

Old Scotch Football Club
CRACKERS CHRONICLES – EARLY SEVENTIES

Welcome back to “**Crackers Chronicles**”. This week we trace some of the history of the *Old Scotch Football Club* by recounting the contributions of four of our Life Members from the early 1970s.

J. D. John Anderson (“Ando”)

John Anderson was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1966. He played 229 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1966 – 1980. In 1966, he was our Under 19s leading goalkicker.

John captained the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* for seven years from 1972 – 1973 & 1975 – 1979. He was the Club’s Best & Fairest in 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976 & 1977, and Club leading goalkicker in 1973.

He played in our back-to-back premiership teams of 1977 (B section) & 1978 (A section).

He was also a Victorian representative in 1972, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1976 & 1977 (Captain), and Australian Amateur Football Council representative in 1973 & 1976.

He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1978, also for having played 200 games for the Club in 1978. Unfortunately, John died of a heart attack in Greece in 1999.

In 2000, John was named as captain of the OSCFC *Team of the Century*, and later in 2013 made a VAFA Big V Champion.

G. C. A. Geoff McCracken (“Crackers”)

In 1966, Geoff McCracken was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Junior player. He played 133 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1966 - 1980, mainly in our Reserves and “Warriors” (later renamed ‘Club 18’ and now ‘Thirds’). In his first season in 1966, he played just three games in David Kidd’s Juniors, playing the rest of the season in Allen Morris’s Warriors. In 1967 & 1968, he continued to play in Ian Findlay’s Warriors playing in the number “62” jumper, winning the 1967 Coach’s trophy and in 1968 being selected once on the bench for the Reserves. In 1969, he broke into the Reserves playing 11 games before returning to the Warriors. In 1970, he again played this time 14 games in the Reserves before returning to the Warriors. In 1971, he played in Peter Wood’s Club 18 Premiership team and was named Warriors 1971 Best & Fairest (*Old Scotch* 8.8.56 defeated *Powerhouse/Old Haileybury* 6.1.37 to win the inaugural *Club 18 FA* premiership). Upon his return from overseas in 1972 & 1973, he continued to play in the Warriors playing in the number “47” jumper until he finally retired after the 1980 season.

Geoff, a chartered accountant, was Treasurer of the OSCFC for eight years in 1971 and from 1976 – 1982. It was during that period that Laurie Aghan nick-named him “Crackers”. Whilst on the committee, he acted as the OSCFC Delegate to the VAFA from 1976 – 1982. Some of his most vivid memories are those of the 1977 & 1978 premierships under Leigh McGregor, Laurie Aghan and John Anderson.

In 1981, he was awarded Life Membership of the Club for his services to the Club.

Later, he went on to be Vice President of the club for three years from 1984 – 1986, and OSCFC Delegate to OSCA from 1984 – 1986. This led him to becoming President of the Old Scotch Collegians’ Association in 1997.

Later, after he retired, he became the thirtieth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Football Club* for four years from 2008 – 2011, and then Football Manager in 2012 & 2013.

He was awarded both a VAFA Certificate of Merit and an OSCA Certificate of Merit in 2012.

Since 1972, Geoff continues to act as the club’s historian maintaining the honour boards, recording club history and writing the *eDrumsheet* column “Crackers Chronicles”.

R. J. Robert “Bob” Welch

Big Bob Welch was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1967. He played 259 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1967 – 1984. He was our Reserves Best & Fairest in 1973 & 1976, and played in the Reserves premiership teams of 1973 & 1980. He captained our Reserves in 1976 & 1979.

He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1979 upon playing 200 games for the Club.

Later, he became the twenty-second Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1983.

He became a member of the VAFA Executive from 1985 – 1992, and VAFA Vice President from 1987 – 1992.

Later, he was President of the Old Scotch Collegians’ Association in 2005.

Dr D. J. Don Symington (“Skinny”)

Don “Skinny” Symington was recruited from *Scotch College* in 1967 and played 12 games while still at school in 1967 & 1968. He played 219 games for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1967 – 1975 & 1979 - 1988 in all club teams. He played in our “B” Section premiership team of 1970, and played in our Reserves premiership team of 1980. He captained our Reserves in 1981.

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He was awarded a Life Member of the Club in 1986 upon playing 200 games for the Club. Later, he went on to be the twelfth President of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1991. Unfortunately, he died in 2015.

Don is the younger brother of OSCFC players Graeme Symington (1964 - 1966) & Ian Symington (1966 – 1970). He is father of OSCFC player Will Symington (2002 – 2008).

Next week we will look at our Games Played Record Holders, all of whom are Life Members ... I welcome any feedback to gmccracken@oldscotchfc.com.au