



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter March 29th 2008

METEC – March 22nd

Race report.

The combination of Easter and Maryborough kept numbers down but for the sixty-six who turned out it was a great day for racing; temperatures in the mid 20s and very little wind. Ideal, calm, conditions and smaller bunch sizes provided the prospect of breakaways succeeding. It was good to see a large f-grade contingent, one soon to be bolstered, Ronnie back in the saddle of the trainer can't be too far away from a return to competition.

a-grade

With most of the regular a-graders away at Maryborough (or just away) the two individuals who signed up were happy to join the dozen b-graders in their race.

b-grade

As is now becoming customary it was Ian Smith who dragged the race from its neutral pace up to a respectable race tempo, Thorkild Muurholm ably assisting him in ensuring the speed hovered around the 38kph mark. Ten minutes in and Ian has upped the tempo another notch, stretching the bunch almost the full length of the back straight. The effort not bearing any results as all and sundry managed to hold the wheel in front. The effort not taking too much from the antagonist either as he and Frank Nyhuis continued to drive the bunch at a reasonable click.

If the first third was characterised by a reasonably solid reasonably steady pace which deterred any attacks, or thoughts of attacks, the second third was characterised by those attacks. The first serious move coming just as the race entered its twentieth minute, Ben Schofield hitting the bunch along the finish straight, opening up a good gap, Thorkild chasing to get on his wheel and the bunch waiting for someone else to crucify themselves and drag the bunch up. Ben, having spent too much on the initial move, was quickly overhauled by Thorkild, the bunch swallowing him up soon after. Thorkild, wondering what he'd signed up for, stayed fifty metres clear for another lap before the lack of individuality within the bunch saw it all back together again.

A lap of looking at one another wondering who it was that was going to make the next move followed. It was Martin Stalder in a copycat move with Ben in pursuit, the bunch

again looking for an individual to express its collectiveness. It came down to Thorkild to step up and bring the lost soles back to the fold. Another lap of looking, and a bit of testing before Ben and Barry Robertson jumped up the road, the presence of the low number (Barry was wearing no. 1) in the pairing must have frightened the collective mass as it responded very quickly. A counter attack by Peter Shanahan & Frank had promise but not the legs. The quashing of that little uprising pretty much quashed the spirit of any in the peleton who had ideas of individual glory, that or the efforts of the quashing had sapped the strength from the legs of the willing.

All that action in the first two-thirds of the race left nothing for the last third and it essentially settled down to a procession to the bell and the bunch ordained sprint. At times the lower grades threatened to pass before Thorkild, or Frank Nyhuis would restore a bit of b-grade pride by putting in a strong lap. On the bell it was Thorkild who was instilling the pride, as he had been for the previous couple of laps.

Ben Schofield started his customary attack half way into the last lap, from the back of the bunch it took to beyond the traffic lights before he cleared Thorkild to become the 'tete de la course'. Ben reaping the benefit of the bunch's earlier oxygen deprivation as only Tony Curulli was alert enough to be there as Ben's momentum carried them clear of Thorkild and his twelve followers. Into the home stretch, a half dozen bike lengths lead and a rapidly accelerating mob of lycra clad individuals bearing down on the leading them – it was going to be close. As the lactic acid reached near toxic levels Ben started to go the way of his legs, Tony pulled out of his slipstream to nail the win. Ben had to dodge the fat lady slowing him down just enough for Royce James to squeeze through for second, Ben third.

c-grade

The race was quickly up to speed, the bunch stretched out for the first ten minutes or so. After the initial flurry of activity the inevitable backing off of the pace and the first attack as a group of six including David Hyde, Hylton Preece and Brian McCann gapped the remainder. But as it was almost half the bunch away there was no way that they'd be allowed their freedom and sure enough the break was very short lived as the other half responded. As the bunch reorganised itself Wayne Doherty and David Hyde were overheard discussing tactics to put some hurt into the sprinter's legs in the hope of reducing their effectiveness come race end.

A couple of minutes later Wayne acted on his words taking Kevin Mills up the road in an effort to make the sprinters work, somebody did and the pair only enjoyed half a lap alone before being caught. Determined to break the back of the passengers Wayne had another dip a lap after reunification, on his own he wasn't a threat but the bunch was in a companionable mood and insisted that he be kept company. Next it was David's turn to aid the effort upping the tempo for a couple of laps. As David faded Kevin Mills tried once more to get a break, Anthony Gullace on his wheel, the pair didn't get far and as the race approached mid point it was becoming a bit of a procession.

And that's about the way it remained, David and Wayne's desires to open the race up thwarted by a group mentality that desired togetherness. At the bell it was an almost full complement that headed into the last lap. Come the finish the officials on the line were confronted by a mass of riders as the bunch rounded the last turn. In the scramble for the finish it was Lee Bailey who proved the quickest, Brian McCann, not quite so quick, finishing less than half a wheel back, Tony Renehan just as close in third and the remainder not much further behind.

d-grade

The members of the d-grade bunch must have been hoeing into the grand-kids' Easter chocolate as they seemed to have excess energy to burn, at one point threatening to pass b-grade. It eventually settled down and then got exciting again as Peter Mackie and Dennis Pauwels jumped to a sixty-metre break. The ensuing chase lasted just over a lap and then it was Nick Hainal countering, and with Graeme Parker on the front of the bunch showing no signs of interest in setting about chasing, Nick quickly grabbed a handy lead. Unfortunately (or not) others in the bunch were happy to chase and Nick's time off the front was short lived. The increase in pace from the chase had c-grade under threat of being embarrassed. Commonsense eventually returned and c-grade were spared the humiliation.

A respite, and then Peter and Nick were back in it, quickly clearing out to sixty metres before knuckling down to consolidate. Two laps later with no sign that the leaders were weakening Richard Dobson, Alan Cunneen and B. Dunlop set about joining them. It took a lap but then there was a working group of five away, enough to stir the chasers into action. Another lap later it was all back together again, momentarily, before David Worland, Brian Gulliot and B. Dunlop jumped the field as they caught their collective breath. Juanita Cadd and Graeme Parker provided the incentive for the bunch to again dig deep as the pair tried to bridge to the break.

Things settled down for a couple of laps as the individuals in the mass considered their options. Around ten minutes from the end of hostilities Peter Mackie decided it was time and made his move. Alan Cunneen was on the same wavelength and was quickly across leaving the others to re-assess their options, David Worland, having the most flexible plan, was quickly in pursuit. Over the next two laps the three built a significant break, Richard Dobson sensing that this was the

break to be in detached himself from the bunch and set about bridging - too late, the bell was rung and only mishap would deprive the three leaders of the podium.

The sprint started as the leaders rounded the last bend, Alan Cunneen pulling out half way to the line leaving Peter and David to fight it out mano a mano. It was David who proved to have the legs that got him over the line for the big bickies, Peter close on his wheel, Alan a little farther back. Richard cruised across for fourth as the remainder rounded the last bend and started an intense sprint for ... the line.

e-grade

An attack by Cube Taylor, David Williamson and David Birznieks just before half race distance had them nipping at the wheels of d-grade. A lead too good to give up and a d-grade bunch that were not interested in getting out of the way left the trio with little option but to bite the bullet and take on the higher grade. By the time the chasers caught d-grade there'd been no change in attitude and they had no choice but to go round to continue the pursuit. Once clear of the intervening group Graham Cadd buried himself to close the gap to the renegades taking the majority of his grade-mates with him. JC Wilson and Leon Bishop casualties of the exercise.

Eventually d-grade resumed their racing and order was restored.

Even with things back the way they were meant to be the heat didn't go from the e-grade race and a solid pace was maintained, a pace that prevented anybody from making a break. In the end it came down to a bunch kick that saw the three initial antagonists take the money, David B. getting the big envelope, David W and Cube filling the minor places.

f-grade

When nobody else wanted to work it was Stewart Jenkins leading the f-grade race and when he wasn't at the head of the race he was at the head of the chase (or not far off it). The first chase taking place ten minutes in as Stewart took a breather and Gary Dodds rode off the front. Gary didn't stay away for long, seemingly quite happy to sit up and let the others get back on his wheel. The next move though was a deliberate effort which saw the heavy-weights of the bunch in Sid Dymond and Ian Jones put a lot of space between themselves and the remainder. After a lap off the front Gary tried to get across but the working pair had head of steam up and Gary floundered in no-man's land for a couple of laps before retreating to the security of the bunch.

Approaching the half way mark Stewart decided that fifteen minutes were up and set about dragging the bunch up to the lead pair, having brought it all back together again Stewart wasn't going to let anybody else get away and basically held it together to the end. Leading the bunch into the final lap Stewart was never going to place but provided the ideal lead-out for those who considered themselves sprinters. Yet again the officials on the line had their work cut out as the half score finishers swarmed down the last hundred metres, predictably Stewart was swamped early as the rested legs of the others came out to play. In a very tight finish Gary Dodds proved to have the timing and

the legs, Ken Saxton second best managing to stay ahead of a fast finishing Ian Jones, who in turn was pipped on the line by Jeff Smith.

Post Amble

All attendees on the day were entered into a free Easter Raffle with chocolate, red wine and other prizes up for grabs.

Steve Barnard the first name to be drawn from the box was quick to snaffle the big basket of Cadbury chocolate that had been provided by Peter Mackie who had hit his sponsors for the basket. Other sponsors who contributed were Victoria State Home Loans, Omara cycles and the d-grade place getters from the Eastern v Southern criterium.

Results

	First	Second	Third
b-grade (15)	Tony Curulli	Royce James	Ben Schofield
c-grade (14)	Lee Bailey	Brian McCann	Tony Renehan
d-grade (15)	David Worland	Peter Mackie	Alan Cunneen
e-grade (9)	David Birznieks	David Williamson	Cube Taylor
f-grade (13)	Gary Dodds	Ken Saxton	Jeff Smith

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks for taking entries. Today's racing was under the direction of Nigel Kimber and John Porter who were ably helped by Ian Smith and Graham Cadd on the finish line. And thanks to JC snr. for bringing the trailer and to Peter Mackie and Chris Norbury who were on hand with drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	March	29	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	March	31	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Annual General Meeting
Saturday	April	5	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	April	12	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Omara Cycles GSR
Saturday	April	19	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Club Championships
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop – Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races + post race coffee
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	March	30	9:00am	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	April	6	9:00am	Lakewood Blvd, Braeside	Graded Scratch Races - President's Cup
Thursday	27/3/08 & 3/4/08		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	March	30	10:00am	East Trentham	Handicap (44k)
Sunday	April	6	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Scratch Races
Sunday	April	13	10:00am	Avenel Rd, Seymour	McCallion Handicap (64k)
Sunday	April	20	10:00am	Lancefield	Scratch Races (60k)

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Sunday	April	6	10:00am	Burrumbeet	Chris Cashin Memorial handicap	30/3 - \$15
Friday	April	25	1:00pm	Seymour	64k Benghazi Handicap	21/4 - \$15

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
6/4/2008	Macedon Ranges	MAD ride - 60 or 110k rides
30/8/2008 31/8/2008	Halls Gap	Grampians VCC Graded Scratch Races VVCC Handicap A great weekend of socialising and cycling Contact Ian Smith for details or expressions of interest.
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Registrations open 1/4/2008 for BV members Nigel Kimber will be leading a 250k group, there will also be a group going to Sorrento and back.

Other bits and pieces:

Annual General Meeting:

This Monday (31/3/2008) is the Eastern Veterans Cycling Club's Annual General Meeting. If you have ever wondered how the club was run come along and find out. If you have ever had a thought on how to do things or had an idea that might improve our club then come along and share it.

At the AGM all positions on the committee are open for election and the club is always keen to get more helpers, so if you want to contribute come along and don't step backwards when volunteers are called for.

Gariwerd:

August may be a way off, but it is rapidly approaching and this weekend proves popular with all Victorian Veteran's Cyclists. This is a great opportunity to socialise with fellow club members and to meet like minded individuals from other parts of the state in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

If you've never been to a VVCC open this is a great introduction as you will be surrounded by friends. If you've never ridden the roads around Halls Gap then this is the ideal opportunity to experience the beauty of the area as only cyclists can. If you've never been away with the club then you basically don't know what you are missing. If you've done these things then you know what I'm talking about. Last year's event was a terrific success and this year promises to be better with Graeme Parker getting more involved.

You can organise yourself or you can let the club do it for you, Ian Smith is currently taking bookings for the weekend. Bookings include accommodation and optional dinner on the Saturday night. To really enjoy the weekend book for Friday, Saturday and Sunday to relax and enjoy. But get in quick as rooms will be at a premium and the longer you wait the more likely you'll be sharing a two-man tent.

There are enough wineries, Aboriginal cave paintings and natural wonders to keep the non-riders busy whilst their partners are pounding the pedals.

Other Results, etc.:

Congratulations to those who competed and to those who placed in the South Pacific Championships over Easter. When the results are published I'll publish them here as well.

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