



# Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

*Newsletter December 15<sup>th</sup> 2007*

## Graded Scratch Races – Dunlop Road – December 8<sup>th</sup>

### Race report.

Good weather, good friends and a good cause saw a record turnout of 146 riders at Dunlop Road in aid of the Austin Hospital Trauma Unit. The day raising \$2500 in total.

The fast circuit combined with a gentle Southerly breeze and large bunches was going to make it difficult for any breakaway to stay away, the effort into the wind down the finish straight sure to sap the legs and the tail wind down McDonalds Lane enough to aid the chase.

### a-grade

It was a very relaxed parade lap to get things underway for the afternoon, a-grade rolling around the circuit peletons catching up with the goings on of the who's who of veterans racing. It didn't last, Phil Smith and Tom Crebbin putting an end to all conversations with a turn of speed along Dunlop Road that saw them clear of the bunch as they started the downwind stretch, Ian Harper marking the halfway point between the break and the pursuit. Ian failed in his attempt to get across to the lead pair which prompted John Lynch to have a go. By now the majority in the bunch had warmed up and John was swept up as the leaders in the peleton bore down on Phil and Tom.

No sooner were the pair caught and Justin McMullen counter attacked the bunch but the bunch were having none of this and soon had Justin back under control. Only to see D. Pitt attack. Five laps and five different leaders, I was beginning to think they were taking turns to ensure everyone got a mention in the race report, not to be, as after a lap grupetto it was the Phil and Tom show again. This time their reign didn't last more than a lap and for the next couple of laps the group circulated as a group, many in the bunch thankful for the opportunity to catch their breath.

But then Justin McMullen and A. Flakemore had to go and spoil things by trying to get away after the fifteen-minute mark. This little sojourn didn't last long but it only took a couple of minutes for Justin to recover and try again, this time with Chris Beales, the pair building a handy little break. Royce James and Phil Smith tried to bridge, Phil making it, Royce not. The three were soon two as Justin's legs just couldn't keep up the punishment and he was soon back with the chasers. Phil followed soon after leaving Chris up the

road and mixing it with the lower grades. Which he did for a few laps before concerted efforts by D. Pitt and Andy Burmass, that had the bunch at full stretch, eventually pulled it all back together.

The race noticeably slowed after that as again the members took the opportunity to allow oxygen into the brain and lactate out of the muscles. Phil Smith, either the first to clear the muscles or the last to re-oxygenate, made another effort with around fifteen minutes to go, this fat (sic) into Tony Chandler's plans and he was soon in pursuit. Alas to no avail as he was swept up as the bunch closed down Phil's move. The seed planted, John Lynch figured that it was time to get serious and jumped. Not only did John stay away but he was able to build quite a healthy gap extending his lead to almost the length of the straight before the solitude and the wind got to him, the bell coming two laps too late.

On the bell lap Chris Beales had the race stretched out single file, leading them round the second last corner at full speed. Out of the last corner a group of three jumped and made the dash for the line, Guy Green timing his throw to perfection to take the lead in the race for the first time and the win. Tom Crebbin and Russ Newnham filling the other two places to be followed by the bunch soon after.

### b-grade

Following the same script as a-grade the b-grade race started slower than a social ride along Beach Road only to have a pair of riders in Matt White and Thorkild Muurkolm shake the tree as the race entered its second lap. Over the next two laps John Pritchard and then Rob Truscott made the journey across to the leaders. The effort of maintaining the break too much for Matt and the chase taking its toll on John left just Rob and Thorkild to take on the twenty-eight. The pair putting up a good show for a couple of laps before succumbing to the effort and returning to the bunch. A counter attack by nobody (he wasn't wearing a number – ed.) lasted over a lap before he too discovered the reason the earlier attacks had returned to the fold. Mark Withers was the next to take the learning experience before it settled back as level heads took control at the front of the bunch.

Half way in (and borrowing his mate's plan) Kevin Starr powered to the front and kept going, stretching the band to breaking point, taking Peter Shanahan and Rob Truscott with him. The trio maintaining their break for a lap or so before the other twenty-seven ran them down. As the three melded back

into the bunch Dan Cummings surged forward and away, but not for long. The peleton back together it settled down for the next fifteen minutes before Dana Anderson and Tony Curulli picked up the pace, driving and stretching the bunch for a lap but no more before it settled back to a consistent solid pace.

Toward the finish the pace picked up again to prevent any last minute attacks, the final lap it went up another notch still. As the leaders started to wane, just before the last corner, Ben Schofield made his move, Steve Gray quick enough and strong to cross and get onto his wheel. Around the corner and into the finish straight and Ben was starting to slow. Still a long way from the line Steve had no option but to go it alone. Closing on the finish a glance over his shoulder revealed a wall of riders 30 metres back giving him the luxury of sitting up and cruising across the line to take the win. Ben Schofield had enough of a lead from his early efforts to hold on for second and S. Revell led the wall across the line.

#### **c-grade** (thanks David)

The starter must have been handing out scripts on the start line, it was another very pedestrian start to the race. This time though the cast missed their cue and the scripted attack was a lap late, Andrew Miller and Peter Ransome being the pair to get away. Like the previous two starts the break was short lived, lasting just over a lap before it was back together and it stayed that way for around twenty minutes, the pace enough to stay any attacks. John Jardine had a plan and the high pace wasn't going to get in its way, twenty-five minutes in and he grinds up Dunlop Road to take a break into McDonalds Lane with Steve Short in tow. The lack in speed differential between the bunch and the pair's top speed combined with the head wind along Geddes Street saw it all back together next lap and stay that way for a couple more laps before Ian Smith, Brian McCann and David McCormack got away for a bit. David doing a mammoth three-quarter lap pull in an effort to establish the break only to see the bunch pick up the pace and pull them in, and then ride by.

Another lull in the pace and John Jardine had a second go at it only to find that the bunch weren't keen to let anything get away. Steve Short defied the bunch mentality and hit them soon after John was returned and managed to ride away to a solid lead. Three laps off the front and Steve was hearing bells, one to go and a defendable lead he had his head down and his bum up, crossing the finish line well clear of the chasers. Having won his race he pulled up only to hear further ringing and have the c-grade bunch fly by and around the corner on its bell lap.

The bunch was back in the race, R. Burns taking the initiative jumped to lead the others by fifty metres down the back straight, the bunch single file in pursuit. R. faded toward the finish but had done enough to hold on for third behind S. Ross and Geoff Puttock.



'Shorty' leads the c-grade race across the line

#### **d-grade** (thanks Mark)

There was a definite pattern evolving as the d-grade race rolled around on the first lap, members of the group chatting amiably amongst themselves. The flag lifted and Neil Wray, resplendent in O'Mara blue and yellow, went to the front and lifted the pace. After ten minutes of circulating David Casey managed to gap the field and enjoy a couple of laps in the sun, the bunch not showing a great deal of urgency to bring him back. But when they did it was done in quick time, the bunch stretched out in single file as he was chased down. The next lap it was a much more compact bunch that rolled past. Colin Morris and Nick Hainal made a bid for their time in the sun at twenty-five minutes only to be caught within the lap.

With form slowly returning Rob Amos hit the bunch at half race distance and grabbed a decent gap that had the bunch madly chasing. The chase providing a springboard for Laurie Baigent to bridge, it took a lap but he made it. Buoyed by his success Colin Morris, Peter Mackie, Nick Hainal and Paul Kelly made an effort to bridge also. Paul and Colin didn't make the cut, the other two did, adding another four legs to the break. With Rob coaching the break it held the pursuers at bay lap after lap. Peter Gray seeing the break holding decided it was now or never and buried himself in an effort to get across, he succeeded, which was good news to the break as Laurie started to fade and returned to the bunch.

With a little encouragement from the sidelines the bunch got its act together and slowly reeled the break back in, reunification occurring at around fifty minutes. The effort of the break and the chase seeing all riders content to finish the race en masse. And so it was that the whole bunch started the last lap, watching each other as the distance to the finish lessened, anticipation increasing with each metre covered. Finally Peter Gray cracked and as the race rounded the last corner he's started the sprint, Rob Amos and Colin Morris on his wheel. The three catching the rest by surprise and taking fifty metres before the others wound it up. Rob giving Peter and Colin a lesson in sprinting, pulling off Peter's wheel to roll him on the line to take first. Mark Granland overhauled a couple of riders in the pursuit to take the honours in the sprint for fourth.

## e-grade (thanks Brian)

It was another opportunity for competitors to get to know one another as the bunch cruised the first couple of laps. As the conversation started to wane the pace started to build and by the third lap we had a race. The pace kept high as riders kept trying to break away, many riders making it to the pointy end of the field to push the pace but not with the momentum to get away. Wednesday morning regular, Sharon Higgins, consistently sitting in the top five watched as different faces came and went at the head of the race. In an attempt to stop the surging Brian Farrell did a couple of big laps in an effort to stem the attacks and stabilise the pace.

At the forty minute mark John Thomson took the lead and had the others stretched out for a couple of laps but it held together and the full compliment took the bell after almost an hour's riding. There were the usual surges on the first half of the final lap as riders jostled to the front to test the waters and to see if they could shorten the odds, all to no avail and the bunch rounded the last corner with all in contention. The sprint started at the big rock 200m from the finish and used the whole road as Peter James led the field across the line, Trevor Wilkie, Sam Bruzzese and the rest of the bunch hot on his wheels.

## f-grade (thanks Sue)

Strong riding by Sid Dymond and others in the bunch pretty much kept it together throughout. Sue Cox finding herself off the front after 25 minutes but with Ken Saxton dragging the bunch along she wasn't alone for long. A couple more efforts over the next half-hour kept everyone honest. Glenys Jardine was strong in the first half-hour often setting the pace and testing the boys.

A final effort by Andrew Ellis and P. Ryhs to get away, at forty-five minutes, amounted to naught; the bunch having none of it and closing them down almost as soon as they'd opened it up. This left the door open for team Argon to organise themselves in preparation for the run to the finish. As the bell tolled Sue Cox was clamped to the wheel of her husband and they were sitting ideally at fourth and fifth wheel.

There was no mucking about on the last lap as the lead rider set a solid pace all the way through to the final sprint. The toll of dragging the bunch for the previous couple of laps leaving his legs nothing to respond as Graham Cadd went from third wheel to start the sprint, team Argon on his wheel. With a burst of McEwen'esq speed Phil powered past Graham to take the win, Sue, having done enough to stay with the two boys up the finish straight finished third, the remainder of the bunch stretched out down the road.

## Results

	First	Second	Third	Fourth
<b>a-grade (23)</b>	Guy Green	Tom Crebbin	Russ Newnham	Colin Morris
<b>b-grade (30)</b>	Steve Gray	Ben Schofield	S. Revell	Jeff Pretto
<b>c-grade (29)</b>	S. Ross	Geoff Puttock	R. Burns	Brian McCann
<b>d-grade (22)</b>	Rob Amos	Peter Gray	Colin Morris	
<b>e-grade (23)</b>	Peter James	Trevor Wilkie	Sam Bruzzese	
<b>f-grade (19)</b>	Phil Cox	Graham Cadd	Sue Cox	

## Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Keith Bowen for taking the entries, and to the cast of thousand on the circuit who, under the direction of Angelo Antignani, enabled us to run a safe and enjoyable event; Hylton Preece, Thierry Dreux, Craig Everard, Andrew Ferridge, Mike Fisher snr, Quentin Frayne, Ross Gardiner, Andrew Finnegan, Frank Nyhuis, Geoff Puttock, Nick Hainal, Keith Bowen, David McCormack, Nigel Kimber, Greg Lipple, Ken Crow, Sharon Higgins, Brian McCann, John Thompson. Thanks also to JC for carting the trailer and Peter Mackie on drinks.

## Aggregate Points (8/12/07)

R. Stranks	76
R. Amos	71
P. Cavaleri	69
K. Starr	67
G. Green	64
N. Hainal	60
T. Muurholm	55
T. Murdock	55
JC. Wilson	54
P. Thompson	53
H. Preece	51
G. Parker	51
T. Curulli	51

### Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	December	15	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	December	22	2:00pm	METEC	Christmas Handicap
Saturday	December	29		No Racing	No Racing
Saturday	January	5	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop – Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races
Tuesday	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	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
Sunday	January	6	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	16	10:00	Avenel Rd, Seymour	Christmas Handicap (48k)
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### 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>.

#### Free Food and Drink.

It is on again, the annual Alan Cunneen Christmas BBQ on Sunday December 16, from 7 until 11 pm for Eastern members, friends of Eastern and families.

Food, wine, beer and soft drink provided. At Waverley Family Health Care, 58 Pinewood Dv, Mt Waverley (Cnr Blackburn Rd Mel Map 70 J5). To give Alan an idea of numbers e-mail Keith Bowen at [keithb@rabbit.com.au](mailto:keithb@rabbit.com.au) and let him know how many or put your name on the list next Saturday.

#### Other Results, etc.:

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

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