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# Lakes chairman sets eyes on grand trophy

LAKES Oil chairman Rob Annells is not having a lot of luck in the football this year.

His beloved Churchill Cougars failed to win back-to-back premierships in the North Gippsland league last Saturday, falling by 29 points to Heyfield.

Now Rob has his gaze firmly fixed on the last weekend in September for a grand final of a different sort as Lakes prepares for the arrival of a rig to drill its first major Gippsland Basin well after producing a three-dimensional seismic survey of its acreage.

"This well is very, very important," said Rob, who has long been an industry pioneer for the discovery and development of gas and oil in "tight" sandstone formations near Seaspray.

While nothing is ever certain in exploration, the location of the Wombat 4 well has been greatly helped by the 3D seismic, which revealed a sort of double-dome formation.

The drill will be penetrating the

weathered top of this second dome and if Rob wins the exploration grand final, gas might even start to flow freely without the usual fracturing and underground stimulation that encourages the sandstone to release its tight grip on the gas.

Even if that doesn't happen, a second hole with a different target depth and the use of advanced US fracturing techniques could still see Lakes Oil's significant investment over 63 years finally pay off with a move into commercial production.

A good drilling result within three months would also allow the Lakes board to place or otherwise offer the final shares in a recent one-for-four issue at 1¢ which raised \$9.3 million out of a possible \$11 million.

There have been some positive signs for Lakes recently with its Wombat 2 well producing an impressive stabilised gas flow of 1.35 million cubic feet a day after being refractured and producing oil very similar to that produced in offshore Bass Strait.

Lakes Oil shares rose 10 per cent to 1.1¢.



**Rob Annells:** unlucky in football, lucky in drilling oil?