into the net. Pitchford injured his left hand in the incident, and it was later revealed that he had broken a bone in his hand. After treatment, he played on for the remainder of the match.

Joel Schuth hit Kingborough's winner in the 59th minute from the so-called 'Schuth zone', an area roughly five metres in circumference just outside the left-hand corner of the penalty area. Andrew Duncan punted the ball upfield to this zone and Schuth gained possession and, just as he has done on frequent occasions this season, hit an unstoppable left-footed shot inside the near post and past the vainly diving Pitchford.

In the 64th minute, Pitchford did very well to save a stinging shot from Marchioli. Eagles rallied as the half wore on and they went so close to equalising on a couple of occasions. Substitute Josh Quan, who had replaced the injured Ben Whitehall, had an effort deflected wide for a corner, while Duncan got down to hold a fierce shot by Leszczynski. In the dying seconds, Leszczynski miscued the ball after a corner kick and the chance went begging. Leszczynski and Marshall had shots before the end, but they were merely token salvos fired from a ship that was dead in the water. Eagles knew their title hopes were scuttled as the final whistle blew.



**Kingborough Lions United coach, Matthew Rhodes, said:**

A good win. A great win. I thought we were really good today. We changed our line-up a bit and put Coops [David Cooper] back to sweeper and I thought he was excellent today. It really worked for us. Even at half-time when we were 2-1 down, I thought we were in the game. In the second half we just came out and controlled the game. They had a couple of half-chances, but I thought we were well in control, and we deserved our win. We deserve to be in the top-four.

We did decide the title. I don't think that always sits well with people. I didn't mind who won, but it's not nice when a side comes down and loses. I really feel for Eagles. They've had a great year and my thoughts were all on us making the top-four. That's what it was all about today. We've been in the top-four for 20 out of the 21 weeks, so we deserved it. We beat Zebras every time this year and we've been great. It's great. Looking forward to next week.

**New Town Eagles coach, Stephen Pitchford, said:**

I think we had a bit of a slow start to the first half, although I think we probably had chances before they scored. We woke up and played pretty well first half. Went out in the second half and just didn't seem to be prepared to put the faith in the system of playing the ball on the deck and hitting feet.

Having said that, when we had a really good chance 10 seconds into the second half, and we didn't take it. At the end, it was really just a comedy of errors that led to the two goals that we gave away. And then, once you've got the pressure on you, of course, you turn over the ball and you resort to long kicking and those of sorts of things, and it just wasn't to be. I mean, right at the end we had chances to draw but we knew a draw wouldn't have been good enough anyway. Full credit to Kingborough. They kept plugging away, kept playing their game, and they took their chances when they had them.



2012 will be primarily remembered for the two losses that cost the club trophies, however, it will also be remembered as a season where this squad achieved some fantastic results. The goal scoring feats at times reduced competitive opposition to mere bystanders. Runners-up in the Lakoseljac Cup Final, and to go within 45 minutes of the SPL title are places most other clubs did not even get close to, 3rd place was 15 points (or 5 wins) behind Eagles.

That second-place finish meant that for the second year in a row Eagle were playing finals. After losing Nathan Pitchford to a broken hand sustained in the previous game against Kingborough, it was always going to be tough to emulate 2011's performance. Having finished third in the NPL, the Devonport side came to Clare Street and claimed a semi-final berth in a reversal of the 2011 result. Conceding the deciding goal in the 92nd minute, was not the way Eagles wanted to end the 2012 season.

**Southern Premier League Final Standings – 2012 (Top 5 teams)**

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Hobart	21	16	2	3	62	15	50
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>47</b>
Clarence United	21	10	2	9	37	33	32
Kingborough Lions	21	8	6	7	47	45	30
Tilford Zebras	21	8	5	8	51	52	29

Leading Goalscorers: McKeown 26, Alexander Leszczynski 20, Scott 5, Whitehall, Clamp 4,

## ⚽ Great Scott form puts midfielder onside for award

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 10/7/2012

NEW Town Eagles' midfielder Liam Scott is shaping as a strong candidate for the Vic Tuting medal for the best and fairest player in the southern Premier League competition. Scott was named man of the match for the second time this season after his side's 1-0 victory over Clarence United on Saturday, and his performances are likely to have drawn the attention of the referees.

A former South Hobart and Hobart Zebras player, Scott has proved a vital cog in the Eagles' midfield engine room and nabbed the winner against Clarence with his fourth goal of the campaign. "It was a pretty tough game against Clarence," Scott said.



Scott on the move against Clarence at Clare Street Oval

"They come out to play; it's always a physical contest when you've got big bodies in the middle with Macca [Clarence's Sam McIntyre] and Grant Malcolm, but overall, I was happy that the team won and that's all that matters." Scott admitted there was a hint of handball in the lead-up to his decisive goal, but he denied it was a hand of God. "It just happened to come across my body, and it was all a bit of a blur until it was in the back of the net, you claim everything you can," he said.

"With South [Hobart] winning and putting four points between us we had to come out and win [against Clarence]." There was a momentary scare for Scott in the 72nd minute of the match, which would have ruled him out of the running for the Vic Tuting medal. In a bizarre incident, he pulled back Clarence midfielder Joseph Stevens and referee Simon Natoli waved the red card, a punishment much harsher than the crime.

Scott protested and Natoli quickly realised his error, rescinding the red and producing a yellow instead. If Scott had been sent off, he would have been ineligible for the medal. Scott believes he has room for improvement, but his drive and distribution from midfield has been pivotal to Eagles' success this year. Eagles strikers Adam McKeown (15 goals) and Alex Leszczynski (13) are also likely to have tallied considerable votes for their efforts.



Although on-field performances were a highlight of 2012, the club's failure to earn a spot in the following seasons reincarnation of the State League, the "V League", (named after the leagues major sponsor, Melbourne Victory), would have ramifications for years to come.

## ⚽ Clubs in shock after failing to make cut

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 28/7/2012

EIGHT soccer clubs across the state placed champagne on ice yesterday after they were officially offered licences to compete in the revolutionary Victory League in 2013.

South Hobart, Hobart Zebras, Glenorchy Knights, Olympia Warriors and Kingborough Lions will represent the south, while Northern Rangers and Launceston City will constitute the two northern outfits. Devonport City will be the state league's sole northwest representative in the newly established state competition, which will kick off in March next year.

But it wasn't all good news for the soccer community as New Town Eagles' and Clarence United's exclusion from the league rocked their respective clubs. Football Federation Tasmania president Sean Collins and chief executive John Boulous brought forward the announcement scheduled for next week to allow all 17 applicants and the successful eight to digest the news.

"The Victory League starts to take shape today, and I'm sure these eight clubs will be strong participants both on and off the field," Collins said. "I appreciate that today will be a day of celebration for some and of disappointment for others."

Collins said the federation would formally invite the eight clubs to join the league and outline key terms of participation. The unsuccessful clubs would have the opportunity for feedback on their applications. The eight clubs must foot a \$10,000 licence fee to confirm involvement in the league, but Collins said all clubs had demonstrated financial eligibility.

The presidents of excluded clubs Clarence and New Town said they were hit hard by the announcement. "It has come as a shock, to be honest we expected to be in the eight," Eagles president Bill Shackcloth said. "It's not going to be the end for Eagles, but it's not where we wanted to be going forward."

Clarence's Phill Randall said he was "devastated". "With the strength of our results in the Premier League over the review period, combined with the strength of our youth program and the excellent facilities provided by the Clarence City Council, I thought we had a compelling application," Randall said.

For the successful clubs, there was no hiding the delight and relief. "It's fantastic news for us. We put in a lot effort and our application was 96 pages," Olympia president Paul Kaproulias said. "But it's sad for the teams who missed out. It's a bit like a wedding where you can't invite everyone, but those who don't get an invite will always be disappointed."

Zebras president Nick Di Giovanni was delighted his club was selected. "We didn't make the cut for the first state league in 1978 so we know how it feels," Di Giovanni said. "It's all smiles and great news for us, but it was still a worry expecting a phone call (yesterday) morning."

The main criteria that the federation judged each applicant against were facilities, technical characteristics, financial standing and marketing ability.

## **Fallen Eagles ponder future**

By Julius Ross [THE MERCURY] 28/8/2012

THE 2012 season promised so much for New Town Eagles, but instead it has offered only heartache and disappointment in place of silverware.

Under new coach Stephen Pitchford, and with their main rival South Hobart losing many of their core senior players at the end of last season, the Eagles were confident that victory was on the horizon. But key losses at important times during the season left them with nothing to show for their efforts.

And to add insult to injury, the club was unsuccessful in its application for a Victory League licence. In June this year the Eagles entered the Lakoseljac Statewide Cup Final as overwhelming favourites against Glenorchy Knights but were beaten 3-2. On that occasion a despondent Pitchford offered no excuses for his side's loss. "We had our opportunities, and we didn't take them, and if you don't take them in any game you're going to lose," he said.

This sentiment would ring true for Eagles more than once as the season neared its end. On the final day, with the title theirs for the taking, the Eagles faltered away to Kingborough Lions with the score line again 3-2. Keeper Nathan Pitchford also sustained a season-ending injury on the same day that dashed his hopes of a certain start for Tasmania against Melbourne Victory.

A week later and 3-2 was the score line that undid them again and this time it was at home to visiting side Devonport. With no Victory League to look forward to next year and their State Finals series campaign cut short, many of the senior Eagles players must now surely be asking, where to next for 2013?



There was a lot of finger-pointing and recriminations as to why Eagles did not make the cut for the new "V League". A poor submission was cited as the major reason for their non-inclusion, however subsequent submissions proved that this was a total furphy, (albeit a convenient reason at the time), and that there many factors that contributed to the outcome.

Given FFT had settled on only an eight-team competition, it was obvious that they were not interested in having the "best" playing soccer clubs at the time, but were focused on where the clubs were based. Eagles finished in second place (20 points ahead of Glenorchy Knights and 28 points ahead of Olympia) and Clarence third, yet both clubs missed out on a place, whilst Olympia third last and Glenorchy Knights second last got in.

Although one of the criteria was youth development (youth structures, number of teams etc.), Glenorchy Knights (based in the Northern Suburbs), received a license with a poor youth structure compared to say Eagles, and "Johnny come latelys" on the Eastern Shore, Olympia, did not have anywhere near the youth structures (or history of) compared to Clarence, who had invested significant money, time and effort in establishing themselves in the region. What Olympia did have was money and influence and there was even talk of legal action if they didn't receive a license. I also suspect they had a good fiction writer in their midst, because their President at the time was pleased to let everyone know that their submission was 96 pages long.

The "regional" focus is further enhanced by the granting of a licence to Kingborough Lions, which merged with West Hobart Caledonians in 1998. In twenty plus years they had won only one major senior trophy a Summer Cup and have been perennial underachievers, and continue to be so. They have the best resources of any club in the south of the state, but have failed to make any impact in any senior competition. There is no other possible reason for their inclusion other than the desire to have a club in their area represented in the new league, one which has high growth potential.

Eagles later learned that their home ground of Clare Street was unacceptable for hosting "V League" matches or for any State League matches in the future because of the cricket pitch, yet Northern Rangers had a similar setup at the NTCA oval where they were based. I suspect the reviewing committee didn't know that fact or didn't care. I'm sure Northern Rangers didn't advertise it. Eagles also had no intention of bringing in their quota of import players and this also went against them, this coming directly from one of the review committee members, although some years later in a golf course conversation.

Eagles also refused to embellish their financials with unrealistic numbers. FFT encouraged the clubs to use up to 500 spectators per game in their financial planning, whereas Eagles stuck to the more conservative 100-120 supporters per game. Guess who was closer in their estimates? In the end Eagles were fighting for a spot with Hobart Juventus (in the New Town, Hobart area), and given their stronger financial backing and "people" resources, Eagles were always going to struggle. In 1978 Juventus-Pioneer as they were known then, were not granted a licence in the inaugural State League because they didn't have a "home ground". Fast forward 34 years and they still didn't have a "home ground" but did have a licence, but certainly deserved to be in the competition, there was no animosity from Eagles about their inclusion.

On reflection, Eagles were somewhat naïve to believe that on-field performances would outweigh deficiencies in other areas. Their record in the State League format was second to none and their ability to be successful on a shoe-string budget was enviable. Their current line-up was providing the only consistent challenge to the all-conquering South Hobart club and their under-15 team, under the guidance of Shane Revell had just defeated Kingborough Lions 5-0 in the KO Cup Final, featuring a host of young talent, including Sam Leszczynski, son of former player Andrew, tipped to be a future star for Eagles. The future was looking extremely bright. To some, the 27th of July 2012 will be remembered as a day that nearly destroyed a successful, proud club that had provided the soccer community in Tasmania plenty of enjoyment over 50 years. Only those close to the club will know how the difficulties that were to come in the following years would threaten its existence.



2012 Under 15's - KO Cup Winners (5-0 v Kingborough Lions)

Back D. Nikimaya, H. Stevens, V. Mtandwa, M. Pilkington, D. Sisay, R. John, G. Bayabos, C. Radcliffe, S. Revell (Coach) H. Ochaya  
Front R. Modi, J. Downham, O. Ochaya, S. Leszczynski, D. Lee, N. Makuch.

Back in the Women's Premier League, coach John Burnett assembled a very solid squad of 36 players and although they were inconsistent, they did manage to finish in 4th place which was a good achievement in a much tougher competition. The Premier League Reserves under Andrew Law also finished in 4th place.

#### Southern Premier Women's League Final Standings - 2012

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	18	17	0	1	134	22	51
Tarooma	18	13	1	4	81	33	40
Clarence	18	13	1	4	59	25	40
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>24</b>
Tilford Zebras	18	7	1	10	29	44	22
Nelson ES	18	2	1	15	14	108	7
University	18	1	0	17	16	103	3

Leading Goalscorers: T. Ford 16, G. Terry 9, H. Arnol 8

#### Southern Premier Women's Reserve League Final Standings - 2012

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympia	17	16	0	1	97	13	48
Clarence	18	14	0	4	115	14	42
Tarooma	18	12	0	6	86	36	36
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>21</b>
Tilford Zebras	18	6	2	10	31	43	20
Nelson ES	18	3	1	14	23	85	10
University	17	1	1	15	10	151	4

Leading Goalscorers: P. Hay 7, J. Rogers 5



#### 2014 Senior Team

**Back:** Physio, A. Shackcloth, M. Anderson, L. Eugster, M. Burn, A. Ayers, C. Stingle, R. Bones (Coach)  
**Front:** M. Voss, A. Gonzalez, A. Bates, R. Nutting, L. Ross, L. Ottavi, B. Ayers.

The years 2013-2015 remain some of the most difficult in the club's history. Unsurprisingly, with the introduction of the "V League", Eagles not only lost coach Stephen Pitchford to neighbours Hobart Zebras, but also the majority of the senior squad from 2012 departed to other clubs (mainly V League ones) or dropped out of the game.

Eagles brought in experienced coach Dale Itchins to start the rebuilding process. Itchins a former Eagles senior coach in the 90's had a big job ahead of him, and a depleted squad finished in last place with only three wins and three draws. By the end of the season the squad was physically and mentally fatigued.

The women's program also struggled with numbers and with some players having to play two games on a weekend, it was no surprise that the Premier Women finished in eighth position, with only two wins for the season, although Gemma Terry had an outstanding season finishing with 20 goals out of the 36 scored by the team, and was the third leading goalscorer in the league.

The reserves finished in fifth position with Emily Barrow scoring 15 goals. 2013 would be the last year Eagles fielded a women's team until 2021 due to lack of numbers.

Rodney Bones replaced Itchins as coach in 2014. In a new look Premier League that did not include any V League teams, but Eagles continued to flounder. In the following two seasons under Bones, Eagles only managed a disappointing 3 wins and 2 draws and remained in last place.

#### Southern Premier / Championship Leagues 2013-2015

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2013 – Premier League	22	3	3	16	42	105	12	12
2014 – Premier League	20	1	0	19	20	95	3	6
2015 – Championship	16	2	2	12	18	56	8	9



#### 2015 Senior Team

**Back:** Rodney Bones (Coach), Jack Palmer, Paul Palmer, James Douglas, Lucas Eugster, Matthew Russell, Llewellyn Ross, Oliver Johnston, (Physio)

**Front:** Andrew Telega, Jack Rojahn, Ryan Nutting, Andy Clark, Samuel Leszczynski, James Phillips

At the start of 2016, Eagles were in turmoil. Coach Rodney Bones was relocating to Queensland, and with no suitable candidates for the coaching position forthcoming, former Eagle senior coach in the late 90's Andrew Leszczynski, was coaxed into a caretaker's role, a role he would continue to fill until the end of the 2020 season.

This was going to be a big challenge for Leszczynski, who hadn't coached at senior level for decades, and with the current team, he would be unable to coach it from his armchair as he supposedly could with his teams in the late nineties.

He needed to get heavily involved in trying to rebuild Eagles reputation as a team to be feared, respected and a destination club for players wanting to play good attacking soccer. Leszczynski would take charge of both senior and reserve playing groups, trying to foster an inclusive and mentoring environment where all players felt a part of the club regardless of age or ability. This took some time to be embraced by players, but it has played its part in rebuilding the club in a positive way.



#### 2016 Senior Team

**Back:** A. Leszczynski (Coach), J. Phillips, O. Jonhstone, J. Vernon, J. Rojahn, D. Kruijver, L. Backhouse, L. Ottavi, C. Leszczynski (Asst. Coach)

**Front:** S. Leszczynski, D. Lee, A. Clark (Capt.), L. Ross, M. Cronin.

With significant input from Eagles Technical Director Shane Revell, and match and post-match analysis from brother and former player Chris Leszczynski, Eagles commenced on the journey to lift themselves out of the doldrums, and back to a position where a club with their rich history deserved to be.

Further setbacks however, continued to hinder the club's progress. In 2016, the loss of New Town High School as Eagles pre-season venue for their youth program, virtually decimated it, as alternative training venues like West Hobart Primary School and Cornelian Bay didn't suit their main audience, which was players based in the New Town area.

The continual poaching of Eagles best and brightest talent by NPL clubs added to the frustration. The hard work of Shane Revell in particular, appeared to be wasted as players were lured away by the big NPL clubs. Eagles who have had a youth presence since the seventies would now, not be fielding any youth teams.

The 2016-2019 period, saw the senior and reserve teams steadily improve their performances, and with a mixture of youth and experience, were more than capable of beating anyone on their day, but a lack depth in quality and consistency, the key factors for trophy success, were still proving elusive.

#### Southern Championship Leagues – 2016 to 2018

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2016 - Championship	16	5	3	8	28	44	18	5
2017 - Championship	19	8	1	10	37	39	25	6
2018 - Championship	16	7	3	6	36	35	24	6

#### Southern Championship 1 Reserves – 2016 to 2018

Year / Competition	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts	Pos.
2016 – Championship 1	18	6	3	9	43	51	21	7
2017 – Championship 1	19	9	4	6	36	31	31	3
2018 – Championship 1	16	9	0	7	49	39	27	4

### Southern Championship Final Standings - 2019

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hobart United	21	18	1	2	115	30	55
University	21	16	2	3	73	35	50
Beachside	21	11	4	8	64	37	37
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>33</b>
Taroona	21	10	2	9	48	44	32
Metro	21	6	3	12	32	67	21
Nelson	21	3	4	14	26	57	13
South East United	21	1	0	20	13	131	3

Leading Goalscorers: S. Leszczynski 18, J. Vernon 13, C. Back 12

### Southern Championship 1 Final Standings - 2019

TEAM	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beachside	21	17	2	2	93	24	53
University	21	16	1	4	111	23	49
<b>New Town Eagles</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>41</b>
Taroona	<b>21</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>37</b>
Hobart United	21	9	3	9	49	53	30
Metro	21	5	3	13	44	71	18
Nelson	21	3	1	17	22	81	10
South East United	21	1	1	19	20	149	4

Leading Goalscorers: M. Free 12, T. Knight 11, M. Pilkington 10, A. Shackcloth 9



2019 – Championship

Back: J. Rojahn, O. Johnstone, L. Brown, S. Leszczynski, M. Luttrell, J. Vernon, A. Leszczynski (Coach)  
Front: C. Back, B. Hudson, A. Clark (Capt.), B. Phillips, C. Anderson