

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – MANSON RUSSEL'S BEST EVER OSFC TEAM – CENTRELINE

Welcome back to this years' edition of "**Crackers Chronicles**". This week we will trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions made by some of our greatest players.

On 3 May 1994, in the weekly OSCFC *Drumsheet* newsletter, Manson Russel published his best ever Old Scotch side based on the players that he actually saw play. On 22 June 2017, I interviewed Manson to confirm his selections. (The era they played is in brackets underneath):

FB:	Brian Barkway (50-60's)	Jim Lillie (40-50's)	Don Morone (40-50's)
HB:	Rob Fuller (80-90's)	Mike Perry (60's)	Dick Tindale (50-60's)
C:	Marten Bedford (40-50's)	Ken Melville (50-60's)	Peter Brown (80-90's)
HF:	Mick Eggleston (40-50's)	Lionel King (50's)	Peter Sherwen (70-90's)
FF:	Mike Fitchett (40's)	David Hughes (60-70's)	Graeme McLean (60's)
Foll:	Peter Harkness (50-60's)	John Anderson (60-80's)	Ian Law (50-60's)
Int:	John Moir (80-90's)	Rod Olsson (60's)	Andrew Smith (80-90's)

This week we focus on the centreline players and followers ...

M. G. Marten Bedford ("Cheeky")

In 1948, Marten Bedford was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 59 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1948 – 1952. He debuted in our Seniors on 24 April 1948. He was a Victorian State Representative in 1949 & 1951 and an Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1951. After he retired from playing, he coached our Juniors in 1953.

His son David Bedford played 120 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1978 – 1985, playing in our 1978 "A Section" premiership team.

In 2000, Marten was selected on the wing in our *OSFC Team of the Century*.

Manson described Marten as a very skilful and pacey player both handballing and kicking.

P. K. Ken Melville

In 1958, Ken Melville, an Old Scotch boy was recruited to the club from *University Blacks FC*. He had been a Victorian amateur representative in 1952 & 1953, and then played 71 games for the *Melbourne FC* from 1953 – 1956. From 1958 – 1961, he played 59 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He debuted in our Seniors on 12 July 1958 and captained our Club in 1961. Ken's brother, Colin Melville, played 188 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1953 – 1966.

In 2000, Ken was selected on the wing in our *OSFC Team of the Century*.

Manson described Ken as a very skilful ex-VFL all-rounder. Ken gave up VFL football to become a Presbyterian minister.

P. A. Peter Brown

In 1975, Peter Brown was recruited from *Scotch College* and played three games while still at school. He debuted in our Seniors on 9 August 1975. He played 192 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1975 – 1976 & 1982 – 1992.

From 1977 – 1980 he played 44 games for the *Fitzroy FC*. He was a Victorian State Representative in 1982, 1983 & 1984, and an Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1983.

He was awarded a Life Member of our club in 1994.

In 2000, Peter was selected in the back pocket in our *OSFC Team of the Century*.

Manson described Peter as very solid all round player.

P. K. Peter Harkness (“Pole”)

In 1956, Peter Harkness, an old boy of *Scotch College* was recruited from *University Blues* and played one season to become our club's Best & Fairest. He debuted in our Seniors on 21 April 1956. He also played in a demonstration game of Australian Rules football at the Olympic Games between the VAFA and a team of amateur players drawn from the VFL and VFA. In 1959, he returned to the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played 73 games for our club in 1956 & from 1959 – 1962. He was our club's Best & Fairest again in 1960 & 1962, a Victorian State Representative in 1956 & 1960, and an Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1960. He captained our club in 1962.

In 2000, Peter was named in the ruck changing in the forward pocket in our *OSFC Team of the Century*. Peter died in 2016.

Manson described Pole as a tremendous footballer who, because of his height, always played in the ruck. He was a good mark and kicked goals when resting in the forward pocket.

J. D. John Anderson (“Ando”)

In 1966, John Anderson was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 229 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1966 – 1980. In 1966, he was our Under 19s leading goalkicker. He debuted in our Seniors on 21 June 1966. John captained the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for seven years from 1972 – 1973 & 1975 – 1979. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976 & 1977, and our club leading goalkicker in 1973.

He played in our back-to-back premiership teams of 1977 (B section) & 1978 (A section).

He was a Victorian State Representative in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1977 (Captain), and Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1973 & 1976.

In 1978, he was awarded a Life Member of the club, also for having played 200 games for the Club in 1978. Unfortunately, John died of a heart attack in Greece in 1999.

In 2000, John was named as captain and ruck rover of our *OSFC Team of the Century*, and later in 2013 made a VAFA Big V Champion.

Manson described Ando as brilliant all round footballer.

I. K. Ian Law (“Liberty”)

In 1956, Ian Law was recruited from *Scotch College* where he was Captain of Football in 1956, and played 71 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1956 – 1960. He debuted in our Seniors on 27 April 1957. He was a Victorian State Representative in 1958, 1959 & 1960 and an Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1958. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1959 and VAFA “A section” Best & Fairest in 1959. He then went on and played 106 games for the *Hawthorn FC* from 1960 – 1968. Later he coached our club in 1973 & 1974.

Manson described Liberty as an automatic pick as first rover.

Next week we will look at the forwardline players ...

I welcome any feedback to gmccracken@oldscotchfc.com.au