

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB CAPTAINS PRE-WAR (1921 – 1940)

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

This season, as promised, each week in this column we will trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions made by our great club captains.

This week we focus on our club captains before the War ...

R. C. Clive Heatley Jnr ("Cocky") 1921 – 1925

An old boy of *Scotch College* where he had been Captain of Football in 1913, Clive Heatley, better known as "Cocky", played four games for *University FC* in the VFL in 1914. He later captained the *University FC* in the MFA in 1914 & 1915. After WWI, in 1919 & 1920 he captained *University A FC* in the VJFL.

However, upon foundation of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1921, he was recruited to the club from *University A FC* to both captain and coach the team, which he did for five years from 1921 – 1925.

"Cocky", a centreman, was said to combine considerable all-round football ability with mastery in the art of 'staging' for free kicks. Under Heatley, Old Scotch went top of the ladder in 1923 and 1924, with Allan Staley stamping himself as the MFA's best ruckman of the period, the McLorinan brothers Sandy & Jock marshalling a watertight defence, and the likes of Gordon Law, Harold Staley and Clive Fergie (ex-*Fitzroy FC*) giving the side unmatched strength through the middle. After slipping to second in 1925, the side quickly resumed its supremacy with two more flags in 1926 and 1927.

"Cocky" played seven seasons with our club from 1921 – 1927, was the club's Best & Fairest in 1921 & 1923, **premiership captain and coach in 1923 & 1924**, as well as the club's leading goalkicker in 1924.

In 1923 he both captained and coached the club to its first **A Section Premiership** - *Old Scotch* 17.11.113 defeating *University B* 12.7.79.

In 1924 he again both captained and coached the club to its second **A Section Premiership** - *Old Scotch* 11.6.72 defeating *Hampton Amateur* 7.13.35.

In 1925 he captained and coached the club to be A Section Runners Up - *Elsternwick A* 6.15.51 defeating *Old Scotch* 3.12.30

"Cocky" was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1972, but he died in 1973.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Cocky in the centre and both captain & coach of his team.

C. A. Clive Fergie 1926 - 1929

An old boy of *Scotch College* where he had been in the School 1st XVIII in 1912 – 1914, Captain of Football in 1914, Clive Fergie joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1926 from *Fitzroy FC* at the age of 30, after having played 50 games for *Fitzroy FC* and kicking 37 goals in five seasons from 1920 – 1924. He then played with our club for another five seasons from 1926 – 1930. He played in our 1926 & 1927 premiership teams in the number "1" jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1926. Clive both captained and coached our club for four years from 1926 – 1929, **winning the "A" Section premierships in 1926 & 1927**.

In 1926 he both captained and coached the club to an **A Section Premiership** - *Old Scotch* 9.16.70 defeating *Elsternwick A* 7.16.58.

In 1927 he again both captained and coached the club to another **A Section Premiership** - *Old Scotch* 19.10.124 defeating *University B* 13.12.90.

He then continued to both captain and coach the club in 1928 & 1929, and just coach in 1930. Clive died in 1960. In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Clive on the half-forward flank and deputy vice-captain of his team.

G. W. Gavin Paterson 1930 - 1934

Gavin Paterson joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1923 in the number "20" jumper and then went on to play twelve seasons with our club until 1934. He played in our 1924, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 premiership teams. He was club captain for five years from 1930 – 1934, **captaining four successive A Section premiership sides** in the number "1" jumper.

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In 1931, coached by Jack Petchell, he captained the club to be an **A Section Premiership - Old Scotch** 10.11.71 defeating *Elsternwick* 7.13.55.

In 1932, coached by Lou Bols, he again captained the club to another **A Section Premiership - Old Scotch** 13.18.96 defeating *State Savings Bank* 10.8.68.

In 1933, coached by Gus Dobrigh, he captained the club to yet another third-in-a-row **A Section Premiership - Old Scotch** 15.16.106 defeating *University Blacks* 10.14.74.

In 1934, coached by Vic Belcher, he yet again captained the club to an unprecedented fourth-in-a-row **A Section Premiership - Old Scotch** 16.10.106 defeating *University Blacks* 13.11.89.

Unfortunately, serious injury in his last triumph, the 1934 Grand Final, closed his twelve years playing career. He is the club's most successful club captain. Gavin died in 1971.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Gavin on the wing and vice-captain of his team.

J. G. Gordon Law 1935

Gordon Law was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1922 and went on to play 15 seasons (267 games – a then club record) for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1922 – 1936. He played in the eight pre-war "A" Section premiership teams of 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1927 & 1928.

Gordon was the club's Best & Fairest in the premiership year of 1932 and captained the club for one year in 1935.

In 1935 he captained the club to be A Section Runners Up - *University Blacks* 16.12.108 defeating *Old Scotch* 12.20.92.

He started his career in the number "12" jumper, then the number "2" jumper and finished his career in the number "9" jumper.

Gordon was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1959, having already played 200 games back in 1930. Gordon died in 1966.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Gordon on the half-forward flank of his team.

Gordon is father of OSCFC player Max Law (1953) and champion OSCFC & Hawthorn FC player Ian Law (1956 – 1960).

E. M. Ewen "Ginner" Davidson 1936 - 1937

Ewen "Ginner" Davidson was recruited from *Scotch College* and played six seasons for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1927 and from 1932 – 1937 playing first in the number "25" jumper and later in the number "8" jumper. He played in our 1932 "A" Section premiership team and captained the club for two years in 1936 & 1937. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1933.

Ewen was awarded a Life Member in 1972. Ginner died in 1989.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Ginner at centre half-forward of his team.

W. J. Wally Morris 1938 - 1939

Wally Morris joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1929 and went on to play twelve seasons with our club until 1946. He played in our 1932, 1933 & 1934 premiership teams in the number "11" jumper. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1933 & 1936. He captained our club in 1938, and 1939 until he was forced to give up the captaincy due to business pressure when Alex Guild then took over as captain. Wally died in 1967.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Wally in the ruck in his team.

A. G. Alex Guild 1939 - 1940

Alex Guild joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1929 and went on to play twelve seasons with our club until 1940. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 premiership teams in the number "19" jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1933. Alex took over as club captain in 1939 when Wally Morris retired due to business pressure, and continued to captain our club in 1940 until the competition was disbanded after Round 9 due to the War. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1935 & 1938. Alex died in 2002.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Alex on the wing of his team.

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Next week we will look at the club captains immediately after the War ...

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