

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES - CLUB SECRETARIES 1921 - 1971

Welcome back to this week's edition of "**Crackers Chronicles**".

Each week in this column we will trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions made by some of our club members.

This week we focus on Secretaries of the *Old Scotch Football Club* from 1921 to 1971 ...

J. A. Joseph Donald 1921

On 15 April 1921, at the first general meeting of the newly founded *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, Joseph Donald, together with George Staley, was elected a founding Secretary of our club, which he then served for one year in 1921. Joseph was a teacher at *Scotch College* from 1918 – 1922. Joseph died in 1961.

G. H. George "Geo" Staley 1921 – 1928

In 1920, George was a member of the *Old Scotch Collegians Club* (albeit not an old boy of the School). However, on 15 April 1921, at the first general meeting of the newly founded *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, he, together with Joseph Donald, was elected a founding Secretary of our club, which he then served for eight years from 1921 – 1928. He was a premiership Secretary in 1923, 1924, 1926 & 1927.

In 1928, he accompanied the Victorian amateur team to Adelaide. George died in 1967.

George is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Harold Staley (1921 – 1927).

A. J. Arthur Waters 1929 – 1931

Arthur "Sally" Waters, an old boy of *Scotch College* from 1906 and member of the *Old Scotch Collegians Club* served as the third Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for three years from 1929 – 1931. He was a premiership Secretary in 1931. Arthur died in 1937.

V. T. Vern Tilley 1932 – 1940 & 1946 – 1948

Vern Tilley, an old boy of *Scotch College*, served as the fourth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and served for twelve years from 1932 – 1948. He was a premiership Secretary in 1932, 1933 & 1934.

After World War II, in 1946 Vern helped re-form the club when all pre-war club officials resumed their roles. **He is our club's longest serving Club Secretary.**

He then went on to serve as the fourth President of our club for six years from 1953 – 1958.

Vern was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1949, and made a Patron of the Club in 1959. Vern died in 1984.

S. P. Stuart Hancock 1947

In 1946, Stewie Hancock, an old boy of *Scotch College* who played in the School 1st XVIII in 1936 & 1937, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played 2 games, debuting in our team on 4 May 1946 and playing in the number "15" jumper. He played in our first game after World War II. Upon retiring from playing, in 1947 he then served for one year as the fifth co-Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* with Vern Tilley.

L. J. Louis Hyams 1949 – 1952

In 1947, Lou Hyams an old boy of *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1943, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played 3 games, debuting in our team on 26 April 1947 and playing in the number "31" jumper. After he stopped playing, he served as the sixth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for four years from 1949 – 1952. Lou died in 2001.

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Lou is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Les Hyams (1947 – 1950) who played 47 games.

A. Alexander “Alec” Stewart & J. R. John King 1953

In 1953, Alec Stewart who had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1948 & 1949 and was Captain of Football in 1949, and John King, both old boys of *Scotch College*, served as the seventh and eighth joint-Secretaries of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year. Unfortunately, that season our club finished bottom of the A Section ladder in 10th position and was relegated to B Section in 1954; for the first time in the club’s history. John died in 2010.

J. R. John King & D. S. David Thomas 1954

In 1954, team manager John King and David Thomas, who played in the School 1st XVIII 1945 – 1947 and was Captain of Football in 1947, and who played 86 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1950 – 1955, debuting in our Seniors on 22 April 1950 and playing in the number “20” jumper, both old boys of *Scotch College*, served as the eighth and ninth joint-Secretaries of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year. That season, our club finished in 8th position on the B Section ladder, narrowly avoiding relegation, our lowest year-end position since the commencement of the promotion and relegation system back in 1923, and our club’s lowest finishing position ever.

M. G. Manson Russel 1955 – 1956

In 1948, Manson Russel was recruited from *Scotch College* where he was Captain of Football in 1948, but played three senior games while still at school. He went on and played a then record 235 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1948 – 1962. 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 for six years in 1953, 1954 & 1957 – 1960. He represented Victorian in 1952, 1953, 1956 & 1959. During his playing career, he also served as the tenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for two years in 1955 & 1956. In 1955, the club was runners up in B Section and in 1956 returned to A Section.

Manson was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1970, having also played 200 games for our club back in 1961.

He acted as the club’s VAFA delegate from 1949 – 1971, becoming a member of VAFA Executive from 1963 – 1983, then later VAFA Chairman from 1971 – 1977 and VAFA President from 1978 – 1980. Manson was elected a Life Member of the VAFA in 1978, awarded an *Australian Football Foundation* Merit Award in 1979, and made a Patron of the VAFA in 1984.

Our annual award to a senior player for “Most Sacrificial Acts” is named after Manson.

In 2007, Manson was awarded an OSCA Certificate of Merit.

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

Manson is father of former OSCFC player Tim Russel (1984 – 1995) who played 53 games.

K. S. Struan Gilfillan 1957

In 1952, Struan Gilfillan was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player who had played in the School 2nd XVIII. He played in our 1952 Juniors first premiership team, before debuting in our Seniors on 9 May 1953 and playing 41 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1952 – 1955, playing in the number “8” jumper.

After he retired from playing, in 1957 Struan served as the eleventh Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year.

J. M. John Gifford 1958 – 1960

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From 1958 - 1960, John Gifford an old boy of *Scotch College* served as the twelfth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* three years. Starting in his last year as Secretary, John played 11 Reserves games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1960 – 1962. In 1960, our club finished in 9th position on the A Section ladder and was relegated to B Section in 1961; for only the second time in the club's history.

In 1961 & 1962, John then coached our Reserves, and to our first Reserves Section premiership in 1961.

J. F. John Kollosche 1961 – 1962

In 1957, John Kollosche was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player, but only played one Juniors game with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1957. Upon medical advice, he retired from playing. Between 1957 – 1960, John served as goal umpire for our Juniors or sometimes assisting team manager Trevor Tilley as timekeeper or boundary umpire. From 1958 – 1960, John was also secretary of our Juniors team.

In 1961 John then served as the thirteenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for two years from 1961 – 1962.

In 2009, John was awarded an OSCA Certificate of Merit.

W. S. Bill Tingate 1963 – 1965

In 1956, Bill Tingate was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 94 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1956, 1957, 1959 – 1960, 1962 – 1966 & 1968, debuting in our Seniors on 22 June 1957, and playing in the number “30” jumper. During his playing career, he also served as the fourteenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Football Club* for four years from 1961 – 1965.

G. I. Geoff Kidd 1966

In 1965, Geoff Kidd was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 27 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1965 & 1966, debuting in our Seniors on 5 June 1965 and playing in the number “23” jumper. In 1966, in his second season with our club and final year as a player, Geoff served as the fifteenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year.

In both 1965 & 1966, his older brother David Kidd was coaching our Juniors.

Geoff is the younger brother of former OSCFC player David Kidd (1957 – 1960 & 1962 – 1963), who played 86 games, and former OSCFC coach (1964 – 1972).

C. J. Cyril Benjamin 1967

In 1960, Cyril Benjamin was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player but did not debut in our Seniors until 20 May 1964. He played 131 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1960 – 1969, playing in the number “21” jumper. He played in our 1964 Reserves premiership team coached by Arthur Marshall. Cyril then played in our 1965 B Section premiership team coached by Don Howell. Later, he also played in our 1967 and 1969 Reserves premiership teams coached by Ray Sneddon and Leigh McGregor. During that time, in 1967 he served as the sixteenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year. Cyril retired after the 1969 season.

B. D. Brian Bult 1968

In 1961, Brian Bult was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 57 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1961 – 1962 & 1964 – 1965, debuting in our Seniors on 27 June 1961 and playing in the number “1” jumper, but later the number “18” jumper in 1965. Brian played in our 1961 Reserves premiership team coached by John Gifford. After retiring from playing, in 1968 he served as the seventeenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for one year.

Brian is the older brother of former OSCFC player Alan Bult (1966 – 1974 who played 152 games).

J. M. John Head 1969 – 1971

In 1965, John Head was recruited from *Scotch College* and started playing with our Warriors. From 1971, when Warriors games started being recorded as 'official' club games, John played 78 official games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, but during his playing career from 1965 – 1976 he would have played well over 100 games with our club, playing first in the number "29" jumper, then the number "62" jumper and finally in the number "64" jumper. He was our Warriors Best & Fairest in 1966 & 1968. He captained our Warriors in 1968, and in 1972 & 1973 captained and coached our Warriors. He played in our 1971 first Thirds premiership team coached by Peter Wood. During his playing career, John also served as the eighteenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for three years from 1969 – 1971.

John is the older brother of former OSCFC players Peter Head (1970 – 1974 & 1976) and Roger Head (1973, 1975 & 1976).

Next week we will look at our club secretaries from 1972 up to date ...

I welcome any feedback to geoff.mccracken@bigpond.com