

Old Scotch Collegians  
Bowls Club

**HISTORY OF  
THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS**



**Foundation President  
Henry Herbert Bowden**



**Foundation Secretary  
Keith McKinley Wilson**

## **HISTORY OF THE FIRST TWENTY FIVE YEARS**

### **THE BEGINNING**

In 1970, Keith McK. Wilson approached H. H. "Bosh" Bowden enlisting his support in the formation of a Bowls Club for Old Scotch Collegians and sought his consent to be the Foundation President. "Bosh", who had been Vice Principal of the School 1935-1956, agreed with the proposal and thus two former secretaries of the Old Scotch Collegians Association were combined in a new project. The purpose was conceived as a means of gathering old school mates together for friendly games on the green and for renewing old friendships.

The first committee meeting of the Old Scotch Bowls Club was held on 9th December, 1970 at the home of Stan Steele. Present were:- H. H. Bowden (Chairman), K. McK. Wilson (Secretary), Bob Colclough, Harry Harrison and Stan Steele as committee. The first job was to try to find an Old Scotch Boy at as many Bowling Clubs as possible and ask these representatives to obtain names and addresses of all Old Boys at their Clubs and forward these to the Secretary to form the mailing list for circulars. Publicity was also obtained through the "Scotch Collegian" and "RVBA Bowls" Magazine. Their efforts were so successful that 128 names were obtained for the mailing list.

The second task was to find a club to call "home". The most suitable was considered to be the Kew Bowling Club because it was a men only club, had a liquor licence, had three greens and was in the Old Scotch heartland. When approached, the Kew B.C. Committee agreed to the proposal that Old Scotch Bowls should use Kew as its base.

## THE FIRST DECADE

The first Bowls Day for Old Boys was held at Kew Bowling Club on Tuesday, 23rd March, 1971 with 64 players participating. It was a very happy day with some of the members having their bowling attire adorned with oars and other insignia of an active youth. The Council of O.S.C.A. was delighted with the successful birth of the new Club and expressed the hope that it would grow from strength to strength.

At the first game, one of those present, Bob Coutts, who was a member of M.C.C. Bowling Section, suggested that a game should be arranged against that Club. The first visit to M.C.C. was on Wednesday, 29th November, 1972 and this has been an annual event ever since.

In August 1972, Keith Wilson was appointed an R.V.B.A. Councillor and as he was heavily involved in R.V.B.A. affairs he resigned as Secretary of Old Scotch Bowls. The Club owes a great deal to Keith Wilson for his foresight and dedication in getting the Club started and guiding its development over its first decade.

Malcolm Brown was appointed Secretary in his place, but held office only until February 1973 when ill health forced his resignation.

Gordon Greer (a member of Kew B.C.) was Secretary from February 1973 until March 1978 and helped run the Club in a very competent manner. He was also largely instrumental in the establishment of the Public Schools' Old Boys Bowls (P.S.O.B.B.) Tournament as an annual affair. His dedication to Old Scotch Bowls and to the P.S.O.B.B. Tournament is deserving of the

highest praise. Unfortunately, ill health forced his resignation as Secretary of both bodies in March 1978, the year in which Scotch had its first win in the P.S.O.B.B. tournament. It was a win which was the beginning of a successful seven year period for Scotch. In that era, Scotch won the coveted trophy four times, (alternate years) and came third three times.

It was also the time when Ron Smyth (a member of the Music staff at the school) became President. During his term of office (1977-1980) and under his guidance the Club continued to grow along sound lines.

Upon Gordon Greer's resignation, he was replaced by Alan Hutchinson who was a most efficient and dedicated Secretary. He served the Club in that capacity from 1978 to 1982, but was on the Committee until 1988. He wrote an outline history of Old Scotch Bowls, covering the period from its inception to 1981 - the first ten years.

H.H. "Bosh" Bowden was the Foundation President from 1970 to March 1974 when he decided he should hand over to a younger, more active man. Keith Wilson was then appointed to the office which he held until March 1977.

The Old Scotch Bowls Club continued to flourish in the 1970's. Commencing with the 1975/76 season, two games per year were played at Kew in addition to the game at M.C.C. In February 1976 and December 1977 the games were twilight events with barbecue tea after the games. The idea was to give bowlers still working an opportunity to participate, and whilst most enjoyable, the muster was only about 35. Subsequent polls indicated that the great majority of our members preferred afternoon games.

In 1977 it was decided that members should be asked to pay an annual subscription of \$2 to cover postage, trophies and administrative expenses. This proved adequate; so much so, that members had two free games in March and November 1979. At the 1978 Annual Meeting, the Committee was instructed to draw up a constitution for the Club. This was done, and after considerable discussion, was submitted to the legal Subcommittee of O.S.C.A. In February 1979 it was pronounced satisfactory for the requirements at that time.

Membership continued to rise steadily, and in 1978/79 there were 98 names on the list (70 being financial). In 1979/80 membership was 99 with 80 financial. Over the years 1978-82 the number of players attending games increased from about 40 to around 50, and by 1980/81 there were 115 old boys on the list of whom 87 were financial.

To end the 1980/81 season members participated in the April monthly luncheon of the O.S.C.A. at the Masonic Centre, East Melbourne. Some 20 bowlers attended, and the guest speaker was Mr John Dobbie who spoke on World Bowls 1980 and Beyond. It was a very happy occasion.

### **THE SECOND DECADE AND BEYOND.**

George Stroud became the fourth President (1980-82). However, when one of the committee, David Parker, was elected to the Presidency of the R.V.B.A. at the start of season 1982/83, George Stroud stood down as President of Old Scotch Bowls to allow David Parker to take that position during his Presidency of R.V.B.A. David Parker was President 1982-84 and on his

resignation George Stroud was re-elected as President 1984-87. During this period it was decided that a membership list (including addresses and telephone numbers) be sent out to all members at the beginning of the season.

At the Annual General Meeting in 1984 it was agreed to donate \$200 to the Headmaster's Student Assistance Fund. The \$2 membership fee which was introduced in 1977 was increased to \$4 in 1988 and \$5 in 1994, and the Club has made donations to the Student Assistance Fund each year since. The total amount donated to the end of 1995 was \$3,150.

In 1987 George Stroud was elected Secretary. As a Past President of Kew Bowling Club, where most games were played, George was meticulous in ensuring that all preparations had been made for these games. He served two terms as President (1980-82 and 1984-87) and one term as Secretary (1987-89), and was a very dedicated member of the Club. He resigned only on moving interstate.

Early in 1986 a suggestion was made that bowling greens be established by the School within the school grounds. A letter outlining the history of Old Scotch Bowls was sent to Mr. B. W. Lithgow, Chairman of School Council. The letter pointed out the desire to have a home ground within the school. Such a green could be used by teaching staff and older boys. The Club would possibly be able to provide some financial support to such a project. After due consideration by all parties the proposal was dropped.

The next President was Bert Tonkin, an all round sportsman, who during his school days and later, was a champion tennis

player. He was elected President in 1987 and held that position until 1989 when he was succeeded by Ted Mitchell.

Ted Mitchell was one of the longest serving members of the Committee of Old Scotch Bowls. He was elected in 1982 and resigned for health reasons in 1993. During this time he had been Secretary 1982-87, President 1989-92 and Treasurer 1992-93. He gave dedicated service to the Club.

Peter Berriman became the next Secretary, a position he held from 1989-92. Unfortunately ill health during a lot of this period severely curtailed his activities, but in spite of this, he continued to give devoted service to the Club throughout his period of office.

In 1992 Oxley Jones succeeded Ted Mitchell as President and held that position until 1996, having been persuaded by unanimous vote to continue for an extra year. He was one of the most active Presidents of the Club and re-introduced regular committee meetings both within and outside the bowling season. Each member of the Committee was allotted specific tasks, including a correspondent to "Great Scot" (John Porter) which ensured that regular contributions and photos were inserted informing members of the Scotch family of the activities of the Bowls Club and encouraging them to join. Two newsletters were also sent out over the President's signature each year, to all financial members during the bowling season.

During Oxley Jones' term as President, the wearing of woven "Old Scotch Collegians" badges on the bowls shirt pocket and the display of the School Flag during inter-school matches were also instituted. In 1995, a flag based on the O.S.C.A. badge was purchased for the exclusive use of the Club and is now

displayed at all games.

In 1993 it was decided to add further interest to Club games by having an internal individual competition with points awarded for attendance, being in a winning rink and the best winning rink in each game. A trophy is awarded to the winner at the end of each year; the first two winners were Oxley Jones (1994) and Ron Warne (1995).

An innovation in 1994 was the introduction of an Annual Luncheon for members and wives/partners; 40 attended the inaugural luncheon held in the Boarders Dining Room annexe. In March 1995, the luncheon was held in the new Cardinal Pavilion where 47 attended. This was the first luncheon to be held in the new building.

Bruce Ditty, who joined the club about 1984, was elected to the Committee in 1989. This proved to be of immense value to the club as he was tireless in his efforts to improve the enthusiasm within the Club. He was instrumental in increasing the number of games played during the season, and in arranging the transfer of the P.S.O.B.B. competition from Kew to Auburn Heights. Not only did he work hard for Old Scotch Bowls, but he actively recruited old boys of other schools whom he chanced to meet to join their respective Old Boy bowls clubs. His good work for our club was tragically cut short when he died suddenly on the bowling green in 1992.

Gordon Bonwick succeeded to the office of Secretary in 1992 and continued the tradition of dedication to the Club at the high standard set by his predecessors. Now for the first time the duties of Treasurer were separated from those of Secretary.

The reason for this was two-fold; firstly to ease the Secretary's load, and secondly, because of moves toward Incorporation of the Club, a separate position of Treasurer was required. The first Treasurer under the new arrangement was Ted Mitchell (1992-93). He was succeeded by the present Treasurer, John Porter (1993-96).

Unfortunately Gordon Bonwick died in July 1995 after a short illness and the Committee appointed Manson Russel to take over his duties.

At the request of O.S.C.A. Council the Bowls Club undertook to become Incorporated. The initial steps were taken in 1991, but three years were to elapse before this move was completed. The delay was partly caused by the necessity to rewrite the Constitution which was originally drawn up in 1978. As from 16 June 1994 the Club's name became officially "Old Scotch Collegians Bowls Club Incorporated", with Registration No. A0029552R

During the 1980's the Club became more active. The number of games increased to five in 1982/83 when Auburn Heights B.C. was included; to six in 1985/86; to eight in 1986/87 with both Glenferrie Hill B.C. and Wesley joining in for the first time; to nine in 1988/89 with Melbourne Grammar as opponents. In 1989/90 there were 12 games making up the programme; nine "home and away" and three intraclub games. However, this large number of fixtures proved to be rather too demanding for availability of players, resulting in a large drop off in the numbers at some of the games. So for the seasons from 1990/91, to 1993/94, the total number of games was reduced to ten, even though Caulfield Grammar was included as a regular opponent in season 1992/93 and Royal Melbourne Golf Club

Bowls Section in 1991/92.

From the small beginning of playing a game or two against Kew and one against M.C.C., our opponents in our "home and away" games in our 25th year comprise: Auburn Heights, Caulfield Grammar, Glenferrie Hill, M.C.C., Melbourne Grammar, Royal Melbourne Golf and Wesley.

Over the years, Old Scotch has been very successful in the games played in the "home and away" series, winning the majority of the games. The club is an extremely active one when compared with the other schools who, with the exception of Melbourne Grammar, play perhaps only two or three times during the season. Old Scotch Collegians are proud of their tradition of active participation in the sport of Lawn Bowls.

Kew Bowls Club was the home of Old Scotch Bowls Club at its inception. However, in the 1987/88 season, the committee of Glenferrie Hill B.C., at the suggestion of Alex Pizzey, invited Old Scotch to regard Glenferrie Hill as its home green as their membership contains a number of Old Scotch Collegians. It is close to the School and in recent years the greens have been used by the school to train boys for the school-boy bowls competition; Old Scotch and Glenferrie Hill member Fred Harvey played a very active role in this. This invitation was accepted, the venue for the Annual General Meeting was transferred to Glenferrie Hill, and since then Old Scotch play a number of games at that Club. As a gesture of thanks, a donation was made towards upkeep of their greens in 1992.

Trying to increase, or even maintain Club membership has been a very difficult task over the years. Unfortunately, the trend has been mostly towards decreasing numbers. From a peak of

64 players present for the first game, player numbers fell to about 40 in the year 1978/79, even though there were 70 financial members. There was a small increase to about 50 in 1981/82, but since then numbers of both financial and playing members has fallen gradually. This decline in membership has been attributed to a great expansion in open triples competition throughout the Metropolitan area. Bowlers are being flooded with opportunities to play closer to their homes and most clubs have games for their own members on Wednesday afternoons which compete with Old Scotch games. Arranging games on Tuesday and Thursday occasionally has allowed different members to play, but overall this change has not proved very popular, and has not resulted in a significant increase of player numbers.

Various methods have been tried to encourage new members to join; advertising in the R.V.B.A. monthly magazine "Bowls" in the early days; advertising in "Great Scot"; personal approach; and in 1992/93 more than 70 circulars were sent out to most metropolitan clubs' Secretaries asking for Old Scotch bowlers to register. Of those sent out, only 36 were returned, seven new names were received and of those only four took out membership. This was a very expensive exercise, especially in postage, and the result was most disappointing.

Over the years, a number of Old Scotch Collegians have been singles champions at their clubs. Without doubt, the most notable was Foundation Secretary Keith Wilson who earned the title Champion of the Green at Malvern B.C. on no less than four occasions in the years 1973/74, 83/84, 88/89, and 93/94. However, in the 1986/87 season there were four club champions playing for Old Scotch: Ray Grove - Auburn Heights, Bernard

Haugh - Malvern, Bob Ingram - Glen Iris and Lachie McLean - East Camberwell.

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS**  
**BOWLS COMPETITION**  
**(P.S.O.B.B)**



In 1973 Old Scotch Secretary, Gordon Greer, contacted Holman Dillon, President Old Wesley Bowls Club, and arranged the first inter-school old boys match which was played at Kew B.C. From this small beginning, Gordon Greer built up a competition which included teams from each of the eleven Public Schools. This was a mammoth task as, at that time, Scotch and Wesley were the only schools with Old Boys Bowls Clubs, Wesley having started in 1967.

The first inter-schools competition was played at Kew B.C. on 24 February 1974. Scotch and Wesley each fielded sides of four teams of four and Xavier and Melbourne Grammar each fielded three teams of four. This first tournament was won by Wesley with 105 shots and Scotch was second with 81 shots.

In this game R.V.B.A. Councillors Holman Dillon and Keith Wilson played against each other as skippers. Afternoon tea arrangements were looked after by Joy Dillon and Marjorie Wilson with assistance of several wives of other players. On 23 March 1975, old boys from eight schools took part in a competition which Wesley again won.

At this time, Keith Wilson approached a fellow member of Malvern B.C., Sir James Darling, a former Principal of Geelong Grammar, seeking his approval for a trophy in his name. He also asked whether Sir James would donate four "woods" he had brought from England. Alf Flanagan, Greenkeeper of Malvern B.C. made four bases fitted with metal shields to record winners each year, to which the "woods" were attached; for several years the four winning skippers were presented with their trophies by Sir James.

Later, it was suggested that the original bases were not suitable for a perpetual trophy. This problem was overcome when Alen Ellenberg, Manager of Melbourne Grammar bowlers whose hobby was wood-working, offered to make new larger bases. This resulted in a trophy with a very attractive and appropriate appearance.

Some years ago, an unknown person removed the wooden "bowls" from the bases of the Sir James Darling Trophy and it was necessary to purchase a new set of bowls.

In 1976, nine schools were represented in an all-day competition of three games each of twelve ends. 1978 saw the fulfilment of Gordon Greer's dream, with 11 teams competing, and for the first time Scotch brought home the Sir James Darling Perpetual Trophy. Since 1981 the number of schools competing each year has varied between 8 and 11 and each school has, as far as possible, entered a side of four teams totalling 16 players.

The P.S.O.B.B. Day continued to be held at Kew until the year 1990. Upon Gordon Greer's resignation as Secretary in 1978, the position was taken over by Gordon Hiscock (Xavier) a

member of Kew B.C. He was assisted by Ron Reid (Scotch) also a Kew B.C. member, and the tournament continued to be run very well.

Such problems as the simultaneous feeding of upwards of 160 players at lunch was a big task in itself, especially in the early 1980's when Gordon Hiscock and Jack O'Shaunassy cooked and served a BBQ at lunch. Upon Gordon Hiscock's death, Alan Turner (M.G.S.) took on the position of Secretary of the P.S.O.B.B. Competition, a position he still holds.

After Gordon Hiscock, there was no direct link with Kew B.C. At this time Scotch committeeman Bruce Ditty, strongly supported by Ralph Samuel of Wesley, suggested that a move of the P.S.O.B.B. Tournament to Auburn Heights B.C. would be beneficial to the players. This change was agreed to and was effected in 1991. The move has been very successful. In 1992 the Presidents' (or their representatives) of the Old Boys Associations of the schools competing on the day were invited to be present at lunch, which has been a very successful innovation. At the same time, it was arranged to have the flags of all competing schools displayed around the green. These additional changes have helped the competition to become a major tournament with keen rivalry between the schools.

Scotch has maintained a policy of selecting its four teams for the P.S.O.B.B. day only from among those members who have been players in games during the season. Having extra players available has allowed Scotch to lend some of its members to those schools who have been unable to fill their teams on the day. This making up of full sides has permitted an improved competition.

The results of the tournament are tabulated in Appendix II and the names of players who have represented Scotch in the tournament are listed in Appendix III.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

In 1977 it was decided that the early history of the foundation and development of the club should be recorded before memories fade. Alan Hutchinson was entrusted with this task and his notes covering the period to April 1981 are the basis for this history of the first 25 years. John Weymouth (10 years on Committee), Oxley Jones and Phil Thompson in collaboration with Past Presidents Keith Wilson and George Stroud have contributed the remainder.

The work of word processing of the script and numerous revisions before printing by Olwyn Warne (wife of Games Manager, Ron Warne) is also acknowledged with thanks.

**APPENDIX I**

**OLD SCOTCH BOWLS CLUB**

**OFFICE BEARERS 1970 - 96**

<b><u>PRESIDENT</u></b>		<b><u>SECRETARY/TREASURER</u></b>	
1970-74	H. H. Bowden	1970-72	K. McK. Wilson
1974-77	K. McK. Wilson	1972-73	M. Brown
1977-80	R. Smyth	1973-78	G.O.S. Greer
1980-82	G. Stroud	1978-82	A. Hutchinson
1982-84	D. Parker	1982-87	T.H.E. Mitchell
1984-87	G. Stroud	1987-89	G. Stroud
1987-89	B.G. Tonkin	1989-92	R.L. Berriman
1989-92	T.H.E. Mitchell		
1992-96	L. Oxley Jones		
<b><u>SECRETARY</u></b>		<b><u>TREASURER</u></b>	
1992-95	G.E. Bonwick	1992-93	T.H.E. Mitchell
1995-	M. G. Russel	1993-	R.J. Porter

## APPENDIX II

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS BOWLS  
COMPETITION RESULTS**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>FIRST</b>	<b>SECOND</b>	<b>THIRD</b>
1974	WESLEY	SCOTCH	--
1975	WESLEY	CAREY	SCOTCH
1976	CAULFIELD	SCOTCH	N/A
1977	WESLEY	SCOTCH	N/A
1978	SCOTCH	XAVIER	GEELONG COLL.
1979	ST. KEVINS	CAULFIELD	SCOTCH
1980	SCOTCH	N/A	N/A
1981	WESLEY	GEELONG COLL.	SCOTCH
1982	SCOTCH	CAULFIELD	WESLEY
1983	CAULFIELD	CAREY	SCOTCH
1984	SCOTCH	WESLEY	CAREY
1985	CAREY	WESLEY	ST. KEVINS
1986	WESLEY	N/A	N/A
1987	SCOTCH	WESLEY	N/A
1988	WESLEY	CAREY	CAULFIELD
1989	HAILEYBURY	WESLEY	CAREY
1990	SCOTCH	WESLEY	GEELONG COLL.
1991	WESLEY	SCOTCH	CAREY
1992	HAILEYBURY	WESLEY	SCOTCH
1993	WESLEY	HAILEYBURY	ST. KEVINS
1994	CAREY	WESLEY	HAILEYBURY
1995	CAREY	WESLEY	SCOTCH

N/A = Not Available

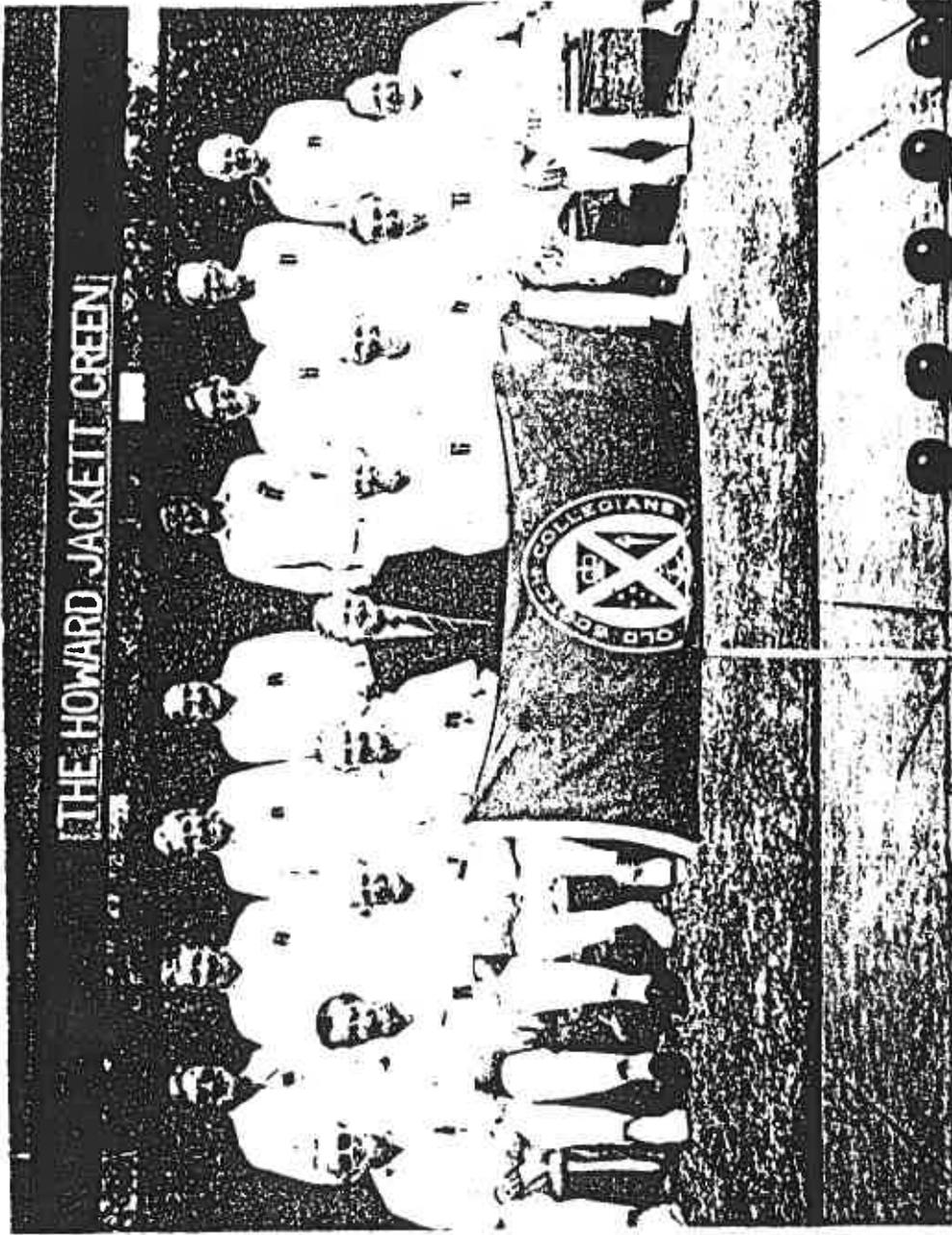
## APPENDIX III

**PUBLIC SCHOOLS OLD BOYS BOWLS COMPETITION**

**OLD SCOTCH PLAYERS 1974-1995**

ANDERSON W.G.	HARRY C.M.	PATON H.
ANNAND D.M.	HARVEY. F.	PATTERSON W.B.
BARROW J.W.	HAUGH B.	RUSSEL M.G.
BONWICK G.E.	HAYWOOD R.B.	SILVERWOOD G.H.
CAITHNESS B.V.	HUTCHINSON A.	SINDREY C.M.
CHENEY L.K.	JACKSON J.R.B.	SMYTH R.
COOPER P.E.	JENKINS W.	SPRATT A.F.
COUTTS R.A.	JONES L.O.	STROUD G.
DITTY R.B.	LANG J.	TAFT. B.I.
DUNCAN J.S.	LECKIE J.B.	TAYLOR R.R.
FINNIS G.I.	LEDGER L.A.	THOMPSON P.F.
FISHER J.F.R.	McDONALD K.	TICKLER J.R.
FLEMING D.	McLEAN L.	TONKIN B.G.
FORREST J.A.	McLEOD D.	WALHOUSE M.J.G.
FREW M.V.	MITCHELL T.H.E.	WARNE G.R.G.
GILLESPIE R.G.	MITCHELL J.	WELCH F.A.
GIRVAN J.L.	MORRISON S.A.	WERNER R.
GOODWIN A.M.	MUIR G.	WEYMOUTH J.H.
GREEN M.E.	NAPHTHINE S.M.	WILLSON J.C.
GROVE R.F.	O'HALLORAN M.	WILSON K. McK.
GUYMER R.G.	OWEN W.H.M.	

**THE HOWARD JACKETT GREEN!**



*OSCA President Robert Rouch with the Scotch team at Auburn Heights on the  
Public Schools' Old Boys tournament day - March 1995.*

