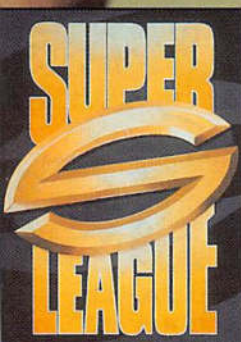


Trys RuZ



NEWTON
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Entertainment



Sheffield Eagles **v. Oldham Bears**

SUNDAY MAY 11TH 1997. KICK OFF 3.15PM. PRICE £1.50



Sheffield Eagles

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1988/89

Promoted to Division One
Second Division
Premiership Winners

1990/91

Wigan Summer
Sevens Winners

1991/92

Second Division
Championship Winners
Second Division
Premiership Winners

1992/93

Yorkshire Cup Finalists

Larder at Large



Playing Bradford at Odsal is no easy task. Remember: they put more than 50 points against St. Helens and Wigan, so going there without Nick Pinkney, Keith Senior, Johnny Lawless, Paul Carr, Martin Wood and with Bright Sodje, Darren Turner, Dale Laughton and Matt Crowther also injured, we were always going to be up against it.

We realised that to get a result our tactics must be carefully thought out and rigidly adhered to. We all agreed that ball security was the key, particularly since the Bulls have been involved in an energy-sapping fixture against Halifax the previous Wednesday.

Rugby Football League is unique in that the team is allowed to retain possession in the tackle up to and including the sixth play. Our major goal was therefore to reduce our handling errors to a minimum and to concentrate on playing out our set of six tackles.

Teams that are able to do this control possession, thereby forcing the opposition to defend and any player will tell you that it is far more energy sapping when attacking. We therefore attempted to drain the Bulls out of energy and then to hit them with a hard, fast, expansive exploding game in the last 15 minutes of each half.

These were the only tactics to use - we all agreed on that - and we all arrived at Odsal focussed.

Our ball control this season has been quite good: we always aim for a 75% success rate. Against Warrington and Castleford we were able to force the percentage into the mid 80's by making less than ten errors.

At Odsal the opposite happened and in our first set Jean Marc Garcia's forward to Whetu Taewa, on the second Mark Aston gave a forward pass to Paul Broadbent and then the mistakes spread throughout the team like a rash. We made 11 errors in the first half total of 18 possession periods and a staggering 14 errors in 22 in the second half.

Those 25 errors in 40 plays means that we simply committed suicide - a hard lesson to learn, one which I am sure has now sunk in.

Today I would like to welcome all the spectators, players and officials of Oldham RLFC. Oldham is my home town and during my playing career I played over 350 first team games for them. I still have a close affinity for the town and am always interested to hear how their team is progressing.

The recent dismissal of Andy Goodway was a big surprise: I worked with Andy during the 1995 World Cup and have a lot of respect for him. I do wish new coach Bob Linder the best of luck and we in the Eagles Nest are aware Oldham will go into this game committed and with all guns blazing.

Phil Larder

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SPOT THE BALL



Use your powers of observation to spot the ball in this action photo from our recent game against Leeds Rhinos. Mark clearly in felt tip pen where you think the ball could have been in play and send your entries to the Eagles office at 824 Attercliffe Road, Sheffield S9 3RS to be received no later than Friday May 30th. The lucky winner to be drawn out of the hat will win a replica shirt.

for your entertainment...

NEWTON

As part of today's Big Match entertainment, we're pleased to present the fireman who has become a pop star...

NEWTON!

Having sung in most venues across the North of England for eight years both as a solo artist and as a frontman to several bands, success took off for Manchester-based singer Newton when he was whisked off by Hit Factory producers Mike Stock and Matt Aiken to record 'Sky High'. The song went on to become one of 1995's global summer dance hits.

Amongst many countries - Thailand, Japan, Scandinavia, South Africa, Brazil, Germany, Belgium, France and Spain - it's Australia where Newton's a BIG star with two Top Ten hits under his belt... so far!

Newton's first UK chart hit came with 'Sometimes When We Touch'; his follow up 'Don't Worry' is due soon and he's putting the finishing touches to the debut album in between travels to Europe and Asia.

A former fireman, Newton's growing success still has him with his feet on the ground. You'd have to go a long way to meet a more genuine and friendly person from the music business.

Make him welcome...
and make some noise...
for today's entertainer...



NEWTON

*The new single from
Newton is 'Don't Worry'
and it's coming soon...*

The Visitors

Many changes have taken place at the Bears since they finished eighth in the Super League last year. They no longer play at the Watersheddings, but share Boundary Park with their football neighbours. Let us hope they do not go the same way as them and get relegated!

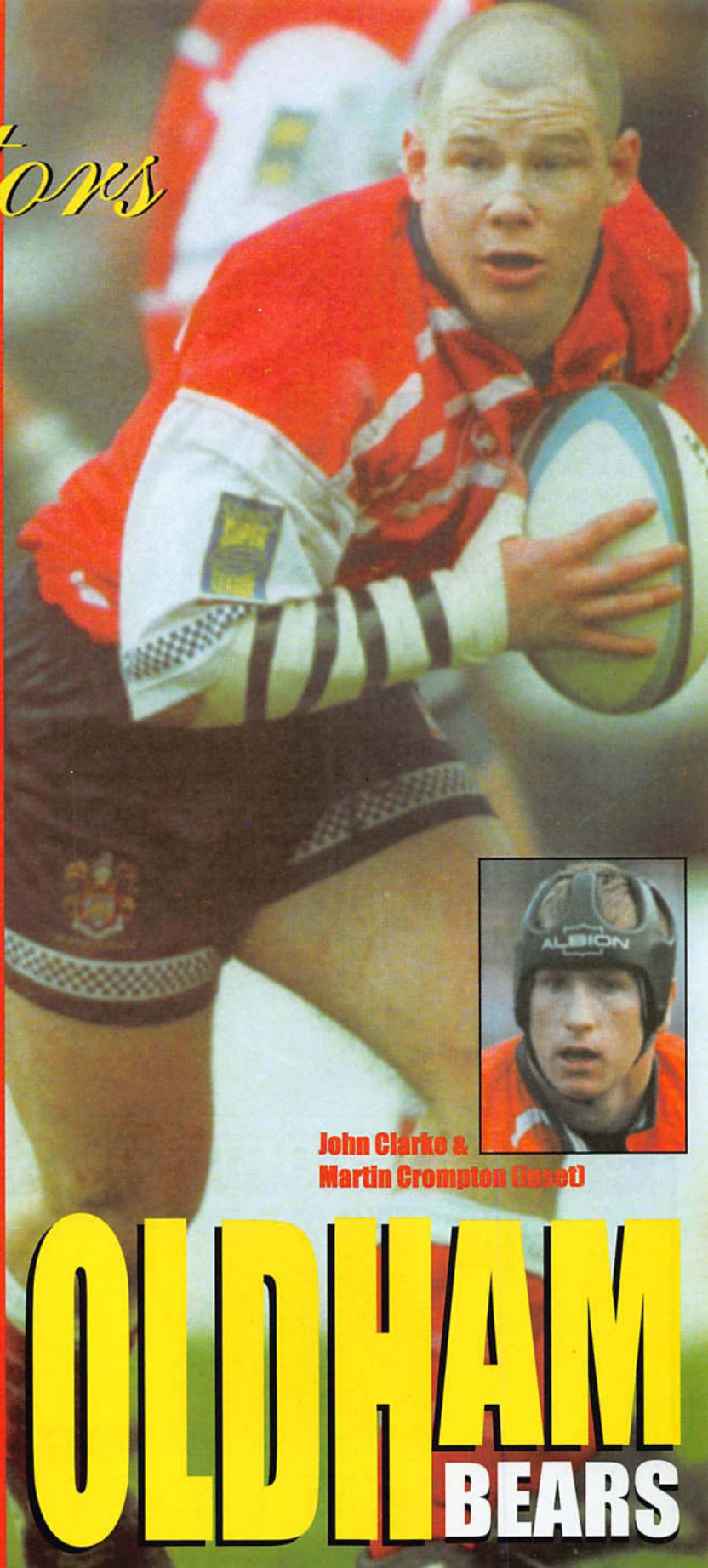
They signed three new Aussie players (**Breet Goldspink**, **Luke Goodwin** and **Nathan Turner**) for Super League '97 plus ex-Leeds and Workington Town centre **Vince Fawcett**.

However, the Bears made a poor start to the season which led to coach **Andy Goodway** leaving recently. Ex-coach **Bob Lindner** has returned as Director of Football. On a brighter note, we at the Eagles would like to congratulate **Martin Crompton** on his selection for the Ireland team to play France in Paris on Tuesday.

Francis Maloney - the Bears' leading goalscorer (45) and points scorer (114) last season - comes into today's game on the back of a man of the match performance against Halifax Blue Sox when he scored a try, three goals and a drop goal.

Leading try scorer last season with 11 and another international is **Paul Atcheson**, who was signed from Wigan. **Matt Munro** has made a welcome return to action after suffering a broken hand earlier in the season and is playing at loose-forward instead of Great Britain tourist **David Bradbury** who has asked for a transfer.

Centre **David Abram** was signed from Rochdale Hornet in March 1993 and has proved a prolific scorer ever since. His wing partner **David Jones** (signed from Wakefield Trinity in August 1993) has recently returned to first team action.



John Clarke & Martin Crompton (Inset)

OLDHAM BEARS

This afternoon the Eagles welcome Oldham Bears to the Don Valley Stadium. The Wembley Challenge Cup Final has provided most of the Super League clubs with a short break and an opportunity to rest and regroup in preparation for the rounds to come.

With Oldham sitting just one place below the Eagles in the League, we can expect today's game to be closely fought and extremely competitive and both teams will be looking to improve on their current position in the table.

Players and our playing staff may be a little disappointed with our results to date this season, and I know there was a feeling that we could have performed better in the match against Bradford.

Bradford's large crowds help to create an intimidating atmosphere at Odsal and all their players were looking to impress in anticipation of Wembley: we had fought back to level terms with half time in sight and it was the neck injury to Danny McAllister - coming on top of our many injury problems - that seemed to unsettle the pattern of play and be the decisive factor in turning the Bulls' way.

***the* Sharman Column**



Phil Larder and John Kear have brought together a very good Super League squad and (with more than two thirds of the season still to go) there is still a great deal to play for. I wish all our players the very best for today's game and the remainder of the season.

"Paul's abilities and dedication to the game will be sorely missed"

In April we said a very sad farewell to Paul Daley. He has acted as the Eagles' Academy coach for a number of years and has played a huge part in the development and coaching of young players throughout our area. With two sons playing with clubs in the district, I have seen Paul at work so often: his abilities and dedication to the game will be sorely missed and I wish him all the best for the future.

Paul is to be replaced as Academy Coach by Steve Deakin, formerly assistant coach at Halifax where he

worked with Steve Simms. Steve's coaching background has included impressive championship-winning appointments with French club Cannes and no doubt his fluent French will prove an invaluable asset to the Eagles' forthcoming trip to Paris.

The Eagles have linked up with the medical staff at Sheffield Wednesday's fitness and injury clinic to provide a comprehensive medical service for all our players from the start of May.

An important aspect for our players is that Alan Tomlinson - the Eagles and Great Britain's physio - has given up his job at Rotherham Hospital to work with Dr. Rav Naik who heads up the Hillsborough sports' medicine centre.

The facilities provided by the clinic are outstanding and the aim is to provide our players with a fitness and medical back-up that is second to none in the game.

Terry Sharman

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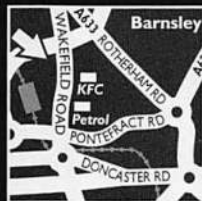
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E-GIRLS PROFILE

Louise Baddon (22) is the younger of two sisters who co-founded the E-Girls in March 1993. Along with her sister Nikki she choreographs all the routines and designs the costumes.

How's this for dedication - having moved to Edinburgh at the end of 1996, she not only continues to dance for the E-Girls, she came down to Sheffield every two weeks for three months to teach new routines for the 1997 season.

Currently she works for First National Banking in Edinburgh. Before this she worked for various promotion agencies, one being a large promotion for Britvic Soft Drinks. She has also worked as a Travel Sales Assistant and for Barclays Bank.

Louise has undertaken dancing work for Roxy's Night Club, USA Marketing, MGM Nightclub, Club Europa and recorded songs and cover versions.

During her spare time Louise enjoys anything exciting and dangerous, with a few drinks thrown in!

BADDON

in Reserve

DEWSBURY RAMS 14

SHEFFIELD EAGLES 24

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

8

SWINTON

42

Swinton are undoubtedly the form team in the Division: by half time we were 16 points behind.

We played better in the second half, scoring two tries by Ripley and Roussos.

Unfortunately, Swinton were still scoring regularly.

BARRON

14

SHEFFIELD EAGLES

16

After a long haul to Cumbria, the lads played well. Tries by Cardoza (2) and Roussos (1) plus two goals by Brown secured a much-needed win.

Eagles' last home game at Alliance level was a hard fought Friday night game against a strong Rams team, which had started the season well before losing for the first time at Widnes a week earlier.

A Williams try and two goals from Bramald put the Rams 8-0 ahead after a quarter of an hour, but the Eagles struck back with a fine try by strong-running second rower 'LT' Taylor.

Seven minutes later, Was Sovatabua crossed the line and David Mycoe's conversion put the Eagles ahead 10-8.

Eagles looked to be taking the game by the scruff of the neck after the break, but surprisingly could only manage a penalty for their efforts.

Dewsbury went ahead on the hour when Sould's try was goaled by Bramald, but a further Mycoe penalty levelled the score once again at 14-14.

Eagles' superior fitness began to tell in the later stages and Kevin Martin scampered over for a vital try nine minutes from time.

Mycoe's goal made the margin six points and Eagles looked for a drop goal to make the game safe but - as so often happens in these cases - it was try that was scored: A.J. Okwie dancing over the line to make the score 24-14.

Not even a late try by Young - goaled by Bramald - could take the gloss off this superb win for the Eagles who consolidated their position at the top of the table.

The Star
Green-Un

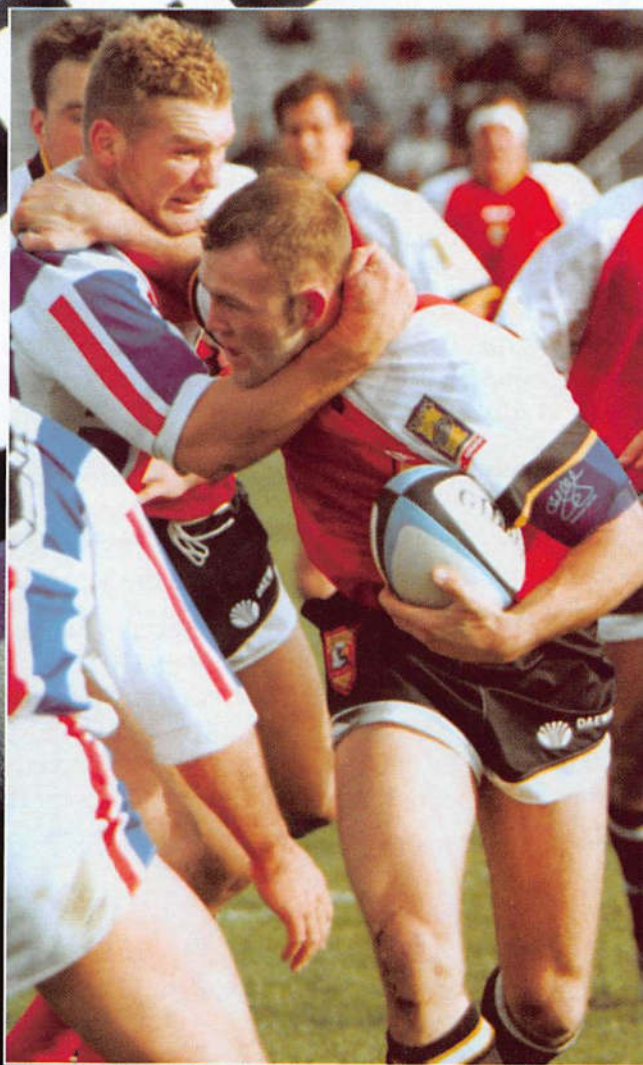
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Forthcoming Matches

Eagles' next match is at Leigh on Thursday evening, followed by two home games at Woodbourn; against the York Wasps on Saturday 24th May (2.30); and against Batley Bulldogs on the following Friday (30th May, 7.30).



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in **TOUCH**



Rugby à Treize

Whenever I visit France, one of my regular pleasures is the Monday edition of *L'Equipe*. How fortunate they are over the water to have a daily paper completely dedicated to sport: it is detailed, comprehensive and above all readable.

Monday provides all the results from the weekend, French ones in particular (naturally) but with all sorts of international bits and pieces. I had already seen Saturday's copy last week and scoured it for Super League news: after all, there is a 'French' team in the competition. The Rugby rubric is not hard to find, but it is all Union!

After much searching, I found it... on page eight! There are eight columns on the large pages of the paper and one quarter of a column featured a preview of the Paris St. Germain v. Saints game.

I checked and found that this was less coverage than received by Table Tennis, Weightlifting and Fencing! It warranted the same space as Water Polo and Modern Pentathlon! The full page of Union news (32 times more) included all the English, Welsh and Aussie fixtures as well as news of a possible transfer of French players to Wasps.

Still, I had Monday to look forward to... but if anything it was worse! Super League still merited one quarter column, but Union now had a full double page spread (a staggering 64 times more!). There was a brief, critical report of P.S.G.'s poor show against St. Helen's plus the other results: no scorers, no other details.

What does this say about the French Super League adventure? Rugby in France means Union. Union Rules O.K.!

Rugby à Treize, Super League style is very marginalised - apparently even more so than the indigenous French competition. The column title does not refer to Super League and the term itself does not always get a mention. It might be argued that if *L'Equipe* is not interested, France is not interested. Perhaps Rupert should add the title to his media empire and jazz it up a bit...

On the other hand, there is considerable Rugby interest in the South West, several hundred miles from Paris (does that strike a chord?). International Union matches attract national attention. The average oval ball fan is probably more interested in the Aussies playing against fifteen of France than in the Aussie collection representing Super League in the capital. *Pourquoi pas?*

"If L'Equipe is not interested, France is not interested..."

Paris is the obvious, logical flagship if there is to be just one presence across the channel. However, this is unlikely to tempt the Union fans in the South West to try a different dish. Of course they might be resistant to the superior code as the Twickers fraternity, but then again they might not.

One more French team based in more traditional territory might provide an extra spark. At least that would provide two 'local derbies' each season. Rather like London playing Aberdeen!

It must be worth considering, especially as the seasonal change could open ground sharing possibilities along Stoop lines in Brive, Dax or Toulouse? At the moment, the gamble is not really paying off and it would be sad if 13 in *Rugby à Treize* became an unlucky one.

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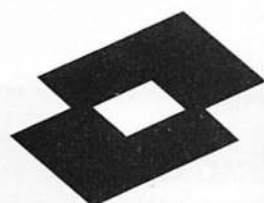
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The Mainline South West Yorkshire Schools Leagues
are finally coming to an end with the last two finalists having been resolved.

In the U/13 competition Silverdale and Kirk Balk disposed of All Saints and City in their respective games and will now contest the silverware. Whilst at U/15, Penistone will play Silverdale in what promises to be an absolute cracker!

These two took care of Hope Valley College and Kirk Balk in the semi's relatively easily, and both come into this march with unbeaten 100% records. One of them must fall!

Whoever comes through these battles will go alongside the two already victorious sides. All Saints (U/14) and Kirk Balk (U/16) to become the MAINLINE Champions for the 1996/97 season.

"Recruitment and selection for the Under 16 side begins at the Advanced Training Centre in the forthcoming half term holiday."

Believe me, these four winning sides will have fully deserved their titles and credit should go to the staff and players involved.

With little more than a four week break, a letter will soon be sent out to all prospective schools requesting entries

Rimbo on the road



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for next year's competitions and we'll be off once more! Time flies!

Finally, very big congratulations must go out to the Sheffield Schools/Eagles U/16 side who have now completed their fixtures for the year.

Being seeded in a group alongside Bradford Bulls, St. Helens, Featherstone, Wakefield and Gateshead has seen them being competitive in every match against the elite of the country and they finish with a played 8, won 6, lost 4 record. A quite considerable achievement!

Thanks to Mark Aston, Ian Annis and Chris Ash who have been the driving force behind the team and be aware that recruitment and selection for the next season begins at the Advanced Training Centre to be held in the forthcoming half term holiday.

Contact me on 0114 261 0326 if you haven't heard details through your school by the half term holiday. You could be the next Sheffield Eagle!

Ralph Rimmer

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LAST OF THE *Cloth Cappers*



W*eh, Ah spose the warras
dispointed as Ah warrat' way
we laiked er Todsals, but mebbe we
warnters badders wi looked.*

Tha knaws, the them Bradford laikersers toppert' League, i't' Cup Final an', moast impooartant, the din't 'evers menney laikers ahters wi' 'ed. when tha thinks abaht it, widder few eht, entwi?

Tha knaws, Soj ers not laiked all season, Keith ern Nick wer missin' i't' centre. Matt war aht wi'er brokken nail er summat, Johnny warn't fit, Carry 'ud just adder noproration, Woody war injured, so war Fettee an' Rocky - weh, that's mooar ner aifer t'team innit?

Ter tell thi t'trewth, Ah thowt wi did ever ser well ter 'oddam ter tenner piece after aifer nower an it' war onny when Dannymae ('oo incidently, is 'onny laiker ivver terby called after er raincoit) war carried off thert the scooared er few lucky tries ern meddit look liker decent win ferrem. Ah'll tell thi, all wi need is er bitter luck an 'us laikers back fro' injury an' wiss'll tek sumbdy erpart.

Wi've edder few excitin games ergen Owdham ovver t'yeeers. Funnly enough, wi genly seem ter win ovver theer an' loose eer. Ackan remember stuffin' em twice at Wattersheddins last tahm wewor i't' Second Division, but cudn't beat em ert 'oam.

Does the remember erlotter years ago, wi' war laikin' 'emert' Owlerton, 'ern wi' 'adder scrum abaht ten yards aht. Smithy pick't' ball ahtert' backert' scrum an' throws this ahttragerse dummy, t'Owdham 'aifbacks ran straight past 'im, ern 'e jus' strolls over t'line ferrer try. An' does the remember t'streaker wi' 'ed ert that Cup tie?

Wah, Ah 'ope terday's game's as excitin' as some wi've 'ad ovver t'years. Owdham's jus got thersons or new coach, ser ivryboddy's got summat ter laik fer an', 'opefly, wis'll bi seein' t'day aht wi an' Eadles win!

Or, an dun't ferget, t'next matcher's onner Fridy neet - agen 'Allifax.



Sheffield Eagles Oldham Bears

SUNDAY 11th MAY 1997. Kick off 3.15pm

1 Walsale Sovatabua <i>Simon Proctor</i> <i>Mastercraft</i> <i>Fine Arts</i>	2 Bright Sodje <i>Available for</i> <i>Sponsorship</i>	3 Lynton Stott <i>Andrew Flower</i> <i>Association</i> <i>Motor Engineers</i>	4 Keith Senior <i>Ciro Citterio</i> <i>Menswear</i>	5 Jean-Marc Garcia <i>Paul Cavill-</i> <i>Marson</i> <i>Ind. Supplies</i>	6 Matt Crowther <i>Wadham -</i> <i>Kenning</i> <i>Rover</i>	7 Mark Aston <i>Hanrahan's</i>	8 Paul Broadbent <i>Ian & Jane</i> <i>Swire</i>	9 John Lawless <i>John & Jayne</i> <i>Whaling</i>	10 Dale Laughton <i>Available for</i> <i>Sponsorship</i>	11 Paul Carr <i>Grosvenor</i> <i>Casino</i> <i>Sheffield</i>	12 Andy Hay <i>Eurostar</i>	13 David Mycoe <i>J. Everard</i> <i>Havoc & Co.</i>	14 David Mycoe <i>Available for</i> <i>Sponsorship</i>
15 Darren Turner <i>Steve Whittell</i> <i>Cahell Comm.</i> <i>Ltd</i>	16 Danny McAllister <i>Dave & Lee</i> <i>Booth</i> <i>Pennine Bus Forms</i>	17 Paul Dixon <i>A&M</i> <i>Printing</i>	18 Wayne Flynn <i>Available for</i> <i>sponsorship</i>	19 Rod Doyle <i>Anthony</i> <i>Robshaw</i> <i>Cocked Hat</i>	20 Steve Edmed <i>Grosvenor</i> <i>Casino</i> <i>Sheffield</i>	21 Willie Morganson <i>Grosvenor</i> <i>Casino</i> <i>Sheffield</i>	22 Whetu Taewa <i>Freightcare</i> <i>International</i> <i>Limited</i>	23 Nick Pinkney <i>Martyn</i> <i>Goodhand</i> <i>Vantage Holdings</i>	24 Martin Wood <i>Rock Steady</i> <i>Security</i>	25 Alex Thompson <i>Available for</i> <i>sponsorship</i>	26 Steve McCurrie <i>Available for</i> <i>sponsorship</i>	27 Jason Erba <i>Available for</i> <i>sponsorship</i>	28 David Stephenson <i>Available for</i> <i>sponsorship</i>



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Welcome to the game

Welcome to Don Valley Stadium for what promises to be a corcker of a game with our rivals from over the Pennines, Oldham Bears. Your help is needed to cheer the Eagles to victory - so let's raise the roof with chants and cheers!

Winners

Congratulations to the winners of the Guess the Legs competition, the answers were as follows...

- 1) Whetu Taewa
- 2) Paul Carr
- 3) Steve Edmed
- 4) Paul Broadbent
- 5) Rod Doyle
- 6) Lynton Stott
- 7) Bright Sodje

The lucky winners are...

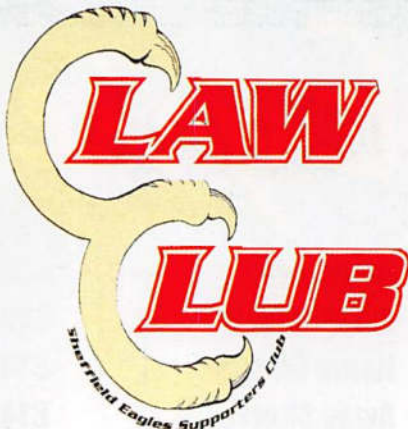
Edward Rodley
(aged 15)

Charlotte Ingham
(aged 13)

John Egginton
(age 8)

Don't forget to visit the Claw Club Stand for today's competition... and remember to go down in front of the Hallam FM stage after the game for your favourite players' autograph!

Enjoy today's game everybody and let's all get behind the lads!



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Remember

a day to

Team:

Sovatabua, Sodje (Stott 3 [Sodje 12]), Crimley, Garcia, Senior, Sheridan, Aston, Broadbent (Dixon 25), Lawless, McAllister (Broadbent 50), Hay, Carr (Hughes 25 [Carr 40]), Farrell (Turner 51)

Scorers -

(Tries) Sodje, Farrell, Turner, Senior
(Goals) Aston [2]

Eagles started the match in explosive style with Broadbent, McAllister and Hay putting in big plays from the kick off before Sodje flew in for a try in the corner.

Castleford were stunned but hit back with some powerful forward play (particularly from Lee Crooks), but the Eagles defence were on song and held firm.

Nevertheless, the Eagles had a close call when Botica chipped over the defence: Sovatabua misjudged the bounce and the Kiwi dived over the line.

Super League, 23rd May 1996

Sheffield Eagles (10) 20

Castleford Tigers (6) 12

The big screen came into play and revealed that Botica had lost control of the ball as he crossed the line.

Eagles piled on the pressure and the hard running Paul Carr off-loaded to Anthony Farrell in the tackle for a well-worked try goaled by Aston.

The Tigers stormed back and after good work by Crooks and Sampson, Botica popped up a pass to Chris Smith who evaded Sovatabua to score.

The Don Valley referee's kink struck again during the break with Mr Cummings failing to appear, and Sheffield carried on in fine style. A fine Sovatabua break went unrewarded when Carr's final pass was

mishandled by Garcia with the line at his mercy and - a few minutes later - Andy Hay was held inches short.

It was Castleford who were next to score, however, Schick putting Gay through a gap, then taking the return pass to score. Rocky Turner was introduced and caused some confusion as he shared the acting half-back duties with Lawless.

It was Turner who regained the lead for the Eagles when he scampered over from ten yards out, showing impressive strength to bump off Tuuta.

The Eagles were now firmly in control and made the game safe when Keith Senior walked in at the corner after Aston's deflected chip had been gathered by Garcia.

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The Eagles' **Greatest Player..?**



Driving home after our recent visit to the Theatre of Dreams (or was it Odsal?) was a gloomy affair. After witnessing a comprehensive second-half thumping from a Bull's side which rarely got into top gear and seeing two more Eagles players carried from the field, there was not a lot to sing about.

After maybe 20 minutes in a desperate attempt to improve the atmosphere, my partner asked: "Which player would you most like to have seen in an Eagles shirt, then?"

"Past or present?" I enquired, a little caught by surprise. "It doesn't matter. It's only hypothetical," she replied.

I began to think about some of the great Eagles players we've seen since first watching the team nine years ago. Daryl Powell, Lee Jackson, Jeff Hardy, Francis Leota, Tawere Nickau, Sam Panapa, Ian Russell, Garry Jack, Bruce McGuire and Mick Cook. My selection would have to better these players: it would be a tall order.

I thought of some of the older legends I'd read about: Gus Risman, Billy Boston and Tom Van Vollenhoven. Experts say Alex Murphy would have been a top-liner in any era, but without ever seeing these players in action it would be difficult to consider them.

Finally I tried to recall as many of the top players as possible from nearly a decade of observing the game. Wallly Lewis and Peter Stirling came to mind, so too did Mal Meninga, Shaun Edwards, Adny Gregory, Gary Schofield and Jonathan Davies. Imagine the likes of Bradley Clyde or Dean Bell in an Eagles' shirt! Henry and Robbie Paul, Bobbie Goulding and Viaga Tuigamala (until he returned to his Union roots) would all figure.

In the end I think I selected a player that would eclipse even these great names - Ellery Hanley.

I knew of Ellery Hanley long before I began watching Rugby League. His reputation as a phenomenal athlete travelled well. Often referred to as the best of his generation, Hanley is one of only a handful of competitors who could be described as complete Rugby League players.

At his peak, his power was awesome: great speed and strength coupled with agility and fine balance made breaking tackles look effortless, whilst his hand-off was a virtual art-form.

The famous side-step wrought havoc in the strongest of defences. Defensively his credentials were equally good: a thirst for tackling regularly put him at the top end of the tackle-count. One of his trademarks was an ability to complete a number of tackles in quick succession. His strength allowed him to tackle the games' more awkward customers. Hanley also seemed to possess a knack of making big tackles at critical stages in a game.

Ellery Hanley knew the value of sports psychology: he proved to be as mentally tough as he was physically. By the time he led his team out onto the field, his face relaxed but ultra-confident, many opponents were already defeated. During a game he showed little emotion, the opposition never knew if he was in pain or carrying an injury.

His influence on the other team members was very important both on and off the pitch. It was seen at Wigan - the stage of his greatest triumphs - but was even more evident when he moved to Leeds.

"He is the sort of player the Eagles need right now: an inspirational leader and a confident, influential character who has seen it all..."

The whole team seemed to draw strength and confidence from his presence: a number of ordinary players seemed to play well above themselves during his stay at the club.

Yes, my choice would have to be Ellery Hanley for the Eagles' number 13 shirt. At his peak, Hanley was feared by the Australians more than any other player. That would have been the time to have him at Sheffield. Small crowds at Don Valley could have been a thing of the past: although the Sheffield public did not know much about Rugby League, many of them knew Ellery Hanley.

He is the sort of player the Eagles need right now: an inspirational leader, a confident, influential character who has seen it all and done it all many, many times over at the highest level.

My partner's choice? Well, she went for Dean Bell. Again, an interesting selection but that (as they say) is another story...

1997 Stats & facts

• Eagles' first team appearances & details

		<i>App</i>	<i>Sub</i>	<i>Tries</i>	<i>Goals</i>	<i>D/G</i>	<i>Pts</i>
1.	Waisale Sovatabua	2	2	-	-	-	-
2.	Bright Sodje	-	-	-	-	-	-
3.	Lynton Stott	9	-	3	-	-	12
4.	Keith Senior	8	-	4	-	-	16
5.	Jean-Marc Garcia	8	2	4	-	-	16
6.	Matt Crowther	3	-	2	-	-	8
7.	Mark Aston	10	-	4	39	-	94
8.	Paul Broadbent	10	-	2	-	-	8
9.	Johnny Lawless	8	-	2	-	-	8
10.	Dale Loughton	1	3	-	-	-	-
11.	Paul Carr	7	-	2	-	-	8
12.	Andy Hay	1	2	-	-	-	-
14.	David Mycoe	1	4	1	-	-	4
15.	Darren Turner	2	3	-	-	-	-
16.	Danny McAlister	10	-	1	-	-	4
17.	Paul Dixon	-	5	-	-	-	-
18.	Wayne Flynn	1	3	-	-	-	-
19.	Rod Doyle	10	-	1	-	-	4
20.	Steve Edmed	9	1	-	-	-	-
21.	Willie Morganson	4	2	1	-	-	4
22.	Whetu Taewa	6	-	1	-	-	4
23.	Nick Pinkey	9	-	9	-	-	36
24.	Martin Wood	9	-	1	-	-	4
25.	Alex Thompson	-	5	-	-	-	-
26.	Steve McCurrie	-	-	-	-	-	-
27.	Jason Erba	1	-	-	-	-	-
28.	Lawrence Taylor	-	1	-	-	-	-



CIRO CITTERIO

fixtures

April

Sunday 6th April,
Home (6.35pm)

CASTLEFORD •

Saturday 11th April,
Away (7.30pm)

SALFORD REDS

Sunday 20th April,
Home (6.35pm)

LEEDS RHINOS •

Sunday 27th April,
Away (6.00pm)

BRADFORD BULLS

May

Sunday 11th May
Home (3.15pm)

OLDHAM BEARS

Saturday 17th May,
Away (8.00pm)

PARIS ST. GERMAIN

Friday 23rd May,
Home (7.30pm)

HALIFAX BLUE SOX

Monday 26th May, Away (3.00pm)
WARRINGTON WOLVES

June

Sunday 1st June, Away (3.00pm)*

LONDON

BRONCOS

Friday 13th June, Home (7.30pm)*
WESTERN REDS

Friday 20th June, Home (7.30pm)*
HUNTER MARINERS

Sunday 29th June, Away (3.00pm)
WIGAN WARRIORS

July

Wednesday 2nd July, Home
(7.30pm)

ST. HELENS

Sunday 6th July, Away, (3.00pm)
OLDHAM BEARS

Sunday 13th July, Home (3.15pm)

LONDON

BRONCOS

Saturday 19th July, Away
WESTERN REDS

(Perth, Australia)

August

Saturday 2nd August, Away
HUNTER

MARTINERS

(Newcastle, Australia)

Sunday 10th August, Home
(3.15pm)

WIGAN WARRIORS

Sunday 17th August, Home
(3.15pm)

BRADFORD BULLS

Friday 22nd August, Away
(7.30pm)

LEEDS RHINOS

Monday 25th August, Home
(3.15pm)

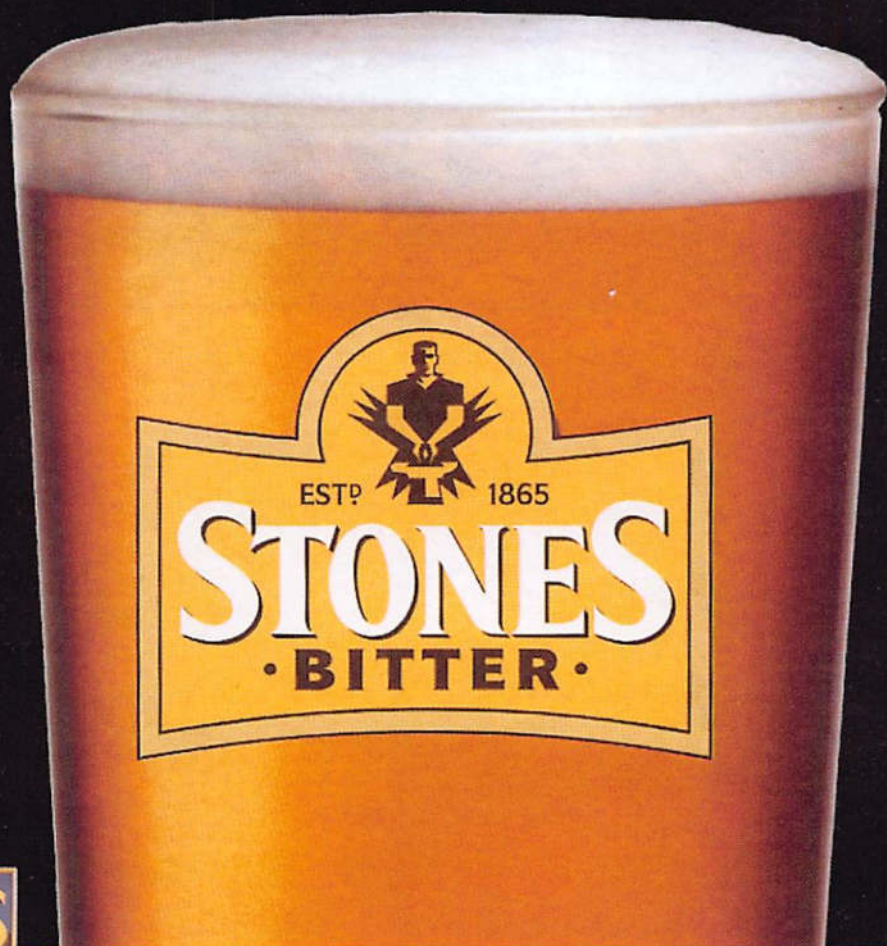
SALFORD REDS

Sunday 31st August, Away
(3.30pm)

CASTLEFORD TIGERS

• Live TV coverage by
Sky Sports

THE SEASONS GREETINGS



TASTE THE ACTION

STONES

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



White turns Gold in April

London Broncos' Josh White has literally turned to gold having clinched April's Stones Gold Award.

Josh, 26, formerly of Australian rugby league team Illawarra

stamped his authority on the Stones Super League notching up four tries in excellent performances against Salford Reds, Oldham Bears, Leeds Rhinos and league leaders Bradford Bulls.

Other contenders acclaimed for their performances in April included Wigan's Andy Farrell and Graham Bradley from Bradford. The panel, made up from experts from all areas of

the game, agreed White could play a key role for the Broncos in the World Club Challenge games.



Speak to the sponsor... Your chance to have your say . . .

Stones Bitter is giving you, the readers, the chance to pose those burning questions you've always wanted to ask. During the season you get the opportunity to quiz Greg McCallum and Sky Sports superstars Eddie and Stevo.

Asking the question couldn't be easier; all you have to do is send your question along with your name and address on a postcard to: The Stones Super League, Burning Questions, PO Box 56, Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5UU.

Furthermore, by taking part you'll also get the chance to win some great prizes all entrants will be entered in a free draw for a Stones Super League T-shirt (there are 10 to be won). For the person who poses the best question there are a pair of Stones Super League match tickets to be won to the match of their choice.

To kick off, we're inviting your questions to Richard Thompson, Sponsorship Manager of Bass Brewers, his replies to a selection of questions will be printed in the club programmes from the 2nd of June. What do you want to ask about the Stones sponsorship of rugby league?

We look forward to hearing from you!



COMMENTARY

A WAY FORWARD

by Joe Lydon,

Technical Director
The Rugby Football League

The importance of international competition has not been lost within Rugby League and that is why we are keen to maintain a level of competition below that of full Super League Test status.

Over the last two years the standard of rugby produced in the Super League has improved dramatically and that ensured that some of the developing nations as well as the lesser equipped such as France would have little to look forward to but a series of severe beatings if they entered that arena.

This would neither aid the game in such countries nor allow recent recruits to the international scene such as Ireland or Scotland any incentive to grow and develop.

The Emerging Nations World Cup in 1995 proved that there is a need and desire for such competition and, if the game is to reach its full potential in Europe, then we have to nurture the delicate state of French Rugby League.

If you then add the need for Academy Under 19 International Rugby into the equation, it becomes even more important

to have Non-Test Internationals because it is through that route that the sport eventually hopes to bring Wales back into the fold... (although this time on a more lasting basis) as well as ensuring that other developing nations can enjoy worthwhile competition at the appropriate level.

There is only one way to find out if a player, or coach for that matter, can survive the transition from the comfortable and familiar cocoon of club rugby into the demanding world of the representative game, and that is to test him at a higher level.

Also if a potential player in a developing nation has the goal to represent and be capped for his country it may well swing his decision to take up, or stay with the game of Rugby League.

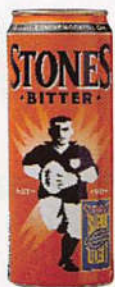
For anyone who thought that there were people within the League who didn't care about the international game, take it from me you couldn't be more wrong. I do however concede that we will still have a long way to go to overcome the somewhat selfish attitudes of many who believe the way forward is with quantity instead of quality. No matter how high we aim or how confident we are in the abilities of our players and coaches, our international sides will never develop or compete at the highest level if they aren't given the time and support to prepare.



The GREAT Stones Bitter Giveaway

We are offering readers the chance to win a case of Stones Bitter: All you have to do is answer the question below and complete the coupon provided or send the answer with your name and address on a postcard to the promotional address. There is one case of Stones Bitter to be won. Entrants must be aged 18 years or over.

Which lucky player was awarded the Stones Gold Award trophy for his outstanding performances in March?



Send your entry to: The Stones Super League / Stones Bitter competition, PO Box 56 Horsforth, Leeds LS18 5UU, to arrive no later than 02.06.97. Winners will be informed by 09.06.97. To obtain the name of the winner please send an SAE to the promotional address.

Answer:

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Address:

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Where Eagles dare

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The Stadium consists of a large main stand with covered terracing behind both goals. There is limited terracing on the other side.

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0891 888645 - provides matchday information

Ticket Information:

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01925 634903

Capacity: 11,140

Number of seats: 2,013

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There is a toilet for the Disabled, but no special considerations for blind supporters. Staff will be happy to accomodate any special requests.

FOOD AND DRINK:

Inside the ground, there are three snack bars on the terraces and another two in the main stand. Bars are **not** open to visitors.

BY CAR:

Take the M62 as far as Junction 9 before joining the A49 (following signs for Warrington).

This road soon becomes the Wilderspool Causeway and the ground is on the right.

Although a pay car park is directly adjacent to the ground, there are some

free car park areas within a few minutes walk of the ground (these areas should be sign posted).

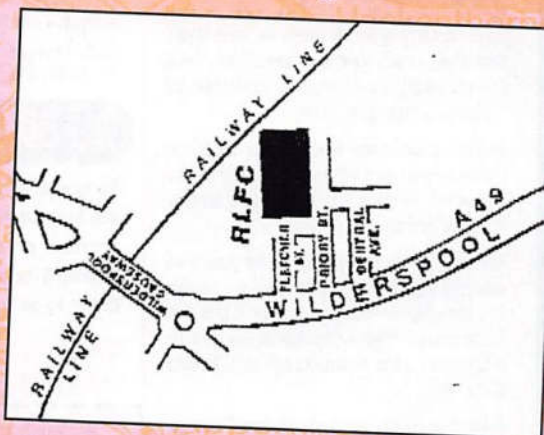
BY RAIL:

The Stadium is conveniently situated near two stations: Warrington Bank Quay (on the main London - Glasgow line) and Warrington Central (Manchester - Liverpool line). Both are within ten minutes walk from the ground.

BY BUS:

The ground is served by a number of buses from Golden Square Station - namely the number 5, 5a, 6 and 6a.

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**Here's some useless information
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Did You Know..?

*There is no place in England
that is more than 75 miles
from the sea?*

**Throughout the world, four
babies are born every second**

Did You Know..?

*The average human sneeze travels
at speeds of over 100mph?*

Did You Know?

*If all the blood vessels in the human body were laid end to
end, they would stretch 100,000 miles!*

trackside

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Well I Never...

*There are over ten million
people all over the world
who share your birthday...
let's hope you don't have
to share your presents
with them!*

Why?

*In 1970 a Texan swallowed
225 live Goldfish..*



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Fixture Check

Forthcoming Home Fixtures

Friday 23rd May 1997

HALIFAX BLUE SOX

Kick off 7.30pm

Sunday 15th June 1997

v. PERTH WESTERN REDS

Kick off 6.35pm

Friday 20th June 1997

v. HUNTER MARINERS

Kick off 7.30pm

*Rocky Turner making a break
in our match against Leeds*



*Freddie the Eagle
in full flight*



*Man of the Match Nick Pinkey
is presented with his award
by John Russell of
Poppleton & Appleby*

Win a trip to see the Rugby World Club final in Sydney



By taking up our offer of *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* FREE for one week you will automatically be entered into our prize draw* with the chance to win a 14-night holiday for two in Sydney with flights and full board in a top hotel.

The prize includes two tickets to the World Club Championship final on October 18, and £500 spending money. Normal Times Newspapers Ltd competition rules apply, available on request. The winner will be notified by post.

*No purchase necessary. You can still enter the draw by sending your name and address on a postcard to:

Rugby Competition, TNL Competitions Dept, 1, Virginia Street, London E1 9BD. Entries must be received by first post Monday August 18th, 1997.

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Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

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If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by TNL, please tick ☐

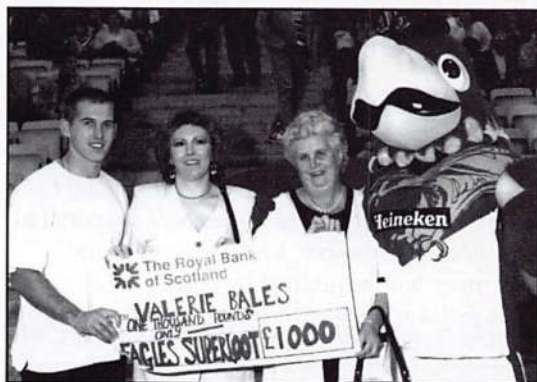
SHEFFIELD EAGLES \$UPER£OOT

**An urgent message to
all our supporters**

The introduction of the second National Lottery draw (mid-week) has had a devastating effect on the Super£oot Daily Draw Membership. Unless we turn the tide and increase the number of members in Super£oot, our major fundraiser may have to close down.

The income - used solely to strengthen the playing squad and further develop Rugby in the Sheffield district - would be lost.

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Valerie Bales receives her Jackpot Cheque

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Thursday	£100	Chris Robinson
Friday	£500	Fiona Thompson



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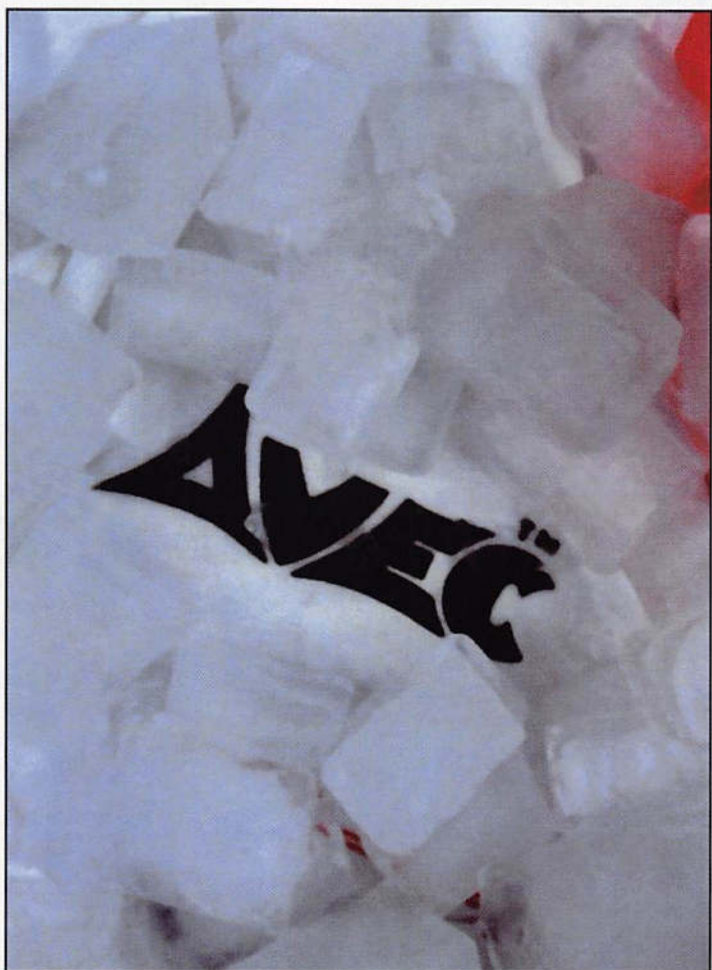
I would like to be a member (tick here)

I am interested in being an agent (tick here)

To Join:

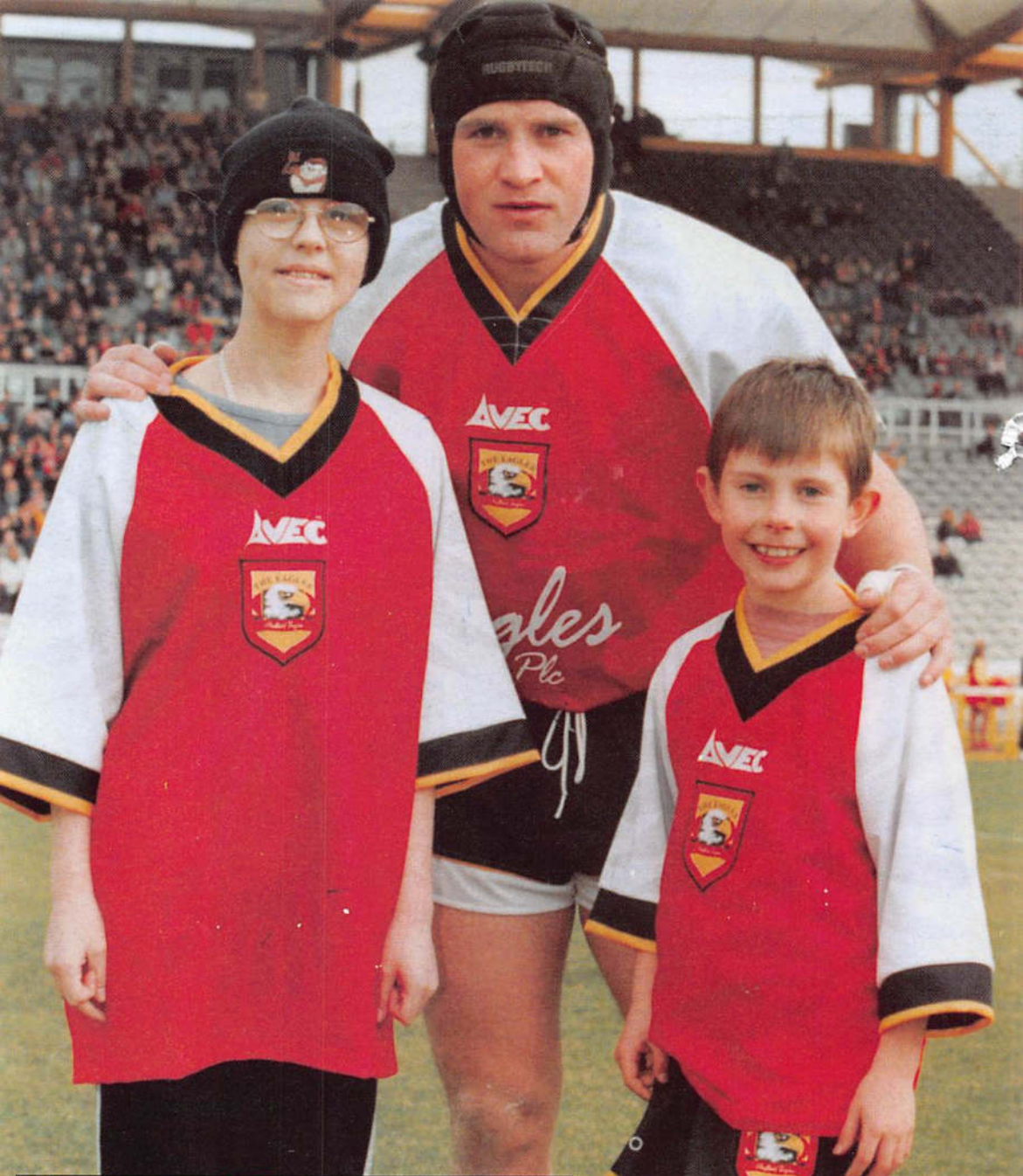
Simply complete the form adjacent and return to:

Brian Aston, Eagles Office,
Stadium Corner, Attercliffe Road S9 3RS
or Telephone (0114) 2611604



IN THE HEAT OF THE SUPER LEAGUE

SPORTSWEAR
AVEC
STYLE



Steven meets
Kid 'E' and
Freddie

Emma Fretzwell (left) and
Steven Sisk - mascots for our recent
fixture against Leeds Rhinos - meet
Eagle favourite Johnny Lawless