

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.

## **Formation of the Warriors Competition 1971**

The following extracts from the minutes of the Old Scotch club general committee minutes tell the story.

Meeting held 2 March 1971: - "Warriors admission to a football league – too late for admission and also a great drawback regarding availability of players for Senior, Reserve and Junior eighteens in amateur competition. Col Thomson to arrange a suitable social competition between willing amateur clubs".

Meeting held 6 April 1971: - "Warriors competition – Two meetings held to date. One at *Old Scotch* and one at *Caulfield*. Games arranged for first six weeks. Nine, possibly ten clubs interested. Next meeting on 23 May when rules for the competition will be discussed. Col Thomson and Peter Wood to be commended on the organisation of a Warriors competition".

Meeting held 1 **June 1971**: - "**Warriors competition** has now been organised. Comprises six teams and finals are to be played with the top three teams being eligible. Second and third teams to play off in semi-final and winner of that game to meet the first side in the grand final. A cheque for \$5.00, being a one-sixth payment for the cost of premiership flag, is to be paid to Peter Wood. Secretary to contact Peter Wood congratulating him on arrangements for a Warriors competition".

Before the commencement of the "official season" the *Old Scotch* team continued to play social games of football as in previous seasons.

Six teams entered this new competition and in the first game of the "Warriors Association" on **5 June 1971**, *Old Scotch* 19.11.125 defeated *St Kilda CBC* 4.6.30 at Yarra Park. The results of the other two games are not known.

The scores in the final round, round 10 played on 14/8/1971 were:

*Old Scotch* 17.15.117 defeated *Power House/Old Haileybury* 1.4.10

*St Kilda CBC* 8.8.56 defeated *Caulfield Grammarians* 4.7.31

*Old Melburnians* 13.7.85 defeated *Collegians* 7.5.47

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Peter Wood, the organiser of the competition, described the ladder as “Amateur Football Social Competition” and the final ladder positions were:

	<b>Played</b>	<b>Won</b>	<b>Lost</b>	<b>Points</b>
<i>Old Scotch</i>	10	9	1	36
<i>St Kilda CBC</i>	10	8	2	32
<i>Power House/Haileybury</i>	10	6	4	24
<i>Caulfield Grammarians</i>	10	4	6	16
<i>Old Melburnians</i>	10	2	8	8
<i>Collegians</i>	10	1	9	4

The semi-final between *St Kilda CBC* and *Power House/Old Haileybury* was played on 21 August 1971 and was won by the latter, the scores not known.

On this day, *Old Scotch* played a match against *Caulfield Grammarians* to tune-up for the grand-final.

The grand-final was played on 28 August 1971 commencing at 11.30am at Flinders Park, the home ground of the *AMP Society* and *the ANZ Bank*.

Quarter by quarter scores:

1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	<i>Old Scotch</i>	2.1.13	<i>Power House/Old Haileybury</i>	2.0.12
2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter		4.2.26		2.0.12
3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter		4.2.26		6.1.37
Final		8.8.56		6.1.37

*Old Scotch* best players: Ross McLean, Ross Boulter, Dave Johnston, Roger Gibbons, Geoff McCracken and Chris Nixon

*Old Scotch* goal kickers: Ross McLean 3, Ray Sneddon 2, Rob Garnsworthy 1, Geoff McCracken 1 and Phil Wright 1

*Power House/Old Haileybury* supplied the umpire.

Henry Brzezinski from *Power House* recalls the first season. “We combined with *Old Haileybury* and the team was about 50/50 from each club. The team comprised of players mainly in their late 20s and early 30s that had retired from senior football, had heavy work commitments and did not train regularly. *Old Haileybury* players included Peter Davies (ex *Power House* and ex Captain/Coach of *Old Haileybury* that won a “D” Grade Premiership) and at least two ex-*Melbourne Seconds* players. Of course Rohan Booth also came into the team about this time. We had quite a good team and made the grand final but were beaten by *Old Scotch* at their ground, which is now the Tennis Centre”.

The following is an extract from the *Power House* history written by Ian Hammet on the 1971 season. “With a surplus of players, the club considered it important to try and give as many players as possible a game each week. To give greater depth to the Reserves and Under 19s in the advent of injuries, the Club decided to enter a team in the newly formed Social Football competition comprised mostly of old school amateur teams but not formally affiliated with the VAFA. Henry Brzezinski was appointed playing coach, manager and orange boy of the “Socials” – in a combined team with *Old Haileybury*. Half way through the season, the Socials were renamed the Club XVIII, giving the competition added gravitas. Playing on the Ross Gregory oval, the *Power House/Old Haileybury* combined team ultimately played off in the grand final going down to *Old Scotch*”.

The following is the *Old Scotch* annual report on the season:

“Warriors – This team played in an organised competition, the formation of which was initiated by *Old Scotch* mainly through the enterprise and enthusiasm of Peter Wood, ably assisted by Col Thompson.

In a season in which every club played the others twice with the three top ones competing in a final series, *Old Scotch* convincingly won the pennant. It is to be hoped that this competition will prosper and merit, in due course, some official status. All players epitomise the true spirit of amateurism and merit every encouragement. We are proud of our warriors and gratefully acknowledge their immense worth to the Club. Particularly, we record our warm thanks to Ian Symington, who undertook the duties of central umpire and did a most commendable job. Our Warriors vociferously protest any relationship between their success and the popular man in white. Their opponents agree, so, Ian ranks, accordingly, not only as a master of the complex rules, but also one of tact and impartiality. Peter Wood has indeed set a high standard for his successor”

The *Old Haileybury* history “Play Hard and Play for the Game” states:

“*Old Haileybury’s* venture into Club XVIII football is first mentioned in the club’s archives around 1971. The *Old Haileyburians Cricket Club* plays of course in the “Club X1 competition under the auspices of the *Melbourne Cricket Club*, and “Club XVIII” football had the same ideals of giving more elderly gentlemen of the game the opportunity to display their skills under less pressure. Unfortunately, particularly with the introduction of finals to the competition, winning has become more important and this grade of football is not far different from the norm now.”

## **The Warriors Competition and subsequent name change to the Club XVIII Football Association 1972 – 1986**

In 1961, the club founded a third senior team to afford players that failed to attain selection in either the Reserves or Under 19s teams the chance to play football and to also fully use both adjoining grounds each Saturday.

From **1961 – 1970**, the team operated on a predominantly informal social basis. The annual fixture consisted of games against APS and other school teams, plus other VAFA clubs.

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However, in **1971** the club was a prime-mover in formalising this competition under the banner “**Club XVIII Football Association**”. In **1987**, the merger of the *Club XVIII Football Association* with the recently formed VAFA G Section, later to become known as *Club XVIII Grade* of the VAFA, was effectively a takeover by the VAFA, as the revised VAFA player registration requirements for the 1987 season eliminated the free interchange of players between both associations. At the time, *Old Scotch* player Andrew Caithness was secretary of the *Club XVIII Football Association*.

1961 – 1964 the third senior team was known as the Old Scotch “Socials”

1965 – 1970 the team was re-named the Old Scotch “Warriors”

1971 – 1979 the team played in the newly formed *Club XVIII Football Association* as the Old Scotch “Warriors”

1980 – 1982 the team was re-badged as the Old Scotch “Cardinals” in the *Club XVIII Football Association*

1983 – 1986 the team reverted to its original Old Scotch “Warriors” name in the *Club XVIII Football Association*

1987 – 2009 the team played as “*Old Scotch*” in the newly formed VAFA *Club XVIII* competition in the Club XVIII Section 1

2010 – Today the team is known as *Old Scotch* and plays in the VAFA’s Thirds competition (2010 – 2016 in ‘Premier Thirds’ section, 2017 in ‘Premier B Thirds’ section, 2018 back in ‘Premier Thirds’ section, in 2019 in ‘Premier B Thirds’ section and in 2021 & 2022 back in ‘Premier Thirds’ section).

In the 52 years from 1971 to 2022, the *Old Scotch* Thirds have appeared in 9 grand finals, winning 3 and losing 6.

Next week we will look at the number “21” jumper ...

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