



eastern veterans cycling club

www.easternvets.com

Newsletter May 26th 2007

Casey Fields – May 19th.

Race report.

It was a hardy mob that made the trip to Cranbourne on what started as a pleasant, if not windy, Saturday morning. The wind undoubtedly deterring a few, a downpour an hour and a bit before the scheduled start time reducing the numbers further still with at least one turning back five minutes from the circuit.

There were a few hopes amongst the huddled crowd at the registration desk that the rain would return and the event be shifted to the AMF venue down the road where we could attack the pins and sip hot chocolate in the warmth of indoors. The rain didn't return and the wind had the track well on the way to being dry by the scheduled start time, the strong North-Westerly meant that it was a day when it would be good to have a few friends.

With minimal warmup 44 souls eventually took to the track over 5 grades.

a-grade (6 riders)

Tony Chandler hit the small group from the gun, Phil Thomson the only member of the group who thought it worth while making the effort this early in the race did so to make it two away and four following. Under the conditions the break wasn't expected to stay away and most of the chasers were expecting it to come back together once the rebels had realized the error of their ways. Rob Amos didn't share this view and once the potential threats in the chase group had wearied their legs holding the leaders he made his bridge building attempt. Three away, three chasing - not a bad breakdown, but a breakdown of coordination soon saw three away and one chasing the one chasing the one chasing the break.

It got oh so close but then fell apart. Two of the chasers made it to within a couple of metres of the back wheel of the break before the determination in the break, and fatigue, denied them the respite they so desperately needed. A retirement left two chasers; Mick Day and Phil Cavaleri, circulating in the hope that one rider might separate from the group and become easy pickings.

At half race distance Rob tried to put the hurts on his two companions with a series of surging attacks. This tactic

failed to shake either Phil or Tony who, now a little wiser, were a tad reluctant to take a turn at the front and more so if it was into the wind. Unable to get away it was time to turn to plan b - divide and conquer. A timely effort by Tony gave Rob the opportunity to sit back and watch what happened, Tony quickly taking a hundred metres while Phil waited for Rob and Rob waited for Phil.

It took almost fifteen minutes but finally persistence paid off and Rob was able to break Phil and set off in pursuit of the tiring Tony. Had he left it too late? Did he have enough left in his legs to climb back to the lead? Did he have enough time? Was Phil safe in third place or would one of the two opportunists still circulating overhaul him before the finish? The first questions answered two laps later as Rob joined in battle with Tony, an initial attempt to ride straight by failing so it was time to recuperate before trying again. Ten minutes of trying to hold off Rob was more than Tony's legs could handle and it wasn't long before he found himself on his own again, only this time he was the pursuer not the pursued.

The officials on the line had no problem deciding the a-grade placings, the bunch spread out along the length of the circuit. Rob two hundred metres clear of Tony, the battle for third another two hundred metres in arrears, Mick Day having slowly and methodically eaten into Phil's advantage failed to take third place from Phil by a matter of a couple of metres.

b-grade (12 riders)

With the biggest bunch of the day this would have been the race that might have been expected to stay together and come down to a bunch sprint. Ian Milner had other ideas and it didn't take long before the make-up of this race was pretty much settled, the first fifteen minutes seeing Ian, David Anderson and Kevin Starr establishing the winning break. Under the tough conditions each passing lap saw the chase bunch steadily diminish, dropping riders and road position until it settled at a group of four around half a lap down.

With the three leaders working well together it was a fairly sure bet that the money was going to be split between them. And so it was. David starting the sprint before the final

turn powered away to finish twenty metres ahead of Ian with Kevin a further twenty metres in arrears.

c-grade (7 riders)

Twenty minutes into the race the small field was still together, nobody too keen to head off on their own, everybody keen to keep a few riders around them. With the psychological barrier of half race distance behind him Brian McCann decided that he could, just maybe, take the race by the throat.

For about fifteen minutes Brian held an eighty metre gap over the other six but the chasers were determined to reunite with Brian. New(ish) member Andrew Neilson doing a power of work. The effort of the bunch rewarded with it all coming back together with ten to go.

The capture didn't see the end of Andrew's efforts as he has continued to hammer away. The high pace and the proximity to the finish meant that any attempt to get away was quickly jumped on and it came down to a sprint for the line. Brian McCann, having enough even after the punishing fifteen minutes off the front, beating a rejuvenated Matt White and Hylton Preece to the line.

d-grade (10 riders)

A few attacks by Nick Hainal in the first half of the race resulted in nothing but a couple of minutes of solitude, nobody bridging to share the load. Given the conditions, and the lack of support, the sensible thing to do was to sit up and return to the relative protection of the bunch.

With thirty minutes down and thirty to go, Peter Mackie counter attacked Nick's last move. This effort giving him a

jump on the field which, without help, he proceeded to build into a substantial break.

In the pursuing group Alan Cunneen was driving the bunch hard in his efforts to either get away from the bunch or to drag it up to the escapee up the road. Seeing the gap to the lone leader diminish the bunch was stirred in to redoubling its effort and chase in earnest.

The end result being that Peter was caught napping on the last lap to be swamped by the chasers in their rush to get to the drinks. The then inevitable sprint was taken out by Mark Granland over Dennis Pauwels and Gerald McIver.

e-grade (9 riders)

With 9 fairly evenly matched riders the e-grade race essentially stayed together for the duration of the race with all members of the group taking their share of the pace setting. The uniformity of pace was occasionally disrupted by JC who was keen to show off his new bike and Ron Stranks who was keen to show off his old one.

Juanita Stumbles was again prominent in the proceedings doing a lot of solid turns at the front to keep it together, so much so that John MacLeod was heard offering to take over to give her a rest. In the finish Juanita's work came to little as the boys swamped her in the sprint for the line, Rob Devolle (whose time in e-grade must surely be close to an end) too strong for Paul James and Ken Crow.

Wrap-up

Despite the conditions a good day's outing that was well managed by Graeme Parker.

Results

	First	Second	Third
a-grade (6)	Rob Amos	Tony Chandler	Phil Thompson
b-grade (12)	David Anderson	Ian Milner	Kevin Starr
c-grade (7)	Brian McCann	Matt White	Hylton Preece
d-grade (10)	Mark Granland	Dennis Pauwels	Gerald McIver
e-grade (9)	Rob Devolle	Paul James	Ken Crow

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks for taking entries and to Graeme for running the day's racing. As always thanks to JC for carting the trailer, Su Pretto for dealing the merchandise and Peter Mackie and his new apprentice, Steve Short, on drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	May	26	2:00pm	Macclesfield	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	May	28	8.00 pm	Maroondah Club	Monthly Meeting
Saturday	June	2	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	June	9	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	June	16	2:00pm	Yarra Junction	Le Tour Classic Handicap

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. **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	May	27	9:00am	Lang Lang – Yannathan	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	June	3	9:00am	Cora Lyn – Nar Nar Goon	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	June	10	9:00am	Crib Point	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	June	17	9:00am	Lang Lang – Yannathan	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	May	27	9:30am	Lillee Cres., Tullamarine	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	June	3	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Scratch Point Score
Sunday	June	10		No Racing	
Sunday	June	17	10:00	East Trentham	44k Handicap

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Saturday	May	26	1:00pm	Rochester	“Oppy” handicap	21/5 - \$12
Sunday	June	3	10:00am	Burrumbeet	“Cashin memorial” handicap	28/5 - \$12
Sunday	July	1	10:00am	Benalla	56k handicap	25/6 - \$12

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
9-11/6/2007	Benalla	Hume Vets 3-day tour 9/6 (Stage 1) - 56k Road Race 10/6 (Stage 2 (am)) - 15k I.T.T., (Stage 3 (pm)) - 44k Road Race 11/6 (Stage 4) - 52k RR (divisions 1-5) / 44k RR (divisions 6 & 7)
15/7/2007	Lang Lang	Annual Eastern v. Southern Road Race Melways reference 334 G9 or 96 A6
25-26/8/2007	Halls Gap	A weekend of fine food, great company, good laughs, oh and a race or two. 25/8 – Graded Scratch races 26/8 – Handicap The club will be organising accommodation options and entries, details shortly.
21/10/2007	Melbourne	Around the Bay in a Day Eastern Vets will have a group doing the 210k ride via Geelong & Queenscliff

Other bits and pieces:

Fat Tyre Flyers

The first round of Fat Tyre Flyers 4-race winter series is being held at Rob Amos's property at Chum Creek, near Healesville, on Sunday 27th May. Come and test your skills on this fun! circuit. All categories are catered for including Vets(30-39) Masters(40-49) & Super Masters(50+). Day licences available. Details available at www.ftf.com.au

Other Results, etc.:

If you have a result or announcement you would like to share please forward it on to me and I will include it here.
