

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB XVIII FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (Part 1)

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.

Old Scotch has always been in the fore-front of the development of Australian Rules Football.

This is an attempt to trace the origins, formation, history and demise of the CLUB XVIII FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION.

In the late 1950s and the early 1960s, some VAFA clubs enjoyed a serious excess of players and the clubs needed to find a competition to satisfy these players so that the players could enjoy a game of football.

Formation of the Reserve Grade in the VAFA

The Old Scotch Collegians Football Club weekly newsletter, the "Drum Sheet" dated 2 April **1958** reported as follows:

"At a meeting between the *Caulfield Grammarians, Ivanhoe, Old Melburnians, Old Paradians, Old Scotch* and *Old Xaverians* clubs it was decided to institute a premiership 2nds competition with an organised draw".

"The matches to be played as curtain raisers prior to A Section matches and will be umpired by VAFA umpires".

"*Old Scotch* together with the other five clubs is determined to prove to the VAFA, by the success of this separate 2nds Section, that a Reserve grade competition is a necessity in the Association".

John Gifford Old Scotch Secretary 1958/60 and Old Scotch Reserves coach 1961/62, played a very significant role in the formation of this competition.

It appears that the *Old Melburnians* either withdrew before the commencement of the season or at some stage during the season.

Old Scotch defeated *Old Paradians* in the 1st semi-final and *Ivanhoe* defeated *Old Xaverians* in the 2nd semi-final. *Old Scotch* then defeated *Old Xaverians* in the preliminary-final.

Result of grand-final *Ivanhoe* 15.12.102 defeated *Old Scotch* 7.6.48 at Heidelberg Park on 13 August 1958. *Old Scotch* coach was Basil Benjamin, captain was Don Byrne and best & fairest was Jim "Nico" Maxwell.

There were ten teams in the competition in **1959**.

Old Paradians 13.12.90 defeated *Old Scotch* 6.10 46 in the grand-final on 5 September 1959. John "Swish" Wilson was *Old Scotch* captain/coach and best & fairest.

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB XVIII FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (Part 1)

The VAFA introduced the Reserve grade in **1960** with fourteen clubs: *AJAX, Bellfield, Caulfield Grammarians, De La Salle, Ivanhoe, Old Brighton, Old Melburnians, Old Paradians, Old Scotch, Old Xaverians, Ormond, State Savings Bank, St Kilda CBCOB, and University.*

The 1960 VAFA annual report commented as follows: “The unofficial curtain-raiser clubs which had competed during season 1959 sought admission as an official section and, to meet their request, a Reserve section was formed with fourteen teams”.

The annual report further commented: “It was a coincidence that the four semi-finalists in the newly formed Reserve Section should all be “school sides” – *Old Scotch, Old Paradians, Old Melburnians* and *De La Salle Old Collegians*. *Old Melburnians* who won the premiership the hard way for, after having been defeated in the second semi-final, they went on to win the next two matches: the premiership and the right to be the first club to hold the “J. B. Corder Cup”. The *Old Scotch* captain & coach was John “Swish” Wilson and the best & fairest was Chris Nixon.

The Reserve grade competition expanded very quickly, increasing to twenty clubs in **1961**, thirty-one clubs in **1962**, thirty-nine clubs in **1963** and forty-two clubs in 1964.

In **1965**, the Reserve grade teams were aligned to the section of the club’s Senior team. There were no Reserve grade teams aligned to the lowest section, F Section.

In **1966**, the VAFA dispensed with F Section and all five remaining sections were represented by Reserve grade teams with the exception of the lowest section, E Section. Eight of the twelve E Section clubs were represented by Reserve grade teams. This total was increased to nine clubs when the *Old Xaverians* entered a team in E Section reserves (in addition to an A Section Reserves team).

Formation of the Third XVIII Social Football 1960 – 1970

Notwithstanding the formation of the VAFA Reserve grade competition, the *Old Scotch* club still had an excess of players seeking a game of football.

In 1960, *Old Scotch* made a decision to form an additional team and this section refers mainly to the Old Scotch Thirds XVIII team.

The annual fixture list consisted of games against APS and other school teams and other VAFA clubs.

1960 – A combined APS Old Boys’ team consisting of players from *Old Melburnians, Old Scotch* and *Old Xaverians* played seven games against MGS 1st XVIII, 2nd XVII and 3rd XVIII, SC 2nd XVIII & 3rd XVIII and XC 3rd XVIII.

1961 – Old Scotch Thirds XVIII team formed and fixtures arranged by the college’s sports master Euan “Ginner” Davidson and played matches against GGS, MGS 1st XVIII, SC 1st XVIII & 2nd XVIII and XC 3rd XVIII and U16A XVIII. Also played matches against VAFA clubs: *Old Xaverians* (in fact played against the *Old Xaverians* three weeks in a row) and *University*. In

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB XVIII FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (Part 1)

some games, the team was supplemented with players from the *Old Xaverians*. Played 14, won 2, lost 6, unknown 6: Captain and coach Peter "Pongo" Lawrence.

1962 – Fixtures again arranged by the college's sports master Euan "Ginner" Davidson against school teams MGS 1st XVIII & 2nd XVIII, SC 2nd XVIII, WC 2nd XVIII and XC 2nd XVIII and VAFA clubs *Melbourne High School Old Boys*, *Old Carey*, *Old Xaverians* and *Preston Reserves*. Played 14, won 1, lost 9, drawn 1, unknown 3: Coach Allen Morris and captain Bert McKay.

1963 – A typed set of fixtures was produced. Fixtures were arranged against school teams, Carey GS 1st XVIII, GGS 1st XVIII, MGS, SC U16A and XC U16A and other VAFA clubs in *Old Melburnians*, *Old Paradians* and *Old Xaverians*. Played 12, won 6, lost 6: Coach Allen Morris, and captain David Biltoft.

1964 – This team became known as the "Socials" team. A full set of fixtures was arranged by Allen Morris against school teams MGS 2nd XVIII, St Patrick's College, SC 2nd XVIII and XC XVIII and VAFA clubs *Commercial Bank (E Section)*, *Old Melburnians*, *Old Paradians* and *Old Xaverians*. Played 13, won 10, lost 2, drawn 1: Coach Allen Morris, captain Bert Logie-Smith and best & fairest Ian Rehfish.

1965 – The team commenced the season known as the "Socials" but at some stage during the season become known as the "Warriors". The fixtures were arranged by Allen Morris. The match results in the "Drum Sheet" are incomplete. The reported matches lists games against MGS 3rd XVIII & 4th XVIII, SC 3rd XVIII, *St Bernard's* and *Old Ivanhoe*. Captain & Coach Ted Finn and best & fairest Jim Freemantle.

1966 – Team continued to be known as the "Warriors". Matches played against MGS 2nd XVIII & 3rd XVIII, SC 1st XVIII & 3rd XVIII and XC 3rd XVIII. Games also arranged against other VAFA clubs *Caulfield Grammarians*, *Collegians*, *Old Melburnians*, *Old Paradians* and *Old Scotch's Veterans*. Played 18, won 10, lost 7, unknown 1: Coach Allen Morris, captain Jim Freemantle and best & fairest John Head.

1967 – The Old Scotch general committee meeting dated 10 April 1967 under the Warriors coach's report reads as follows: "There was talk of affiliation, but Bill Tingate spoke of the problems of officials. Manson Russel said there would be no new grade (in the VAFA) for some years now. Allen Morris thought we could tighten up the (existing) competition and pointed out that *Old Melburnians*, *Old Caulfield* and the school teams were eager to play social matches". The "Drum Sheet" makes comment on the matter as follows: "The team should continue as a social team, as this enables more players to get at least part of a game". A typed list of fixtures was prepared but very much altered. Played against APS schools MGS 3rd XVIII, SC 1st XVIII & 3rd XVIII, WC 1st XVIII and XC 2nd XVIII and MHS 2nd XVIII. Also played against VAFA clubs *Caulfield Grammarians*, *Collegians*, *Monash University*, *Old Melburnians*, *Old Paradians*, *Power House* and *Old Scotch's Veterans*. Played 19, won 14, lost 5: Coach Dr. Ian Findlay, captain Jim Freemantle, best & fairest Dave Goble.

1968 – A typed list of fixtures prepared but again significantly altered. Played against APS schools, CGS 3rd XVIII, MGS 3rd XVIII, SC 2nd XVIII & 3rd XVIII and WC 3rd XVIII. Also played against VAFA clubs *Collegians*, *Caulfield Grammarians*, *Monash University*, *Old Melburnians*,

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB XVIII FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION (Part 1)

Old Paradians, Old Scotch's Veterans, Power House and University. Played 17, won 14, lost 3: Coach Dr. Ian Findlay, captain and best & fairest John Head.

1969 – It was suggested that this team was now effectively a reserves team for the Old Scotch VAFA Juniors team and the Old Scotch VAFA Reserves team. A typed list of fixtures was again prepared. Played against APS school teams, MGS 2nd XVIII & 3rd XVIII, SC 3rd XVIII & U16A, WC 3rd XVIII and XC 2nd XVIII & 3rd XVIII. Also played against VAFA clubs *Caulfield Grammarians, Collegians, Old Paradians, Power House and University.* Played 18, won 14, lost 4: Coach Dr. Ian Findlay, captain Peter Wood and best & fairest Gregor Evans.

1970 – A typed list of fixtures was produced but was altered as the season progressed. Only three games were played against APS school teams, twice against MGS 3rd XVIII and once against SC 3rd XVIII. The remaining fourteen games were played against VAFA clubs *Collegians, Dookie-Longerenong, Kew, Melbourne University, Monash University and Old Melburnians.* Played 17, won 14, lost 3: the “Chief Warrior” was Peter Wood, who was coach & captain and the best & fairest was Grant Garrett.

During the previous ten years, the *Old Scotch* Thirds team had played against the following APS school teams: Carey GS 1st XVIII, Caulfield GS 3rd XVIII, GGS 1st XVIII, MGS 1st, 2nd & 3rd XVIIIs, SC 1st, 2nd & 3rd XVIIIs and U16A, WC 2nd & 3rd XVIIIs and XC 2nd & 3rd XVIIIs and U16A and non APS school teams MHS 2nd XVIII and St Patrick's.

During the previous ten years, the Old Scotch Thirds team had played against the following VAFA clubs: *Caulfield Grammarians, Collegians, Commercial Bank, Dookie-Longerenong, Kew, Melbourne High School Old Boys, Monash University, Old Carey, Old Melburnians, Old Paradians, Old Xaverians, Power House, Preston and (Melbourne) University.*

The following is an extract from the Old Scotch general committee minutes dated 8 December, 1970 under special business:

“Warriors – possible entry of this team into an official competition”.

“The executive to approach the coaches and obtain the coaches ideas on the matter”.

“Bob Ball had commenced investigation of how *University Reds* operates – Compete in Metropolitan (Football) League (1970/72) – Cost \$350 - \$400.”

“Bill Tingate mentioned minor problems that would arise – outside competition, players transferring would be required to stand out for two weeks to return to VAFA – available ground, 12.00pm or 2.00pm competition – officials to control the team – at present more than 18 players can get a run each week”.

Next week we will continue to look at the Club XVIII/Third XVIII competition ...

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