

Newsletter



Duty roster

26 March, Casey Fields

David Hyde (R), Anna Davis, David De Pedro

2 April, Dunlop Road

Keith Bowen (R), Frank Nyhuis (TC), Steve Short (TC), Peter Shanahan (TC), Darren Woolhouse, Grant Farr, Steve Foster, Paul Firth, Laurie Gates, Ciaran Jones, Roman Suran, John Clarkson, Ian Gillies, David Chesney, Andrew Wedderburn

If rostered for duty, you must be there at least 1 hour before start time. It's your responsibility to find a replacement if unable to do your duty, then advise Andrew Buchanan, tjptop2@optusnet.com.au

Editor: Nick Tapp

nick.tapp@detail-ed.com.au



Dark clouds swirled around Yarra Glen last Saturday but the road was dry, and it stayed that way. The testing kermesse course with its repeated ups and downs put many legs to the sword. The scenery may have been largely forgotten in the heat of competition, but it makes a grand backdrop for an afternoon of racing.

Thanks again to those who contributed reports, photos and news. Among them is Mark Edwards, who was on duty last Saturday with tripod and camera – you may have seen him around the course. Several of Mark's photographs appear in this issue and he has made many more available at this [Google share site](#).



Rider, vineyards – Provence in July? No, Yarra Glen in March. Photos: Mark Edwards



Going one better? The previous week, F grade threatened to overtake B; here they appear to have Steve Ross and Ray Russo in their sights – but it's just possible the gap was getting wider.



C grade strung out along the road.

Graded scratch races, Yarra Glen, 19 March

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd
A grade (13)	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	Phil Smith	David Holt
B grade (14)	Nick Tapp	Anthony Gullace	Colin Doherty
C grade (15)	Kerry Ryan	Sam Bruzzese	Adam Dymond
D grade (7)	Gavin Read	Neil Cartledge	Ken Allan
E grade (4)	J. C. Wilson	Peter Gray	Ron Stranks
F grade (6)	Clive Wright	Laurie Bohn	Jim Swainston

A grade (I)

A good field in A grade considering the weather: it was raining when I left home, but to my surprise the circuit was dry. Luckily there was no Dave De Pedro or Tom, but with a full-strength Skope Team, led by Phil Smith, it was going to be tough.

And so it proved, with Phil attacking the first time up the hill. I managed to grab his wheel, and was shocked to see everyone still together at the top. Into the block headwind Skope played their next card with Dave Holt and J-P jumping away. As usual, the majority were happy to see a few do the chasing – Steve Ross, Cam White and myself – before a big turn by Peter Howard almost closed the gap as we turned back into the wind.

As we crossed the finish line Phil and I had a small gap. Phil hit the gas up the hill to make a break of four, consisting of three Skope riders and me. A few laps in, I was struggling to hang on up the hill as we hit the base at over 40 km/h.

Luckily, they eased up over the top as they decided I was less of a threat with them than dropping back and helping the chasing group – of which I could only make out Peter.



The break of four (L-R): J-P, Rob, Dave and Phil.

Photos: Mark Edwards

As we worked back together the lead grew, until three to go and another attack by Phil up the finish straight had me off the back. Next time up the hill saw Dave off the back, so he and I joined together in the chase, hoping they might play cat



and mouse and give us a chance. That did not happen as J-P set such a high pace up the hill that Phil could not attack. They finished in that order, and Dave easily outsprinted me for 3rd.

Rob Amos

A grade (II)

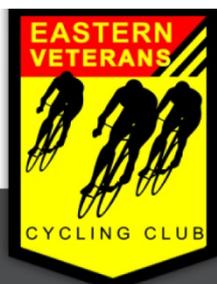
Warm-up with Phil (green man, in red) was good, peaceful pace, talking about cycling. I was feeling OK, not much more (usually a good indication, because when I feel good during warm-up I race crap, and vice versa). Today, there was a nice tailwind on 'the hill' (yes!) and a bad headwind on the flat towards the finishing line (no!).

Neutral lap was neutral, I was towards the back, watching, as usual. We were now on the second lap and just about going towards 'the hill'. I was not far behind David (hulk man, in blue) and could read he was just about to launch an attack. I quickly went towards him and yes, he did, off he went on the hill – so I went with him. On top of the hill, we had a small gap to the bunch.

We started to roll but the headwind on the flat was tough for only two riders, and after two laps we could see the bunch was getting back on us. David said to me, 'They're right behind us'. I looked and, indeed, they were just about 50 metres behind us. A few minutes later I looked



A grade before the 'fun' began.



again and could see two guys away from the bunch and heading towards us. Within a few seconds, Phil and Rob had bridged to David and myself.

We started to roll immediately. Phil was pushing hard (ouch). We had to push hard because a few riders from the bunch were making big efforts to catch us four. The four of us were rolling evenly, and intensity was high. I struggled badly for at least a lap, until I could recover and start to hit this hill at each lap. On lap 7 or 8, we almost dropped Rob, but we could not afford to be three, so we regrouped as four and carried on rolling.

On lap 9 or 10, Phil launched an attack after the finishing line and Rob was dropped. It was now Phil, David and myself. Here we go, at the bottom of the hill, Phil attacked again, and again, dropping David. It was now Phil and myself. I was concerned about Phil's next attack, so I would be the next victim. So, on the following hill, I put the

pace up to try to stop him from attacking (killing attacks he does – bloody hell!). Phil attacked on the last hill (before the hump), but I managed to stay with him – just. It finished in a sprint between Phil and myself, and I got it – just.

Chapeau 1: Phil, bridging back with Rob to David and myself, and then bullying the three of us for 11 laps with his killing, repetitive attacks.

Chapeau 2: Rob, in my five years with the club, never seen Rob so strong on the hills! To be watched ...

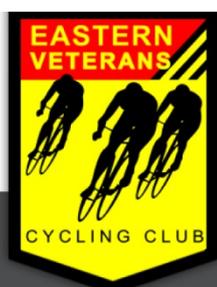
Chapeau 3: David, initiated the early break on the second lap, which was brave (seemed crazy at the time, but it worked) and did big turns when rolling.

Skope Team 1, 2 and 3, nice!

Jean-Philippe Leclercq



Phil Smith and J-P Leclercq go hard up the hill. With Dave 'the Incredible' Holt and Rob Amos chasing, so would you.





B Grade

Wasn't it nice to be back out on the wide, open road! There were black clouds swirling all around the Glen but the rain held off. Unusually, the wind was behind us on the uphill leg, then across going downhill and a headwind for the finish.

A decent field of 14 riders; 12 laps. Anthony Gullace was the first to sneak away up the road for a lap or two, but there were a few new riders in the bunch as well, one of whom, Nathan White, looked ominously comfortable on the hills. He had about 200 metres gap at one point and I used the wind to launch me up the hill in pursuit. Didn't get all the way across before the bunch caught up and others finished the catch. Having chased quite hard after both escapees I was glad to resume normal duties on and just off the front in the second half.

Anth had vanished from view so I assumed he was saving it for a late attack. Nathan was still making it look easy and I thought he might be up for a late one as well. Martin Peeters, John Thomson and John Williams were the main other workers but not the only ones.

Just before two laps to go, Nathan attacked, but it didn't have the punch of his earlier moves and a

conga line formed instantly on his wheel. Then Anth launched from the back and got away to a modest gap that lasted until the bell, when it all came back together and settled down – apart from a premature sprint to the line from Tom McDonough, who thus 'won' a lap too early.

Last lap. John Thomson on the front. Sprint coming up. Anth was still towards the front and I was also watching Bruce Will and especially Colin Doherty, who both started to work their way up into position. Coming into the lo-o-o-ong finishing straight, I was six or seven wheels back and out towards the centre line, with all those three guys in view. I sprinted first, just as it kicks up to the finish, and immediately felt the headwind. I had got the jump on them but not by much: Anth was on my wheel and Colin was on his. I thought I might have gone too soon and was rocking and rolling, trying to get to the line. Everyone must have been in the same boat, though, and Anth crossed the line 2nd, still on my wheel, and Colin on his for 3rd.

Thanks to all those who helped to run the show, especially the lap counters and corner marshals.

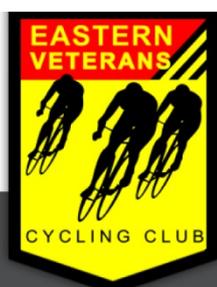
Nick Tapp



Nathan White takes the bottom corner.



Nick goes for the line as Anth tries to close the gap.





C grade

A bunch of 15 rolled off from the marshalling area for another kermesse at Yarra Glen. With the weather seeming to hold off, we looked like racing in pretty good conditions. A reasonable headwind up Yarraview Road led me believe that we were unlikely to see a breakaway.

As the bunch approached the start/finish line to end the neutral warm-up, the rider next to me on the front (Peter Morris, I think) said something about a wasp and subsequently went off the side of the road. The bunch slowed and waited for Peter to get back on. Seeing him after the race with ice on his forehead, I can confirm he was indeed stung, so chapeau to you Peter for seeing the race out!

No less than 200–300 metres later, one other rider rode off the road for no apparent reason – maybe looking back to check on Peter. That was when Kym Petersen and I decided that this was going to be an eventful race, and that C grade had been pretty slack on race reports of late, so I agreed that I'd write one. So here it is, Kymmie!

The second rider got back on and away we went up the climb for the first time at a fairly pedestrian pace. As we swung back onto Yarraview Road, the pace was worse than pedestrian. A quick look at my Garmin told me we were doing 22 km/h, which was 5 km/h slower than the warm-up. I was getting a bit frustrated at this but was boxed in, so as soon as we took the turn into Glenview Road, I gave it a squirt and got 50 or so metres away from the bunch halfway up the hill. By the time we got to King Street the bunch got back with me so I gave it another squirt down King Street and it was fair to say the race was on.

Lap 3 or 4 up the hill, we were treated to yells of 'kangaroo up' as a few roos bounded across the road, well in front of us but close enough to remember to keep your eyes peeled. Lap 6 and a few of the usual suspects were pushing the pace up the front, including Sam Bruzese looking resplendent in his hot pink Giro d'Italia top, Andrew Buchanan and Dave McCormack also looking strong. A few guys from Northern were an unknown factor, and David Watts was up the pointy end a fair bit, too. They were stringing out

the bunch and a few started to struggle, including yours truly. I was able to ride tempo and hang in there.

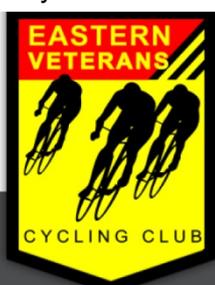
Lap 8 saw another big push up the hill, with hearts racing across the eight or so of us left. With the bell most welcome, I made my way up to fourth wheel behind Sam, who I decided was looking the goods. The bunch made it up the hill more or less together, but as we turned into King Street I noticed Dave McCormack 15 metres or so off the front. Dave took this small lead into the headwind on Yarraview and I didn't think he would sustain his break. Bernie Evans took the initiative and brought us across to Dave, and I was glued to Bernie's wheel. As we approached 300 metres to the line the pace was on. David Watts took a flyer from behind and I managed to get onto his wheel. I thought I was looking the goods as I started to wind David in coming to the line, only to see a flash of pink to my left as Sam took me on the inside for 2nd, and new rider Kerry Ryan flew up my right to take the honours.

Well done to all for a great race, and thanks to the marshals and organisers for another well-run EVCC event.

Adam Dymond



Kym 'the Persuader' Petersen corners in style.





F grade

I feel we did well to round up six happy starters for F grade with help from Peter. John Eddy and Clive Wright like to notch up a win so there was always going to be a contest at the finish. Barry Beachley is an interesting character, not just because he is Kym Petersen's dad, but because he ran for years as a pro runner at the same time as I raced as a pro track rider. He has a slightly more famous brother who won the top sprint race in Australia. Down to the real action, the neutral lap was fine but Barry continued merrily straight on when the first right turn cropped up. We waited, only to lose him half a lap later when he threw his chain off the big ring. We didn't wait but he regained anyhow!

Talking of interesting characters, a promoter in Sydney ran a six-day race in December 1958 and attracted a brilliant field, one of whom was our man Laurie Bohn, then of the Brunswick club. Laurie had a bad fall with one day remaining and withdrew, but to have rubbed shoulders with those guys would have been amazing. You only have to watch him to realise he knows his way around a bike race.

About halfway through it was becoming obvious that the tough Yarra Glen course wasn't going to split us up. Brian Farrell was hanging in but not saying a lot as we did our best to avoid the native residents, the kangaroos! Always a relief to get the bell as the end of hurting is near. No dramatic moves as we faced into the wind in the run to the line. I was winding the pace up about 400 metres out as we approached the punishing finish. John Eddy got excited and went for it about 50 metres too soon, and the cagey Clive pounced to take the race with the ever cool Laurie in 2nd. I pinched 3rd off John, who hit several brick walls!

Thanks to all the usual villains for making the day a goer.

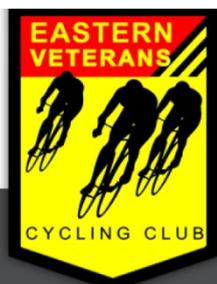
Jim Swainston



Jim Swainston sets the pace for F grade. Brian Farrell is out near the centre line.



Laurie Bohn finished 2nd.





Dunlop Road, 12 March

The long-lost missing final stanza to last week's D-grade report in verse has been found in the bowels of the Editor's laptop. It is published here for the first time.

...

In my haste to finish rhyme
Forgot to mention 'old' friend of mine.
He rides I'm sure to keep in check
Stray riders who might hit the deck.
Instigates tactics capably.
His name 'off course' is Chris Norbury.

Peter Gray

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Kew, 23 March

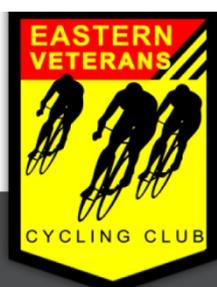
Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1 (9)	Ian Clark (N)	Fraser Short (N)	Paul Firth
Division 2 (13)	Russell Wheelhouse	John Hasouras (N)	Phil Taylor
Division 3 (5)	Dean Niclasen	David Drew (N)	G. Austin (N)
Division 4 (5)	Michael Waterfield	John Eddy	Barry Ellem

Thanks to Keith Bowen, Steve Barnard, Laurie Bohn and Barry Rodgers for setting up and running proceedings.

News etc.

L'Étape Australia

A number of Eastern Vets riders have participated in the now annual L'Étape du Tour cyclosporatives, which follow the course of a mountain stage of the Tour de France some days in advance of the race. The event regularly attracts huge numbers of riders, mainly from the Northern Hemisphere. This year it comes to Australia for the first time, and the route (157 km in the Snowy Mountains of New South Wales) was recently announced. For details, go to letapeaustralia.com.



Eastern riders do well in Tour of Mansfield

Eastern riders Tom Leaper and David De Pedro took out the General Classification in the Masters A and Masters B categories, respectively, of the 3-stage Tour of Mansfield last weekend.



Tom wearing the Masters A General Classification jersey.



Dave, in his Croydon jersey, and the other placegetters in Masters B.



Dave (centre, in black helmet) near the front of Masters B.

To view the highlights of the Tour's A-grade Stage 3, with the ascent of Mount Buller, click the link below. Watch rider number 8 menacing another rider – I don't think Ronnie would put up with that!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=083aXA0-Sgo>

David McCormack

Future events

Eastern Vets

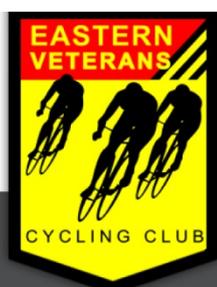
For other events, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <http://eastervets.com/roster/>

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

For more details go to <http://www.northerncycling.com/>





Training rides

Day/Time/Place	Route	Style	Contact
<p>Tuesdays 9:30 am (9:00 am during DST)</p> <p>Main Yarra Trail (meet under Burke Road overpass)</p>	Under Burke Road on Main Yarra Trail to Southbank via Yarra Boulevard and bike paths along the river and return	Social, bike paths and roads, coffee @ Southbank	Keithb33@optusnet.com.au
<p>Sunday mornings</p> <p>Beach Road Ride. Leave 8.00 am sharp. Meet at Peanut Farm Reserve, cnr Blessington & Chaucer Sts, St Kilda</p>	Ride along Beach Rd to Frankston. 10 min stop. Then ride back to St Kilda (approx. 65 km)	Social ride, coffee back at St Kilda	
<p>Saturday mornings (7.30 am) and Sundays/public holidays (8.00 am)</p> <p>Meet at Ringwood Clock towers, Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood</p>	Maroondah Hwy to Carlton for coffee, then return	Fast social	

Sponsors

