

1962 Flag won by Alexandra

Alexandra finished a successful season of football with a well deserved win in the WNEFL 1962 grand final last Saturday

The premiership was a fitting reward for the team which finished the season the best balanced and fittest combinations in the League. The match against Avenel was action-packed through-out, but was played at such a fast early pace and with such fierce tackling by both sides, that the standard generally was not as high as had been anticipated. Players had little time to dispose of the ball, with the result that the game was often closed up. Defences on both sides dominated play with Alexandra's last line holding the Avenel forwards to a minimum. The match was enlivened by brief bursts of the open football of which both sides are capable, but neither side could sustain this style of play for long. With the title at stake, players flung themselves into the game regardless of injury and the physical clashes took their toll of energy. Avenel fought on much harder than in the second semi-final and after another good start were only five points down at the last change. In the last term they had their chances to win their first flag in 29 years but found the Alex. defence too strong. Gate takings of £474 were £4 down on last year's grand final at Alexandra. The Seymour ground, compared with the second semi-final was a picture and the ground committee had obviously worked hard to repair the ravages cause by the weather. Splashes of color were provided by the gateways of streamers through which the respective

teams raced onto the field. Prior to the commencement of play awards were made to the following: R.O'Bree (Euroa) the K D Bryant medal for best and fairest, The Thornton Motel trophy was won by John Brophy (B'ford) whilst the injured Alexandra full-forward, Tony Payne with 59 goals, won the goal-kicking award. W.Reardon (M'field) won his second successive A.Bennett trophy as best and fairest in the Reserves.

The play (*Avenel player names in italics*) Collier got the first punch for Alexandra and Cameron drove to a pocket only to see *Arthur* clear. *Hamilton* forwarded and a free to *Lee* was an Avenel behind *Arthur* and *Flynn* showing up in defence cleared twice and another single was force for Avenel. Argent, very elusive on the wing found Fox but he outed. A free to *Purdon* and ruck/rover *Lewis* marked and kicked a lovely goal. Dundas and Findlay figured well for Alex. but *Arthur* was dependable. Morse and Collier returned and a quick snap by Fox raised both flags. *Cox* tapped to *Lee*, *Purdon* passed to *Dixon* on a flank a free to *White* gave them a single. *Cox* sent in and a behind was forced. Fox was being hustled by *Vearing* and was finding it hard to hold his marks. *Purdon* to *Dixon*, a behind, then *White* picked out *Purdon* for the full score, Avenel were opening the game up and *White* raised one flag. Morse, Cameron and Fox combined for a chance to L.Elward but his kick went right across and out. Collier and

A.Parsons to Fox was a single. *Lewis* cleared and *Purdon* sent through *Dixon* for a single to *Lee*. Stace and Cummings repulsed Avenel and L.Elward played on for a goal late in the term. Quarter time scores Avenel 3.7 to Alex 2.1.

Alex. attacked from the bounce as the second qtr. got under way for a behind to Cameron. L.Elward to Alexander and the captain had the distance but was astray. Collier marked three times to send Alex. into attack but the forwards were finding the goals elusive. Collier grabbed the ball from the throw-in for a left foot goal. Up the other end Hedger, M.Parsons and Evans cleared and L.Elward's shot was touched by *Arthur*. Dundas returned but Avenel were forcing play onto the dead wing. Avenel turned on some of their best football to attack but *White*'s kick was marked by the dependable Hedger. Defenders on both sides were holding up scoring. A.Parsons to Fox, a behind and Cameron and Argent gave the tall forward another chance, but his long shot hit the post. Alex. were getting on to at this stage. Guy to Alexander and his shot hit the other goal-post to level the scores at 3.7 each. Guy marked a poor kick-in and passed to his captain but he kicked it "like a backman." Collier's knock to Dundas finally brought a goal. *Shelton* and *Arthur* blocked further Alex. move and at half-time the Rebels were one clear kick in front, having added 2.6 to nil to lead 4.7 to 3.7 on the score-board.

R.Elward and Arbuthnot sent Alex. away after the long break but *Walker* now on the ball forwarded into Avenel's scoring zone where *Lee* now at full forward goaled to level the scores. *Purdon* kept up the attack but Evans cleared twice. R.Elward and Cummings repulsed Avenel and crisp passing by Guy and L.Elward to Alexander paid off with a goal. Behinds to both teams followed. M.Parsons long driving kick-offs were pushing the ball well out of danger. Findlay, Cameron and A.Parsons attacked. At a throw-in *Cox* swung at the ball but collected *Coller* instead. The Alex. ruckman could only raise one flag from the free. *Lewis* and *White* combined with sparkling football but the latter's long shot was touched. L.Elward started a run which brought a single to Alexander. *Coller* to *Fox* and his mighty kick was straight. *Sidebottom* and *Flynn* were behind Avenel moves and *Lee* to *White* brought up a fine goal to the latter. Seven points the difference and Alexandra was making mistakes in attack. *Sidebottom* to *Cox* but the big man kicked poorly. *Dickson* to *Mitchell* and *Sidebottom* pointed. Argent trying to cover too much ground was met solidly. *Vearing*, *Sidebottom* and *Lee* combined for Avenel's eleventh behind. *Flynn* was safe on a half-back flank. At three quarter time, with the wind practically non-existent, the Rebels led by five points 6.10 to 5.11.

Spectators had been relatively quiet, but they came to life as the siren signaled the start of the last quarter. *Vearing* started an Avenel move but Evans cleared. A nice pick-up by *Purdon* threatened but Alex held firm. *Sloper* to *Dixon* to *Lee* in a

pocket looked dangerous but he kicked out. *Stace* cleared and A.Parsons raced right around the score-board wing but also kicked out-of-bounds. *Guy* to L.Elward to Alexander was clean passing and *Fox* led out to mark a low pass and finish off with a goal. Avenel again had a chance but fumbling slowed them down. Alex. wasted a chance by being indirect. R.Elward was coming into the game more. *Stace* held up an Avenel attack but *Moran* returned for a torrid battle as players crowded the Avenel forward line. *Cox* punched to *White* and his shot was only a behind. *Shelton* sent forward but the Swans could not capitalize on *Purdon's* good work. *Stace* battled past two Avenel players and Alexander marked close in for an important goal for his team. Although there was still time for Avenel to win the game, sixteen points seemed beyond them at this stage. *Moran* to *Stewart* to *Lewis* was a golden opportunity but he missed the lot. The tireless *Purdon* came back and *Sidebottom*, freed, made no mistake -10 points the difference- *White* had a chance but Cameron, L.Elward and Alexander systematically got the ball to *Fox* for his fourth and the sealing goal as Alexandra held on for a sixteen point win. 9.10.64 to 6.12.48.

After the match Ian Alexander was presented with the trophies won by his team—The Ray Ross cup and the Jacka Shield now won outright by Alexandra. The winners also received a cheque for £100 presented by Caltex. The trophy given by the publishers of the "Spectator" for the best player in the grand final, as voted by the umpire, was won

by Alexandra centre half-back Alan Evans.

In Summary

Avenel kicked with a favoring breeze to the highway end and although they met stiff opposition, had the better of exchanges in the first quarter. Inaccuracy in front of goal cost the Swans a chance to take a firm hold on the game and as play progressed, Alexandra asserted their strength to gain a slight edge which it maintained until the final bell. The clashes at the respective half-forward posts were highlights of the game. Both sides possess brilliant centre half-forwards, but it was Rob Fox who proved the match-winner. Despite stout opposition from his shorter opponent Clyde Vearing, Fox kicked four goals whilst his opposite number Alan White could only manage one. He was hot pressed all day by Alan Evans. Alexandra's full-forward Ian Alexander scored two goals whilst Reg Walker failed to goal at the other end. The duel in the centre between John Cameron and Jack Purdon again produced some fine football. Both players favor the open game but on this occasion Purdon was often caught by an Alexandra player as he tried to break away. He was still a very valuable player and the way he fought on after a number of heavy knocks earned the admiration of the crowd. Alexandra got tremendous drive from winger George Argent in the first half, but an injury quietened him later in the game and his opponent Alan Sidebottom then gave Avenel many opportunities. The Ruck duels were heavy going with Max Cox's size a real handicap to the Alexandra big men.

