

2004 Back in Finals

The Club continued under the leadership of Ray Steyger who also took on the responsibilities of the Treasurers tasks. David McLaurin continued as Secretary. Alexandra appointed Steven Nichol, as coach. High School teacher Steve, came to the club last season after playing at East Ringwood and the Wangaratta Magpies. and won the Clubs Best and Fairest. Steve is a fine mark for his height and knows how to find the goals.

Alexandra started the season with a trip to Thornton and achieved a similar result to many games last year, just a few goals short. The team included a couple of former players and Jock Blakeney, Daniel Crane, Len Jenkins, Jeremy Heyes and some young players Sam Kidd, Harley Scott and Scott Rowan so without any major recruits the improvement will have to come from within. The Rebels started slowly as Thornton E. gained an early lead by quarter time, which they were able to maintain for the remainder of the game. Alex. fought back in the third term but the home side steadied and won the first of the Barry (Sprague) Thompson Cups



16.13 to 11.8, which is to be played for each first match between the clubs each season. Neil Beer Award. Neil Oakley, Jeremy Heyes and Adam McDonald Incentive award winners also included, Luke Ware, Daniel Crane Michael Gibson and Steve Nichol.

After the Easter break Alex were at home to the Yea Tigers and after starting well were able to respond each time the Tigers challenged. The Rebels always appeared to be in control and had a fine win over last year's premier 16.14 to 10.11, their first since the grand- final of 2000. Incentive Awards went to Cory Jack, Jeremy Heyes, Len Jenkins, Michael Bretherton, Harley Scott and Daniel Crane.

On April 24th Alex made the trip to Dookie and came home with the points in all games of football for the first time for a while. In the senior game Dookie got away to a handy lead with the breeze early in the game The Alex defence held Dookie goalless in the second whilst the forwards got Alex back to a narrow deficit at half time. The defenders again contained the home side in the third quarter and Alex were able to get in front and hold on for an exciting two point win 10.6 to 9.10. Best: Michael .Bretherton, Neil Oakley and Wayne Haggis. Other Incentive Awards went to Jock Blakeney, Luke Ware and Chris Mullins.

Alex made four changes to the side for the home game against Violet Town The game started as a tight contest early but the visitors broke away in the second quarter with five goals to one to hold a handy lead at the main break. Alex. worked their way back into the game in the third term but with 2goals 7 in the last quarter failed by four points. 8.11 to 9.9. Luke Ware, Cory Jack, Neil Oakley, Scott Rowan, Chris Mullins and Steve Nichol led the Incentive Award winners.

Alex next travelled to Benalla for Round 5 on May 8th where they came home with the points from all games of football and netball. The first half saw both defences on top although the Rebels were able to make better use of their forward entries. After half time Alex. got on top all over the ground and came away with a big win. 20.22 to 9.9 Best: Steve Nichol, Jock Blakeney and Michael Bretherton shared the Neil Beer Award votes whilst Chris Mullins, James Kidd and Chris Ziebell won Incentive Awards.

Alex. next travelled to Central Avenue Shepparton for round 6 and in a low scoring encounter in good conditions were beaten by the home side. 7.7 to 11.11. in another of those games that was close enough to win but the result went the wrong way. Neil Beer Award votes. Chris Mullins, Michael Bretherton and Neil Oakley with Daniel Wales, Paul Francis and Daniel Crane, amongst the incentive awards. The James Waugh led Reserves, who virtually never won a game last season, now sit on top of the ladder after crushing the Bombers 10.9 to 3.9. Shepp. East had lost only the one game in the last three seasons and have won the last four Reserve Premierships. Alex had not beaten them since the 1997 preliminary final.

Alex. were back at the Showgrounds to challenge the unbeaten Rumbalara side and in a high scoring, high class game fell 16 points short 17.6 to 18.16. There was very little in the game all day with the scores level at half time. Alex. led by 4 points at the last change but Rumbalara finished on just a little bit better. After a few seasons of very few wins the Rebels need to learn how to win. Cory Jack (3) again in great form this season, won the Neil Beer Award three votes in his 150th game for the Rebels, Len Jenkins and Chris Mullins polled the 2 and 1 votes. Wayne Haggis playing his 100th game kicked 6 goals and Steve Nichol 3. Michael Bretherton, Peter Roberts and Luke Ware also won awards.

Alex. were at home again the next week to close rivals Thornton Eildon with both sides needing a win to stay in touch with the leaders. An entertaining first quarter with each side kicking five goals got the good crowd vocal. Thornton did the better in the second to lead narrowly at the main break. The third qtr. was goal for goal allowing Thornton to hold that narrow lead at the last change. In an exciting last quarter Alex. hit the front only to see the visitors take the lead on the siren. 14.11 to 14.8. Neil Beer Award 321 Michael Bretherton, Brock Fallon, Cory Jack. Others to come under notice were Michael Gibson, Paul Francis, Chris Mullins, and Cory Jack.

Alexandra then travelled to Yea for round 9 on June 5th. Alex began in a workman-like fashion thus gaining a two goal break at the first change then got their game together in the second with George Steiner (4) a target up forward they established a seven goal lead at half-time. The third qtr. was much more even until a suspected serious injury to Ben Van Lierop held up the game whilst an ambulance was called on the ground. The Umpires called off the game during the last quarter due to fading light with Alex. leading 15.4 to 9.4 Best: Michael Bretherton, Cory Jack, Jeremy Heyes, Steve Nichol, Peter Roberts and Brock Fallon.

The season was now at the half way point and Alex were sitting in fourth place (16pts) ahead of Thornton on percentage but trailing the unbeaten Rumbalara. Shepp. East (28) and Violet Town (24).

After the break for the Inter-league game which the CG lost 16.14 to Kyabram 17.12 Alex were home to Dookie United for round 10 on an ice cold June 19th. The slippery conditions troubled players of both sides and a goalless first quarter resulted. The visitors with three goals to two enjoyed a narrow lead and a warm up at half time. Alex. had slightly the better of the play in the third term to lead narrowly at the last change and in another tight exciting last quarter held on for an important 6.9 to 5.10 win. Incentive Awards went to Brock Fallon, Neil Oakley, Daniel Wales, Michael Bretherton, Steve Nichol and George Steiner.

Alexandra's next road trip was to Violet Town where the home side jumped the Rebels with four goals to one in the first quarter. Alex. responded in the second and worked their way to a narrow lead at half-time. The third qtr. wasn't pretty as both sides were hard at the ball in a bid to gain the ascendancy and it was the visitors who led at the last change. Alexandra's confidence and team work continues to improve each week and they went on to a good win 13.12 to 7.11. to move to third on the ladder. Neil Beer Award votes: Jeremy Heyes, Scott Rowan and Michael Bretherton whilst James and Sam Kidd and Luke Ware led the incentive awards. The trip to Violet Town resulted in all eight football and netball team taking the points.

Alexandra continued their move up the ladder with a comfortable win against the visiting Benalla All Blacks team in round 12 on July 3rd. In an even first quarter Alex. gained the lead by being more efficient up forward and at half time maintained a narrow lead despite having one less scoring shot. The Rebels took control in the third quarter with five goals to one. The Panthers had the better of the play in the last qtr. but were still astray in front of goal leaving Alex. with a comfortable winning margin. 13.13. to 8.17. Best: Neil Oakley, Brock Fallon and Jeremy Heyes. Jeremy Allen, Scott Rowan and James Kidd led the incentive awards. Again a clean sweep of football and netball games had Alexandra on top in the Club Championship Shield.

Alexandra now second on the ladder, were next home to the Shepparton East Bombers (third). Shepp. East started with the breeze favouring the town end and led at the first change. Alex. found it hard to crack the Bomber defence early in the second but then got on top with four goals to one to lead by 16 pts at the main break. In a tight third quarter each side could manage only the one goal but after a couple of Shepp. East goals early in the last, the home side finished on well to win comfortably 13.14 to 9.7. Incentive Awards were awarded to Neil Oakley, Cory Jack, Peter Roberts, Wayne Haggis Tim Bayard and Jeremy Heyes.

Alexandra's next engagement was against the unbeaten Rumbalara at Mercury Drive in wet and windy conditions. Alex. had first use of the breeze but could not master the conditions whilst the home side added a couple of valuable goals against the wind. The Alex defence did a fine job for most of the second quarter but the home side broke free just before half time to lead by five goals. Alex. tried hard to decrease the deficit but could not stop Rumbalara's clever use of the ball into the wind. Rumbalara soon added to their four goal lead held at three quarter time and showed why they are the top team winning 19.13 to 7.9. Jeremy Heyes, Michael Bretherton and Cory Jack scored the Neil Beer Award votes whilst Paul Francis, Tony O'Shea and Steve Nichol also earned incentive awards.

The Reserves went to the top of the ladder with a five point win over the previously unbeaten Rumbalara.

After two complete rounds the Rebels held second place but were brought back to earth or more correctly mud in the worst conditions at Thornton for many years. The Rebels defended grimly as the home side scored two goals whilst the ball was relatively dry. Alex. had the scoring end in the second term but 1.5 was to prove costly. The game really became a slog in the mud in the second half with Alex. nine points down at the last change. Alex. hit the front after a goal off the ground but Tim Phelps put Thornton back into the lead with minutes to go also with a soccer goal. Alex 4.7 lost to T.E. 5.4. This was Alex's third loss by less than a goal this season. Steve Nichol, Cory Jack and Tony O'Shea got the Neil Beer 321 and Sam Kidd, Chris Mullins and George Steiner were among the Incentive Award recipients.

Round 16 was at the Showgrounds on July 31st where Alex. hosted Yea for the second time this season. The Rebels were led out by Brad Kidd, playing his 150th game but it was the Tigers who started the better with the first four goals. Alex then got going and kicked the next four to lead at quarter time. Alex. continued to hold a narrow lead at the main break. Alex. set up the win in the third qtr. with three goals to one and although outscored by the Tigers in the last had enough in reserve to hold on to win 11.10 to 9.8. Incentive Awards went to Chris Ziebell, Jeremy Heyes, Luke Ware, George Steiner, Michael Bretherton and Wayne Haggis.

The Rebels next challenge was their second trip to Dookie where they found the home side committed and leading at quarter time. Dookie increased their lead before Alex. found some rhythm to their play and put some results on the scoreboard. Alex. tried hard to catch up the half- time deficit but Dookie matched the visitor's goal for goal and still led by that two goals at the last change. The Rebels were able to convert some of their opportunities up forward to finally hit the front going on to a narrow win 11.12 to 10.7.

Alexandra were at home to Violet Town for the last H&A game of the season and were surprised by the Maroons intensity as they took an early lead and increased it in the second quarter. Whilst Violet Town could manage only two goals in the second half, Alex also struggled with only three to finish short 4.5 to 6.9. in a loss which cost second place. Tony O'Shea, Neil Oakley, Cory Jack, Chris Mullins, Chris Ziebell and Brock Fallon were the award winners.

SENIORS Ladder 2004

RESERVES Ladder 2004

	W	L	D	B	For	Agn	%	Pts		W	L	D	B	For	Agn	%	Pts
Rumbalara	18	0			2104	1144	183.92	72	Alexandra	17	1			1579	433	364.67	68
Shepp E	10	8			1389	1239	112.11	40	Rumbalara	14	3		F	1780	413	430.99	60
Alexandra	10	8			1377	1278	107.75	40	Shepp E	14	4			1443	493	292.70	56
Yea	9	9			1275	1238	102.99	36	Thornton E	9	8			962	833	115.49	36
Thornton E	9	9			1385	1385	100.00	36	Yea	6	12			718	1307	54.93	24
Violet Town	9	9			1308	1455	89.90	36	Benalla AB	6	12			610	1430	42.66	24
Dookie U	7	11			1225	1201	102.00	28	Dookie U	4	14			647	1147	56.41	16
Benalla AB	0	18			780	1903	40.99	0	Violet Town	1	17			259	1942	13.34	4

Under 17s 2004

Under 14s 2004

	W	L	D	B	For	Agn	%	Pts		W	L	D	B	For	Agn	%	Pts
Alexandra	16	2			1626	580	280.34	64	Yea	17	1			1574	179	879.33	68
Yea	15	3			1905	592	321.79	60	Rumbalara	15	3			1392	386	360.62	60
Thornton E	13	5			1408	718	196.10	52	Alexandra	13	4	1		1219	369	330.35	54
Shepp E	10	8			1127	991	113.72	40	Thornton E	10	7	1		1075	536	200.56	42
Benalla AB	7	11			913	998	91.48	28	Benalla AB	5	13			355	1507	23.56	20
Rumbalara	5	13			909	1418	64.10	20	Shepp E	4	14			412	1187	34.71	16
Violet Town	5	13			692	1559	44.39	20	Violet Town	4	14			378	1342	28.17	16
Dookie U	1	17			333	2057	16.19	4	Dookie U	3	15			288	1187	24.26	12

All Alexandra football and netball sides were to play in the finals for the first time ever after a very good year for the Club. This of course gave the Club the Ken Baker Memorial Club Championship Shield. The Club also won the Most Disciplined Club Award.

Alexandra Centre Half Back Michael Bretherton won the Lawless Medal for B&F with 22 votes and was second in the Neil Beer Award one vote behind Thornton's Tim Phelps.

Alexandra's Siobhan Nichol won the CGFNL A grade Best and Fairest whilst Under 14 player Dylan Heaslip won the Richie Mann medal for Best and Fairest and also the Euroa Printers Award..

In the first week of the Finals Alex. had to travel to Shepparton to play Shepp East in the Qualifying Final. Alex were missing the experienced George Steiner. Conditions were perfect for football and both sides gave a great display. The game was goal-for-goal as each side had their chances. Alex established a handy lead in the third quarter but Shepp. E. coach Gerard Doyle got his side back into the game with two goals. The Bombers kicked the first goal of the last quarter to gain the momentum. Alex replied with a goal but the Bombers replied with two further goals. Alex. again got to within a goal but missed opportunities allowed Shepp. East to hold on and win 13.12 to Alex.12.5. Incentive Awards : Cory Jack, Jeremy Heyes, Chris Mullins, Steve Nichol, Paul Francis and Michael Bretherton.

Earlier in the day Rumbalara 9.9 defeated Alex. U/14s 5.5.

The following Sunday Alex. travelled to Benalla for the First Semi. Alex. made two changes Steiner and Wales came in for Gibson and Ziebell. Alex. did most of the early attacking but with little result on the scoreboard. The second quarter was Alex's best where they kicked four goals to one in a low scoring game. Both sides found it hard to score after half-time with Yea kicking three whilst Alex. could only manage two but had enough in reserve to win 2.4 – 6.4 – 7.6 – 8.9.57 to Yea's 1.0 – 2.3 – 4.4 - 5.7.37. Steiner Jenkins and Haggis kicked two goals each whilst Heyes and Oakley also kicked goals. Cory Jack, Jeremy Heyes, Neil Oakley, Tim Bayard, Sam Kidd and Steve Nichol won incentive awards. In an earlier game Alex.6.13 defeated Thornton E. 4.5.

Both B and B res grade netball sides were eliminated by Rumbalara in the 1st semi on the Sunday at Benalla

On the Saturday at Yea the Thirds 12.8 defeated Thornton 10.13 in the Second Semi. This preceded the Reserves who had also finished in top place going down in a low scoring game 4.7 to Shepp. East 6.6.

Preliminary Final Day at Dookie saw Alexandra with three football teams competing. The Under 14s 2.12 defeated Yea 1.3 to go through to their third successive Grand Final. The Reserves played Rumbalara and were beaten by the narrowest of margins 13.5 to 12.12. Award winners were Jeremy Allen, Ben VanLierop, Adam Gaudion (4) James Kidd Paul Brooks and Andrew Pickworth. The Reserves were disappointed to go out in straight sets after finishing on top, but had had a very good season in comparison to last year.

The Senior side made two changes, Krijt and Wales replaced Bayard and VanLierop. Rumbalara stung by their first defeat of the season last week, came out firing and the virtually won the game with a nine goal first quarter. Alex. then played catch-up footy for the rest of the game but Rumbalara gradually increased the margin winning easily. 9.6 – 14.9 – 18.14 – 20.17.137 to Alex. 3.3 – 7.5 – 10.7 – 12.8.80. Goals: Haggis, Bretherton, Heyes and Rowan each kicked two goals whilst Jenkins, Ware, Oakley and Steiner 1. Awards: Cory Jack, Chris Mullins, Luke Ware. Jeremy Heyes, Daniel Wales and George Steiner. It was a disappointing end to the year for the Senior team but it was a big improvement on recent years. Perhaps lack of finals experience was a factor.

Grand Final day at Violet Town saw the Under 14 and Under 17 football teams and the A and D grade Netball teams competing. The day began with The Peter Norris coached Under 14s winning their third consecutive Premiership a fine effort as approximately half the team has to be replaced each year. Alex. 5.1. def Rumbalara 3.3. Best: Jack Creighton won the Matthew (Dixie) Dwyer Medal, Jack Elkington (3) Dylan Heaslip, Adam Straw, Tyson Biffin and Kyall Norris. Stephen Steiner and Nick Malcolm also kicked a goal

Next up was the Peter McKenzie coached Under 17 team who started well then had to hold on against a determined Yea team to secure the Premiership. Best: Danny McKernan won the Norm Skinner medal as BoG. Ryan Carter, Robert Andrews, Peter Wandmaker, Zack Heaslip and Chris Dundas, Goals Luke Heard 3. Aaron Daly and Chris McKay 1 ea. The future of football in Alexandra seemed to be in good hands with the success of these two junior teams They were not only being taught how to play the game but also how to be good sportsmen by their coaches.

In the Netball this day The D grade team 15 defeated Thornton E. 10 whilst the A grade team lost by the narrowest of margins 35 to Dookie U 36.

Shepp. East won the Reserve premiership again whilst Shepp. East 5.8 and Rumbalara 6.2 played an exciting draw in the main game. In the replay the following week, Shepp. East 17.10 won another close game against Rumbalara 16.10.

At the Club Presentation functions on Oct 2nd and 3rd at the Mt Pleasant Hotel and the Clubrooms, Presentations and awards were made to

Presidents Trophy: Paul Wallis *Trainers Trophy:* Steve Mitchell

Barry "Sprague" Thompson Clubman Award: Daniel Crane

Football trophies were presented to the following Seniors / Reserves / U17s / U14s

Best and Fairest : Michael Bretherton / Ross Taylor / Lachlan Collard / Dylan Heaslip. *R/up:* Jeremy Heyes / Steven Hedger / Tom McKinlay / Jack Elkington. *Most Consistent:* Cory Jack / Brian Ward / Casey Southurst / Kyall Norris. *Most Determined:* Paul Francis / Jason Krijt / Chris Wallis / Brayden Norris. *Most Improved:* Brock Fallon / Jeremy Allen / Tim Cavill / Matthew Steiner. *Best 1st year:* Tony O'Shea / Anthony McGrath / Tyson Biffin. *Best Utility:* Luke Ware / Peter Hoornweg / Chris Meyer / Adam Straw. *Leading Goalkicker:* Wayne Haggis (47) / Brian Heard (41) / Luke Heard (60) / Kyall Norris (39). *Coaches Trophy:* Sam Kidd / Eric Fleming / Ryan Carter / Kurt Veldman , Stephen Steiner

Netball Trophies were presented to A/ B/ B res/ D/ E.

Best and Fairest: Soibhan Nichol / Rebecca McLeod / Melissa Crane / Claire McDonald / Kimberly Munro. *R/up:* Claire McGennissen / Michelle Jack / Lucy Wallis / Sam Westwood / Brooke Davis. *Most Improved:* Sarah Byrne / Rebecca McLeod / Carley Ware, Melissa Mullins / Fiona Coghill / Stacey Rennie. *Most Determined:* (D & E) Nichole Coombs / Kate Hill. *Coaches Trophy:* Kerrin Biffin / Sue Haggis / Hanna McKinlay / Kristie Warren-Smith / Emily Thornycroft.