



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter February 23rd 2008

Christmas Handicap – Casey Fields – February 16th

Race report.

It was a sight never before seen at Casey Fields that greeted the 73 cyclists who made their way out there for the slightly delayed Eastern Vets Christmas Handicap. Actually it was more a sensation never experienced before rather than a sight not seen, competitors reluctant to breathe its name for fear that it might break the spell – no wind.

The format for the day's racing was a series of shortened graded scratch races followed by a short handicap. The top five placegetters in the scratch races progressing to the handicap with prize money being awarded to handicap placegetters only.

a-grade

Wayne Bennet knows only one speed and that's flat out, jumping from the gun and taking an early break in the a-grade race. The other six competitors were left behind to decide the remaining four places for the handicap. A series of surges by Phil Cavaleri eventually broke the rubber band seeing him clear with Roy Clark in pursuit. One away, two chasing, three following and one retiring, Barry Robertson finding the pace a tad too hot.

As Phil C and Roy started the long haul to the leader the two remaining Eastern riders in the final group started to work over the Southern interloper. It was Tony Chandler who nailed the successful break leaving Phil Thompson to deal with Rod Thomas. Meanwhile les deux pursuants were closing the gap to Wayne, eventually gaining his wheel after half an hour's effort. Despite friendly words Wayne seemed to take affront at Eastern company and rode away leaving the bewildered pair scratching their respective heads and waiting for Tony to catch up.

Once reunited the Eastern trio set about sharing the biscuits, the sole intent, to stay clear of the pair behind whilst conserving energy for the handicap ahead. Wayne crossed the line well clear of anybody else, Phil C, Roy and Tony rolled up to the finish three abreast leaving a sprint for the last spot in the handicap, a sprint that had Phil Thompson's name written on it from the time Tony departed the pair's company.

b-grade

Heart Starter : - noun, a substance or action that gets the heart going. Eg. coffee, beer
Or ... Ian Smith.

With half the field still trying to get their shoes locked to their pedals Ian (el presidente) Smith has set about dictating the terms of the race by taking off at full throttle. A lap later Ian was reviewing his initial strategy as the stragglers were just hooking back onto the tail end of a still stretched out peleton having endured two kilometres at speeds well in excess of 40kph. Any relief at his reconsideration was short lived as others took up the mantle and kept the average above 40kph. Steve Gray and Frank Nyhuis being the major contributors, Thorkild Muurholm also abetting. Nigel Kimber, finding himself in the driving seat as the bus caught and passed lower grades also kept the pace up.

Rob Amos made a few early attacks from mid-field but either nobody in the bunch wanted to see him go or everybody wanted to go with him, consequently he didn't get away and the field suffered. On a couple of occasions Ian Smith continued his initial line of enquiry which had individuals looking around at each other wondering if he was serious or not, then deciding he just might be and responding accordingly. Interspersed amongst Ian's little sojourns Rob had a few more cracks at getting clear but all met the same fate as his initial attempts. A well timed counter attack to one of Rob's moves by Kevin Starr caught the bunch napping but it soon awoke and had him back in line. After each move was quashed there was a lull in pace as the antagonist conceded and everybody else sat up, the lulls not lasting too long as the usual suspects soon came to the fore and re-instated the punishing pace.

Forty minutes into the race and a few new, fresh, faces were being seen at the pointy end of the field and then continuing off the front for their time in the sun. As individuals nobody seemed to care too much but as soon as another rider tried to join them it was a case of 'one for all and all for one'.

The bell signifying the end of the a-grade race was a sound to behold, surely it'd be us next, with 45 minutes gone on the flight-deck it was time. Rob must have thought so, launching another attack along the back straight, only to have it met by an immediate response from all and sundry. Resigned to having to win in a sprint Rob sat up and took the bunch wide on the last corner giving Nigel the ideal opportunity to make a move up the

inside, thirty metres clear as he crossed the line, fading fast but determined to make a go of it - no bell - the determination flagged. Some encouragement from Steve Gray raising the hopes of a small breakaway group that might be able to get away, hopes that were dashed by a look over the shoulder which revealed a long line of green hats.

Next lap, no bell. Another lap, still no bell. And another lap, and still no bell. Next lap Ian Smith makes a move halfway round and takes the bell with a good gap over what is now the last bunch on the circuit. This close to the finish Ian wasn't going to be allowed an easy win and he was soon brought back into the fold only to have Ben Schofield counter attacked a kilometre from home. It looked like he might just carry it off extending his lead as the race headed into the back straight for the last time. Not to be, the mass bearing down on him and swallowing him up before the last corner. The result decided by a sprint that was started wide on the road just before the last corner, a wall of riders greeting the officials. Rob Amos getting the result he deserved was followed across the line by T. Sullivan, Bob Lewis, Damian Burke and Frank Nyhuis.

Stats for the race : 38.23k in 58 mins for an avg of 39.4kph

c-grade

No report.

d-grade

With a bunch full of sprinters Peter Mackie decided to have a crack on the first lap and see if he couldn't get a small group of strong riders away. After three laps on his own it was fairly obvious that it wasn't to be and he slowly returned to the fold. Richard Dobson was the usual powerhouse in the group, driving hard and attempting to break things up throughout the race but all to no avail. Occasionally a small group would separate from the bunch but the sprinters weren't going to let the race get away and quickly built the bridge.

Come the last lap it was again Richard who assumed the front of the line and dragged the others around. It was no surprise that come the last corner the sprinters showed up and filled the first five places, Dennis Pauwels the king of sprinters leading the others over the line.

Stats: 50mins, Avg 35.8k; Distance of 30k

e-grade

Graham Cadd and Brian Farrell did a lot of the initial pace setting, keeping it high to keep it smooth but this didn't stop a Southern visitor from having a crack and getting away. The wiser and older heads in the bunch let him have his, but didn't allow him too much freedom, eventually pulling him back after a couple of laps. Cue the counter attack from Angelo Antignani. The bunch had reasonable momentum from the previous chase and continuing it on were able to bring Angelo back into the fold relatively easily.

By this time a few new faces were making their way to the front and their fresh legs kept the speed at a level that saw no more attacks, the bunch going into the last lap intact. A move by Peter Stanley late on the last lap enabled him to sprint away for a comfortable win and stretching the remaining riders out behind him.

f-grade

No report.

Handicap

The 5 f-grade place getters were first away, followed 15 seconds later by e-grade, d-grade a further 15 seconds back then twenty-second intervals to the remaining groups.

F-grade broke up early with Sue Cox and D. Rollinson out on their own, Ken Saxton, A Wilcox and R Goodes scattered back along the road and in imminent danger of being overtaken by the following groups.

e-grade's attempt at team time-trialing was not much more successful, lasting about $\frac{3}{4}$ of a lap before the interruption of absorbing the first of the limit riders disrupted the routine and things got a little less tidy. None the less the now slightly larger group managed to stay away from the pursuants for a further lap and a bit.

d-grade probably made the most professional looking start as they set off after the ten riders ahead of them. c-grade were another group that took a while to get organised but once underway managed a steady rotation that saw them slowly close the gap to the bunches ahead.

b-grade were the favourites, with a couple of solid workers in the mix and Rob Amos to keep things under control they were going to be a force to reckon with. And a force they proved to be. Engulfing the c-grade bunch at half race distance they swept up d-grade a quarter of a lap later. The combined e and f-grade bunch was next to feel the rush of wind as Rob and his crew barrelled past before lap's end, leaving only the limit pair of Sue Cox and D. Rollinson to be chased down. With each capture the b-grade bunch grew in volume as the stronger riders in the other groups dug deep and hung onto the juggernaut.

Meanwhile back down the road the scratch group were disintegrating, a tardy start saw Tony Chandler and the Phils; Cavaleri and Thompson, chasing to get onto the wheels of the other two. When finally they came together and started working they started taking time out of the groups ahead. Unfortunately this didn't last long as a misunderstanding saw Tony forced off the track, reducing the field to four, then a mechanical saw Wayne retire as his tyre deflated, reducing the field to three. Roy's determination to rescue the race proved too much for Phil C. who couldn't hold on, reducing the field to two.

Into the last lap the extended b-grade bunch made short work of catching the limit riders as they powered on toward the finish, Sue Cox was able to catch a wheel as it went past and pushed herself to the limit to stay with them for the remaining three quarters of a lap to the finish.

Roy Clarke buried himself in the last half lap to reduce the 200m gap to the race leaders but to no avail, falling tantalisingly close as the dozen or so riders of the lead bunch finished in a mass sprint some twenty odd meters ahead of him. The judges having to go to the video tape to separate the place getters.

Wrap Up

After it was all over the president deemed that there were some notable efforts by individuals that warranted reward and special mention.

The first went to Sue Cox for her determined effort in the handicap, not only for holding the pursuing hounds at bay for the first four kilometres but to have the fortitude to grab the

tail of the beast as it rode past and then to compete in the final sprint.

The second went to Roy Clarke who lost those around him to misfortune, malfunction and malnutrition but didn't give up and buried himself over the last lap in an effort to close the couple of hundred metres gap to get the one remaining scratch rider into a position where he could compete in the sprint and restore some a-grade pride.

The third was more a consolation to the misfortunate, a wine to help wash the pain and disappointment away.

Next week we want to see Ronnie standing tall as Southern are compelled to hand over the 'Ivan Collings Shield'. Be there to contribute to the achievement. Be there to witness the return of the shield to its rightful owners.

Results

	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth
A Grade (7)	Wayne Benton	Roy Clark	Tony Chandler	Phil Cavaleri	Phil Thompson
B Grade (18)	Rob Amos	Tony Sullivan	Bob Lewis	Damian Burke	Frank Nyhuis
C Grade (14)	Steve Ross	Anthony Gullace	Terry Murdock	Andrew Finnigan	Colin Johnson
D Grade (14)	Denis Pauwells	Dave Worland	Sam Bruzzese	Michael Paull	Nev Williamson
E Grade (11)	Peter Stanley	Andrew Buchanan	Graham Cadd	Ross Gardiner	Adrian Ellis
F Grade (9)	Ken Saxton	Sue Cox	Ashley Willox	Darren Rowlinson	Rod Goodes

Christmas Handicap

Position	Name	Mark
First	Damian Burke	25 sec
Second	Steve Ross	45 sec
Third	Rob Amos	25 sec
Fourth	Tony Sullivan	25 sec
Fifth	Terry Murdock	45 sec
Sixth	Andrew Finnigan	45 sec
Seventh	Michael Paull	1min 05 sec
Eighth	Dave Worland	1min 05 sec
Ninth	Peter Stanley	1min 20 sec
Tenth	Sam Bruzzese	1min 05 sec
Fastest	Phil Thompson	Scr

Officials

Thanks to Ronnie Stranks and Graeme Parker on the entries desk and to Graeme for the handicapping. Thanks to Alan Hicks and his helpers for running the scratch races and to all those who helped with the starting the handicap. As always thanks to JC for carting the trailer and Peter Mackie & Chris Norbury providing the much appreciated drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	February	23	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Omara Cycles GSR
Monday	February	25	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Monthly Meeting
Sunday	March	2	9:00am	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern Crit.
Saturday	March	8	2:00pm	Yarra Junction	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	March	15	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Omara Cycles GSR
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	February	24	9:00am	Frankston Gardens Blvd, Carrum Downs	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	2	9:00am	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern Crit.
Sunday	March	9	9:00am	Casey Fields	Club Championships
Sunday	March	16	9:00am	Lakewood Blvd, Braeside	Graded Scratch Races
Thursday	3/1/08 – 6/3/08		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	February	24	10:00am	Avenel Rd, Seymour	Handicap (48k)
Sunday	March	2	10:00am	Lancefield	Club Championships
Sunday	March	9	9:30am	Lillee Crescent	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	March	16	10:00	Ballan	Ballan Handicap

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Sunday	March	9	9:30	Woodstock	O’Brien Contracting Handicap	\$15 due 3/3/08
Easter	March	21-23		Maryborough	Sth Pacific Championships	\$20 / event due 29/2/2008
Monday	March	24	9:00am	Maryborough	Cec. Cripps handicap (65k)	\$20 due 29/2

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
2/3/2008	Casey Fields	Southern v. Eastern criterium NB. There will be no Eastern race on the 1 st of March
1-2/3/2008	Mansfield	Holden High Country Challenge www.hhccc.com.au/home.html
15/3/2008	Torquay	Great Ocean & Otway Classic Ride – 145k or 60k options www.supersprint.com.au
21/3/2008 – 23/3/2008	Maryborough	South Pacific Championships Entries close 29/2/2008, see VVCC program for details
24/3/2008	Maryborough	“Cec. Cripps” Handicap Entries close 29/2/2008, see VVCC program for details
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Registrations open 7/4/2008 for BV members

Other bits and pieces:

RDNS

Last year Angelo wanted your entry money, now he want’s the shirt off your back. OK, maybe not the one off your back but any old clothes that you no longer fit into because of all that weight you’ve lost riding your bike.

The Royal District Nursing Service Homeless Persons Program (RDNS HPP) organise a festival for marginalised and homeless individuals. Angelo’s request is that we need **Male Clothing donated for the festival.** Items need to be useable, clean, jackets, jumpers of various sizes, etc. Please NO lycra. Angelo will be available at the next race at Dunlop Road with my empty suitcase for any donations. Retro 60 and 70’s clothing is OK!

Any assistance will be greatly appreciated. Angelo can be contacted on 0410 560 383 if people want to discuss any matters.

Other Results, etc.:

If you have any results or items of interest please get them to me and I’ll include them here.
