



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter February 27th 2010

Graded Scratch Races – Casey Fields – February 20th

Race report

Memories of two weeks ago must still have been fresh in the minds of members, some two dozen sufficiently traumatised by the experience that they didn't show. The fifty-two who did come out to play were greeted with slightly better conditions, the wind from the North meant it was only along the finish straight that stamina was tested and being slightly less than the gale of two weeks past, its effect not so severe on the Zips.

a-grade

A select group of five set off for a seventy-minute session. Frank Nyhuis struggling early (lap 2), the effects of the drive back from Bright playing on his legs (or was that the Buffalo & Hotham ascents of the previous two days? - ed.). On the third lap the other four eased up to give Frank, and his legs, a chance to catch up. By the fifth lap it was racing but it was four. A couple of laps later the podium was settled as Roy Clark retired, just the order to be decided.

Phil Smith was the first to try to settle matters. For the twenty minutes or so after Roy's departure the trio had been swapping off turns, sharing the load, biding their time, it seemed the right thing to do. But Phil knew he wasn't going to win a sprint so he set about trying to do what he does best. A surprise attack garnering a gap. But the other two knew Phil could time trial to the finish so reacted quickly, Rob first, Guy not far behind. A few laps later, with still enough time if he could get clear, Phil jumped again. This time from second wheel, Rob on front, Guy just having completed a turn. Guy managed to hold the wheel, Rob having to dig deep to close the gap that was opening.

With that attempt shut down the window of opportunity for Phil narrowed, the sound of the bell a couple of laps later nailed it shut. A sprint it was going to be. The jockeying saw Guy on the front down the back straight, Phil on his wheel, Rob bringing up the rear. Out of the last corner Rob took advantage of his position and dove for the sheltered side only to find the door shut and evasive action required. A second attempt got him past Phil but never in the chase for Guy who crossed the line two lengths clear, Rob second, Phil third.

Figures for the race: 43k in 1:08 for an avg. 37.6kph (max 58.7kph)

b-grade

The hot northerly wind not only sucked the moisture from the earth but seemed to suck the will from the eleven b-grade starters. The first half of the race conducted at a fairly lazy pace. The few efforts by Steve Ross and Ian Smith to wind things up met with keen contest to hold the wheel but were not followed up with contribution to the pace. The negativity seeping in so much so that when Martin Stalder jumped from the front of the bunch with twenty minutes to go nobody bothered to, or was prepared to, chase and Martin gained a handy little break. The thinking being that the conditions would beat Martin down and he'd be back before long.

But as the bent-over form of Martin continued to diminish concerns were raised and Greg Lipple and Ian Smith endeavoured to rally the chase, either Martin had friends in the bunch or the conditions were simply too oppressive, whatever the reason the rotations within the chase were haphazard at best and ultimately it resorted to just a few. The lack of a coordinated chase meant that as the bell was rung it was obvious Martin was not going to be caught and it was now a race for the first of the minor places.

Half way through the final lap Ray Russo took a punt on receiving similar treatment (to Martin), Anthony Gullace opportunistically on his wheel. But the big guns weren't going to have any of it and dragged them back in before a quarter of a k had passed beneath the wheels. Onto the back straight and a repeat effort but with a bit more enthusiasm, the sight of officials and spectators on the line adding intent to their attempt. The stronger effort and a little hesitation amongst the chasers allowed the pair a healthy gap that (had they looked around) may have raised hopes. Eventually Steve Ross, Ian Smith and Daren Darling put in and gave chase, the remainder hanging onto their jersey tails.

Sixty metres to close down, six-hundred metres to do it in.

The nearer the final turn the more the legs started coming out of the break and the more the chase gained. Into the finish straight, and the headwind, the gap to the chase dropped dramatically, the pair struggling to find that little bit more that would get them to the line ahead of the big-boys of b-grade. Nothing there. Steve, carrying his momentum from the chase, overhauled all to claim second, Darren holding off the sprinters for third.

c-grade

No report.

d-grade (Peter Webb)

What a day! Hotter than Megan Gale, windier than Sir Les Patterson after a can of baked beans, a group of 16 riders, including a welcome return to racing by Paul Kelly, tackling the elements.

It all started gently enough with a neutral first lap but the attacks soon began, led by Chris Ellenby. Maybe he was just toying with us but we couldn't afford to let him get too far away so the group closed down every surge.

Then with about 30 minutes left, John Thomson and Peter Webb took off in earnest and quickly opened up a substantial gap. A second break of 3 riders formed and started the chase. After 3 or 4 laps Peter Webb tired and couldn't stay with John any longer. While John powered on, Peter went back and joined the second group to make it four in pursuit. The group of four becoming three again after one of the group ran off the track. As hard as they tried, Graham Parker, Chris Ellenby and Peter Webb couldn't make any great inroads into John's lead.

When the bell was rung there was a collective sigh of relief, John wasn't going to be caught, and the chase group slowed the pace. The formidable John Thomson going on to win by about 70 meters and also pick up ride of the day. The sprint for the minor places saw Peter taking second followed closely by Chris with Graeme easing up due to his knee swelling again. The rest of the grade was decimated by the heat and the wind.

All in all it was a good day's racing with everyone staying upright and safe; except we were all sick of looking at John's butt!

e-grade (with Ken Saxton)

As with any small population members need to look after each other and that was how the first half hour of the e-grade race proceeded, each of the five starters taking a turn at the front, each doing their share into the headwind up the short finish straight. But where there's competition there must be the elimination and with less than half the race duration outstanding it was time to cull the rivals. Adam Dymond started the process, upping the pace to a level that caused a rift in the bunch, the wily survivor - Ron Stranks, on the right side of the gap, JC Wilson, Laurie Bohn and Ken Saxton on the wrong side. Realising survival was under threat Ken put in an effort to remain in the prize pool and it was three against two. The tempo increased further as the trio worked together to drive the chase into extinction.

A couple of laps at the increased pace and victory was assured, but at what cost - Ken Saxton. The effort taking its toll as Ken slipped from the leaders to circulate alone, between the two pair. Ken refusing to surrender watched as the leaders drifted away then with ten minutes to go the trend reversed, the gap was getting smaller. With renewed hope Ken pushed hard and rejoined the leaders on what was to be the penultimate lap.

With the bell came the jockeying but it's a long way round Casey Fields and as the lap progressed the speed increased, into the long straight for the last time it was Ken leading Ron and Adam. Into the finish straight, and the wind, for the last time Adam launched his sprint, Ken did all he could to go with him but Adam proved to strong, riding away to a comfortable win. Ron and Ken fading in their respective runs to the line but Ken's efforts to go with Adam enough to keep Ron from second place.

f-grade

No report.

Results

	First	Second	Third	
a-grade (5)	Guy Green	Rob Amos	Phil Smith	
b-grade (11)	Martin Stalder	Steve Ross	Darren Darling	
c-grade (12)	Jim Swainston	Harold Simpson	Dave McCormack	
d-grade (16)	John Thomson	Peter Webb	Chris Ellenby	Graeme Parker
e-grade (5)	Adam Dymond	Ken Saxton	Ron Stranks	
f-grade (3)	Phil Cox	Ray Watts		

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks who were on the desk taking entries. Thanks to those who controlled the day's proceedings. Also thanks to Richard Dobson who manages the duty roster and ensures we have enough people on the day for our races, to JC Wilson who brought the trailer along and Peter Mackie who was on hand with the drinks.

Note : Members rostered for marshal or traffic control duties must be at the circuit at least one hour before the scheduled start time to assist with the setting up of the course.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	February	27	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	March	6	2:00pm	Macclesfield	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	March	13	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Graded Scratch Races

Saturday	March	20	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Club Championships * Competitors must have ridden 3 club races this season to qualify.
Monday	March	22	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	General Meeting
Tuesday	Mar	9, 16, 23	6:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races Note : No entry to circuit before 5:00pm
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 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.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	February	28	10:00am	Lancefield	Lancefield Handicap – 62k
Sunday	March	7	9:30am	National Boulevard	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	14	9:30am	Toolernvale	Time Trial 16k (age adjusted)
Sunday	March	21	9:00am	National Boulevard	Graded Scratch Races + Handicap

Gippsland Vets Program

Sunday	February	28	10:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	7	10:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	14	10:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races

Victorian Veterans Cycling Council Program

Note : Entries for the South Pacific Championships close March 15th not 22nd as advertised in the little white book

Sunday	March	7	9:30am	Woodstock	O'Brien Contracting handicap (56k)	Closed
Sunday	March	21	10:00am	Wangoon	Brennan – Hall handicap (60k)	10/3 - \$20
Easter	April	2-4		Maryborough	South Pacific Championships Victorian Road and Criterium Championships	15/3
Monday	April	5	9:00am	Maryborough	Cec Cripps handicap (65k)	15/3 - \$25

Note : Entries can be made on-line through the VVCC website or are to be on the appropriate VVCC Open entry form (available on the VVCC website) and are to be accompanied by the requisite fee.

Other Results, etc.:

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
7/3/2010	Falls Creek	BV – 3 Peak Challenge, 230k. - www.bv.com.au/great-rides/42359
13-14/3/2010	Mansfield	SCODY High Country Cycle Challenge - www.bikeevents.com.au
27/3/2010	Torquay	Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride - www.supersprint.com.au
11/4/2010	Tarrawarra	Just Cycle Yarra Valley 45k (Maroondah Hwy, Warburton Hwy Healesville-KooWeeRup Rd loop) - \$130, 120k (45k ride plus Donna Buang) - \$145. Entry includes event jersey, showbag of sponsors goodies www.justcycle.com.au
17/10/2010	Melbourne	Around the Bay in a Day Registrations open 1/4/2010 for BV members, 8/4/2010 for general public - www.bv.com.au
27/11/2010	New Zealand	Wattyl – Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge Mal Jones on 0412 569 100 or email mal@shotproperty.com.au
