

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB LEGENDS 1930s (1930 – 1939)

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 legends.

This week we focus on club legends of the glorious 1930s ...

G. W. Gavin Paterson

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 premierships. He was club captain for five years from 1930 – 1934, **captaining four successive A Section premiership sides** in the number "1" jumper.

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 illustrious twelve years playing career. He is the club's most successful club captain. After he retired, he served on the VAFA Executive from 1947 – 1951. 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.

W. E. William "Bill" Pearson

Bill Pearson was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1931 and played eight seasons for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1931 – 1937, and again after the War in 1946 for only three games, debuting in our Seniors in 1931 and playing in the number "3" jumper. **He was an A Section premiership player in 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934**, our club's Best & Fairest in 1934, 1935 & 1937, and **our club's leading goalkicker from 1931 – 1937, kicking 1,023 goals in just seven seasons:**

- 1931 95 goals
 - 1932 126 goals
 - 1933 168 goals
 - 1934 220 goals
 - 1935 138 goals
 - 1936 121 goals
 - 1937 155 goals
- 1,023 goals

During his time with our club, Bill played in 101 wins (kicking 845 goals for an average of 8.36 per game), 33 losses (kicking 164 goals for an average of 4.96 per game) and 2 draws (kicking 13 goals for an average of 6.5 per game). At one stage during 1932 and 1933, Bill played in sixteen successive wins to which he contributed 132 goals at an average of 8.25 per game. From Round 14 to Round 18 in 1934, Bill kicked bags of 15, 30, 10, 11 & 17 goals. He is the club's most prolific goalkicker.

He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 & 1937. Bill also kicked 57 goals in interstate games with a highest total of 16 against Tasmania.

Later in 1939 & 1940, he coached our club.

Our annual "Most Valuable Club Person" award is named after Bill.

Bill was also a Victorian District cricketer with the *St Kilda Cricket Club* (190 matches) and the *Camberwell Cricket Club* (1 match) scoring 4,947 runs at an average of 30.16 and taking 189 wickets at an average of 20.53. He also played 14 matches for *Victoria* scoring 467 runs and taking 26 wickets. Bill died in 1987.

In his team of the best OSCFC players before the War, Hec Ingram named Bill as full-forward of his team.

E. McC. Ewen Davidson (“Ginner”)

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 as centre half-forward of his team.

Our annual award to a senior player of “Team Player of the Year” is named after Ewen.

V. T. Vern Tilley

Vern Tilley, an *Old Scotch Boy*, was the fourth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for 12 years from 1932 – 1948. He was a premiership Secretary in 1932, 1933 & 1934. After World War II, in 1946 Vern helped re-form the club when all pre-war club officials resumed their roles. **He is the club’s longest serving Club Secretary.** He then went on to become the fourth President of our club for six years from 1953 – 1958. He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1949, and made a Patron of the Club in 1959. Vern died in 1984.

L. A. Augustine “Gus” Dobrigh

Gus Dobrigh was a former *Collingwood Football Club* 1917 premiership player from 1914 – 1921 and *Port Melbourne Football Club* player from 1922 – 1924. Also, he was a former coach of the *Northcote Football Club* in 1925 and the *Preston Football Club* in 1926 & 1927. Gus coached the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for seven years, 1933, 1935 – 1938 and again in 1948 & 1949, with an **A Section premiership in 1933.** He also coached our Juniors in 1954. He was an icon as a loyal supporter in his gabardine overcoat supporting the club each week right up until the late seventies. He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1961. Gus died in 1982.

Next week we will look at club legends of the 1940s ...

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