

CRACKERS CHRONICLES – 1978 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 some of our club legends.

This week we focus on our 1978 twelfth premiership players ...

1978 A Section Premiers *Old Scotch* 16.16.112 defeated *North Old Boys* 16.11.107 at Elsternwick Park, Elsternwick on 17 September 1978.

Backs	Greg Leatham	Mike Purnell	Bruce Kefford
Half Backs	Rob Drummond	Ian Alexander	John Morgan
Centres	Jim Marx	Ross Duke	Fergus Kiel
Half Forwards	Simon Tallent (VC)	Tim Cox	Paul Meadows
Forwards	Peter Sherwen	Tom Mason	David Bowden
Followers	Mike Bates (B&F)	John Anderson (C)	
Rover	Stephen Bubb		
19th & 20th	David Bedford	Ian Sinclair	

Coach - Laurie Aghan

Laurie Aghan was recruited from *Reservoir Old Boys* by John Anderson to coach our club in 1976 after coaching John in Victorian representative teams. He coached both the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* Seniors and Reserves teams for six years from 1976 – 1981, and our Seniors again in 1990. He was a B Section premiership coach in 1977 and A Section premiership coach in 1978, plus Reserves premiership coach in 1980. Later in 1988 he also coached our Under 19s.

Laurie was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1988.

In 2000, Laurie was named as coach of our *OSCFC Team of the Century*, and awarded a VAFA Certificate of Merit in 2002.

Laurie is father of OSCFC player Jason Aghan (1987 – 1990).

Ian "Rowdy" Alexander

In 1977, Ian "Rowdy" Alexander was recruited from *St Kilda CBC Old Boys Football Club* and played 100 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1977 – 1983, debuting in our Seniors on 16 April 1977 and playing in the number "26" jumper. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premiership teams as our solid centre half back.

John Anderson

In 1966, John Anderson was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player but played in our Seniors whilst still Under 19. He played 229 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1966 – 1980, debuting in our Seniors on 21 June 1966 and playing in the number "34" jumper. In 1966, he was our Under 19s leading goalkicker.

John captained our club for seven years from 1972 – 1973 & 1975 – 1979 now playing in the number "1" jumper. He was our club's Best & Fairest in 1969, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976 & 1977, and our club's leading goalkicker in 1973.

He played in our 1970 B Section premiership team coached by David Kidd, and was our club's Best & Fairest. Later, he captained in our back-to-back 1977 B Section & 1978 A Section premiership teams as ruck-rover.

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

John was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1978, having also played 200 games for our club in 1978. Unfortunately, John died of a heart attack in Greece in 1999.

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In 2000, John was named ruck-rover in, and captain of, our *OSFC Team of the Century*, and later in 2013 made a VAFA Big V Champion. In 2017, John was named on the wing in the VAFA's "Greatest Amateur Team of the Past 50 Years (1967 – 2017)".

Mike Bates

In 1978, Laurie Aghan recruited Michael Bates to our club from *Reservoir Old Boys Football Club*, where he had played under Laurie, to top up our 1977 B Section premiership team. Michael had also been a Victorian State Representative in 1973, 1975 & 1976. Mike played 24 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1978 – 1980, debuting in our Seniors on 15 April 1978 and playing in the number "28" jumper. He went on to be our club's Best & Fairest in 1978 and played in our 1978 A Section premiership team as first ruck.

In 2000, Mike was named as first ruck in our *OSFC Team of the Century*.

David Bedford

In 1977, David Bedford was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played two Under 19s games whilst still at school. He played 106 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1977 – 1983, debuting in our Seniors on 15 April 1978 and playing in the number "20" jumper. He played in our 1978 A Section premiership team as a rover starting on the interchange bench.

David is the son of *OSFC Team of the Century* player, Marten Bedford (1948 – 1952 for 59 games).

David Bowden

In 1976, David Bowden was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 111 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1976 – 1986, debuting in our Seniors on 24 April 1976 and playing in the number "28" jumper before moving to the number "12" jumper in 1978 and finally the number "5" jumper in 1982. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premiership teams as a rover. David's greatest feat was kicking two goals against the wind in the 1978 grand final.

David is the son of *OSFC* Life Member Geoff Bowden and older brother of former *OSFC* player and coach Ian Bowden (Player 1980 – 1989 & coach 1988 – 1989 & 1998 – 1989).

Stephen Bubb

In 1977, Stephen Bubb was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 85 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1977 – 1981, debuting in our Seniors on 16 April 1977 and playing in the number "26" jumper before moving to the number "25" jumper in 1978. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premiership teams as first rover. Stephen's greatest feat was kicking three goals, including the winning goal, in the 1978 grand final.

Tim Cox

In 1974, Tim Cox was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player but debuted in our Seniors on 20 April 1974 and played 181 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1974 – 1986, playing in the number "34" jumper before moving to the number "16" jumper in 1978 but finally returning to the number "34" jumper in 1980. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premiership teams. Tim was our key centre half forward. Tim was our club's leading goalkicker in 1976, 1977, 1979 & 1980.

Tim is the father of *OSFC* players Will Cox (2005 – 2006 & 2010 – 2011) & Nic Cox (2009 – 2018).

Ross Duke

In 1978, to top-up our 1977 B Section premiership team, Laurie Aghan recruited Ross Duke to our club from the *Old Paradians Football Club*, where he had been captain. Laurie had coached Ross in Victorian representative teams. Ross played 79 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1978 – 1983, playing in the number "23" jumper and debuting in our Seniors on 22 April 1978. He played in our 1978 A Section premiership team as centreman and went on to be our club's Best & Fairest in 1979. In 1982, Laurie Aghan is reported as saying that "Ross Duke was the best player

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he'd ever seen never play VFL". One of the things Ross brought to our club with his business expertise was how to raise considerable income for our club for many years from the bottling and sale of club-branded wine.

Rob Drummond

In 1975, Rob Drummond was recruited from *Scotch College* as Juniors player and played 92 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1975 – 1980, debuting in our Seniors on 12 June 1976 and playing in the number "53" jumper before changing to the number "13" jumper in 1977. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams on the half back flank. Rob was our Reserves leading goalkicker in 1976.

Rob is the older brother of former OSFC players Phil Drummond (1977 – 1982) and Peter Drummond (1980 – 1982).

Bruce Kefford

In 1971, Bruce Kefford was recruited from *Scotch College* and played in our Seniors whilst still Under 19. He played 165 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1971 – 1978 & 1983 – 1985, debuting in our Seniors on 17 April 1971 and playing in the number "27" jumper, but later in the number "60" jumper upon his return to our club in 1983. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams as a ruckman. In 1978, Bruce was awarded the Coach's Trophy. He was also a Victorian State and Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1974.

In 2017, Bruce was named as first ruck in our *OSFC Supplementary Team of the Century*.

Fergus Kiel

In 1976, Fergus Kiel was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player debuting in our Seniors on 23 April 1977. He played 221 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1976 – 1993, playing in the number "41" jumper before changing to the number "30" jumper in 1978. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams as a wingman. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1984 & 1985.

Fergus captained our club in 1985 & 1986 and later in 1989 was our Club 18 team leading goalkicker.

Fergus was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1990 upon playing 200 games for our club.

Greg Leatham

In 1972, Greg Leatham was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played initially two seasons, 1972 & 1973, with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* as an Under 19 player debuting in our Seniors on 14 April 1973 and playing in the number "35" jumper. In 1974 & 1975, he played with *University Blacks*. However, in 1976 Greg returned to our club to continue playing in our Seniors under Laurie Aghan. He played in our 1978 A Section premierships team playing in the number "7" jumper in the back pocket. He played 61 games with our club from 1972 – 1973 & 1976 – 1979.

Jim Marx

In 1975, Jim Marx was recruited from *Scotch College* and played 110 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*, all in our Seniors, from 1975 – 1981, debuting in our Seniors on 19 April 1975 and playing in the number "30" jumper, before changing to the number "31" jumper in 1978. In 1975 in his first year at the club, Jim was our club's Best & Fairest, and he then played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section & 1978 A Section premierships teams on the wing. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1978 & 1980.

In 2017, Jim was named on the wing in our *OSFC Supplementary Team of the Century*.

Tom Mason

In 1974, Tom Mason was recruited from *Scotch College* and played two games in our Juniors while still at school. He played 167 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1974 – 1988,

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debuting in our Seniors on 17 May 1975 whilst still Under 19. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section & 1978 A Section premierships as full forward. Tom was our club's Best & Fairest in 1980 & 1982. He was also the VAFA A Section Best & Fairest in 1982. Tom was also our club's leading goalkicker in our 1978 A Section premierships year, and again in 1985. In 2017, Tom was named at centre half forward in our *OSFC Supplementary Team of the Century*.

Paul Meadows

In 1975, Paul Meadows was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played in our Seniors whilst still Under 19. He played 124 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1975 – 1983, debuting in our Seniors on 19 April 1975 and playing in the number "31" jumper before changing to the number "14" jumper in 1979 and finally the number "16" jumper in 1980. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams on the half forward flank. He was our leading goalkicker in 1981, 1982 & 1983 (also the A Section leading goalkicker).

Paul is the father of former OSFC player Richard Meadows (2014).

John Morgan

In 1970, John Morgan was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played three games with our club whilst still at school. He played 211 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1970 – 1972 & 1974 – 1985, debuting in our Seniors on 17 April 1971 and playing in the number "28" jumper. He was our club's leading goalkicker in 1971 & 1972. One of John's greatest feats was kicking 16 goals for our Under 19s against *Ivanhoe* in the last round of 1970. He then played four games for the *Melbourne Football Club* in 1973 before returning to *Old Scotch* in 1974, playing in the number "2" jumper and winning the VAFA B Section Best & Fairest in 1975. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B section & 1978 A section premierships teams on the half back flank.

John was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1984 upon playing 200 games for our club. In 2000, John was named at centre half forward in our *OSCFC Team of the Century*.

Michael "Mike" Purnell

In 1971, Michael Purnell was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 153 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1971 – 1981, debuting in our Seniors on 15 April 1972, and playing in the number "40" jumper. He played in our 1973 Reserves premierships team coached by Leigh McGregor. He also played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams. Mike was our mighty mad dog full back.

Peter Sherwen

In 1975, Peter Sherwen was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player but played three games in our Seniors whilst still at school, debuting in our Seniors on 9 August 1975. He played 237 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1975 – 1978 & 1980 – 1995, playing in the number "29" jumper before changing to the number "18" jumper in 1978. He played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section & 1978 A Section premierships teams as a follower. He was also a Victorian State Representative in 1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983 & 1985, and an Australian Amateur Football Council Representative in 1983 & 1985.

Peter was our club's leading goalkicker in 1984, 1986 & 1987.

Peter was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1988 upon playing 200 games for our club. After retiring from playing, Peter coached our club in 1991, 1993 & 1994. He then came out of retirement to play in our Club 18 premierships team of 1995.

Peter has also acted as the Club's Honorary Medical Officer for 29 years from 1991 until today.

In 2000, Peter was named on the half forward flank in our *OSCFC Team of the Century*.

More recently, in 2015 he was winner of the Bill Pearson Most Valuable Person Award and continues to act as the club's Honorary Medical Officer.

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Peter is brother of former OSCFC player Rick Sherwen (1981 – 1986) and father of former OSFC player and past Club Captain Scott Sherwen (2007 – 2015).

Ian Sinclair

In 1978, Ian Sinclair was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 25 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1978, 1981 & 1985, debuting in our Seniors on 12 August 1978 and playing in the numbers “44” & “53” jumpers. He played in our 1978 A Section premierships team as a forward started on the interchange bench.

Simon Tallent

In 1971, Simon Tallent was recruited from *Scotch College* and played three games for our club in 1971 & 1972 while still at school where he was Captain of Football in 1972, debuting in our Seniors on 12 August 1972. In 1973, in his first full season with our club, Simon won our club’s Best & Fairest wearing the number “16” jumper. However, when Bryan Steele returned to captain our club in 1973 and resumed his old number “16” jumper, Simon then played in the number “17” jumper until 1980 when he became club captain and switched to the number “1” jumper, taking over from John Anderson. He played 221 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1971 – 1991. He also played in our back-to-back 1977 B Section and 1978 A Section premierships teams as a forward follower, and was a Victorian State Representative in 1978 & 1979. Simon captained our club for five years from 1980 – 1984.

In 1980, coached by Laurie Aghan, Simon captained our club to be B Section runners up to *Old Xaverians*, but importantly returning our club back to A Section in 1981.

Simon was awarded Life Membership of our Club in 1984 upon playing 200 games for our club.

After retiring from playing, in 1987 Simon went on to be the twenty-fifth Secretary of the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club*. He also coached our Club in 1988 & 1989, and coached our Reserves in 1989 & 1996.

In 2000, Simon was named on the interchange bench in the *OSCFC Team of the Century*.

Simon is the father of OSFC player Charlie Tallent (2002 – 2011).

OTHERS IN THE TEAM PHOTOGRAPH

Ian Duffy

In 1966, Ian Duffy was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player in 1966 & 1967. From 1968 – 1970, Ian played with *University Blacks*. However, in 1971 Ian rejoined our club and played 164 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1966 – 1967, 1971 – 1973, (1974 overseas), 1975 – 1981 & 1984, debuting in our Seniors on 17 April 1971 and playing in the number “4” jumper, before moving to the number “18” jumper in 1972, then the number “13” jumper in 1975 and finally the number “8” from 1976 – 1981 & 1984. In 1978, Ian played 6 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

Andrew Hays

In 1976, Andy Hays was recruited from *Scotch College* as Juniors player and played 120 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1976 – 1984 & 1986, debuting in our Seniors on 16 April 1977 and playing in the number “5” jumper. He played in our 1977 B Section premierships team and our 1980 Reserves premierships team. In 1978, Andrew played 3 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

Andy is the younger brother of former OSCFC player Peter Hays (1973 – 1974 & 1978 – 1980). Andy is also the father of former OSFC players Robert Hays (2009 – 2015) & Thomas Hays (2011 – 2013).

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Ross McLean

In 1969, Ross McLean was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played 206 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1969 – 1983, playing first in the number “67” jumper before later changing to the number “3” jumper, and debuting in our Seniors on 18 July 1970. He played in our 1971 Warriors premiership team coached by Peter Wood. He then played in our 1973 Reserves premiership team coached by Leigh McGregor. In 1980, he captained our Reserves coached by Laurie Aghan which won our 1980 Reserves premiership.

In 1978, Ross played 5 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

In 1983 when Ross retired from playing, at that time our club did not recognise Warriors games as “official” club games. However subsequently, the club now includes Warriors/Cardinals/Thirds Club XVIII games since 1971, so over fifteen seasons with our club Ross played over 206 games but unfortunately was never awarded Life Membership of our Club; although he was offered it in 2017.

John Nickless

In 1971, John Nickless was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player but debuted in our Seniors on 19 June 1971 whilst still Under 19, playing in his Juniors number “12” jumper before moving to the number “10” jumper in 1972. He played 139 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1971 – 1980. He played in our 1973 Reserves premiership team coached by Leigh McGregor. In 1977 he was our Reserves Best & Fairest.

In 1978, John played 10 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

He also played in our 1980 Reserves premiership team coached by Laurie Aghan.

John is the father of former OSCFC players James Nickless (2002 - 2005) and Ben Nickless (2003 – 2004 & 2010).

Peter Rogerson

In 1972, Peter Rogerson was recruited from *Scotch College* as a Juniors player and played two Under 19s games while still at school. He played 72 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* from 1972 – 1974 & 1976 – 1978, debuting in our Seniors on 7 April 1973 while still Under 19 and playing in the number “29” jumper, before changing to the number “23” when he returned to the club in 1976. He played in our 1977 B Section premiership team. In 1978, Peter played 13 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

Fred Tuininga

In 1977, Laurie Aghan recruited his old mate Fred Tuininga from *Reservoir Old Boys (1965 – 1977)* to join him and he played 22 games with the *Old Scotch Collegians Football Club* in 1977 & 1978, debuting in our Seniors on 2 July 1977 and playing in the number “25” jumper, before changing to the number “29” jumper in 1978 when Peter Sherwen moved to the number “18” jumper. Fred played in our 1977 B Section premiership team. In 1978, Fred played 8 games in our Seniors team but was not selected for the grand final.

Unfortunately, this brings us to the end of our Seniors premiership team players ...

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