

2009 First Division

Alex. began their year in First division under great difficulties firstly hampered by the tragic event of the February fires and other factors that were associated with the fires. Many Alex. players were directly involved or had relatives involved which had an effect on the whole club.

Pre-season training was hampered as the Showgrounds was a Refuge area with tents etc pitched on the oval and the football club were not able to use the ground for training etc until early April.

Michael Bretherton continued his coaching stint with Brad Kidd coaching the Reserves and George Steiner the Under 18s.

Alexandra only had ten of last year's premierships side available, four new players and many of last year's reserve and Under 18 players, for the first game in Division One as host to Monbulk. The first quarter was fairly even but from there on Monbulk soon showed why they are one of the teams to beat in 2009 and giving the Rebels an indication of where they need to be at. Alex. 3.10 to 31.17. Best, new players Tom Duigan and Daniel Steel along with Brendan Leary, Chris Mullins, Kane Davis, and Cory Jack. After the game League President Stephen Walter presented Luke Ware with a replacement premierships medallion to replace the one lost when Luke's house was destroyed at Marysville.

On Anzac day Alex travelled to Mt Evelyn, their first ever trip to that venue and were given a football lesson by another of the sides expected to do well this season. Alex. 5.3 to Mt Evelyn 31.17. Award winners Kane Davis, Sam Kidd, Adam Oakley, Brendan Leary Cory Jack.

Round three was against Gembrook-Cockatoo. Alex. had matched it with the visitors in the first half and only trailed by 12 points at half time despite a slow start but a poor third quarter saw the margin again blow out. Alex fought back in the last qtr. and actually had more scoring shots in the 10.16 to 19.6 loss. Best: C.Jack, N.Oakley, M.Hill (4), D.Steel, B.Leary.

Alexandra's next trip was to Healesville where the remarkably accurate home side raced to a big lead early. Alex then regrouped after half time and was more competitive although still very inaccurate. Against quality opposition, Alex. need to take every opportunity. Alex 5.13 to Healesville 16.8. Best: D.Steel, C.Jack, A.Oakley, J.Kidd, T.Duigan M.Bretherton.

Alex. were next at home to Woori Yallock for round five and the game followed a similar pattern to the previous week. Woori Yallock who are perennial finalists held an eight goal lead at half time. Although well beaten Alex's second half was again cause for some optimism as the second half was much more evenly contested. Alex. 9.4 to Woori 16.20 Best: C.Jack, J.Kidd, A.Oakley, B.Leary, T.Duigan, D.Steel.

Round six on May 30th after the break for the Inter-league game against the Bellarine League at Woori Yallock where the Yarra Valley won both the U/18 and Senior games, saw Alex travelling to Upwey. The home side revived bad memories of previous visits to this odd ground with another big win. Led by former East Ringwood players Wade Porter and Daniel Sheers, two of the best players playing suburban football, Upwey Tecoma were far too good. Alex. 5.7 to 35.14 Best: T.Duigan, M.Bretherton, J.Kidd, C.McKay, C.Jack, and B.Leary.

Alex. were next at home to Wandin also looking for their first win, The visitors got away to a good start but Alex worked their way back into the game by half time. A good third quarter gave the Rebels their first three quarter time lead for the season so far. When Alex extended the lead to 14 points early in the last a win looked likely but the Bulldogs kicked the next three goals to grab back the lead in the last minute of play 10.15 to 10.12 to deny Alex the win. Best: Cory Jack as always led by example, Cory typifies what playing for your club and town means along with N.Oakley, K.Davis, C.Mullins, A.Oakley T.Duigan and J.Kidd.

Alex. next travelled to Warburton and after an even first qtr. the home side slammed on 10 second qtr. goals to take control. Another big third quarter helped give the locals a big win 27.15 to Alex. 6.4. Best M.Hill, C.Mullins, D.Crane, J.Elkington, J.Krijt, J.Kidd.

The last game of the first round was at home to Silvan, a power in the Yarra Valley over the last few years. It was rumored that the Cats had come back to the field. Alex led at the first change but wasted many second qtr. opportunities allowing Silvan to lead at half- time. Silvan went to a match winning lead in the third quarter and although Alex. attacked repeatedly, inaccuracy and a tight Silvan defence aided the visitors as they won 13.9 to 9.13. Big Chris Mullins was Alex's best player, his strength and aggression at the ball won him many possessions. Other to play well were A.Straw, S.Kidd, A.Daly, J.Krijt, M.Hill.

Second placed Monbulk were the next team to host Alexandra in round ten as the second round of matches began on June 27th Monbulk were far too good again reaching 200 points in their 31.14 to 6.5 win. A.Johanesen (1), D.Bourke, N.Oakley (1), K.Davis, C.Mullins, T.Biffin. were listed as best players.

Worse was to come in round 11, Alexandra were kept goalless for the whole game by fourth place Mt Evelyn who kicked 24.18 whilst the Alex. forwards managed only three behinds for the game. It was an embarrassing loss on the Showgrounds. C.Mullins, L.Heard, T.Biffin, S.Kidd, A.Straw and J..Krijt were listed as better players..

Alex. then travelled to Gembrook and although well beaten did at least put a few goals on the scoreboard. The day started well with the Under 18s scoring a win against the home side in very strong windy conditions. The Senior Alex defence held Gembrook early but Gembrook were able to score against the wind and increase their lead as the game progressed. Alex tried hard to reduce the margin when they had the wind but the locals were able to bottle up play on the non-scoring side of the ground to restrict Alex. to 5.6 to 15.11 Michael Bretherton marked strongly and led by example assisted by M.Hill, T.Duigan, A.Oakley J.Krijt and N.Oakley.

Alex. were home to their now nearest rival Healesville for round 13 on July 18th. Alex. started the game well and only points separated the teams at the first change. Healesville found some system after quarter time and extended their lead in the middle quarters. Alex fought the game right out but could not make serious inroads into the margin during the last quarter. Healesville 15.19 def Alex. 10.4. R.Carter, S.Kidd, C.Mullins, A.Oakley, M.Hill (5) and P.Francis were listed as the better players in the next "Alexandra Standard".

Alexandra's next trip was to play Woori Yallock where the home side win the toss and kicked with a strong breeze and went to a big lead. The Damien Monkhorst led Tigers were able to also score easily into the wind as Alex. had difficulty scoring even with the wind. Alex. never gave in but were overwhelmed. 3.6 to 28.22. A.Oakley and C.Mullins tried hard to lift the Rebels whilst D.Steel, J.Ward, C.McKay and J.Heyes also played well.

Ladder leaders Upwey Tecoma were next to visit the Showgrounds and again amassed another 200+ point's score to completely outplay the home side. Although Alex showed great commitment they were simply outclassed by the premiership favorites. Alex. 5.4 to 32.12. C.McKay improving every game, L.Heard, J.Ward, J.Krijt, K.Davis, D.Steel. were listed as best.

Alexandra next travelled to Wandin for round 16 on Aug 8th and was able to compete with one of the lower placed first division sides. Alex. had the use of the breeze early and led the Bulldogs at the first change. Alex did well in the second qtr. and doubled their lead to 14 points at the main break. After an early third qtr. goal to Alex. the home side got on top to lead at the last change. The last qtr. was even but Alex. could not overhaul the margin and were beaten 17.10 to 18.17. A.Oakley was again in top form well supported by M. Hill (4) B.Norris (4) L.Heard, J.Kidd and C.Mullins.

Alexandra's last home match was against Warburton Millgrove who took the early initiative. Alex fought back to get on level terms but Warburton M controlled the game in the second quarter. Alex had one of their better quarters of the season but still trailed at the last change. The "Burras" again took control in the last term to win comfortably 18.14 to 11.7. C.Mullins, J.Kidd, T.Biffin, J.Heyes, M.Hill (3), B.Leary. were considered when the best player votes were made.

The last game in a long season for Alexandra was a trip to Silvan who had missed the finals after winning in 2007 and 2008. Silvan started with the wind and soon built a big lead which they were able to increase each quarter to finish up winning 18.23 to 9.15. Adam Oakley (3 goals) was Alex's best player all game well assisted by the courageous Daniel Steel and J.Kidd, N.Oakley, L.Heard and J.Krijt.

It had been a tough season for Alex not able to win a game and copping some big thumping's along the way. Even with all players available Alex. would be six good players away from being really competitive in first division. Eventual grand- finalists Upwey Tecoma and Woori Yallock played a very good qualifying final at the Showgrounds giving the locals a look at the standard of football Alexandra would have to achieve to win the premiership at this level. Upwey won the match at the Showgrounds and repeated the result in the grand final.

Presentation Nights

At the club presentation night at the Clubrooms trophies and awards were presented to
Presidents Trophy: Football Dick and Dawn Jack. *Netball* Michelle Jack. *Trainers Trophy:* Anna Birtchnell
Barry (Sprague) Thompson, Best Clubman award: John Westwood
Service certificates were also presented to Brian Heard (200 games), James Kidd and Luke Ware (150) and David Bourke (100)

FOOTBALL Seniors / Reserves / Under 18s.

Best and Fairest, Alan Jane / Stan Mackrell / Lyn Stillman Memorial Trophies : Adam Oakley / Daniel Crane, Hayden Nichol / Stephen Steiner. *Runner –up:* Chris Mullins // Matthew Steiner. *Most Consistent:* Daniel Steel / Tom Dunell / Jeremy Ward. *Most Determined:* James Kidd / Michael Mawson / Nick Armstrong. *Most Improved:* Ryan Carter / Steve Parker/ Sam Woolard. *Best 1st Year:* Tom Duigan / Grant Miller / Jake Steyger. *Coaches Trophy:* Sam Kidd / Michael Heyes / Jason Shaw. *Leading goal-kicker :* Marcul Hill (30) / Shenton Clarke (9) / James Heveren (38).

NETBALL A grade / B grade

Best and Fairest, Casey Munroe Memorial Trophy: Claire McGennissen / Sue Haggis. *Runner –up:* Rebecca McCleod, Skye McDonald / Kirby Welch. *Most Improved:* Ellie McDonald / Jo McCullough. *Coaches Trophy:* Selena Dodd / Tara Carter .

SDJFNL

Under 14 Football

Second semi Final Alex 11.6 def. St Mary's 2.4.

Grand Final St Mary's 9.3 def. Alex. 2.3

U/14 Best and Fairest. Ryley Norris

U/14 Leading Goal-kicker. Jedd Hamill

Under 14 Netball

Grand Final Alex def. St Mary's

Under 16 Netball

Grand Final St Mary's def. Alexandra

Runner/up U/16 B&F Ebony Purcell

At a function at the Clubrooms on Sept. 11th Trophies were presented to Junior players

FOOTBALL. Under 16s / Under 14s / under 12s.

Best and Fairest: Ben Cooper / Ryley Norris / Cooper Phillips. *Runner-up:* Bill Nye / Campbell Smedley / Jordan Purcell *Most Consistent:* Lyndon Purcell / Charlie Newton / Ethan Ritchie. *Most Determined:* Ryan Loveday / Will and Jack Goonan / Jordan Trembath *Most Improved:* Toby Ward / Andrew Steiner / Michael McGuire *Best 1st Year:* Conner Heaslip / Ben Wallis / Adam Keath *Coaches Trophy:* Max Church / Timothy Shaw / Peter Cairns *Leading Goal-kicker:* Rhys Steward (22) / Jedd Hamill (40) / Ethan Ritchie (24)

NETBALL. Under 16s / Under 14s / under 12s

Best and Fairest: Ebony Purcell / Meg Bonsema / Bethany Cairns. *Runner-up:* Jessica Evans / Maddison Riley / Keely Grant. *Most Determined:* Lauren Steyger / Jayde Cairns / Rebecca Wallis. *Most Improved:* Grace Westwood / Sophie Venn, Monique Sheean / Siobaun Carpenter *Coaches Trophy:* Tess Malcolm / Kimberly Shaw / Chelsea Skerritt.