



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter September 13th 2008

Avon Tyre Service Handicap, Casey Fields – September 6th

Race report.

There must have been a blue moon on the rise, we just couldn't see it for the blue skies that canopied Casey Fields. The grass was green and the water holes were wet, not a ripple to be seen, the wind but a gentle whisper from the south-west. Perfect conditions for racing; unfortunately Casey Fields' reputation overriding the idyllic conditions, only 58 individuals lining up for the half dozen fifty-minute qualification races.

a-grade

Despite the return of four regular a-grade riders to Australia from their sojourn to warmer climes and European racing (Austria - where there are no kangaroos) it was only four (2 of the returnees plus Rob Amos and Phil Thompson) who donned the white helmet covers to take the field in the qualifier. Given that the first six in the heats were going through to the handicap final it was a non-race, the handicapper combining a-grade with b-grade, allowing them to sit on for a fifty-minute intensive warm-up.

b-grade

Content to let the a-grade interlopers lead for the initial couple of laps the b-grade qualifier got away to a steady start, not too fast, not too slow, in fact pretty much just right. And while Nigel Kimber recounted his overseas exploits to Phil Thompson the 10 registered b-grade riders had time to size up the opposition and formulate their plans. It took a lap before Phil became bored with Nigel's commentary and swung up to slink down the back for a rest. A new audience in Rob Amos kept Nigel amused for a further half lap or so before the b-grade riders decided to take control of their race.

The increase in pace stretched the bunch into single file as the likes of Steven Ross and Thorkild Muurholm applied the pressure. Occasionally the rubber band would snap (or was cut - ed.) and a small group of two or three would ride off the front but none of the escapees seemed to realise this or weren't prepared to work together to establish the break. Whatever the reason the breaks never got more than a couple of dozen metres up the road before somebody rode across the gap which would encourage another and another, then, with most positions in the final riding ahead of the remainder, there was a scramble to get on board and it was all over.

John Pritchard was relentless in his efforts to get away and into the final but nobody was keen to help him, the half-dozen moves he made up the road attracting no support and he had little choice but to fall back to the bunch after half a lap of dangling off the front alone.

An hour after its commencement the fifty minute race drew to its conclusion with the tolling of the bell. Intermingled in the peels of the bell were instructions to the a-grade riders to back off, leaving the original ten b-grade riders to sort out their final structure. With big money on the line in the final nobody was keen to lead out the last lap and it was a slow procession until Ben Schofield cracked and started the run for the finish with the bunch line astern and chaffing for the last corner and the real run to the finish. Predictably Ben was overhauled by the sprinters; John Pritchard, snaffling the first of the six final's places, was followed closely across the line by Damian Burke, Steven Ross, Paul Alsop, Martin Stalder and Trevor Coulter.

c-grade

No report.

d-grade

Any thoughts of an easy race were short lived as Richard Dobson upped the tempo early in the third lap in an effort to shake any souls who weren't feeling 109%, lifting the pace to over forty for a kilometre or so. All were up to the task but the heart rates were up and the likes of Andrew Buchanan, Adrian Ellis and Tony Curulli were determined to keep them that way, swapping off turns and maintaining a fast pace (good to see Tony back in the saddle after his break).

The solid pace wasn't enough to prevent Mick Paull and Peter Mackie from trying to get small groups away, unfortunately for them the bunch responded as one each time they jumped and the idea of half a dozen away and working was met with the reality of a dozen away and no advantage. Half an hour in and Richard, having recovered from his initial rush of blood, joined Mick and Peter in their efforts to break the bunch up and improve the odds of qualifying - all to no avail. As the bell was tolled the odds were about the same as they had been an hour earlier, the whole contingent going into the last lap on Andrew Buchanan's wheel.

It came as no surprise that nobody wanted to relieve Andrew of his position and in the sprint for the line he was swamped 50 metres out as the sprinters had their day, Tony Rodriguez taking

the honours from Mick Paull, Richard Dobson, Adrian Ellis, Paul Kelly and Peter Mackie.

e-grade

Six in the qualifier, six to go through to the final; another procession to the money race. Juanita and Mark Cheeseman trying to at least make some semblance of a race of it by keeping the pace above that of a Sunday social ride but not that of f-grade. With f-grade out of the way Graeme Parker joined the troop to impart some practical tips on riding the handicap. Ten minutes counter clockwise, ten minutes clockwise, ten minutes at race pace then back it off for the final ten-fifteen minutes to recover and conserve the reserves for the final.

But boys being boys Mark Cheeseman attacked half way through the bell lap, totally uncontested he comfortably took the win. Not wanting to be left out Juanita sprinted the back straight with Darren Rowlinson on her wheel, Darren doing the gentlemanly thing; following her all the way.

f-grade

The eleven starters in f-grade had little option but to start slowly as the six e-graders ahead were in no hurry to get to the finish. After JC rode up to the bunch ahead and explained the situation the e-graders pulled over and waved the lower grade through. With the road cleared the pace soon picked up, a couple of riders putting in hard efforts and a few attempts to get away making the followers work for their place in the line. Despite the increased tempo and surging the full contingent took the bell for the last lap as the eleven started the jostling for position. As the race entered the final half kilometre Craig Chamberlain took off with Les McLean on his wheel, Paul Reid, not far behind, and with momentum on his side grabbed the lead with fifty-metres to run to assure himself of finals participation. Craig and Les also making the cut, JC Wilson, Annmarie Darcy and Ken Crowe coming out of the bunch filled the remaining places.

Handicap

Second limit were set off thirty-seconds after limit, the laps of practice immediately being put into practise but not making a great impression as the f-graders were matching them for technique and only just falling short on the pace. After a lap the gap between second limit and the out markers was closing and Paul Reid decided to go it alone, his surge getting him clear but disturbing the rhythm of the others, leaving them to the mercy of the e-grade group. Half a lap later and f-grade were caught by e-grade, the union fracturing the two bunches, Darren Rowlinson and Mark Cheeseman driving through the juncture and stretching all to their limits. After the dust had settled it was Paul still up the road, Darren and Mark giving chase with the remnants of the e and f groups scattered along the road.

As the limit bunches were coming together (and being blown apart) the d-grade bunch was working well together and steadily closing the gap to the race lead, the fracturing of the bunches ahead increasing the rate of closure as the race

entered its second half. Back at the start finish line a reduced b-grade bunch (sans one rider who dropped his chain on the start line) was just overhauling/integrating the c-grade group with the three-man scratch bunch breathing down their necks and Nigel breathing heavily 20-metres further back as he tried to catch up after being dropped in the first 500-metres.

It didn't take long for Roy Clark to lead his two colleagues onto the back of the eleven man train and it took less time for him to figure out that the best tactic was to stay where he was and let the majority share the load rather than take the lead and all of the work.

Meanwhile back at the 'tete de la course' Mark and Darren caught Paul on the bell to make it a lead bunch of three, Darren taking over pace setting duties as the other two rested after their efforts. d-grade were still chasing the majority of the fragments of the two groups ahead on the road with the combined a-c behemoth bearing down on them.

Half a kilometre into the last lap d-grade were swamped. Half way round the last lap the remnants of the lower grade bunches were all but mopped up, just a few individuals holding on to a faint hope, and the three leaders had become one and two as Darren rode away from his two companions. The opinion in the gallery was that the race was over and that the out-markers would hold their lead to the finish, but that was before Roy Clark wound himself up and let go. A couple of hundred metres either side of a kilometre to run and the chase was on, Roy powering past the mass of riders that formed the chase group, Rob Amos on his wheel. Darren up the road and peddling for all he was worth, Mark and Paul emulating the effort and a few individuals in between.

With Roy and Rob storming past the remaining hopefuls money was changing ships as the leaders grasp on the trophies became more tenuous. Phil Thompson, having missed the jump, was in no-mans land and chasing hard, the stronger b-grade riders were leading the chase bunch, doing what they could to try to catch the runaways but losing out to Roy's sheer power. Darren rounded the second last corner into the long back straight well clear and, barring mishap, was almost certainly assured of the big money. Things weren't so certain for Paul and Mark as they rounded the same bend, they still had a big lead but the a-grade pair were closing the gap with every pedal stroke.

Paul and Mark pushed the tacheometer well into the red as they raced the back straight, rounding the final bend as Darren closed on the finish. The pair had done enough to keep the hounds of a-grade at bay; five seconds after Darren had finished Mark led Paul across the line to take a well deserved second. Ten seconds later Rob Amos respected the efforts of Roy by not challenging him for fourth, Phil Thompson crossing the line a couple of seconds later for sixth. Two of the hopefuls; John Thompson (2nd limit) and Craig Chamberlain (limit) were next on the road with the bunch hot on their wheels - too little road for the chasers; John seventh, Craig eighth. The officials on the line having little time to blink as Damian Burke and Steven Ross emerged from the pack for ninth and tenth.

Post race wrap

Avon Tyres sponsored the day's racing, their involvement supporting the club and enabling them to offer good prize money to the winners. So if you are in the market for new tyres for your car, caravan, trailer, or for your kid's swing

support those who are supporting you and give Nick Hainal a call at Avon Tyre Service; 459 Canterbury Rd, Surrey Hills – 9836 2355.

Results

Handicap

	Name	Mark
1st	Darren Rowlinson	1:30
2nd	Mark Cheeseman	1:30
3rd	Paul Reid	2:00
4th	Roy Clark	Scratch
5th	Rob Amos	Scratch
6th	Phil Thompson	Scratch
7th	John Thompson	1:30
8th	Craig Chamberlain	2:00
9th	Damian Burke	0:10
10th	Steven Ross	0:10
First lady	Ann Marie Darcy	

Club Aggregate

Name	Points
Rob Amos	52
Neil Cartledge	48
Steven Ross	43
Frank Nyhuis	40
Damian Burke	39
Trevor Coulter	38
Graham Cadd	37
Guy Green	36
Brett Robinson	35
Dave Worland	35
Nick Hainal	34

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ronnie Stranks who were on the desk taking entries. Thanks to Neil Wray and Graeme Parker for controlling the proceedings, to the pushers; Hylton Preece, Graeme Parker, Brian McCann, Steve Fothergill, Matt White and Dave McCormack who got the handicap riders away without incident and to all those who helped separate the qualifiers and place getters at the finishes. Thanks also to JC for bringing the trailer, to Peter Mackie who was on hand with drinks and Richard Dobson who is responsible for the roster and looking after helmet covers and numbers.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	September	13	2:00pm	Arthurs Creek	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	21	9:00am	The Basin	Indoor Outdoor Imports Hill Climb
Saturday	September	27	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	September	29	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Monthly General Meeting
Saturday	October	4	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop – Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races + post race coffee

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 outstanding 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	September	14	9:00am	Cora Lynn – Modella	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	21	9:00am	Somers	Lang Laycock Trophy
Sunday	September	28	9:00am	Lang Lang	President's Cup – 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.

* Due to Victoria Police requirements competitors for these events must have a flashing red taillight and a white headlight.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	September	14	10:00am	East Trentham	Handicap (44k)
Sunday	September	21	10:00	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic handicap (49k)
Sunday	September	28	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	October	5	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Saturday	September	13	1:00pm	Wangoon (Warrnambool)	Jack Brennan Handicap, 60k	Closed
Sunday	October	5	10:00am	Geelong	Stan Howard Memorial H'cap	29/9 - \$15

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
12/10/2008	Traralgon	2008 Jayco Herald Sun Tour Masters Support Races
14/10/2008	Warragul	As a part of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour Southern Vets, in conjunction with Cycling
16/10/2008	Mansfield	Australia and Cycle Sport Victoria, are running support races over the Herald Sun Tour
18/10/2008	Carlton	courses. Cost is \$16.50 (for non SVCC members) + \$20.00 per event entered. See the SVCC web site (www.southernvets.com.au/modules/news/article.php?storyid=209) for more details and entry form.
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Nigel Kimber will be leading a 250k group, anybody interested in riding as a part of an Eastern Vets bunch please contact Nigel on 0409 386 349. There will also be a group going to Sorrento and back.

Other Results, etc.:
