

Old Scotch Football Club  
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB CAPTAINS POST-WAR (1946 – 1960)

Welcome back to this week's 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 immediately after the War ...

**A. McL. Arthur "Mac" Wilson 1946**

In 1946, with the re-commencement of amateur football after a period of nearly six years inactivity due to World War II, the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* again fielded a team in the VAFA. Fortunately, all pre-war club office-bearers agreed to carry on "pro tem" in order to get the club back on its feet again. Naturally however, but for a few exceptions, very few of those who played in 1940 stripped again.

In 1946, Arthur "Mac" Wilson was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had been Captain of Football back in 1940, but played just eleven games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in his one season of 1946 with our club, in the number "6" jumper. In 1940, Mac had been Captain of Football at *Scotch College*. After leaving school, he played five games for the *Melbourne Football Club* before enlisting in the AIF from 1941 – 1946. Upon discharge, he joined the recently re-formed *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* with Mike Fitchett as his vice-captain. Legend has it that as a young player of only 24 years of age, he felt a little over-awed addressing and leading a team of older, more mature players. However, coached by Allan Hopkins, he led the team into the A Section grand final against *University Blacks* ending up as *A Section Runners Up – University Blacks* 23.19.157 defeating *Old Scotch* 13.16.94. Mac died in 1996.

**M. K. Michael Fitchett 1947 - 1949**

In 1946, Michael Fitchett was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had been Captain of Football in 1945, and played 67 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1946 – 1949 in the number "19" jumper. He was the club's leading goalkicker in 1946 & 1947 and captained our club for three years from 1947 – 1949. He was a Victorian representative in 1948 & 1949. Later from 1953 – 1956 he played 30 games for the *Hawthorn Football Club*.

In 2000, Mike was named in the centre in the *OSFC Team of the Century*.

**L. M. Laurie Muir 1950 - 1951**

In 1946, Laurie Muir was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 12 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in the number "7" jumper, before transferring to *University Blacks* in 1947. In 1950, Laurie re-joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* to captain our club for two years and played a further 47 games in the number "3" jumper until 1953 for a total of 59 games for our club. Laurie died in 2010.

**J. M. Jim Lillie 1952**

In 1948, Jim Lillie was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 59 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1948 – 1953 in the number "15" jumper. He was a Victorian representative in 1951 and an Australian Amateur Football Council representative in 1951. He captained our club for one year in 1952.

In 2000, Jim was named at full-back in the *OSFC Team of the Century*. Jim died in 2009.

**M. G. Manson Russel 1953 - 1954 & 1957 - 1960**

In 1948, Manson Russel was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he was Captain of Football in 1948, and played three senior games while still at school. He went on and played a then record 235 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1948 – 1962 in the famous number "4" jumper. In 1950, he was the club's Best & Fairest and the VAFA "A" Section Best & Fairest. Later he was named the club's Best Team Player in 1953, 1955, 1956 & 1957. He was the club's leading goalkicker from 1949 – 1954 & 1956 – 1959, totalling over 400 goals.

Manson captained the club for six years in 1953, 1954 & 1957 – 1960. He was a Victorian representative in 1952, 1953, 1956 & 1959.

During his playing career, he was also our tenth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1955 & 1956. He coached our club for four years from 1958 – 1960 and again in 1963.

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In 1958 he captained and coached the club to be *A Section Runners Up - Collegians* 9.6.60 defeating *Old Scotch* 8.6.54.

In 1959 he again captained and coached the club to be *A Section Runners* again - *Collegians* 14.12.96 again defeating *Old Scotch* 11.8.74.

Manson also managed to play in our Reserves premiership team in 1961 captained by Don Vale and coached by John Gifford. *Old Scotch* 9.9.63 defeated *University* 3.7.25 to become *North Reserves Section Premiers*. *Old Scotch* 8.9.57 then defeated *Ormond* 2.6.18 (*South Reserves Premiers*) to be *Champions of Reserves Sections*.

He was awarded a Life Member of our Club in 1970, having also played 200 games for our club back in 1961. Our annual award to a senior player for the “Most Sacrificial Acts” is named after Manson Russel.

In 2000, Manson was named as resting forward-pocket rover and deputy vice-captain 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.

### **A. R. Allen Morris 1955 -1956**

In 1952, Allen Morris was recruited from *Scotch College*. He played 148 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1952 – 1962 in the number “24” jumper, debuting in our Seniors on 3 May 1952. He played two games in our first Juniors premiership team of 1952 and was vice-captain. In 1953, together with his brother Ralph, he started, published and mailed out the weekly OSCFC “Drumsheet” newsletter (later changed to an email formatted “eDrumsheet” in 2006, and from 2014 published on the OSFC website).

Allen captained the club for two years in 1955 & 1956. In 1955, coached by Peter Joseland, Allen captained the club to be *B Section Runners Up*, but returning the club to A Section - *Coburg* 10.12.72 defeating *Old Scotch* 8.2.50.

He was the club’s Best & Fairest in 1957 and also a Victorian State Representative in 1959 & 1960.

In 1958, Allen was instrumental in establishing our Reserves team and also our Warriors team in 1961.

He coached our Juniors in 1961 and our Warriors in 1962 & 1966.

Allen was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1970.

In 2017, Allen was named in the ruck and captain of our *OSFC Reserve Team of the Century*.

Allen is the brother of fellow OSCFC Life Member Ralph Morris (1952 – 1963) and continues to attend our matches.

Next week we will look at the club captains of the Sixties ...

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