

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1926 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 1926 third premiership players ...

1926 A Section Premiers *Old Scotch* 9.16.70 defeated *Elsternwick A* 7.16.58
at the Elsternwick Cricket Ground, Elsternwick on 11 September 1926.

Ben Barnett	Tom Dawes	Clive Fergie (C) & (B&F)	Harold Francis
Marsh Grounds	Cocky Heatley	Gordon Law	Neil Law
Sandy McLorinan	Jock McLorinan	Alan McTaggart	Arthur Moore
Mo Moran	Gavin Paterson	Allan Staley (VC)	Charles Swan
David Swan	Billy Vickers		

Captain & Coach – Clive Fergie

In 1926, Clive Fergie an old boy of *Scotch College* where he had been in the School 1st XVIII from 1912 – 1914 and had been Captain of Football in 1914, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from the *Fitzroy Football Club* at the age of 30, after having played 67 games for *Fitzroy* and kicking 42 goals in five seasons from 1920 – 1924, and having played in their 1922 premiership team. He then played with our club for another five seasons from 1926 – 1930, both captaining and coaching our team. After slipping to runners up to *Elsternwick* in 1925 (despite being Minor Premiers), the side quickly resumed its supremacy with two more flags. Clive played in our 1926 & 1927 A Section premiership teams in the number "1" jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1926.

In 1926, Clive took over the coaching of our team from Cocky Heatley and both captained and coached our club for four years from 1926 – 1929; in 1926 winning our third A Section premiership defeating *Elsternwick* and in 1927 winning our fourth A Section premiership defeating *University B (Blacks)*. He then continued to both captain and coach our team in 1928 to 4th position, losing the semi final to *University B (Blacks)*, and in 1929 to 3rd position, losing the semi final to *Old Melburnians* (despite being Minor Premiers). In 1930, he just coached our team to 4th position, losing the semi final to *Old Melburnians*. Clive died in 1960.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Clive on the half forward flank and deputy vice-captain of his team.

Ben "Snowy" Barnett

In 1926, Ben Barnett was recruited from *Scotch College* where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1924 & 1925, and played six seasons with the *Old Scotch Football Club* from 1926 – 1931 playing in the number "4" jumper. He played in our 1926 & 1927 A Section premiership teams. He was club Best & Fairest in 1927 & 1929. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1926, 1927, 1928, 1929 & 1930 and Victorian State captain in 1929.

Ben was also a champion cricketer and wicketkeeper with *Hawthorn East Melbourne Cricket Club*, *Victoria* and *Australia*. He played four tests for *Australia* in England in 1938. Ben died in 1979.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Ben as the first rover of his team.

Ben is the older brother of former OSCFC player Roy Barnett (1930 – 1939).

Tom Dawes

In 1926, Thomas Dawes joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played two seasons with our club in 1926 & 1927. He played in our 1926 A Section premiership team.

Harold "Snowy" Francis

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1926 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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 on our 1923, 1924 & 1926 A Section premierships. 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.

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. Marshall died in 1983.

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

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, premierships captain and coach in 1923 & 1924, as well as our club's leading goalkicker in 1924. He played in three A Section premierships:

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.

Gordon "Snowy" Law

In 1922, Gordon 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 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 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.

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1926 PREMIERSHIP PLAYERS

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 premierships 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 premierships 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 premierships 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.

Alan “Bulldog” McTaggart

In 1926, Alan McTaggart an old boy of *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1921, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played three seasons with our club from 1926 – 1928, playing in the number “6” jumper. He played in our 1926 & 1927 A Section premierships teams. Alan died in 1990.

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 premierships teams. Arthur died in 1992.

Maurice “Mo” Moran

In 1926, Maurice “Mo” Moran was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1925 & 1925, and played ten seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1926 – 1935, playing initially in the number “9” jumper and later from 1932 in the number “14” jumper. He played in six of our pre-war A Section premierships teams, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. Mo died in 1988.

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 our 1924, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams. He was club captain for five years from 1930 – 1934, captaining four successive A Section premierships sides 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 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.

Charles Swan

In 1925, Charlie Swan, along with his brother David, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played six seasons with our club from 1925 – 1930 in the number “10” jumper. He played in our 1926 & 1927 A Section premierships teams.

Charlie is the older brother of former OSCFC player David Swan. Charlie died in 1973.

David Swan

In 1925, David Swan, along with his brother Charlie, joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played four seasons with our club from 1925 – 1928 in the number “3” jumper. He played in our 1926 & 1927 A Section premierships teams. He was our club’s leading goalkicker in 1925, 1927 & 1928.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named David as 20th man of his team.

David is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Charlie Swan. David died in 1966.

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).

Next week we will look at our premierships players of 1927 ...

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