

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – CLUB LUMINARIES

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 great club luminaries.

This week we focus on ...

R. S. Bob "Red" Arnold

In 1946, Bob Arnold was recruited from *Scotch College* playing 78 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1946 – 1951, debuting in our Seniors on 4 May 1946 and playing in the number "21" jumper. He played in our first match after World War II. He also played in the 1946 A Section Grand Final against *University Blacks* – a champion team that, unfortunately for us, took out the premiership undefeated that year! In that match, Bob rucked tirelessly against the great Denis Corder and was *Old Scotch's* best player.

In the Eighties, Bob served on the club's general committee as our 'super-salesman' for all social events – "Bums on seats" was his adage!

Bob was very proud of his two sons who also played for our club, John Arnold from 1977 – 1982 for 74 games and Bruce Arnold from 1979 – 1989 for 132 games.

Bob was a very staunch and vocal supporter – his loud voice booming out over the ground ... "Pick up your man Scotch!" will be forever sadly missed. Bob was very well known in amateur football circles. Bob died in 2016.

J. W. R. John Bell

John Bell is an old boy who left *Scotch College* in 1960 but joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1990 to manage our Under 19s team, after having first managed teams for *Bulleen Templestowe FC*. In 1991, he joined our club's general committee and then in 1992 first became Club Secretary for five years until 1996. From 1994 – 1996, John also acted as the club's Registration Secretary. In 1998, he again became Club Secretary before joining the VAFA Executive from 1999 – 2008, and being their Vice President from 2003 - 2008. In 2009, the VAFA awarded John with Life Membership.

W. C. Wally Birch

Wally Birch, an old boy of *Scotch College*, first started supporting the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* when his eldest son David Birch joined our club in 1961. David Birch was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 156 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1961 – 1968 & 1970 – 1974, debuting in our Seniors on 2 April 1963 and playing in the number "3" jumper. He played in our 1965 B Section premiership team and was club Best & Fairest in 1965. He was also a Victorian State representative in 1966. David captained our club for one year in 1967. Wally's youngest son John Birch was also recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 72 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1965 – 1968, debuting in our Seniors on 24 April 1966 and playing in the number "54" jumper.

For over 40 years, Wally continued to loyally support our club and attend our matches, well after his sons had retired from playing. Wally died in 2009.

B. A. Bruce Brown

Bruce Brown attended *Scotch College* as a student from 1956 – 1960 and then was a member of the teaching staff from 1985 – 2007, which included 17 years as Group Master (later known as Head of Year) of Form 3 (Year 9). During that time, he oversaw the school life of over 3,500 Scotch boys and was a much loved member of staff. He was a foundation member of the *Scotch College 1858 Club*, set up to support Australian Rules football within the School and to link boys with the *Old Scotch Football Club*. He edited the School's football newsletter *Two Flags* from 1997 – 2007. Upon retirement in 2007, he joined the Council of the Old Scotch Collegians' Association and in 2013 was its 70th President.

In 2013, Bruce edited the history book *With a Keen but Loving Eye – A Century History of the Old Scotch Collegians' Association 1913 – 2013*. He now edits the history book of the *Old Scotch Football*

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Club. Bruce is a keen and very passionate member and supporter of the *Melbourne Football Club*. Bruce is also a long-time member and supporter of the *Old Scotch Football Club*.

R. R. Ross Duke

In 1978, to top-up our 1977 B Section premiership team, Laurie Aghan recruited Ross Duke to our club from *Old Paradians Football Club*, where he had been captain. Laurie had coached Ross in Victorian representative teams. Ross played 79 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1978 – 1983, playing in the number “23” jumper and debuting in our Seniors on 22 April 1978. He played in our 1978 A Section premiership team and went on to be our club’s Best & Fairest in 1979. In 1982, Laurie Aghan is reported as saying that “Ross Duke was the best player he’d ever seen never play VFL”. One of the things Ross brought to our club with his business expertise was how to raise considerable income for our club for many years from the bottling and sale of club-branded wine.

F. A. F. Frank “Faf” Fleming

Frank Fleming attended *Scotch College* from 1922 – 1925 and played in the 1925 1st XVIII. He joined the teaching staff in 1930.

In 1932, “Faf” Fleming was recruited from the School and played four seasons for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1932 – 1935 playing in the number “24” jumper. He played in our A Section premiership teams of 1933 & 1934.

War service against Japan intervened and Faf was to experience three and a half years as a Prisoner of War at Changi and Sandakan. Returning to Scotch after the war, he became a pivotal figure in the life of the school in the boarding house, the cadet unit and on the football field. He coached the school 1st XVIII from 1949 – 1953 and 1955 – 1956.

In 1952, together with great colleague and friend Ewen “Ginner” Davidson, he was instrumental in starting our Juniors who went on to win the 1952 VAFA Under 19s premiership. Often he provided players from the school and the boarding house to help keep the numbers up. For many years, he served as Vice President of our club. He was very influential in helping our club obtain a guaranteed loan from the Old Scotch Collegians Association to help finance the new joint club social rooms at Yarra Park. He was responsible for building the bridge between the School and the football club. Our social room at the Camberwell Sportsground is named in his honour. Faf died in 1963.

B. W. Brian Hawdon

In 1952, Brian Hawdon was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player, playing 8 games in our Juniors whilst still at school. He played in our first Juniors match. The following year, he played 17 games in our Juniors and debuted in our Seniors on 2 May 1953. He then went on and played a total of 65 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1952 – 1957, playing in the number “45” jumper. Brian is a long-time member of our club and regularly attends our matches. In recent seasons, he has assisted our senior coaches by recording match statistics.

Brian is the father of OSFC player Andrew Hawdon who played 141 games for our club between 1981 – 1993, captained our Reserves in 1989 and was our Club 18 Best & Fairest in 1991.

A. R. Ross McLean

In 1969, Ross McLean was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 206 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1969 – 1983, playing first in the number “67” jumper before later changing to the number “3” jumper, and debuting in our Seniors on 18 July 1970. He played in our 1971 Warriors premiership team coached by Peter Wood. He then played in our 1973 Reserves premiership team coached by Leigh McGregor. In 1980, he captained our Reserves coached by Laurie Aghan which won the 1980 Reserves premiership. When in 1983 Ross retired from playing, the club at that time did not recognise Warriors games as “official” club games. However subsequently, the club now includes Warriors/Cardinals/Thirds games since 1971, so over fifteen seasons with our club Ross played over 200 games but unfortunately was never awarded Life Membership, although he was offered it in 2017.

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B. R. Bruce McTaggart

In 1964, Bruce McTaggart was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player playing 117 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1964 – 1971, playing in the number “40” jumper and debuting in our Seniors on 17 May 1966 and playing in the number “40” jumper. In 1967, he played in our A Reserves Premiership team captained & coached by Ray Sneddon. In 1969 he was our Reserves leading goalkicker (also the VAFA Reserves leading goalkicker) and in 1970 he was again our Reserves leading goalkicker.

From 1982 – 1994, he officiated as a VAFA Reserves grade field umpire.

Bruce served on the VAFA Executive from 1996 – 2012, as Chairman of the Executive 2001 – 2003 and was President in 2004 - 2006. In 2007, the VAFA awarded Bruce with Life Membership.

Bruce’s father Ron McTaggart was a long-time supporter of our club and his brother Greg McTaggart was club secretary in 1972.

J. K. John “Pilks” Pilkington

In 1965, John Pilkington was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player playing 125 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1965 – 1972 plus 1977 & 1978, and playing in the number “13” jumper. He played in our Reserves before debuting in our Seniors on 27 May 1967, and then went on to play in our 1967 Reserves premiership team coached by Ray Sneddon. Later he played in our 1969 Reserves premiership team coached by Leigh McGregor and in 1971 captained our Reserves, also coached by Leigh McGregor, was Reserves leading goalkicker and won the Reserves Coach’s Trophy.

Upon retiring as a player, as a lawyer he continued to serve the VAFA for 29 years (1990 – currently) on their Independent Tribunal. In 2008, he was awarded a VAFA Certificate of Merit.

In 2000, when his son James captained our Under 19s that unfortunately lost the Grand Final to *Beaumaris* by one point, John acted as team manager of our Under 19s.

John is father of two OSFC players, James Pilkington 1999 – 2009 for 68 games and Chris Pilkington 2004 – 2009 for 72 games.

R. J. Ray Sneddon

In 1959, Ray Sneddon was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player playing 18 games. Having sustained a long-term cricket injury in the summer of 1960, he then returned to the club debuting in our Seniors on 12 May 1962 and playing 133 games from 1959 – 1971 in the number “49” jumper, but later changing to the number “26” jumper. In 1965, in Don Howell’s first year as *Old Scotch FC* coach, as well as playing in the Reserves, he was the Senior’s team runner in a successful premiership season.

In 1966, Ray captained and coached our Reserves, was our Reserves Best & Fairest and our Reserves leading goalkicker. He was also the VAFA A Reserve Section Best & Fairest in 1966. In 1967, he again captained and coached our Reserves to an A Reserves Section premiership - *Old Scotch* 7.14.56 defeated *Collegians* 6.7.43. In 1968 under coach David Kidd, he captained our Reserves and was our Reserves leading goalkicker, finishing his playing career in our 1971 Warriors premiership team.

Ray is a keen *Essendon Football Club* member and supporter, and founded the *EFC* coterie the *Dick Reynolds Club* in 1995 and was Chairman of the *DRC* from 1996 – 2000 (a Premiership year), and on the *DRC* Committee from 1996 – 2017. The *DRC*, which raises funds for *EFC* Past Players requiring financial support, is now organised by the *EFC* Management and Staff, and plays a very important role in the on-going future of the *Essendon Football Club*.

G. H. George “Geo” Staley

In 1920, George was a member of the *Old Scotch Collegians Club* (albeit not an Old Boy of the School). However, on 15 April 1921 at the first general meeting of the newly founded *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, he, together with J. Donald was elected a founding Secretary of our club,

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which he then held for eight years from 1921 – 1928. In 1928, he accompanied the Victorian amateur team to Adelaide. George died in 1967.

P. M. Peter Warner

Peter Warner, an old boy of *Scotch College* first started supporting the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1990 when his son Anthony Warner was recruited from *Scotch College* as an Under 19s player and played 165 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1990 – 1991, 1993 & 1995 – 2001, playing in the number “40” jumper, and debuting in our Seniors on 1 April 1995 after returning from Queensland. Anthony played in our 1993 Reserves Premiership team captained by Gary Jackson and coached by David Kay, and in his last season 2001, he captained our Reserves coached by Gary Jackson.

In 1993, the *Old Scotch Football Club* re-located from Yarra Park to the Camberwell Sportsground. In 1994, Peter was elected Vice President of the *Old Scotch FC* whilst still President of the *Camberwell Cricket Club* in the VSDCA Competition. In 1996, he initiated the merger with the *Collingwood Cricket Club* to form the *Camberwell Magpies Cricket Club* in Premier cricket, with its home ground at the Camberwell Sportsground. In 1999, the Camberwell Sportsground underwent a major upgrade of the playing surface and drainage of the oval, in which Peter was heavily involved wearing both his football and cricket hats.

Peter continued as a member of our club and in 2006 – 2010 became a Silver club sponsor through his business *Primary Edge Sports*.

In 2007, the Camberwell Sportsground pavilion underwent a major refurbishment. Our electronic scoreboard was named in Peter’s honour for his work in delivering the refurbishment with Council and his association with the ground in both cricket and football since 1954.

In 2014, Peter became Treasurer of our club, then in 2015 Co-President with Rob Jamieson, before becoming sole club President in 2016. In 2018, he was again elected Vice President with responsibility for Administration, particularly with Council.

J. C. G. John “Swish” Wilson

In 1952, John Wilson was recruited from *Scotch College* as a senior player playing 119 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, debuting in our Seniors on 26 April 1952 and playing in the number “12” jumper.

In 1958, the club founded a second senior team to afford players who failed to attain selection in our senior team the chance to play football. Following a meeting between six interested clubs, *Old Scotch FC*, *Ivanhoe FC*, *Old Caulfield Grammarians FC*, *Old Xaverians FC*, *Old Paradians FC* and *Old Melburnians FC*, it was decided to institute a premiership seconds competition with an organised draw. The matches would be played as curtain-raisers to A Section matches and would be umpired by Association umpires. They were determined to prove to the VAFA that a reserve grade competition was a necessity in the association.

In 1958 & 1959, the teams operated as an independent competition. The annual fixture consisted of games against other VAFA clubs who could field a second team. In 1958, the Grand Final was played between *Old Scotch* and *Ivanhoe*.

In 1959, Seniors player Swish Wilson was nearing the end of his playing career and agreed to take on the task of both captaining and coaching our 2nd XVIII. He coached the team to be Runners-up to *Old Paradians* 13.12.90 defeating *Old Scotch* 6.10.70 in the Grand Final. In 1959, Swish was named our Seconds Best & Fairest.

In 1960, the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* was a prime-mover, together with *Old Paradians* in formalising an official ten-team seconds competition under the VAFA banner. (In 1961 it blossomed into two sections of ten teams each and by 1965 into five Reserves grade sections aligned to the Senior sections.)

In 1960, Swish continued to both captain and coach our 2nd XVIII to 3rd position, narrowly losing the Preliminary Final to *Old Melburnians*. After the Preliminary Final, Swish announced his retirement. He was also the VAFA Reserve Section Best & Fairest in 1960. Swish died in 2011.

Swish is the father of OSCFC player Scott Wilson who played 87 games for our club from 1978 – 1979 & 1987 – 1995.

Well folks, that brings us to a close for this year. Next year, we will look at our club presidents and club coaches ...

I welcome any feedback to gmc Cracken@oldscotchfc.com.au