



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter March 15th 2008

Yarra Junction – March 8th

Race report.

A traffic accident on the road to Yarra Junction may have hindered a few competitors but didn't deter any, it was 63 riders who assembled at the high school for the first road race of the year. Warming conditions and a westerly wind making for a tough day's racing.

a-grade (damian)

A small field of six took the Race Commissar's instructions. Phil Cavaleri missed the start and took the best part of a kilometre to catch up, he wasn't going slow, the pace was on from the gun

The race quickly settled to a steady rhythm of rolling turns as each rider familiarised themselves with the feel of their legs and of the course, had a good look at each other and the changing weather conditions (cloud clearing and getting warmer) and sized up the new addition (Damian Burke promoted from B Grade). By the 10k mark Damian was finding the lack of a warm up (from arriving late), combined with the shock of promotion, was not the best preparation for the very hard pace and started to miss turns as the recovery time for his legs increased.

At about the 13k mark a small crack appeared and Phil Smith eased himself off the front. The bunch, under the stewardship of Guy Green, allowed him his head and held him at the 50-75m mark. Into Powelltown for the first time and Roy Clarke and Boyd Friis were beginning to find the pace a bit hot and missed the odd turn as the heat, hills and change from criterium racing began to bite. At the turnaround (15k) Phil held his regulation 75-meter gap.

A quarter of the way back things got a little hairy when a combination of some motor bikes stopped on the side of the road, an empty truck trying to pass, and oncoming traffic caused disruption to the chasers. As a result of having to brake, and then with Guy's acceleration there was a mad chase to regroup, only three managing to get back on as Roy popped off the back, not having the legs to cover the gap. The interruption allowing Phil's lead to extend to 250 metres.

Into the halfway mark and the race had settled into the rhythm of a Fox & Hounds pace, Phil S. strong out front, Guy, Phil C. and Boyd rolling through in pursuit with

Damian hanging on grimly, looking for all the world like a candidate for a MICAmbulance (tautology? - ed.). Then disaster at the 40k mark as Guy said a quiet, and very polite, farewell with a front wheel puncture - the chase group was down to three. Into Powelltown for the last time the gap to the leader was around 150 meters, Phil S. doing a huge job to keep the diminishing pack at bay.

Despite a determined effort by the chasers and Damian's return to the rotation Phil S. continued to draw away at the front to win comfortably. Having spent a good part of the second lap sitting on in his first a-grade race Damian did the chivalrous thing and assumed the lead with around a kilometre to go and proceeded to lead Phil and Boyd home. With around 350m to travel Boyd started the sprint and was able to hold off the gamely chasing Phil C., who never quite got close enough to take advantage of the slipstream.

Figures for the race: 60k in 1 hour 29 for an average of 40.9kph.

b-grade (quentin)

A bunch of 18 riders headed off for 2 out-and-backs to Powelltown. Setting off at a cracking pace, a group of about half-a-dozen; Olivier Pomie, Frank Nyhuis, John Thomas, Martin Peeters, Martin Stalder, Bob Lewis and Evan Butler, doing all the driving, apparently intent on softening legs and deterring any breakaways ... no Phil Smiths in this mob!

With the work-rate so high the majority of the remainder could do little other than sit in and keep safe. A few surges over the duration of the race, plus the heat, the dead roads and undulating terrain, took their toll on a few, but going into the last turnaround there was still a healthy sized pack heading back for what seemed the inevitable bunch kick. And so it panned out, with only a push on the hill early into the homeward leg and a stint on the front by Quentin Frayne to stir things up. Otherwise, it was the same healthy clip of the strong men for the remainder of the journey back to Yarra Junction.

As expected it came down to the sprint, uphill and into a slight headwind, all the contenders vying for a wheel and a good position, none wanting to go too early or find themselves boxed in. Martin Peeters was positioned well and was the first to kick, going on the left as a string of riders moved up the right. Quentin threaded the needle between two lines and slipped in behind Martin, still unwilling to unleash all the ponies too early. With about 200 to go Quentin kicked hard and looked to have

the measure of the rest until a strong move by Geoff Thompson in the last 50m, as the road starts to level out, threatened to foil his plans. A final surge from Quentin saw the two go to the line locked together and produce a thrilling photo finish. Both riders claimed, the judges were split at two-all and the decision was made to call it a dead-heat. A fine ride from Geoff who's only been back on the bike since November after a very serious accident in training, and a long stint in hospital ... and a fighting finish from Quentin to hold him off. The strongest of the rest were David Anderson third and Olivier Pomie fourth.

Stats: race distance: 60km @ ave 37.5kph

c-grade (andrew and hylton)

Yarra Junction local Andrew Finnigan led the field of eleven c-grade riders away and helped set the pace for much of the first lap. Steve Ross, Tony Curulli and Hylton Preece also consistent contributors up front. The regular rotation of riders at the front of the bunch ensured that speeds were high and fairly consistent with very little surging. That was until the second time out to Powelltown, at around the 1-hour mark, when Anthony Gullace accelerated quickly up one of the inclines mid way out, Anthony quickly building this break to almost half a kilometre before the peleton knuckled down to get him back.

Marcus Herzog putting in some good work at the head of the chase before running onto the gravel verge at the roadside which slowed him down a bit, Marcus doing well to stay on his bike. The remainder of the group seemed happy to leave Anthony out front until the time was right (or someone else paid their fare) but eventually, with nobody wanting a race for 2nd place, the chase was joined in earnest and Anthony was caught shortly after the final Powelltown turn. The main chasers being Peter Gray, Hylton, Steve and Andrew, who, after reining in Anthony, continued to drive the bunch home.

With the majority of the bunch together the result was destined to be decided in a dash for the line. True to form the pace slowed noticeably as the peleton rode through Gladysdale as riders positioned themselves for the now inevitable sprint finish. A kilometre out somebody got jack of the games and lifted the pace back to its pre-jockeying level.

Peter Gray was patient and timed his sprint well, attacking with around 200m to run, Steve Ross in tow. The pair pulling a clear gap, in the end Steve was unable to finish the job; falling short by mere inches. In the sprint for third Tony Renehan out lasted his two companions and despite running off the road still managed to come through for 3rd place.

Avg. spd. Approx 35kph.

d-grade

Having the second biggest field of day and with the majority of the bunch starting the last lap together the race was going to be decided in a sprint, and that's the way it fell. A hundred metres from the finish there were around nine riders still in it. Colin Johnston started the sprint at the speed restriction sign with a strong move that gave him a gap that he was able to hold to the line. Murray Howlett and Graeme Parker were the first to react, Murray leading Graeme to the finish and going on to take second. The effect of Colin's early attack spreading the remainder of the finishers across the last fifty metres, leaving Peter Mackie to cruise home for fourth behind Graeme.

e-grade (brian)

With five starters there wasn't going to be anywhere to hide, the best plan; bust it wide open - turn it into a time trial, and this seemed to be the idea as attacks were the feature of the first half of the race. Despite the consistent aggression the full contingent went through the Yarra Junction turn and into the second lap.

Half way back out to Powelltown Juanita Cadd cranked it up and got the jump on the boys only to have Brian Farrell try to bridge, bringing his mates along with him. A counter attack didn't find Juanita wanting, but it did Brian, and a select group of three turned at Powelltown for the fifteen kilometre run home. JC Wilson paid the price for earlier efforts and quietly slipped off the back somewhere along the road.

Brian never lost sight of the three leaders but never made inroads into their lead either, finishing 200m back he saw the finish unfold as Juanita took on Andrew Buchanan and Neil Cartledge, jumping early and taking a good lead into the final stretch. Unfortunately it was a case of 'finish line too far away' for Juanita as Neil ran her down 50 metres from the line, Andrew doing the same 50metres later.

f-grade (graham)

Another small field that will probably be smaller next time round as David Birznieks and Peter Webb broke early and turned for the second lap well clear of their four fellow combatants, Graham Cadd having struggled on the first trip out to Powelltown followed later still.

The lead pair split along the road back to the finish and a strong ride by Stuart Jenkins over the same stretch of road saw the three place getters evenly spaced around 50-75m between them; David followed by Peter and then Stuart.

Results

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
a-grade (6)	Phil Smith	Boyd Friis	Phil Cavaleri	
b-grade (18)	Geoff Thompson Quentin Frayne		David Anderson	Olivier Pomie
c-grade (11)	Peter Gray	Steven Ross	Tony Renehan	
d-grade (16)	Colin Johnson	Murray Howlett	Graeme Parker	Peter Mackie
e-grade (5)	Neil Cartledge	Andrew Buchanan	Juanita Cadd	
f-grade (7)	David Birznieks	Peter Webb	Stuart Jenkins	

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks for taking entries. Today's racing was under the direction of Ian Smith who was ably helped by the following; John Thomas, Thorkild Muurholm, David Hyde, Gary LeRoy, Wayne Doherty, Kevin Starr, Leon Bishop, Richard Dobson, Paul Kelly and Ben Muller. As always JC kindly transported the necessary paraphernalia that is required to run a race and Peter Mackie was on hand with much appreciated cold drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	March	15	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Omara Cycles GSR
Saturday	March	22	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	March	29	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	March	31	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Annual General Meeting
Saturday	April	5	2:00pm	METEC	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	March	16	9:00am	Lakewood Blvd, Braeside	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	23	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	30	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	April	6	9:00am	Lakewood Blvd, Braeside	Graded Scratch Races
Friday	14/3/08		6:05pm	Sandown Park Raceway	Mass Start Championship
Thursday	27/3/08 & 3/4/08		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	March	16	10:00am	Ballan	Ballan Handicap
Sunday	March	23		No Racing	No Racing
Sunday	March	30	10:00am	East Trentham	Handicap (44k)
Sunday	April	6	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Scratch Races

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Easter	March	21-23		Maryborough	Sth Pacific Championships	Closed
Monday	March	24	9:00am	Maryborough	Cec. Cripps handicap (65k)	Closed
Sunday	April	6	10:00am	Burrumbeet	Chris Cashin Memorial handicap	30/3 - \$15

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
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
30/8/2008 31/8/2008	Halls Gap	Grampians VCC Graded Scratch Races Grampians VCC Handicap A great weekend of socialising and cycling
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Registrations open 7/4/2008 for BV members

Other bits and pieces:**Other Results, etc.:**

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