

Ron Eaton

..... made his First Grade rugby league debut with North Sydney (Norths #296) in 1931 but was already well known in the North Sydney district as a First Grade Cricketer and a North Sydney Rugby Union player. A news article in 1932 reported that; "Eaton keeps fit in the summer hurling the little red ball at Bradman and Co. Catapulted from such a bulk, it speeds towards batsmen at a faster rate than it does from the hand of any other Sydney bowler.

Ron played cricket with the North Sydney Club, from 1926 as a Colt, before making his way up the grades and debuting in First Grade against St George in the 1927-28 season (Norths #218). He soon became an integral part of the North Sydney team, and in one game in 1928, he demolished the Cumberland team taking 7-11, with all seven batsmen falling to his fast medium bowling, and Cumberland being all out for 60 runs.

CUMBERLAND v. NORTH SYDNEY	
At North Sydney Oval, No. 1.	
CUMBERLAND	
First Innings	
HALL, c Gubbins, b Westwood	18
SMITH, b Eaton	5
WADDY, b Eaton	5
NICHOLLS, b Eaton	1
COLE, c Punch, b Westwood	8
O'GRADY, b Eaton	0
BOASE, b Eaton	0
LEABEATER, c and b Westwood	2
STENMARK, b Eaton	1
MCCARTHY, b Eaton	8
BOSLEY, not out	0
Sundries	12
Total	60
Bowling: Eaton 7-11, Westwood 3-37.	

Ron Eaton demolishes Cumberland - The Sun 29 September 1928

In January 1930 Ron was selected to play with a NSW Second XI but had to withdraw. He was then selected and played for NSW in December 1930. Ron had a large presence in all things that he did in life, and the fast-medium bowler and left handed batsmen left a lasting impression in his one and only game for the NSW cricket team.

As last man in he took an almighty swipe to a ball from slow bowler "Chuck" Fleetwood-Smith which cleared the pickets at the Sydney Cricket Ground and bounced over the paling fence and onto the tennis courts at the back of the ground. He didn't last long at the crease as he was caught and out for seven runs. However he did have an impact with his bowling with match figures of 6-69, which gave him a First Class average of 11.5.

**Ron Eaton in Ranks
Of Immortals**

**Mighty Swipe Stirrs
Cricket Crowd**

Ron Eaton, the smiling giant from North Sydney, yesterday joined the ranks of those who have hit a cricket ball on to the tennis courts at Sydney Cricket Ground.

HE was the last man in for New South Wales and lifted a ball

HE was the last man in for New South Wales and lifted a ball from J. G. Fleetwood-Smith on to the lawn near the northern sight-board.

The ball bounced over the palings at the back and came to rest on the tennis courts.

Reminiscences of George Bonner were exchanged by veterans for the rest of the afternoon.



RON. EATON.

Daily Pictorial 28 December 1930

better reward. There is no doubt he is the fastest bowler in Sydney to-day, and with the employment of a little more "head" would rapidly make his way to the top, justifying M. A. Noble's prediction that he would represent Australia.

The Sun 30 September 1931

Ron moved to the Western Suburbs Cricket Club (Wests #286) in 1934-35. He made his First Grade debut for Wests against Balmain on 15 December 1934 and remained with Wests until the end of the 1935-36 season. Ron went back to the North Sydney Cricket Club in 1937-38 but a report in the Referee newspaper in September 1938 noted that Ron had turned out in the "nets" however his pace has dropped considerably since he played First Grade. This appeared to be the end of Ron Eaton's Grade cricket career.

Ron remained an amateur in his first season with North Sydney Rugby League Club, as at the start of the 1932 season he was considering a return to rugby union. After consideration, he resolved that he would be better suited to the thirteen aside code. While he played with the North Sydney Rugby League Club the previous year as an amateur, he could not see any point in remaining one. He stated that he had already begun training with the object of getting to the top in the League game.

The Daily Telegraph on 8 April 1932 wrote the following story; "The giant forward may not tower above the average player as do other rivals for the honour, but his massiveness is indisputable. He is a rugby union recruit, and now that H Bartley, W Leckie and N Walpole have also joined Norths after playing Union, he may feel more at home."

By 1933, Ron Eaton was a serious candidate for the upcoming Kangaroo tour of England. An article in the Catholic Freeman's Journal on 18 May 1933 noted; "Easily the best forward playing the game at the present time is Eaton of North Sydney. This man is a splendid specimen of physical development and is the type that is required to uphold Australia's credit during the coming tour. This fact is recognised, and it is a practical certainty that Eaton will be amongst the first players selected." Ron Eaton was selected in the trials for the Kangaroo tour, but in the trial match, didn't play to his usual standard and was overlooked for selection.

25 May 1933 - NSW City Possibles (8) v NSW City Probables (18)

[Western Suburbs]	Frank McMILLAN (c)	1 FB 1	Laurie WARD	[Eastern Suburbs]
[North Sydney]	Grantley BENNETT	2 W 2	Fred GARDNER	[St George]
[Souths]	Jack WHY	3 C 3	Cliff PEARCE (c)	[Western Suburbs]
[Eastern Suburbs]	Dave BROWN	4 C 4	Ray MORRIS	[University]
[Western Suburbs]	Alan RIDLEY	5 W 5	Lex SMALL	[Balmain]
[University]	Ross McKINNON	6 FE 6	Les MEAD	[Western Suburbs]
[Eastern Suburbs]	Viv THICKNESSE	7 HB 7	Vic HEY	[Western Suburbs]
[Souths]	Frank CURRAN	8 FR 8	Ray STEHR	[Eastern Suburbs]
[Newtown]	Arthur FOLWELL	9 HK 9	George BISHOP	[Balmain]
[Western Suburbs]	Charlie WRENCH	10 FR 10	George TREWEEK	[Souths]
[Eastern Suburbs]	Joe PEARCE	11 2R 11	Clarrie KEMP	[St George]
[North Sydney]	Ron EATON	12 2R 12	Frank O'CONNOR	[Souths]
[Western Suburbs]	Frank SPONBERG	13 L 13	Eric LEWIS	[Souths]

Reserves: Stan TANCRED, Wally HAMILL, Noel WALPOLE, Alf BIRTLES

Ron Eaton was not only a big character physically, but he also appeared to be up front in his views. In 1933 he was accused of being a member of the New Guard, a monarchist and anti-leftist movement that was active between 1931 and 1935. Ron Eaton publicly denied being a member of the New Guard.

In 1934 Ron had a dispute with the North Sydney Club and after the first three rounds of the competition, he told Selectors that he was no longer going to play with Norths, which was played out in the newspapers of the time. He cited business reasons for his decision. He changed his address from North Sydney to Smith St Summer Hill in 1934 but his work situation appeared not to have changed. His employment was described as 'Factory Manager.' Ron was a Cordial Maker all of his life and worked for Cawsey's Cordials making his way up to the very top in the Company. An article in the Sun newspaper in January 1935

reported that he suffered a probable work injury when he fell into a garage pit.

Ron Eaton, formerly of North Sydney, and now a Western Suburbs cricketer and footballer, had eleven stitches inserted in his upper lip last week. The accident was caused by Eaton falling into a garage pit. He also lost several teeth. The wound has healed well.

The Sun 20 January 1935

While Ron's dispute with the North Sydney Club was being played out in the media, he was also having marital issues. Edna Davey had left him in 1933 as she wanted to return to competitive swimming. The couple divorced in June 1934. This was probably what precipitated the move by Ron Eaton to the Western Suburbs district. This was fortuitous for Wests and ultimately for Ron as well because he married Sylvia James at Burwood in 1938. The couple remained together until Ron died.

Ron's change in residential address qualified him to play for the Western Suburbs Rugby League Club in 1935. A story in Rugby League News noted that; "Ron Eaton, another 'Magpie' front ranker, is also very big, and a few seasons back gave promise of developing into the big things of the game, but an unrestrained impetuousness, plus a bit of 'pitching' by foxy opponents often made the then North Sydney forward forget his real objective."



W Kiliby about to be tackled by Ron Eaton The Labor Daily 26 April 1935



Wests v Newcastle 5 August 1935

Ron Eaton played twelve First Grade games for Wests in 1935 and after turning out for Wests in the trials at the start of 1936, decided to sit out the season. He went back to live at North Sydney so that he qualified residentially to play with North Sydney once again in 1937.

Ron Eaton, cricketer-footballer, will reappear with North Sydney Rugby League Club this season.
Eaton showed much promise as a forward when previously with Norths some seasons ago. He then transferred to Wests, where he had varying fortune.

Daily Telegraph 6 March 1937

After retiring from top level sport Ron developed his business interests and became involved in other sports and charitable work, leveraging his sporting ability and contacts. In 1938, Ron and his wife were recorded helping to raise money for the Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children. (The Sun 31 July 1938)

FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
MR. and MRS. RON EATON were guests of honor at a cocktail party given yesterday by Mr. and Mrs. Roger Underwood at their home in Mosman, in aid of the Royal Alexandria Hospital for Children. Mrs. Eaton, before her recent marriage, was Miss Sylvia James, an active member of the junior committee.

Ron was a member of the Oatlands Gold Club and became a low handicap golfer. In 1940 he entered the Rugby League Golf Championship at St Michaels in Sydney and won the contest against some very decent opposition. Wests took out the teams division which must have been of some consolation after the First Grade team took out the 'wooden spoon' that year.

Ron Eaton beat J. C. Barkel, a leading State amateur, by a stroke to win the Rugby League golf championship at St. Michael's yesterday.
Eaton, who had a round of 78, played first-grade football and cricket with North Sydney. He is now a member of Oatlands golf club.

Arthur ("Snowy") Justice, former Test hooker, won the par handicap for internationals.
Another international, Jack Beaton, won the long-driving contest with a mighty hit of 296 yards.
Western Suburbs, who ran last in the Rugby League premierships, won the teams match with 219 points.

Daily Telegraph 18 November 1940

From 1940 until 1944, Ron continued his involvement with Golf and was regularly reported having success at the game. During this time Ron put on some weight and so in 1944, at the age of 35, he got back into shape with the objective of making a return to First Grade cricket in the 1944-45 season. Ron always gave his maximum effort and so put himself on a strict regime with "penance" and plenty of exercise. He lost five stone in weight as a result and returned to match fitness.

Ron Eaton, North Sydney fast bowler, used to be known as "Two-Ton"—after American pugilist Mr. Galento.
But Eaton reduced five stone to return to grade cricket.
Three months' penance brought his weight down to 14 stone.
Here's Eaton's recipe:
● Train like a prize-fighter, running five miles each day swathed in four sweaters.
● Play Sunday golf dressed like an Eskimo.

Daily Telegraph 22 October 1944

Ron's return to Grade cricket gave him a new energy and direction both on and off the sporting field. His form as a cricketer hadn't diminished. He made his way back into the North Sydney First Grade cricket team, and through his contacts he became involved with some of the best cricketers in the country, playing and promoting the game in rural and regional centres as part of Jack Chegwyn's XI. Ron toured with Chegwyn's team from November 1944 until early 1947. They visited towns such as

Wollongong, Windsor (Queensland), Lithgow, Katoomba, Cessnock, Maitland, Bathurst, Lindfield (Sydney), and over the period some locations were visited on an annual basis.

Test players such as Bill O'Reilly, Sid Barnes, Jack Fingleton, Albert Cheetham, Ray Lindwall, Arthur Morris, and Ernie Toshack were all part of Chegwyn's teams. The travelling band not only promoted cricket across the State, but also raised funds, firstly for the war effort and later on local charities as well as organisations such as the Red Cross.

Jack Chegwyn will take a team of Sydney cricketers to Wollongong to play against a representative Illawarra XI on December 10.
 Test stars Bill O'Reilly, Sid Barnes and Jack Fingleton, as well as Bill Alley, Vic Jackson, Ron Siggers, Wally Walmsley and Ron Eaton, will make the trip.

The Sun 8 November 1944

Chegwyn's team to visit Katoomba next Sunday is: J. Chegwyn, W. O'Reilly, S. Barnes, R. Siggers, V. Jackson, L. Livingston, K. Grieves, A. Wright, M. French, R. Eaton, W. Walmsley, G. Powell.

The Sun 12 February 1945

Jack Chegwyn's Sydney cricket team will play a Newcastle XI at Cessnock Sports Ground on Sunday.
 The game was to have been played at Maitland, but Maitland Council refused to sanction a Sunday game.
 Gerry Skett, British naval player, will be a member of the Sydney team.
 Proceeds of the match will go to a local charity.
 The teams are:
Sydney: J. Chegwyn, W. J. O'Reilly, G. Skett, V. Jackson, W. Walmsley, R. Eaton, K. Grieves, R. Siggers, W.

Daily Telegraph 23 February 1945

Captain Albert Cheetham, who played for Australia in three of the Victory Tests against England, will appear in a match at Lindfield Oval next Saturday to aid the Red Cross.
 Cheetham will be a member of Jack Chegwyn's XI to oppose Lindfield Club. The team is: J. Chegwyn (captain), W. O'Reilly, S. Barnes, R. Siggers, A. Cheetham, V. Jackson, L. Livingston, K. Grieves, R. Eaton.

11 September 1945

Windsor Game For State Men
 Seven players chosen in the NSW team to visit Queensland will appear with Jack Chegwyn's XI in a match at Windsor on Sunday.
 They are: Bill O'Reilly, Sid Barnes, Wal Walmsley, Ken Grieves, Charlie O'Brien, Ron Siggers, and Bill Alley.
 Jack Chegwyn, Ron Eaton, Wally South, and Algy Wright complete the XI.

The Sun 16 November 1945

The team, which will visit Lithgow on February 24 for a Red Cross benefit match, comprises:—J. Chegwyn, C. Pepper, A. Morris, W. Alley, K. Grieves, R. Siggers, Vic. Jackson, W. South, W. Walmsley, Ron Eaton, C. O'Brien, A. Alterator.

Lithgow Mercury 14 February 1946

The photo below captures four members of Chegwyn's XI that played a Newcastle-Maitland team in the NSW Hunter Valley in September 1946. (Newcastle Morning Herald 24 September 1946)



Wal Walmsley, Ernie Toshack, Sid Barnes, Ron Eaton

The caption to the photo read; "Players who may be selected to meet the Englishmen. Leading Sydney cricketers Wal Walmsley, Ernie Toshack, Sid Barnes and Ron Eaton, wait to bat for Chegwyn's XI." Ron Eaton became a good mate of Sid Barnes. Ron helped Sid with both his sporting career and employment. Wal Walmsley was Wests Third Grade Secretary between 1944 and 1947.

Ron Eaton was not one to sit back and wait for something to happen. He no doubt enjoyed the opportunity to play with Chegwyn's team, but Ron was also good at business and creating opportunities.

While he was still active with Chegwyn's team, he created his own teams in 1946 and 1947 based on the same concept of promoting cricket and raising money for charity. In 1946 he organised a combined Sydney Grade team to play Western Districts at Nyngan and in 1947 he organised the Ron Eaton XI that played a charitable matches against a Colts team to raise funds for the Mosman Spastic Centre and the Petersham Baby Centre.

A combined Sydney grade cricket team will play Far Western Districts at Nyngan at Easter. The team has been brought together by North Sydney cricketer, Ron Eaton. Ted Brett (North Sydney) will be captain. Internationals Ern Toshack and Frank Ward, and interstate men, R. S. Whittington, K. Carmody, and Bruce Cook will appear. Other members are A. Jesson, E. Fletcher, B. Watson, L. White (N. Syd.), and G. Barnes (Mosman).

SMH 17 April 1946

Ron Eaton's Eleven scored 101 runs in 35 minutes in its second innings against Teen-age Colts at Petersham Oval yesterday. W. Donaldson hit two sixes and four fours in making 39, the sixes being off consecutive balls. Eaton's Eleven made 237 in the first innings. W. Walmsley hit 10 fours and a six in scoring 80. Teen-age side was dismissed for 83. K. Grieves took three for four in three overs, and B. Adrian two for three. The match was for the funds of the Spastic Centre, Mosman.

SMH 17 February 1947

Former Test opener Bill Brown will make his first Sydney appearance of the season at Petersham Oval tomorrow afternoon. Brown will play for a combined grade side led by Ron Eaton in a fixture against a teen-age XI. Internationals Ray Lindwall, Arthur Morris, and E. Toshack, Sheffield Shield players Ron Siggers, Bob Cristofani, L. Livingston, W. Donaldson, and W. Alley are in the line-up. Proceeds will go to the Petersham Baby Centre.

Daily Telegraph 8 March 1947

Ron Eaton was approaching the end of his cricket career but in 1946, at the age of 37, he was still good enough to take over the captaincy of the North Sydney First Grade cricket team from Sid Barnes who would be in England for the best part of the 1946-47 season. In fact Ron remained captain for his final season with North Sydney in 1947-48.

North Sydney, with Sid Barnes away for the greater part of the season, has elected Ron Eaton captain. Eaton's first job will be to improve the standard of the side in the field.

The Sun 9 October 1946

Ron had developed strong friendships with many of the leading sports personalities of the time and this would become even more so over the coming years as Ron focused on sports promotion in conjunction with Cawsey's Pty Ltd, and employing many prominent sportsmen.

Ron's friendship with Sid Barnes is highlighted in a story that appeared in The Sun in February 1946. Sid Barnes had an infected ankle the night before the Australian Cricket team was departing for New Zealand. Ron took care of Barnes that evening, firstly taking him to a Chemist and then a Doctor for treatment, and afterwards staying with Barnes and applying poultices to the infected ankle. The treatment was sufficient to get Sid Barnes on the plane for New Zealand the next day.

Sid Barnes spent most of last night treating a poisoned ankle before leaving with the Australian cricket team for New Zealand at 5.38 am today.

Unless there is rapid improvement, Barnes is unlikely to play in the opening match of the tour against Auckland, starting on Friday.

The team left in a New Zealand Air Force Catalina, and arrived at Auckland at 4 pm (2 pm Sydney time).

Barnes took with him bandages and a poultice preparation to treat his ankle during the trip.

The trouble is believed to have been caused by a bite.

Barnes had hot fomenta applied by a masseur, but after playing snooker with other members of the touring party at the Cricketers' Club, the swelling increased.

Barnes was taken by North Sydney clubmate, Ron Eaton, to a chemist and then to a doctor.

Barnes and Eaton then went to Barnes' home and applied poultices until midnight.

The Sun 26 February 1946

Later in 1946 it was reported that Ron Eaton drove Sid Barnes and Arthur Morris from Sydney to Brisbane in Ron's car so the Test Batsmen could acclimatise to the Brisbane heat and practice on the Gabba ground.

Off early for first Test

Arthur Morris and Sid Barnes leave for the Brisbane Test tomorrow "to get acclimatised."

They will travel in former NSW fast bowler RON EATON'S car.

Morris said he wanted to get to Brisbane as early as possible to obtain practice on the Gabba ground and acclimatise himself to the Brisbane heat.

The Sun 24 November 1946

When Sid Barnes was proposing to return to Australia in late 1947, it was Ron Eaton who was in contact with him from Scotland by radiophone. Barnes trusted Ron Eaton to make all necessary arrangements for his arrival in Australia. Ron Eaton had previously employed Sid Barnes at Cawseys.

SYDNEY, Sat: Test batsman Sid Barnes will be available for New South Wales in the opening Sheffield Shield match with Queensland on October 24. Barnes made the announcement in a radiophone talk from Glasgow, Scotland, with Ron Eaton in Sydney.

Barnes requested Eaton, his former employer, to inform the New South Wales Cricket Assn., and Board of Control, that he would be available for all games against India.

Sunday Times (Perth) 28 September 1947

In 1947 Ron made himself available along with another North Sydney bowler to assist Arthur Morris and Eric Lukeman, both NSW cricketers, to help them with batting practice to prepare for an upcoming match.

Arthur Morris and E. Lukeman arranged for the North Sydney pair, Ron Eaton and V. Emery to provide them with practice.

Daily Telegraph 5 November 1947

By 1947 Ron Eaton was transitioning from the cricket field to the board room, and was becoming an influential player in Australian sport. One of his major deals was to employ Keith Miller as a Traveller

with Cawseys. The arrangement was important as it kept Miller in Australia and the work arrangement would give Keith plenty of time to fulfill his cricket commitments.



Keith Miller and Ron Eaton News (Adelaide) 13 March 1947

SYDNEY, March 7.— The Test all-rounder, Keith Miller, to-day accepted an offer that will retain his services for Australian cricket. North Sydney captain, Ron Eaton, said that Miller would be employed as a traveller for Cawsey's Cordials Ltd., of which Mr. Eaton is manager. Mr. Eaton added that Miller would be given every facility for cricket practice.

Maryborough Chronicle 8 March 1947

Over the next few years Ron Eaton became increasingly involved in sports promotion. In 1949 Ron Eaton decided to have a rugby league instructional film made. Bumper Farrell, the tough Newtown forward was to be the leading man, while Ron's good mate Sid Barnes would operate the camera and Ray Stehr would be the narrator. Ray Stehr by this time was also an employee of Cawseys. There is no record of Ron's film being a box office hit!

Farrell In Film Lead

SYDNEY: Rugby League star Bumper Farrell will be leading man in a football film to be made at Erskineville Oval this Sunday morning.

Former forward Ron Eaton is having the picture made for instructional purposes.

Sid Barnes will be the cameraman, with Ray Stehr commentator.

The film will depict a number of movements and will show how the rules should be observed.

Alf Gibbs, Keith Froome, Frank Johnson, Bill Edwards and other leading players will be included in the "cast."

Brisbane Telegraph 21 May 1949


Later in 1949 Ron organised a free sporting demonstration, with champion golfer Norman Von Nida, hitting golf balls, Sid Barnes demonstrating batting technique and Ray Stehr packing into an imaginary scrum. Interestingly these were three of Ron Eaton's favorite sports.

Norman von Nida, Sid Barnes and footballer Ray Stehr are ganging up on a sporting crusade.
 Ron Eaton, of Cawseys Ltd., is putting on a sporting spree at the Assembly Hall tomorrow night—and it's free!
 Von Nida will hit golf balls into the hall, Barnes will display strokes, and Ray Stehr will go into an imaginary scrum.

The Sun 6 September 1949

In March 1950 former Australian middle-weight boxing champion, Fred Henneberry, joined Ron Eaton and the stable at Cawseys, and in November of that year, Australian Rugby League Coach, and former Wests champion footballer Vic Hey also joined the team.

Australia's former middle-weight boxing champion, Fred Henneberry, is now setting out to become Australia's champion salesman for appetising cocktails.
 He left the hotel he was running at Goulburn and has joined Cawseys.
 Fred intends to keep his eye on budding boxing talent during his country campaigns and to give displays among the Police Boys' Clubs, in which he has always taken an active interest.



Fred Henneberry.

The Truth 19 March 1950

● **Cordial welcome**
 Australian Rugby League coach, Vic Hey, who was mainly instrumental in Australia regaining the Rugby League Ashes after 30 years, is the latest sportsman to join the staff of a well-known cordial firm at North Sydney.
 Others on the sales staff are former Rugby League international forward Ray Stehr, ex-Australian middleweight champion Fred Henneberry, and well-known cricketer Ron Eaton.



Vic Hey

The Sun 31 October 1950

Ron Eaton and Cawseys were expanding business activities and by 1950 had taken on the popular Vok liqueur brand. Part of the strategy to promote these products was to engage and associate the brands with popular sports personalities.

However by late 1950 Ron Eaton had extended this to sports sponsorship. The first of these was to offer a 1,000 pound prize for the best Test cricketer in the 1950-51 Test series between Australia and England. In 1952 Ron Eaton through Tolley's Wines offered a 1,000 pound sponsorship for a world professional Tennis championship. A similar proposal was put forward to support professional Tennis in 1953.

£1000 PRIZE FOR BEST TEST MAN

BRISBANE, Sat: Mr. Ron Eaton, leading Sydney businessman and former NSW opening bowler, has given a cash trophy of £1000 to the outstanding cricketer, English or Australian, in the present Test series.

The prize, which Mr. Eaton has named the Vok trophy, will be awarded on a daily points basis for batting, bowling and fielding.

Points will be allotted on each day of the five Tests.

Daily News (Perth) 2 December 1950

For Professional Tennis

SYDNEY, Mon.—Mr. Ron Eaton, a Sydney sportsman, said to-day that Tolley's Wines would give £1000 for a world professional championship if it was played in Australia.

Mr. Eaton said he had heard that sponsors were being sought for the professionals in Australia.

He added: "It would be a shame if the visit to Australia fell through because there was not sufficient financial attraction."

Daily Examiner 13 January 1952

If Jack Kramer decides to play a world championship series for pro. tennis stars in Australia, a Sydney firm will give him £1000 towards the prize.

Tolley's Wines have offered this amount to Kramer provided the title is decided in Australia, and will give a similar sum each year.

Managing director, Mr. Ron Eaton, also will provide a trophy for competition on Davis Cup lines between Australian and American pros. —

Sporting Globe 14 January 1953

Ron Eaton had a long association with the sporting community in North Sydney, so it was an interesting proposal that he announced on radio 2UE in May 1951. Through Vok Pty Ltd he offered to invest 10,000 pounds in the North Sydney Rugby League Club to run it on proprietary lines for a period of five years. It was said that the scheme was put forward to keep players in Australia if the ban on transfers to England was lifted in the coming year.

This was several years before the establishment of licensed Clubs and there was really no precedent in Sydney rugby league to manage a football team in this manner. However Ron Eaton had a track record of being successful in business and sporting circles and it was possible, if the NSWRL and North Sydney were in agreement, that the arrangement could have worked. The NSWRL within a few days closed down the proposal, thanking Cawsey's (Vok), by advising that it was not within the League's constitution.

Ray Eaton later in 1951 offered Rex Mossop 500 pounds and a job at Cawsey's if he switched from union to play with the North Sydney Rugby League Club. The deal was being brokered by Ray Stehr but was rejected by Mossop. Stehr persisted and eventually arranged for Mossop to sign for the English Club Leigh with a 5,000 pounds sign on, match payments, accommodation and employment.

<p>A city business firm last night offered to invest £10,000 in the North Sydney District Rugby League club, to run it on proprietary lines for a period of five years.</p> <p>The offer, announced over Station 2UE, was made by Mr. Ron Eaton, of Vok Pty. Ltd., on behalf of the directors.</p>	<p>Mr. Eaton, a well-known sportsman, played for the North Sydney club for some years.</p> <p>It was stated that the scheme was advanced mainly to keep star players in Australia, should the ban on transfers to England be lifted next year.</p> <p>It would mark the start of proprietary football in Sydney and, at the same time, would build up the North Sydney club.</p>	<p>Players would be "purchased" from Rugby Union and Australian Rules.</p> <p>The directors would be prepared to hand over the North Sydney club to a committee of management after five years, if the N.S.W.</p>
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SMH 12 May 1951

Outstanding Rugby Union forward Rex Mossop announced this afternoon he had signed on with Leigh Rugby League Club in England. His fee, £5000 Australian, is easily the highest ever paid for an Australian forward.

Mossop has signed on for four years and will leave on the first ship available after his marriage on October 26.

In addition to the £5000, he will be paid £10 for a win, £8 for a draw and £6 for a loss.

Mossop is a 6ft 2in, good-looking commercial traveller, and Leigh Club will provide him with a position and suitable re-

muneration. A home also is to be found for him.

Former Rugby League international Ray Stehr signed Mossop up today.

Stehr said that previously Mossop would not give him a decision.

When, however, Stehr rang him today, Mossop agreed to discuss the matter.

Stehr added that Ron Eaton, former North Syd-

ney forward, had offered Mossop a job with a liquor firm, and £500 a year as well, to play with North Sydney Rugby League Club.

Mossop is 23 and plays in the second row.

He is a powerfully built forward.

He said this afternoon, "It took me a long while to get around to making this decision, but I have had to think of my future.

The Sun 2 October 1951

Ron Eaton was not as prominent in the news media in the late 1950's. It may have been related to his ill health which he endured for a number of years. Upon his death, the Rugby League News noted his passing and acknowledged his contribution to business and to providing assistance to sportsmen in general. Ron energised sport in the 1940's and 1950's, developed friendships and business networks, and combined these to innovate and improve Australian sport.

Ron lived his later life in the northern Sydney Suburb of Castlecrag and died there in May 1960.

RON EATON PASSES

League followers, especially those from North Sydney, will be sorry to learn of the recent death of former crack forward Ron Eaton.

Ron had been ill for several years and prior to that had been a prominent city businessman.

He helped a lot of sportsmen by providing jobs for them and his death removes a fine sportsman.

To his family we extend the deepest sympathy of the League movement.

RLN June 4, 1960