

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – GAMES PLAYED RECORD HOLDERS

Welcome back to “**Crackers Chronicles**”. This week we trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions of seven of our games played record holders, all of whom are Life Members.

Our club started in 1921. However, the VAFA did not start recording games played until 1939. We have been able to establish the number of seasons each *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* player played between 1921 and 1938. Those records indicate that the greatest number of seasons played by any one player during that period was 15 years by Gordon Law.

J. G. Gordon Law

Gordon Law was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1922 and went on to play 15 seasons for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1922 – 1936. When he retired in **1936**, it was reported that he had played **267** games for our club.

He played in our eight pre-war “A” Section premierships of 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. He also represented Victoria in 1928.

Gordon was our club’s Best & Fairest in the premierships year of 1932 and captained our club in 1935. He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1959, having already achieved 200 games back in 1930.

He is father of OSCFC player Max Law (1953) and former champion OSCFC & Hawthorn FC player Ian Law (1956 – 1960). He died in 1966.

M. G. Manson Russel

Manson Russel was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1948, but played three senior games while still at school. He then went on and played a then considered record **235** club games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1948 – **1962**. When he retired in 1962, because the club had not maintained a record of club games played, it was considered then that Manson held the record for most club games played – certainly post-war.

In 1950, he was our club’s Best & Fairest and the VAFA “A Section” Best & Fairest. Later he was named our club’s Best Team Player in 1953, 1955, 1956 & 1957.

He was our club’s leading goalkicker from 1949 – 1954 & 1956 – 1959, totalling over 400 goals.

Manson captained our club in 1953, 1954 & 1957 – 1960.

He also represented Victorian in 1952, 1953, 1956 & 1959.

He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1970, having also achieved 200 games for the club back in 1961. Our annual award to a senior player for “Most Sacrificial Acts” is named after Manson Russel.

He is father of OSCFC player Tim Russel (1984 – 1995).

In 2000, Manson was named as deputy vice-captain in the forward pocket of our *OSCFC Team of the Century*. He was made a Legend of the Big V in 2008 and Patron of our club in 2015.

A. F. Andy Watson

Andy Watson was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1958. He played **232** games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1958 – **1972**. In 1971, the club established a list of games played by the then current players. In 1972, Andy was awarded a Life Member of the Club for having achieved 200 club games for the Club back in 1969. He was the first player awarded Life Membership under the new criteria of 200 games played for the Club.

He was our Juniors leading goalkicker in 1959, our Reserves Best & Fairest in 1968 & 1970, and played in our “B Section” premierships team of 1970. He died in 1989.

A. J. Alan Nicholls

Alan Nicholls was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1963. He went on to play a then record **269** games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1963 – **1978**. He played in our Reserves premierships team of 1964. In 1974 he was awarded a Life Member of the Club upon achieving 200 games for the Club. He was a very versatile player and in 1975, in our Seniors, played in every position.

After Old Scotch, Alan went on to play 30 games for the *Langwarrin Football Club* in the Peninsular Football League, and also won the Langwarrin Gift in 1980.

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A. C. Andrew Lloyd

Andrew Lloyd was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1982. He went on to play **269** games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1982 – **1997**, equally the record held by Alan Nicholls. He was our Reserves Best & Fairest in 1985 and captained our Reserves in 1986 & 1987, and later in 1995 captained & coached our Reserves. He played in our Reserves premiership team of 1993. He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1993 upon playing 200 games for the Club. Later, he was Vice President of the Club in 2011 & 2012 and has sponsored our Club for 25 years from 1992 – 2016.

He also won the Bryan Gibbs Award for Distinguished Service in 2012.

He is the brother of OSCFC player Richard Lloyd (1983 – 1990) & club secretary (1990 & 1991).

A. C. Andrew Smith

Andrew Smith was recruited from the *Richmond Football Club Under 19s* by Trevor Read and Bill Pinner in 1982. He played a then record **299** games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1982 – **1998**. He was our Club Best & Fairest in 1984 & 1989 and VAFA “A Section” Best & Fairest in 1985. Andrew was also a Victorian representative in 1985, 1986, 1988 & 1989. With those games included, he played well over 300 games of amateur football.

He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1993 upon achieving 200 games for the Club.

In 2000, Andrew was named on the interchange bench in our *OSCFC Team of the Century*.

He coached the Club in 2001 and was assistant coach for four years from 2002 – 2005.

N. M. T. Nick Hooper (our current record holder)

Nick Hooper was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1987. He then went on and played a record **316** games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1987 – **2003**. He was our Under 19s Best & Fairest in 1988, VAFA “Under 19 Section 2” Best & Fairest in 1988, our Reserves leading goalkicker in 1990 & 2002, and our Reserves Best & Fairest in 1992, 1996, 1997, 1999 & 2002.

Nick played in our Reserves premiership team of 1993 and captained our Reserves for six years from 1996 - 2000 and again in 2003.

He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1997 upon achieving 200 games for the Club.

He is brother of former OSCFC player David Hooper (1987 – 1998).

Next week we will look at the Life Members from the 1970s Hec Ingram era ... I welcome any feedback to gmccracken@oldscotchfc.com.au