

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1924 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 premiership players.

This week we focus on our 1924 second premiership players ...

1924 A Section Premiers *Old Scotch* 11.6.72 defeated *Hampton Amateur* 7.13.35 at the Albert Cricket Ground on 23 August 1924.

Backs	Neil Law	Harold Staley	Pom Thomas
Half Backs	Marshy Grounds	Harold Francis	Arthur Moore
Centres	Gavin Paterson	Cocky Heatley (C)	Max Wright
Half Forwards	Ralph Empey	Sandy McLorinan	Gordon Law
Forwards	Arthur Grounds	Allan Staley (VC)	Bill Baird
Followers	Charles Chapman (B&F)	Jock McLorinan	
Rover	William Trethowan		

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 MAFA'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, premiership captain and coach in 1923 & 1924, as well as our club's leading goalkicker in 1924. He played in three A section premiership teams:

In 1923 he both captained and coached our club to its first A Section premiership - *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 premiership - *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 premiership 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 premiership teams. He retired after the 1927 season. Bill died in 1972.

Charles Chapman

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1924 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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. 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.

Arthur "Boggy" Grounds

In 1924, Arthur "Boggy" Grounds, together with his brother Marshall "Marshy" Grounds, was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1915 & 1916, and played three seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1924 – 1926. He played in our 1924 A Section premierships team. Arthur died in 1951.

Arthur is the older brother of former OSCFC player Marshall Grounds (1924 – 1927).

Marshall "Marshy" Grounds

In 1924, Marshall "Marshy" Grounds, together with his brother Arthur "Boggy" Grounds, was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1920, and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1924 – 1927. He played in our 1924 & 1926 A Section premierships teams. Marshall died in 1983.

Marshall is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Arthur Grounds (1924 – 1926).

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.

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1924 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

Gordon was our club's Best & Fairest in the premiership 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).

Neil Law

In 1924, Neil Law was recruited from *Scotch College* where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1923, and played thirteen seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1924 – 1935. He played in seven pre-war A Section premiership teams of 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934, playing in the number "7" jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1928 & 1930. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1930.

After retiring from playing, in 1961 he was appointed to the VAFA Independent Tribunal.

Neil was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1959 and also made a Patron of our Club in 1959. Neil died in 1989.

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

Neil is the father of former OSCFC players Tony Law (1955 – 1956) and Mike Law (1959 & 1961).

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* and played nine seasons with our club from 1921 – 1929. He played in our 1923, 1924 & 1926 A Section premiership teams. 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.

Jack "Jock" McLorinan

In 1924, Jock McLorinan was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII and had been Captain of Football in 1923, and played seven seasons with *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1924 - 1930. He played in our 1924, 1926 & 1927 A Section premiership teams. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1925. In 1931, he was recruited by the *St Kilda Football Club* and played 6 games kicking 4 goals. Jock died in 1953.

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

Jock is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Hubert "Sandy" McLorinan (1921 – 1929). The brothers formed a watertight playing defence.

Arthur Moore

In 1924, Arthur Moore was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1923, and played seven seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1924 – 1930, paying in the number "18 jumper. He played in our 1924, 1926 & 1927 A Section premiership teams. Arthur died in 1992.

Gavin Paterson

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1924 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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.

Allan “Bun” Staley

In our club's foundation year 1921, Allan 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. 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 Allan, 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. Harold died in 1970.

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

Polmear “Pom” Thomas

In 1924, Polmear “Pom” Thomas was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1923 & 1924, and played two seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1924 & 1925, in 1924 playing for our club whilst still at school. He played in our 1924 A Section premiership team. He died in 1988.

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. Bandy died in 1969.

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*

Old Scotch Football Club

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1924 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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 1926 ...

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