



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter December 8th 2007

Graded Scratch Races – Casey Fields – December 1st.

Race report.

Sixty-nine rocked up to race the Casey Fields circuit on Saturday, the weather; hot and dry, the wind from the East - enough to make it tough on the West bound parts of the circuit but not enough to move the flies along. At two o'clock racing got under way, the bigger circuit meant all riders were on at the same time and the higher grades were given the privilege of over an hours pedalling. To add to the fun each race included a sprint, to be called somewhere between the start of the race and the end.

a-grade (thanks Ian)

With some of the club's best away at the Tour of Bright it was a small field of six riders that set out for an hour-twenty in the testing conditions.

Somebody must have made a comment about his shorts because it wasn't long before Russell Newnham attacked the bunch. The other five content to let him be as they slowly wound themselves up to race pace. After three laps the chasers were up to speed and Russell was tiring and it was all back together. The next fifteen minutes saw the occasional attack by one rider or another, none of which amounted to anything, each thwarted by either a lack of support or by the presence of it. The presence of support prompting those left behind to make an effort to stay in the race, Ian Milner and Paul Wilson the main aggressors.

It wasn't til around the twenty-minute mark that a move by Phil Smith stuck. The promise of a sprint somewhere mid-race prompting Phil's move in the hope that it would come early in the window or that the officials would reward initiative and ring it in early. Unfortunately for Phil the plan of those on the line had been to call the a-grade sprint late in the window (after all the other grades), fortunately for Phil potential conflict between the lower grades caused the officials to change their plan. It was still twenty minutes of solo riding before the money was put on the line. Two kilometres to ride with a two hundred metre lead, was it going to be enough? As soon as they took the bell the chasers set about spoiling Phil's day but half way through the lap they appeared to take pity on him and the pace dropped only to kick in again soon after before fading again. Too little too late. Phil rounded the last corner well clear of the chase to take the sprint by around a hundred metres; having

pocketed the cash he sat up and a hundred metres later was back with the others.

The remainder of the race continued as it had started, various riders attacking the others only to be beaten back by the conditions or chased down. A couple of the moves splitting the bunch but seriously determined efforts by those on the wrong end of the rubber-band ensured that no break lasted more than two-hundred metres.

The money on the finish line was for Russell to attack the bunch on the bell and carry his break to the line, Paul Wilson would lead out the remainder to be swamped by the Phils Thompson and Cavaleri before the line. We almost had it right; Russell attacked the bunch on the bell but was chased down pretty much straight away. And it was Russell that led the sprint up to the finish line but he had the resources to hold off the ever-present Phil Thompson with Phils Smith and Cavaleri and Paul Wilson not far behind.

b-grade

The biggest field of the day was in b-grade and it was pretty much a given that this race would end in a bunch sprint. Nobody told Rob Truscott and Matt White who jumped early and, working together, held the chasers at bay for over ten minutes. No sooner had they been integrated back into the bunch than Terry Murdock countered but without assistance it was doomed to be a short lived escapade. Two laps later Rob Truscott jumped again and was quickly joined by Terry, Ron Chapman and Rob Lewis but the threat of four away saw the bunch respond to have it back together again within half a lap.

The promise of cash for a mid-race sprint tempting Ron Chapman to break the shackles at the half-hour mark. Jeff Pretto and Ben Schofield seized the opportunity and bridged, the three working together and contesting the sprint which was won by Jeff. The conditions and the size of the juggernaut chasing finally taking their toll and with the money safely in the bank the three-man break settled back into the fold.

The constant surging as riders tried to get away over the next half hour took its toll on some in the bunch which was slowly whittled down. Ron Chapman a major contributor to the demise of those who found the pace too hot, his efforts winning him the president's 'ride of the day' award. Despite the attrition it was still a sizable bunch that took the bell for the last lap and the officials had their work cut out separating the place-getters.

Terry Murdock, showing a return of his sprinting abilities, beat home Bob Lewis, Matt White and Rob Truscott with the rest of the rest right on their wheels.

c-grade - Su Pretto's swan song (take two)

The c-grade race was split after a fall forty minutes in, prior to that a hefty pace saw little opportunity for any attacks. A lull in the pace at twenty minutes opened the window for Steve Barnard to try his luck, which wasn't great, his run interrupted by running into the back of a-grade. With the chase almost on his wheel a-grade kicked giving him the impetus and space to go again only to have the bunch on his wheel by lap's end.

With Steve back the bunch returned to the "keep it fast to stop the attacks" mentality - the window was shut and bolted. And so it continued until there was a coming together of handle-bars that led to one rider ending up on his coccyx, the race taking a couple of laps out while people got themselves organised. It was a slightly smaller pack that contested the sprint, which was won by David Casey, and that then went on to contest the finish.

Su Pretto, in her last race with Eastern, attacking the bunch on the bell caught the others off guard and rode to a healthy gap. It seemed as though the gentlemen in the bunch were going to give Su her day in the sun but they either mistimed their chase or weren't gentlemen after all, running her down within sight of the finish line. Cruelly it was only three riders; Brian McCann, Anthony Gullace and Steve Barnard who passed her before the line relegating her out of the placings.

Today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday,
and all is well

d-grade

Rob Amos was back in the saddle again this week, again stretching his legs with the regular d-grade riders. And again he was content to allow the others to set the pace as he tries to get form back into his legs. Ever competitive the sound of the bell (for the sprint) was enough to release the adrenalin which had him out of the saddle and up the road. Not for long though, the legs unable to maintain the required effort to stay away, he was chased down and caught before the half-way point. In the resultant bunch kick Mark Granland had the legs, over hauling all and sundry to recoup part of his day's expenses.

Not to be denied Rob tried a different tack for the big money, attacking the bunch ten minutes from time, taking Dave Worland and Richard Dobson with him. This triplet worked together to hold the pursuers at bay to the finish. A determined Rob just holding Dave off for the victory, Richard content to follow the pair for the last of the cash.

Graham Haines led the remainder to the line twenty seconds later; Paul Kelly keen to make a race of it pushed it all the way to the line.

e-grade (thanks Juanita)

The conditions must have suited Brian Farrell or he was keen to give Sandra ample opportunity to try out the new camera as he continuously attacked the small bunch throughout the first half of the race, each effort though, was chased down by the bunch. The e-grade sprint barely impacted the race, JC Wilson riding away up the straight to take the points then settling back to let Brian continue as before.

Juanita Stumbles drew the short straw for Brian's 30-minute attack and set about bringing him back only to find that when she got to his wheel there was nobody on hers. Sam Bruzese must have had the second shortest straw and was soon across the gap, again alone. Three away four chasing and less than half an hour to run (or ride) too good an opportunity to waste. Unfortunately Juanita's attempts to organise the boys came to nothing and the following four were able to recoup and regroup, bringing it back together again after a couple of laps.

It was another tight run for the finish; Sam had enough after his mid-race break to out-sprint Andrew Buchanan and Neil Cartledge with the others not far behind.

f-grade (thanks Phil)

Keen to make an impression on two new members to the club the f-grade race started at "a pace that was a little quicker than usual". None of the group shy about getting up front and driving it into the wind and the heat. Suitably impressed the two new members made their impression on the race as soon as the bell for the sprint rang, Andrew Ellis taking off like the proverbial cut cat and David Williamson, delayed by inexperience, taking a little longer to wind it up and give chase. Phil Cox making an effort to get on David's wheel fell short and was soon reunited with his wife and the other three.

Andrew said farewell to the f-grade regulars (and to f-grade) taking the lap almost a quarter of a lap from David (who will also be unlikely to ride f-grade again) and half a lap from the others. Both Andrew and David continuing on to solo home and finish with much the same margins.

The increased pace of the mid-race chase proved the undoing of Ken Woollard and Ian Jones leaving just the Cox pair (Sue and Phil) and Sid Dymond to try to reel in the rampaging newbies. It wasn't to be - fifty-two minutes after being set off, and half a lap after the winner had crossed the line, the three came around the last bend, Sid on the front, Sue riding wide and Phil sitting in somewhere in the mix. Sid had pushed it hard through the last lap and ran out of puff allowing first Sue to spin past and then Phil. There may have been fish and chips in the Cox household this night but it might have been a quiet dinner. Phil, having passed Sid, continued on to pass his wife and finish third.

Results

	First	Second	Third	Sprint
a-grade (6)	Russ Newnham	Phil Thompson	Phil Cavaleri	Phil Smith
b-grade (19)	Terry Murdock	Bob Lewis	Matt White	Jeff Pretto
c-grade (14)	Brian McCann	Anthony Gullace	Steve Barnard	David Casey
d-grade (14)	Rob Amos	Dave Worland	Richard Dobson	Mark Granland
e-grade (9)	Sam Bruzzese	Andrew Buchanan	Neil Cartledge	J C Wilson
f-grade (7)	Andrew Ellis	David Williamson	Phil Cox	Andrew Ellis

Aggregate Points (24/11/07)

R. Stranks	76
P. Cavaleri	68
K. Starr	66
R. Amos	66
N. Hainal	59
G. Green	59
T. Muurholm	54
T. Murdock	54
JC. Wilson	53
P. Thompson	52
H. Preece	50
G. Parker	50

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Keith Bowen for taking the entries, and to the Colin Johnson and Kelvin Amos for running the races. Thanks also to JC for carting the trailer and in lieu of Peter Mackie, Matt White on the drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	December	8	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Graded Scratch races
Saturday	December	15	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	December	22	2:00pm	METEC	Christmas Handicap
Saturday	December	29		No Racing	No Racing
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop - Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races
Tuesday	13/11/07 - 11/12/07 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	December	9	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	December	16	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	December	23	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	December	30	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Thursday	15/11/07 - 20/12/07		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	December	9	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	December	16	10:00	Avenel Rd, Seymour	Christmas Handicap (48k)

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

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For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
27/1/2008	Bright	Audax Alpine Classic Www.audax.org.au/alpine.htm Andy Burmas has some accommodation available – a_burmas@hotmail.com
15/3/2008	Torquay	Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride - 145k or 60k options Http://www.supersprint.com.au

Other bits and pieces:

Merchandise

Eastern Vets merchandise is available from Kevin Starr at most meets, you can check out what's available through the Eastern Vets web site - <http://www.easternvets.com/clothing.php>.

Registration

All club members will have received renewal notices and are requested to complete them as quickly as possible. You will not be permitted to race in January if you have not renewed your licence by the end of the year. As further incentive to get your forms in early, our membership officer will be away the first two weeks of 2008 and so won't be able to process any renewals over that period.

Fees for 2008 are \$130, which includes insurance, AVCC affiliation and club membership. Please complete the registration form legibly (our treasurer's eyesight ain't what it used to be) and make cheques payable to Eastern Veterans Cycle Club.

Other Results, etc.:

Great Doherty Tour

On the weekend of November 17-18 a couple of our members elected to forego the race at METEC to take part in Blackburn's Great Doherty Tour.

In the Men's Masters 4+ Guy Green finished first and Tony Chandler finished fifth.

Tour of Bright

Last weekend in the Tour of Bright Guy Green took the sprint points in the Masters 4/5 category, Dave Moreland coming second and Roy Clarke fourth.

Stage one results;

MAS 1/2/3 : Peter Howard - 18th

MAS 4/5 : John Lynch - 6th, Tony Chandler - 9th, Guy Green - 10th, Roy Clarke - 13th, Dave Morland - 28th, Mick Buckley - 34th

Stage two results (time trial);

MAS 1/2/3 : Peter Howard 39th

MAS 4/5 : Roy Clark - 6th, John Lynch - 13th, Tony Chandler - 19th, Dave Moreland - 33rd, Mick Buckley - 34th, Guy Green (punctured)

Stage three results:

MAS 1/2/3 : Peter Howard - 36th

MAS 4/5 : Roy Clark - 9th, John Lynch 11th, Tony Chandler 13th, Guy Green 16th, Mick Buckley - 25th.

Overall;

MAS 1/2/3 : Peter Howard 29th

MAS 4/5 : John Lynch - 8th, Roy Clark - 9th, Tony Chandler - 10th, Guy Green - 16th, Mick Buckley - 30th

If you have a result or an announcement you would like to share please forward it on to me (nigel.kimber@bigpond.com) and I will include it here.
