

# 1980 Rebels Premiers and Champions

**In a great day for the Alexandra Football Club they won both the first and second XV111 premierships at Healesville last Saturday**

The Seniors did it easily in a great team effort to win by over 26 goals in the most one sided grand final local supporters can recall having seen, but the Seconds deserve special congratulations for a courageous effort in a football "war" in which they played the last third of the game with only sixteen fit or fully conscious Players.

The Club is to be congratulated on a fine effort over the season, not only having the 1sts and 2nds who both went through the season undefeated to earn promotion back up to first division, and prove to our supporters that's where we should be. Also to the Thirds, our hard working Committee led by Peter McDonald, our Ladies Committee and everyone associated with the club, right down to Len Neilson on the score-board. I'm sure that if we can retain most of the players that played last Sunday and pick up a couple of recruits we will give a good account of ourselves back in first division.

It was certainly a great lift to all players to see the number of supporters who made the trip to

Healesville and even our traditional rivals Thornton (along with supporters of most YVMD clubs) gave us great support especially during the Seconds game. Unfortunately the young Thornton Third's side just failed by 3 points to win their second flag in succession after a great comeback in the second half.

Players and supporters returned to the clubrooms Sunday evening and celebrated with a good night. A couple of players who enjoyed the night probably as much as anyone were two who played in our last grand final in 1965 Hassa Dundas and Ray Chanter who both played well for their respective teams on Sunday.

## **The Play**

In the Senior game Alex. got away to a great start and virtually had the game won by quarter time with an 11 goal to 3 first qtr. Alex had seven goal-kickers in this term, Britt, R.Dundas, Halligan, McKenzie 2ea. H.Dundas, Taylor and McDonald. Alex was on top in most positions with Pollard superb in the centre and McKenzie dangerous up forward. Walker and Taylor were also attacking players. Scores at the first change were Alex. 11.3 to Powelltown 3.3.

Alex. continued on in the second term and with the defence led by Hortin and Mahoney were always in attack. Goals came to Pollard, R.Dundas 2 ea. K.Dundas, May, McDonald, and Bradley to give the Rebels a massive 20.9 to 7.9 lead at half time. Ruckmen Coonan and Hewitt were giving the rovers plenty of opportunities and H.Dundas and McDonald finished off the job in the third quarter with 3 goals each whilst Britt and Halligan also chipped in with goals. Cann cleared from the defence in dashing style as the Rebels piled on eight goals to one to lead 28.16 to 8.5 at the last change. The last quarter was a formality as the Rebels continued their dominance with Britt in top form with 4 last qtr goals and R.Dundas adding another 2. Both sides were waiting for the siren ( although for different reasons) which gave Alexandra their first premiership since 1962. Alex. 34.20.224 defeated Powelltown 9.10.64. Everyone of the twenty players selected, put in a real team effort as has been the case all year, but a trophy donated by the Melbourne F.C. was won by captain-coach Graeme McDonald who was an inspiring leader all day.