

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1934 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 1934 eighth premiership players ...

1934 A Section Premiers *Old Scotch* 16.10.106 defeated *University Blacks* 13.11.89 at the Elsternwick Park, Elsternwick on 22 September 1934.

Backs	Hilton Evans	Paddy Welsh	Neil Corke
Half Backs	Alec Sloan	Neil Law	Mo Moran
Centres	Alex Guild	Gordon Law	Gavin Paterson (C)
Half Forwards	Bill Warne	Bob Coutts	Wally Morris
Forwards	Robert Robertson	Bill Pearson (B&F)	Roy Barnett
Followers	Alan Jacobsen	Frank Fleming	
Rover	Alex Findlay		
19th, 20th & 21st	Alan Robinson (VC)	Lew Richardson	Col Benjamin

Coach – Vic Belcher

In 1934, Vic Belcher took over from Gus Dobrigh as coach of our team. Gus had coached the team to our 1933 A Section premiership but unfortunately had to relinquish his position. His place was taken by Mr Vic Belcher, a well-known former *South Melbourne Football Club* player and coach. For fourteen years from 1907 – 1920, Vic had played 226 games with the *South Melbourne* kicking 62 goals. Prior to that he had played briefly with *Coburg* in the VJFA and *Brunswick Football Club* in the VFA. He captained *South Melbourne* from 1913 – 1917 and again in 1920. He also coached the *South Melbourne* for four years during the War from 1914 – 1917. He played in *South Melbourne's* 1909 & 1918 VFL premiership teams. Later he coached the *Fitzroy Football Club* for six years from 1922 – 1927, coaching *Fitzroy* to the 1922 VFL premiership, second place in 1923 and third place in 1924.

Our team commenced the 1934 season in a very unconvincing fashion losing two of its first three matches due to a lack of proper coaching. However, with the late appointment of Vic as coach, his methods soon produced results, in 1934 winning our eighth A Section premiership defeating *University Blacks*. However, Vic only coached our team for one season before handing the position back to Gus Dobrigh for seasons 1935 – 1938.

In 1996 Vic was inducted into the Australian Football Hall of Fame and in 2003 was named in the *Sydney Swans* Team of the Century. He was the last survivor of their 1909 Premiership team. Vic died in 1977.

Roy Barnett

In 1930, Roy was recruited from *Scotch College* and played ten seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1930 – 1939. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premiership teams playing in the number "4" jumper. He was a follower where his high marking and dash were features of his play. He went on to be our club's Best & Fairest in 1938. Roy died in 1980.

Roy is the younger brother of Ben Barnett, the Australian Test wicketkeeper and former OSCFC player (1926 – 1931).

Col Benjamin

In 1933, Col Benjamin joined our club and played five seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1933 – 1937, playing in the number "1" jumper. He played in our 1934 A Section premiership team, coming on in the last quarter (as 21st man) to replace Roy Barnett who suffered a torn back muscle. Col died in ?

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Neil Corke

In 1934, Neil Corke was recruited from *Scotch College* and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Football Club* from 1934 – 1937. He played in our 1934 A Section premierships team playing in the number “15” jumper. Neil was one of the ‘finds’ of the 1934 season; he could stand up to the knocks in the ruck, was a good left foot kick and an excellent mark. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1934 & 1935. Neil died in 1983.

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

Bob Coutts

In 1929, Bob Coutts was recruited from *Scotch College* and played eleven seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1929 – 1939. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams playing in the number “6” jumper. Bob played most of his games at centre half forward, but in 1934 was selected at full back where his high marking and kicking were a feature. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1932, 1933 & 1937. Bob was a very versatile player able to play back or forward. Bob died in 1987.

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

Hilton “Hillo” Evans

In 1934, Hilton “Hillo” Evans was recruited from *Scotch College* and played five seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1934 – 1937 & 1939 – 1940, playing initially in the number “28” jumper, later in the number “21” jumper, then in the number “22” jumper and finally in the number “25” jumper. He was a clever rover and was good at handballing the ball. He was also a good goalkicker and position player. Hillo died in 1974.

Alex “Smiler” Findlay

In 1927, Alex “Smiler” Findlay was recruited from *Scotch College* and first played for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1927 whilst still at school. Later he played five seasons with our club from 1933 – 1935 & 1937. He played in our 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams, playing in the number “10” jumper. He was one of the best rovers in the Association. His game was characterised with wonderful dash and determination, and he was also a successful true boot artist. Alex died in 2010

Frank “Faf” Fleming

In 1931, Frank “Faf” Fleming, an old boy of *Scotch College* from 1925 played two games with the *Fitzroy Football Club*. In 1932, while a teacher at *Scotch College*, Faf was recruited from the *University Football Club* and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1932 – 1935, playing in the number “24” jumper. He played in our 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams. He was invaluable as a follower where his shepherding and marking were a big factor. Faf died in 1963.

Our club social rooms are named in honour of Faf and his contribution to the development of our club.

Alex Guild

In 1929, Alex Guild was recruited from *Scotch College* and played twelve seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1929 – 1940. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams playing in the number “19” jumper. Alex was one of the best half forward flanker or wing men in the Association. His clever handling and kicking of the ball was a delight to watch. He was our club’s Best & Fairest in 1933 and club captain in 1939 & 1940. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1935 & 1938. Alex died in 2002.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Alex on the wing in his team.

Alan Jacobsen

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In 1934, Alan Jacobsen was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he had played in the School 1st XVIII in 1932 & 1933, and played five seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1934 – 1938, playing initially in the number “23” jumper and later in the number “14” jumper. He played in our 1934 A Section premiership team. Alan was one of the ‘finds’ of the 1934 season; he was an excellent follower, could stand up to a lot of hard work and was a good mark and kick. Later in 1939, he was recruited by the *Footscray Football Club* and played 30 games kicking 27 goals in 1939 & 1945. Alan died in 1995.

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 premiership 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 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).

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 premiership teams, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. Mo died in 1988.

Wally Morris

In 1929, Wally Morris was recruited from *Scotch College* and played eight seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1929 – 1936. He played in our 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premiership teams in the number “11” jumper. Wally was one of the most polished footballers in the Association, kicking well with either foot and was a sure mark and was a master of the ‘blind’ turn which got him out of many difficulties on the half forward flank. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1933 & 1936. He captained our club in 1938 & 1939. Wally died in 1967.

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

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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 teams, 1923, 1924, 1926, 1927, 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934. 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.

William “Bill” Pearson

In 1931, Bill Pearson was recruited from *Scotch College* and played eight seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1931 – 1937, and again after the War in 1946 for only three games, debuting in our Seniors in 1931 at full forward and playing in the number “3” jumper. He was an A Section premiership player in 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934, our club's Best & Fairest in 1934, 1935 & 1937, and our club's leading goalkicker from 1931 – 1937, kicking 1,022 goals in just seven seasons:

- 1931 95 goals
- 1932 126 goals
- 1933 168 goals
- 1934 220 goals
- 1935 137 goals
- 1936 126 goals
- 1937 150 goals
- 1,022 goals

Bill stood 6ft 2 ins tall and weighed 12½ stone – he was an excellent build for a footballer. He was a wonderful mark and a perfect kick, and for a big man was a good ground player. He was a major factor in the club winning four premierships.

Master VFL coach Norm Smith said Bill was the finest exponent of the torpedo punt he ever saw. Teammates said so straight and long was Bill's goalkicking that on set shots they would automatically return to the centre, so sure they were of his accuracy.

During his time with our club, Bill played in 101 wins (kicking 845 goals for an average of 8.36 per game), 33 losses (kicking 164 goals for an average of 4.96 per game) and 2 draws (kicking 13 goals for an average of 6.5 per game). At one stage during 1932 and 1933, Bill played in sixteen successive wins to which he contributed 132 goals at an average of 8.25 per game. From Round 14 to Round 18 in 1934, Bill kicked bags of 15, 30, 10, 11 & 17 goals. He is the club's most prolific goalkicker.

He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1932, 1933, 1934, 1935, 1936 & 1937. Bill also kicked 57 goals in interstate games with a highest total of 16 against Tasmania.

Later in 1939 & 1940, he coached our club.

Bill was also a Victorian District cricketer with the *St Kilda Cricket Club* (190 matches) and the *Camberwell Cricket Club* (1 match) scoring 4,947 runs at an average of 30.16 and taking 189 wickets at an average of 20.53. He also played 14 matches for *Victoria* scoring 467 runs and taking 26 wickets. Bill died in 1987.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Bill at full forward in his team.

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Our annual “Most Valuable Club Person” award is named after Bill.

Lew Richardson

In 1932, Lew Richardson joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played seven seasons with our club from 1932 – 1938, playing in the number “12” jumper. He played in our 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams. He played as a follower and change forward pocket player. His game was full of determination and dash, and he was always picking up goals. In 1934, he was named as 19th man in our selected grand final team. However, when Gavin Paterson suffered a fractured skull in the first quarter, vice captain Alan Robinson (now acting 19th man) replaced Gavin. Unfortunately Alan suffered a broken collarbone before touching the ball! He was then replaced by Lew the nominated 19th man (now 20th man).

Robert “Slim” Robertson

In 1934, Robert “Slim” Robertson an old boy of *Scotch College* since 1930 joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played two seasons with our club in 1934 & 1935, playing in the number “5” jumper. He played in our 1934 A Section premierships team. He was an excellent mark and a good long accurate kick. He combined well with our full forward Bill Pearson. Slim died in 1974.

Alan Robinson

In 1932, Alan Robinson an old boy of *Scotch College* since 1920 was recruited from *University Football Club* and played four seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1932 – 1935, playing in the number “18” jumper. He played in our 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams and was vice captain. Previously, he had played with the *University Football Club* where he earned fame as a goal kicker, but at our club became a fast, tenacious and clever rover. He kicked goals with deadly straight torpedo punts. In 1934, Alan injured his knee in the final v *University Blacks* the week before and was not selected to play in the challenge grand final. However, when Gavin Paterson suffered a fractured skull in the first quarter, Alan as vice captain (now acting 19th man) came on as his replacement, but unfortunately suffered a broken collarbone before touching the ball! Alan was then replaced by the nominated 19th man (now 20th man) Lew Richardson. Alan died in 1954.

Alexander “Alec” Sloan

In 1924, Alexander Sloan, known as “Alec”, was recruited from *Scotch College*, where he was Captain of Football in 1924, and played for the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* while still at school, playing in the number “12” jumper. In 1924, while still at *Scotch College*, he was Captain of Football, Captain of Boats, Captain of Athletics and Captain of the School. And, Dux of the School. Later in 1929, he re-joined our club and went on to play seven seasons with our club from 1924 & 1929 – 1934. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams in the number “2” jumper. He had no peer as a centre half back. He was our club’s Best & Fairest in 1931 and a Victorian State Representative in 1931. Many older supporters nominate Alec as one of our greatest players ever. Alec died in 1974.

In his *Team of the Best Old Scotch Players before the War*, Hec Ingram named Alec at centre half back in his team.

Bill Warne

In 1934, Bill Warne joined the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* and played three seasons with our club from 1934 – 1936, playing in the number “16” jumper. He played in our 1934 A Section premierships team. He was a big bustling ruckman. He was a good mark and excellent left foot kick.

Jack “Paddy” Welsh

In 1931, Jack “Paddy” Welsh was recruited from *Scotch College* and played five seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1931 – 1935, playing in the number “17” jumper. He played in our 1931, 1932, 1933 & 1934 A Section premierships teams. A former State Decathlon champion, Paddy played the game very hard but was scrupulously fair. He was always under notice for his high marking and good kicking. Paddy died in 1989.

ALSO PLAYED IN FINALS

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1934 A Section Final *University Blacks* 21.12.138 defeated *Old Scotch* 8.6.54
(*Old Scotch* then exercised its right of challenge to win the grand final the following week)

Stan Steele

In 1933, Stan Steele was recruited from *Scotch College* and played two seasons with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1933 & 1934 whilst still at school where he was Captain of Football in 1934, playing in the number "22" jumper, and before transferring to *University Blacks Football Club* to play with his brother Ray Steele. Stan played in our 1933 A Section premiership team and our 1934 final team, but not our 1934 grand final team. Stan died in 1985.

Stan is the father of former OSCFC players Ken Steele (1959 – 1960) and Bryan Steele (1964 – 1972 & 1974 – 1976).

Next week we will look at our premiership players of 1965 ...

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