

1960 Premiership to Alexandra

Playing with great determination, Alexandra outplayed a confident Seymour to win the 1960 premiership flag by the slender margin of one point on Saturday. Gate takings were £434/10/- and the large crowd certainly got it's monies worth as Seymour fought back to level the scores in the last minutes only to see Alexandra win the flag by the narrowest of margins.

A considerable amount of work had been put into the ground by the Yea Football Club and the worst patches had been liberally covered with sand. Although these areas were dead, the oval was in good condition otherwise and the pace was a cracker from start to finish. Play was vigorous and close playing defenders rarely allowed the forwards to use the open spaces to the best effect. Alex. began with the breeze but this died down later in the match. Alexandra's winning half-back line effectively shut off much of Seymour's drive and with Argent playing one of his best games ever on the wing, Alex. gained considerable momentum. Argent was opposed to Day, one of the best wingmen in the League but rarely allowed his opponent into the game. Alexandra's rovers all played well and nullified much of the good work by Seymour ruckman M.Elliott. It was a real team effort on Alexandra's part and a tribute to captain / coach Ian Alexander.

The Play. (*Seymour player names in italics*) Alexandra had first use of a cold westerly breeze which favoured attack

from the score-board wing. Seymour were first to break away only to see Waters clear. *Pickering* gained possession in a pocket for the first score- a behind. Winger Argent was beginning to show glimpses of brilliant form. He forwarded through Fox and J.Stephens passed to L.Elward for the opening goal. *K.Elliott* to *Pickering* but the Seymour captain was off target. Several free's to Alexandra but big ruckman *.Elliott* marked to return via wingman *Day* and *Akers* was freed right in front for full points. Alexandra turned in some fast play but the maroon defenders held tight. The pace was hot and players were using their weight freely. R.Elward sent through Argent and Collier passed to Fox whose curly shot swung back to hit the post. Jackson handballed to Guy on to Cameron and Guy racing on snapped up and goaled. *Day*, freed, passed on to *Lee* and *Pickering* marked on his own for a forced behind. One of Alexandra's few mis-kicks looked dangerous but a solid tackle by Cummings and a free to Stace cleared safely. Argent marked beautifully but *Walsh* and *McMillan* returned only to find consistent half-back flanker Sutherland in the way. Argent and Stephens forwarded for the Rebels but the ball went out by the post. *Akers* took the knock for Seymour but Waters stopped the move. Play was very scrambly as the siren sounded with Alex. 2.1 leading Seymour 1.2.

Alexander and Parsons repulsed early Seymour attacks but

Goyne returned just as surely and *Waite* to *Pickering* and on to *Lee* was good football capped off with a goal. A dour struggle developed with defences cutting off scoring opportunities. From a throw-in *Walsh* passed to full-forward *Baker* who goaled from a pocket. Argent passed to Guy who in turn sent to Stephens and from a scramble in front of goal rover/forward L.Elward dashed in to tap the ball through for six points. Sutherland R.Elward and Fox defended well but *Dixon* had a running shot but was swung off target by Stace for a behind. Despite a nice mark by Collier, *Pickering* got the ball to *Baker* for a goal, 9 points Seymour's way. Alexander on a clearing dash knocked to Stace and Argent drove the ball right up to the sticks where Evans ran in for a timely goal. Alexander and Cummings were playing a big part in quiting Seymour's stars, punching the ball away safely and this style of play was to pay dividends as the game progressed. Cummings at centre half-back kept leading goal-kicker *Pickering* blanketed and Seymour's normal flow of opportunities from that player dried to a trickle. Dundas, Jackson and Argent put in good work but the long change came with no addition to the score. Seymour 4.4 to Alex 4.1. Jackson drove the ball forward from the centre and Fox to L.Elward resulted in a snapped point. *Akers* cleared but Stace and Stephens sent back through Fox to see L.Elward handball to Evans in front for Alexandra's fifth goal. *Mealey* marked for Seymour and an Alexandra mis-

kick gave *Day* a chance but he hit the post. Evans's shot for Alexandra was also astray for a behind. Cummings and Waters figured in saving moves and Cameron, L.Elward and Collier combined well to get the ball to Stephens's right in front for a goal. *Baker* raised one flag with a shot in goal for Seymour. Waters cleared well from the back pocket but up the other end *McMillan* did the same and *Baker* scored another single. *Dainton* marked the kick-in only to see Alexander clear. Fox kicked for goal but only one flag fluttered. Stephens marked and Collier knocked through for a behind. Collier marked the kick-in and L.Elward was freed for another behind. Alexandra were attacking constantly but were astray. Guy's kick on goal was marked by *McMillan*. R.Elward played on for a single. *Akers* and *Pearce* sparked a Seymour attack and a goal to *Dixon* was a badly needed tonic to Seymour. Stace deserved more than a behind when he hand balled to Fox and played on himself for a shot on goal which was touched. Guy to Evans brought up Alexandra's ninth single. Findlay marked but Seymour turned on some of their best football for the game and *Walsh* found *Maloney* for a goal making the three quarter time scores Alex. 6.9 to Seymour 6.7. Seymour withstood Alexandra's early last quarter efforts with *Tully*, *Goyne*, *K* & *M Elliott* showing out. *Akers* spearheaded a dangerous Maroons move only to see Alexander soar over the pack to clear. Parsons found Fox who pointed. Play continued fast and vigorous with Alexandra shading Seymour at this stage. Cameron returned and a free to Findlay saw the tall ruckman send a lovely kick right to the goal square. *M.Elliott* and *McMillan* cleared under pressure

but Cummings and Cameron persisted and Evans marked right in front for a goal. Surging forward with Findlay marking strongly Alexandra scored again when L.Elward trapped in a pocket, goaled well. Fifteen points down Seymour appeared a beaten side lacking Alexandra's determination, but when *Pearce* found *Lee* for a touch behind the Maroons commenced a fight back for the flag which kept the crowd roaring until the close of play. *Gratten* was behind the next score when players forced another behind. Jackson eluded the pack beautifully to race away but frees to Seymour found them attacking again. *Baker* marked well for a single. A free kick to Seymour but they were tied down in a pocket until *Dixon* broke clear to goal. Six points the difference and *M.Elliott* lifted Seymour only to find Waters and Cummings steady. *Waite* secured and *Lee* marked at point blank range for the equalizing goal. Pandemonium reigned as spectators envisaged a replay next week. For some time neither side could crack the solid defences and tension mounted as the minutes ticked away. A beautiful mark by Parsons and Jackson wasted no time slamming an accurate pass to Stephens who marked on the boundary in scoring distance. His shot slid off hands for a vital behind. Alexandra came again but *McMillan* marked and *Dainton* flashed into play on the wing. Alexander, Sutherland, Stace and Dundas all had a hand in keeping Seymour at bay but *Maloney* marked right on the siren. Fortunately for Alexandra he was too far out to score and Alexandra left the field Premiers to the congratulations of the Seymour players and jubilant supporters who surged onto the

field to chair players to the dressing room. Final scores. Alexandra 8.11.59 to Seymour 8.10.58.

Goals: L.Elward, A.Evans 3. J.Stephens, F.Guy 1. Best: G.Argent, R.Sutherland, R.Cummings, L.Elward, R.Fox I.Alexander of a very even side.