

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1923 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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 our senior premierships players.

This week we focus on our 1923 inaugural premierships players ...

1923 A Section Premiers *Old Scotch* 17.11.113 defeated *University B (Blacks)* 12.7.79 at the Elsternwick Cricket Ground, Elsternwick on 18 August 1923.

Bill Baird	Charles Chapman	Ralph Empey	Harold Francis
Cocky Heatley (C) & (B&F)	Gordon Law	Fred Lester	Sandy McLorinan
Gavin Paterson	Jack Petchell	Fred Phillips	Bruce Scharp
Jim Shankland	Allan Staley (VC)	Harold Staley	William Trethowan
Billy Vickers	Max Wright		

Captain & Coach - Clive "Cocky" Heatley Jnr

An old boy of *Scotch College* where he had played in the School 1st XVIII from 1911 – 1913 and had been Captain of Football in 1913, Clive Heatley, better known as "Cocky", played four games for *University Football Club* in the VFL in 1914. He later captained the *University Football Club* in the MFA in 1914 & 1915. After WWI, in 1919 & 1920 he captained *University A (Blues) Football Club* in the VJFL.

However, upon foundation of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1921, he was recruited to our club from *University A (Blues) Football Club* to both captain and coach our 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 Cocky, *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 Football Club*) giving the side unmatched strength through the centre. 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 our club's Best & Fairest in 1921 & 1923, premierships captain and coach in 1923 & 1924, as well as our club's leading goalkicker in 1924. He played in three A Section premierships teams:

In 1923 he both captained and coached our club to its first A Section premierships - *Old Scotch* 17.11.113 defeating *University B (Blacks)* 12.7.79.

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

In 1925 he captained and coached our club to be A Section runners up - *Elsternwick A* 6.15.51 defeating *Old Scotch* 3.12.30.

In 1926 he played in our A Section premierships team coached by Clive Fergie.

"Cocky" was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1972, but died in 1973.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Cocky in the centre and both captain & coach of his team.

Bill Baird

In 1923, Bill Baird was recruited from *Scotch College* and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1923 – 1925 & 1927. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. Bill died in 1972.

Charles Chapman

In 1923, Charlie Chapman was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII from 1920 – 1922, and played two seasons with the *Old Scotch Football Club* 1923 & 1924. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1924.

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Following the 1924 grand final, Charlie was recruited by the *Fitzroy Football Club*. From 1924 – 1931, he played 104 games for *Fitzroy*, kicking 161 goals. Charlie died in 1978.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Charlie on the half back flank of his team.

Charlie is the brother of former OSCFC player Claude Chapman (1924 & 1927).

Ralph Empey

In 1922, Ralph Empey was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1921 & 1922, and played with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* both in 1922 & 1923 whilst still at school. He played three seasons with our club from 1922 – 1924. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. Following the 1924 grand final, he was recruited by the *Richmond Football Club*. From 1924 – 1925 & 1928 – 1930, Ralph played 49 games for *Richmond*, kicking 29 goals. Ralph died in 1960.

Harold “Snowy” Francis

In our club's foundation year 1921, Harold “Snowy” Francis was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII from 1918 – 1920 and had been Captain of Football in 1920, and played seven seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1921 – 1927, playing in the number “2” jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1922 and played in our 1923, 1924 & 1926 A Section premierships teams. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1925 & 1926. Harold died in 1978.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Snowy in the back pocket of his team.

Gordon “Snowy” Law

In 1922, Gordon “Snowy” Law was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1920 & 1921, and went on to play fifteen seasons (267 games – a then club record) with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1922 – 1936. He played in all eight of our pre-war A Section premierships teams of 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1927 & 1928.

Gordon was our club's Best & Fairest in the premierships year of 1932, and captained our club for one year in 1935. In 1935, he captained our club to be A Section runners up - *University Blacks* 16.12.108 defeating *Old Scotch* 12.20.92.

He started his career initially in the number “12” jumper, then moved to the number “2” jumper before finishing his career in the number “9” jumper.

Gordon was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1959, having already played 200 games for our club back in 1930. Gordon died in 1966.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Gordon on the half forward flank of his team.

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

Fred Lester

In 1922, Fred Lester was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1919 & 1920, and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1922 – 1925. He played in our 1923 A Section premierships team. In 1926 & 1927, he played with the *Kew Football Club* where he lived. In 1928, he was recruited by the *Hawthorn Football Club* and played one game. Fred died in 1959.

Hubert “Sandy” McLorinan

In our club's foundation year 1921, Dr Hubert “Sandy” McLorinan, an old boy of *Scotch College* where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1912 & 1913, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*

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and played nine seasons with our club from 1921 – 1929. He played in our 1923, 1924 & 1926 A Section premierships. Sandy died in 1970.

Sandy is the older brother of former OSCFC player Jack “Jock” McLorinan (1924 – 1930). The brothers formed a watertight playing defence.

Gavin Paterson

In 1923, Gavin Paterson was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1921 & 1922, and played twelve seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1923 – 1934, playing in the number “20” jumper from 1927 – 1930. He played in all eight of our pre-war A Section premierships, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. He was club captain for five years from 1930 – 1934, captaining four successive A Section premierships in the number “1” jumper:

In 1931, coached by Jack Petchell, Gavin captained our club to a fifth A Section premiership - *Old Scotch* 10.11.71 defeating *Elsternwick* 7.13.55.

In 1932, coached by Lou Bols, Gavin again captained our club to a sixth A Section premiership - *Old Scotch* 13.18.96 defeating *State Savings Bank* 10.8.68.

In 1933, coached by Gus Dobrigh, Gavin captained our club to yet a seventh A Section premiership - *Old Scotch* 15.16.106 defeating *University Blacks* 10.14.74.

In 1934, coached by Vic Belcher, Gavin yet again captained our club to an unprecedented eighth 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 Gavin's illustrious twelve-year playing career. He is our club's most successful club captain. Gavin died in 1971.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Gavin on the wing and vice-captain of his team.

Jack Petchell

In 1923, Jack Petchell was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1922 & 1923, and played in one season with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He played in our first 1923 A Section premiership team whilst still at school. From 1924 – 1926, he played for *University A (Blues)* on a half forward flank or as a rover, and was a Victorian State Representative player in 1926. Then from 1927 – 1929, Jack was a *South Melbourne Football Club* player, playing 35 games and kicking 36 goals. In 1931, Jack returned to *Old Scotch* and took over the coaching of our team from Clive Fergie. Jack coached our team for only one season in 1931, winning our fifth A Section premiership defeating *Elsternwick*. Jack died in 1968.

Fred “Flops” Phillips

In 1922, Fred “Flops” Phillips was recruited from *Scotch College* and played two seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1922 & 1923, whilst still at school. He played in our 1923 A Section premiership team. Then in 1924, he was recruited by the *St Kilda Football Club* playing 134 games from 1924 – 1932 and kicking 107 goals. In 1933, Fred went to the *Hawthorn Football Club* as captain & coach, but dye from his Hawthorn jumper ran into a cut on his elbow and he died of blood poisoning in 1933.

Bruce Scharp

In 1923, Bruce Scharp was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1922, and played five seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1923 – 1927, before transferring to *University Blacks*. He played in our 1923 A Section premiership team. Then in 1928 & 1929, Bruce played on the half back flank in *University B (Blacks)* A Section premierships. In 1930, he was recruited by the *Carlton Football Club* and played seven games in 1930 & 1931, kicking one goal. In 1933, he was recruited by the *Fitzroy Football Club* and played

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two games before transferring to the *Hawthorn Football Club* and playing one game that same year. Later in 1935, he coached the *Yarrowonga Football Club*. Bruce died 1980.

Alister “Jim” Shankland

In our club's foundation year 1921, Alister “Jim” Shankland was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1919, and played seven seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1921 – 1923 & 1927 – 1930, playing in the number “19” jumper. He played in our 1923 A Section premierships team.

In 1927, he and his friend Billy Vickers decided to try out for the *Essendon Football Club*, but only Billy was selected, so he returned to playing with *Old Scotch*. Jim died in 1974.

Allan “Bun” Staley

In our club's foundation year 1921, Allan “Bun” Staley, together with his brother Harold, was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the 1st XVIII from 1918 – 1920, and played ten seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1921 – 1929 & 1932, playing in the number “2” jumper. He played in our 1923, 1924, 1926 & 1927 A Section premierships teams. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1925. He was also a Victorian State Representative and Victorian State captain in 1925, 1926 & 1927, while Cocky Heatley and Clive Fergie were captains of *Old Scotch* during those years. He was reputed to be one of the toughest ruckmen playing the game. He was a sure left foot kick, a brilliant high mark and a 6 foot 1 inch follower. Allan died in 1966.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Allan in the first ruck of his team.

Harold Staley

In our club's foundation year 1921, Harold Staley together with his brother George, was recruited from *Scotch College* and played seven seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1921 – 1927. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. Harold died in 1970.

Harold is the older brother of former club Secretary George Staley (1921 – 1928).

William “Bandy” Trethowan

In 1923, William “Bandy” Trethowan was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1919 & 1920, and played three seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1923 – 1925. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. Bandy died in 1969.

William “Billy” Vickers

In 1923, Billy Vickers, a *University High School* old boy who worked as a clerk for Union Assurance, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played six seasons from 1923, 1925 – 1928 & 1931, playing in the number “15” jumper. In 1923 as a promising player, *St Kilda Football Club* approached him, but instead he elected to play with *Old Scotch*. His father was an old Scotch boy. Rheumatic fever prevented him from playing in 1924. He played in our 1923, 1926, 1927 & 1931 A Section premierships teams. He was our club's leading goalkicker in 1926 – the newspaper reported ...“he kicks with both feet and is good in the air”. In 1926, he was also a Victorian State Representative playing as first rover against South Australia in Adelaide and kicking four goals to help Victoria to win.

In 1927, he and his friend Jim Shankland decided to try out for the *Essendon Football Club* and Billy was selected, going on to play three games and kick four goals in 1927. However, after playing the first three rounds with *Essendon*, he returned to *Old Scotch* and later played in our 1931 A Section premierships team. Billy died in 1976.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Billy as 19th man of his team.

Billy is the father of former OSCFC player Bob Vickers who played 56 games with our club from 1964 – 1966 & 1969. Billy is also the older brother of former OSCFC player Lin Vickers (1926).

Max “Boof” Wright

In our club's foundation year 1921, Max “Boof” Wright was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1917 & 1918, and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1921 – 1924. He played in our 1923 & 1924 A Section premierships teams. Following the 1924 grand final, he was recruited by the *Melbourne Football Club*. In 1924 & 1925, Max played 2 games for *Melbourne*. Max died in 1988.

Next week we will look at our premierships players of 1924 ...

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