



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter December 22nd 2007

Graded Scratch Races – METEC – December 15th

Race report.

Twas the night before the last race, when all through the ward
Preparations were under way, Ronnie was on the march

Steps had been choreographed, paints applied
In the hope of an answer to his cries

The patients were keen, all stationed at their beds
Visions of thunder clouds forming in their heads
The nurses were settled for a night of rest
The last of the rounds completed and checked
When from ward twenty-five B there was such a raucous
The nurses all scrambled to see what the fuss was
Along the corridor like bees from a hive
They opened the door of ward twenty five
The glow of the mandatory exit light
Gave a tinge of green to the scene in sight
As the eyes adjusted what a sight to behold
A wizened little man in the centre of the floor
Despite a broken leg he was obviously of rank
They knew in a flash it was old Ronnie Stranks
Faster and faster he conducted his troupe
As he whistled and shouted and called them to coup

There was Johnny and Tom, Simon and Lou
Old Billy Graham had got a gig too
"Come thunder come lightning" did Ronnie Call
Rain the aim of this midnight toil
Banging on bedpans and singing a chant
It was no more than an injured man's rain dance

The morning dawned, the rain settled in
The efforts of the night rewarded with drizzle

A few hearty soles, more optimistic than not
Made the journey to METEC, hoping to trot
The phone it had said racing would go ahead
The radar had shown the rain would clear
In hope of a victory did Rob Amos arrive
Too wet to ride he and Kevin had to drive
Keith Bowen was sure the weather would clear
Graeme Parker certain Keith had no idea
Ian Smith and the others sheltered under cover
Debating the merits of one thing over the other

Peter Mackie turned back to conserve the ice
While the remainder imparted opinion and advice
The minutes did pass, race time rapidly approached
With no sign that the weather would broach

At half past one the president declared,
The championship's yours Ronnie my boy!

Aggregate Points (final)	
R. Stranks	76
R. Amos	71
P. Cavaleri	69
K. Starr	67
G. Green	64
N. Hainal	60
T. Muurholm	55
T. Murdock	55
JC. Wilson	54
P. Thompson	53
H. Preece	51
G. Parker	51
T. Curulli	51

Presidents Christmas message.

2007 was a very sad year for the club with the tragic death of one of our finest club members, Rob Graham. Rob will be remembered fondly and will be sadly missed by all the club. The annual time trial has been named in his honour. The club raised over two thousand dollars to help further research into spinal injuries and with generous support from Southern Vets over \$4000 was donated.



It is great to see Rob Amos back on the bike and riding with the determination that we have come to expect from Rob. His progress has been phenomenal and hopefully will continue at the same rate. We all hope to see Ron Stranks, Frank Nyhuis, Greg Brigden, Guy Green & Chris Frank back riding soon after their respective mishaps. Some accidents cannot be foreseen but when you are racing remember to be careful – we are just doing it for fun and we don't want any more injuries - they take a long time to heal these days.

On behalf of all our club members and visiting riders I would like to thank our great sponsors for their support in 2007. Without the continued support of these businesses and individuals we wouldn't be able to provide the level of prize money and trophies that we do for our major races. All members should remember to support our sponsors' businesses when they can.

Thanks to all the members who help out regularly with various tasks on race day, and especially those members with Traffic Control qualifications. Without the support of these riders there would be no racing. The success of every race depends on our riders helping out on the day, and this year our races have been very well run with the help of all our members – THANK YOU.

The fantastic committee members have worked hard all year and it is obvious in the quality of events that we stage. Several committee members still hold two positions though, and there are consistent vacancies on the committee. Think about getting more involved with your club over the next couple of months. We need more help – the club depends on volunteers but don't leave it to someone else – we need you.

Our recent annual charity day raised \$2500 for the Alfred Hospital Trauma Ward. This is a world-class emergency service that ensured that both Rob Amos and Geoff Thompson (SVCC) recovered from severe injuries. Thanks to all who supported this event – a record number of riders for the club with over 140 starters at Dunlop Rd.

Hopefully in February, the Race Control Centre at Casey Fields will be completed. At long last we'll have some toilets and shelter close to the track. Future improvements at Casey will ensure that this venue will be utilized for many years.

Merry Christmas and a safe and prosperous 2008.

Ian Smith

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	December	22	2:00pm	METEC	Christmas Handicap
Saturday	December	29		No Racing	No Racing
Saturday	January	5	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	January	12	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Graded Scratch Races
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop – Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races
Tuesday	8/1/08 – 1/4/08		6:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races

Note : Graded Scratch Race entries are accepted on the day up to 15 minutes before the advertised race start time. Handicap entries close the Tuesday before the race. Riders entering a handicap **MUST** pay the entry fee regardless of participation. Fees are due on race day, entrants will **NOT** be allowed to start in any EVCC race until fees have been paid. No late entries will be accepted for either scratch races or handicaps. Entries to handicaps can be submitted via e-mail to the handicapper or on any race day prior to the event.

Southern Vets Program

Sunday	December	23	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	December	30	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	January	6	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	January	13	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Thursday	3/1/08 - 6/3/08		6:05pm	Sandown Park Raceway	Graded Scratch Races

Note : Southern Vets have a 'No licence – No race' policy. If you are going to race with Southern take your licence with you.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	December	23		No racing	
Sunday	December	30		No racing	
Sunday	January	6		No racing	
Sunday	January	13	9:30am	National boulevard, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

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For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
27/1/2008	Bright	Audax Alpine Classic www.audax.org.au/alpine.htm Andy Burmas has some accommodation available – a_burmas@hotmail.com
3/2/2008	Casey Fields	VVCC Criterium Championships
10/2/2008 17/2/2008	Casey Fields	Southern Vets - Teams Criterium Races Graded scratch races (A - G) - teams will be audited for nominated grade suitability Teams of 5 riders, points awarded to 5 th place, for more details check with Southern Vets closer to the date. Entries open 10/1/2008 and close 6/2/2008
15/3/2008	Torquay	Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride - 145k or 60k options www.supersprint.com.au

Other bits and pieces:

Editor's Message,

Because I can.

I'd like to wish all club members, their partners, offspring, and onspring, all the best for the season and a safe and enjoyable time in each other's company.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of those who aided me over the past twelve months in producing the weekly newsletter. Especially to Keith and Ian who took over whilst I was overseas. It has been a challenge to produce a race report each week and without the assistance and input from those on the ground, or at least in the saddle, it would have been much more difficult. Thanks also to Brian Farrell who continuously bombarded me with images from the races, some of which you got to see.

Another group who deserve acclaim and applause are the committee members who put in many hours behind the scenes to ensure we have a race to compete in every week. METEC and Casey Fields are fairly easy events to stage, all of the other venues require a lot of coordination and ground work before we get to the start line, so thanks to Matt White (Police, Vic Roads and local council permits) and Hylton Preece (traffic management plans) and the other individuals who put in so we can get out there and race.

Rob Graham does the Great Vic

A couple of weeks ago, Alan Cunneen was out on the road between Cowes and Buchan, taking part in Bicycle Victoria's "Great Victorian Bike Ride", when he was approached by a fellow participant. Alan's Eastern knix the catalyst for the conversation, Rob Graham the subject.

Alan's new friend was a Phys Ed teacher, and fellow colleague of Rob Graham, from Warrandyte High. Warrandyte High's participation in the event largely a consequence of Rob's enthusiasm and encouragement with numbers increasing over the eight years they have been doing the ride. The school had a large presence at this year's event with 35 students, 3 teachers and 6 parents, an increase of around a dozen students on last year. This year's ride was a quiet, unofficial, memorial to Rob.

As the conversation drew to a close and the Warrandyte Phys Ed. teacher was about to head off to do what Rob did every year before, ride back up the route to check up on his student (and older) charges, he made mention that Rob was remembered, riding away with Rob's Eastern jersey wrapped around his waist.

Merchandise

Eastern Vets merchandise is available from Kevin Starr at most meets, you can check out what's available through the Eastern Vets web site - <http://www.easternvets.com/clothing.php>.

Other Results, etc.:

If you have a result or an announcement you would like to share please forward it on to me (nigel.kimber@bigpond.com) and I will include it here.

