



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter February 16th 2008



Graded Scratch Races – Dunlop Rd – February 9th



Race report.

Melbourne: Saturday February 9: Showers clearing, Min: 12, Max: 23.

The morning's coffee run started with the prospect of rain ahead but as the morning progressed the skies cleared and it was looking towards being a glorious afternoon as forecast. Optimism is a wonderful thing but as cyclists gathered so did the clouds and as race start time approached so did those self same clouds.

A minutes silence was observed on the start line in respect for Geoff Puttock. Races getting underway a couple of minutes past two o'clock. The first drops of rain arrived around fifteen minutes later, slowly getting heavier till the road was wet and slippery. A fall in the a-grade chase involving three riders, and no sign of the rain abating saw the race controller calling the races in progress to an early halt.

At three o'clock the rain had passed but the road was still wet and showing little inclination to dry giving club officials little choice but to call the remainder of the day's proceedings off.

a-grade

From the gun Cameron Winton, Wayne Benton and Tom Crebbin took the other 18 starters by surprise opening a 100m gap by the end of the first lap. Working together they quickly built their lead to over 200 metres before the bunch responded.

The response was not well organised and a fall fifteen minutes in caused further disruption to the chase that enabled the trio to build their lead to an almost unassailable half a lap. The assailability was not tested as the race was cut short soon after and it came down to a straight line dash.

After a tentative last corner the sprint for the line saw Tom take it out over Wayne and Cameron. A very tentative and well stretched out chase group rounded the final corner a minute later and after negotiating the last bend the front runners contested a sprint for pride and fourth place, Gary Chamberlain getting the kudos and the cash.

b-grade

No report due to race cancellation.

c-grade

If 'a' stood for aggressive, 'c' stood for cruising, the c-grade bunch sauntering around the circuit for the first couple of laps. Eventually race pace was reached and it was M. Goldie, Grant Greenhalgh and Andrew Finnigan taking turns at punishing the others in the group before settling back down for a couple of laps. Andrew had another go at shedding a few from the bunch but after a lap he hadn't achieved the objective and he sat up to try again later. He didn't get the opportunity as conditions deteriorated and the race was cut short.

It was the rain that finally saw the bunch dissolve as the more prudent backed off and allowed the braver riders the sprint. The sprint starting from the back of the bunch as it cleared the final corner; the last riders round keen to get closer to the front, the front riders fearing being passed picked the pace up. Peter Gray had the strongest and fittest legs to take the win over Brian Gannon and Steven Ross.

d-grade

No report due to race cancellation.

e-grade

The e-grade bunch circulated grupetto for the majority of the shortened race, only David Williamson interrupted the routine by getting away at 14:24 but it didn't last long and was all back together on the next lap. Nobody else got a turn at mixing it up as the bell was rung to signify the end of hostilities a lap later.

Again the rain seeing the more sensible backing off, leaving the sprint for the young men. A tight sprint making tough work for the officials on the line, first place not too hard to award but the next two across the line were impossible to separate, resulting in a dead heat being adjudged.

f-grade

No report due to race cancellation.

Wrap Up

Next week (23/2) we are back at Dunlop Road and it will again be an Omara sponsored event, and again Jae will be in attendance with product for sale and inspection.

Just a reminder that Eastern will not be conducting a race on March 1st. Racing on this weekend is the annual Eastern v. Southern interclub criterium hosted by Southern on the Sunday morning (2/3/2008). We need numbers so cancel everything and get along to support the club. As you know Ronnie's been feeling a bit low after his accident and there's nothing that would cheer him up more than to take the newly renamed "Ike Collings Shield" from Southern, so let's get behind Ronnie and the club and get along on the second.

Results

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
A Grade (21)	Tom Crebbin	Wayne Benton	Cameron Winton	Gary Chamberlain	Roy Clark
B Grade (28)					
C Grade (27)	Peter Gray	Brian Gannon	Steven Ross	Anthony Gullace	Hylton Preece
D Grade (21)					
E Grade (22)	Peter Stanley,	Daniel Berniard & Steve Rogers		Anthony Taylor	Richard Maggs
F Grade (18)					

Officials

Thanks to Ronnie Stranks and Graeme Parker on the entries desk. Thanks to the myriad of volunteers who helped set up the course and manned the corners etc. during the short first session. Thanks also to Mark Wallace for tending to the fallen. And again to JC for carting the trailer and Peter Mackie on drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	February	16	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	February	23	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Omara Cycles GSR
Monday	February	25	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Monthly Meeting
Sunday	March	2	9:00am	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern Crit.
Saturday	March	8	2:00pm	Yarra Junction	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	February	17	9:00am	Casey Fields	Club Teams event
Sunday	February	24	9:00am	Frankston Gardens Blvd, Carrum Downs	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	2	9:00am	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern Crit.
Sunday	March	9	9:00am	Casey Fields	Club Championships
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	February	17	10:00am	East Trentham	Handicap (44k)
Sunday	February	24	10:00am	Avenel Rd, Seymour	Handicap (48k)

Sunday	March	2	10:00am	Lancefield	Club Championships
Sunday	March	9	9:30am	Lillee Crescent	Graded Scratch Races

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Sunday	March	9	9:30	Woodstock	O'Brien Contracting Handicap	\$15 due 3/3/08
Easter	March	21-23		Maryborough	Sth Pacific Championships	\$20 / event due 29/2/2008
Monday	March	24	9:00am	Maryborough	Cec. Cripps handicap (65k)	\$20 due 29/2

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
2/3/2008	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern criterium NB. There will be no Eastern race on the 1 st of March
1-2/3/2008	Mansfield	Holden High Country Challenge www.hhccc.com.au/home.html
15/3/2008	Torquay	Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride – 145k or 60k options www.supersprint.com.au
21/3/2008 – 23/3/2008	Maryborough	South Pacific Championships Entries close 29/2/2008, see VVCC program for details
24/3/2008	Maryborough	"Cec. Cripps" Handicap Entries close 29/2/2008, see VVCC program for details
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Registrations open 7/4/2008 for BV members

Other bits and pieces:

Alpine Classic

Just what is a Russian

In the week preceding the Alpine Tom O'Malley, John Macleod and the Cadds (Graham & Juanita) were having a recovery coffee at the Mt Beauty bakery when Frank, of Frank's Messenger Service, rocked up on his vintage mountain bike with its rough old, hand made, trailer looking for a chat while waiting for his next job. Tom and Caddy asked what he carried and how far he travelled. The usual deliveries were groceries and medications, etc. for the elderly of the region. He said he had done 4 or 5 deliveries so far that morning, it was about 11am and that he did about 14000k per year delivering all over the valley, he'd been doing it for 20 odd years.

Ever inquisitive of engineering achievements Tom asked Frank what the maximum load his trailer could carry. The response was quick and decisive - "three Russians". The reply eliciting a few confused glances between the collected Eastern members, curiosity finally getting the better of Tom - "And what is a Russian?" Again, without hesitation, the response - "A Slabovic".

Much the wiser the Eastern crew finished their coffee and headed back over the gap to their accommodations at Bright, wondering as they went if they should organise for a Russian at dinner.

Frank also mentioned that he occasionally carried home the blind drunk locals.

The Mountains and the McCoys - 2008 Audax Alpine Classic

2008 saw a veritable invasion of the McCoy clan into the high country for the 2008 edition of the classic, with youngest daughter Jenny (who incidentally is the same age and born on the same day as Lance Armstrong) tackling, for the first time, the 130k, and joining the 200k aspirants and Eastern members sister Deb and father Ted to make it a real family affair. The excitement of the start at Howitt Park, Bright was heightened this year by a French theme - marquees and food stalls decorated in red, white and blue. Volunteers in French berets and attire while a gendarme mingled with riders wielding his baton menacingly and retorting 'Do not throw your banana peels on ze road or you weel be dealt with' and a madam - suitably attired in fish-net stockings and stilettos who was extorting the males to turn around so she could survey the contours of their rear ends and give approval, or not - all great fun giving rise to much laughter and jocularly.

As we started the first of the day's climbs, up to Tawonga Gap, the irrepressible Steve Short endeavouring to keep the happy frame of mind going in all told a joke, in his inimitable style, the punch line of which caused much laughter and a loss of concentration whereby John Jardine's son Scott duly ran up my rear end and hit the tarmac. Thankfully he was ok but in order to

prevent a recurrence he exploded up the climb leaving us all, and in particular Steve, in his wake. At the top of Tawonga Gap Eastern jerseys were to the fore as a group waited for stragglers to catch up.

Daughter Deb, despite having spent a night in the Wangaratta Hospital with a middle ear infection on the weekend prior to the ride was ahead out of sight - she was going to have a day out in this, her favourite ride location. I saw her only twice again and each time I was labouring uphill while she was flying downhill and despite having to, as she did two years ago with her daughter - Charlotte, stop to breastfeed her baby son Oliver at Porpunkah, she finished well ahead of me in a riding time of under nine hours - another classic effort by Deb.

Just out of Mt Beauty I passed Graham Cadd and John Macleod whose rear derailleur was malfunctioning to the extent that he could only engage his 39/27 - OK for uphill but he could only freewheel downhill. He called it a day at Mt Beauty on returning - bad luck for John. Graham informed me that Juanita was really going for it and he wasn't wrong for I passed her in only the last k or 2 from Falls Creek where I welcomed Ian Smith and Steve Short for a well earned rest.

Weather conditions were perhaps the best I have encountered since my first ride in 2002 for the comfort factor was high at the start with mild temperatures and then capped off by cloud cover in the afternoon, though still warm for the Buffalo climb. Ian Milner was barrelling down Mt Buffalo to complete the 140k just as I was beginning the climb, meeting Alan Cunneen soon after and doing most of the climb together, giving each other support.

The Buffalo Chalet was a very welcome sight, the custard and trifle desert making the pain of the climb almost worth it. Ian, Steve and Thorkild arrived just as I departed for the much anticipated drop to the Ovens Valley and finish run to bright to finish in a ride time of nine hours (overall time was 10:15). As I descended Graham and Juanita were toiling manfully upwards - I didn't see them again and I hoped they made the time limit.

Another great day on the bike in this unmatched high country.

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 any results or items of interest please get them to me and I'll include them here.
