



# Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

*Newsletter May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008*

## Graded Scratch Races – Killara Road – April 26<sup>th</sup>

### Race report.

The last race of the Summer season was an introduction to the upcoming Winter Road Season. Fifty-five competitors defied the BOM and braved the conditions for our first road race in two months. A gusty Westerly (of sorts) that came from differing quarters throughout the race provided a little assistance in the exposed sections in the East bound legs of the course and hindered the race as it headed back toward Coldstream. The cows in the paddock by the air-field were evenly split on their opinions as to whether it would rain or not – those who stood their ground proving to be right (well, at least for the races' duration).

The conditions, the circuit, the less than responsive roads and a lack of hill training making for a tough day out and seeing a fair percentage of the starters not complete the course.

### **a-grade** (4 laps – 64k)

Gary Chamberlain jumped soon after the gun while everybody else was still psyching themselves into it, nobody took the move too seriously and Gary was back before the serious climb to the first turnaround where Olivier Pomie put in an effort that saw Rob Amos and Stuart Bendall dropped. A slow turn and initial descent enabling the pair to get back on but allowed Olivier to get away, taking a one-hundred metre lead back through the start/finish area. Word in the bunch was to leave him out there to soften him up.

On the last incline before the descent to finish the first lap Kevin Starr and Stuart Bendall went out the back as Mark Wallace tested his climbing legs and Olivier, still clear, started the descent to start his second lap. From the bottom of the course it was essentially a group ride out to the turn at the top of the hill, Kevin having managed to chase back on only to get dropped again when the gap to Olivier became apparent and the chasers got serious and started to get organised.

The chase-group making inroads into Olivier's lead as they headed out to the Coldstream turn and then back to the football ground. But the regular rotation of turns became more erratic the closer the race got to the finish line as riders started to worry about the climbs to the far turnaround and the integrity of their fellow combatants.

The next lap followed much the same pattern with the gap to Olivier dropping as the race headed West and stagnated as the road headed up. But enough had been taken out of the lead on the return for the third lap that a bridging attempt by Mark and chase by Gary was enough to bring the group back together at the penultimate turn and the remaining compliment of six riders headed back to the start/finish area and out for the last eight kilometres.

The pace slowed right back after the last turn as thoughts turned to preserving the legs for the inevitable attack/attacks on the return. All eyes were on Phil Smith as the group started up the last rise. But it was Mark Wallace who took advantage of being inconspicuous to attack the others around two-hundred meters from the top. The response came from Phil who was quickly followed by Gary, the other three, with heavy legs, followed as best they could.

Approaching the crest of the hill Mark looked to have a race-winning gap but neither Phil nor Gary were giving in as they closed on him. Gary catching Phil fifty metres from the top, the sight of Gary on his wheel enough to spur Phil into action, leaving Gary behind and passing Mark as they started the drop to the finish. Phil's momentum (? - ed.) enough to create a gap to Mark that was not going to be threatened on the downhill run to the finish. Mark, with a similar gap to Gary, was also not going to be caught. Gary on the other hand was under threat from Olivier who had closed on him over the last fifty metres of the ascent and the pair barrelled down the hill for a sprint finish which Gary won by less than a bike length. The winners followed home by Phil Cavaleri and Rob Amos.

### **b-grade** (4 laps)

With four laps to cover it was Nigel & Peter Shanahan who led the race out at a comfortable pace, Peter still feeling the effects of the previous weekend's Baw Baw Classic and Nigel still underdone after two bouts of surgery. As the road turned upwards a course virgin decided the pace was too slow, coming to the front only to decide that the seasoned racers' pace was better and it was Nigel that led the race through the first turnaround and back down towards the officials on the line. A neutral turn enabling a couple of stragglers to get back on. David Anderson taking the lead on the little incline to the school and the drop through the start/finish to complete the first half lap.

A couple of riders pulled through to do turns on the way to the Coldstream turn around, Nigel finding himself setting the pace more often than was good for his legs. At the turn it was obvious that a couple of competitors were beginning to feel the lack of hill training, a prolonged neutral period to clear some following cars enabled the stragglers back on, then it was more of the same with a variety of riders coming through to set the tempo. The few inclines on the way back to complete the first lap saw a couple of riders drop away and it was a bunch of ten that completed the first lap together, the others scattered behind.

A move by Doug Reynolds on the lower slopes threatened to split the bunch but an effort by Nigel brought what was left of it back together. Another move by Doug on the final climb to the turn saw Nigel, Peter and a couple of others bid farewell to the race, reducing it to six. The chase back to the footy oval only saw Peter break a spoke and Nigel continue a tradition; not making any ground on the leaders and with over-cooked legs he withdrew – yet to complete a race at Killara Road.

At the end of the second lap there were still six in the bunch with Rob Truscott fifty metres back, Steven Ross a further fifty metres behind him. It was the same six who came back with two and a half laps completed, Rob and Steve still in it but around half a kilometre back and still fifty metres apart. Another b-grade rider was several minutes further back.

Three down and it was down to six as Steve and Rob decided that half a kilometre was too big a gap to close and the course too tough. Make that seven as the lone straggler trudged through to take the bell. As the race came back through the finish area at the half lap it was four; Doug, Martin Stadler, Thorkild Muurholm and Trevor Coulter. David Anderson one-hundred metres behind and Chris Mucha deciding that it was all too much.

In the finish it was Thorkild by twenty metres over Doug, Trevor a further five metres back and Martin cruising to cross the line in fourth. Thorkild setting up his win with an attack one-hundred metres from the crest of the last hill, starting the descent alone and clear. Doug jumping on the crest as the others were breathing sighs of relief gained enough of a gap to assure himself of an envelope.

#### **c-grade** (3 laps)

A rampaging Wayne Doherty hammered the first few kilometres from the start to the top of the first steep incline, an effort which shelled out a third of the field. Then, with some of the remaining riders rolling over, including Wayne, the field drove on remorselessly - up hill and down dale, into the wind...onward, ever onward. The damage being mostly done by Wayne and Anthony Gullace, Greg Lipple also doing his share. Andrew Finnigan, who was looking strong early on, unfortunately punctured on the first lap. He said later that when he re-joined slightly adrift as the bunch returned on the first lap he was simply unable to make any ground on the bunch...with Wayne & co driving it was little wonder!

Colin O'Brien was still hanging in there and, with just four riders left in the bunch, as the second lap drew to a close he did a longish turn as they approached the ultimate hill before descending to the finish line to get the bell. Unfortunately for him a strained Achilles tendon leading to a premature retirement...what a stroke of luck! Justin Murphy and Trevor Coulter were still hanging in there but a couple of minutes down on the four (then three) leaders. And Nick Bird was a couple of minutes further back again, but determined not to let the course beat him.

The remaining three riders fought it out over the last lap, Justin, Trevor and Nick continuing with their solo suffering back along the road. At the finish Wayne took first, eighty metres clear of Anthony, Greg a further 200m back. Justin Murphy completed the race in fourth but took third as Greg declined the place on the basis that he should have been riding up a grade. And Nick completed the course, which was more than a few others did.

#### **d-grade** (3 laps)

Sixteen riders in d-grade made it the biggest group for the day and the pace was on from the get-go. Ted McCoy ensuring that those who hadn't been riding the hills were going to find it a difficult ride. At the first turn some struggled to stay in touch and on the descent Richard Dobson took off, no concern from the pack, the thinking being that it would be a hard task to stay out by yourself for 45k's in the trying conditions. At the second turn about 3-4 riders were dropped off as the word "*neutral*" was forgotten.

It was a slightly smaller group that set out for the second lap, Richard still ahead of the bunch. On the way out Steve Short gave a sign that his knee was not so sore with a burst that garnered him a small gap, a gap that Graeme Parker set about bringing back. Having caught Steve Graeme decided he'd up the pace towards the turn and took his own gap through the turn as he headed back down to complete the first half of the race. But on the return he had a change of mind and sat up to waited for the pack, so as the race went through the start finish area it was Richard Dobson still around two-hundred metres clear of eleven chasers. Peter Mackie was instructed to make a mechanical stop to adjust his computer magnet which had come loose and sounded like a broken spoke (or about to break one). Adjustment made, Peter rode to the Coldstream turn alone until rejoining the pack after it had turned and headed back to the bell (which the bunch had agreed to allow).

Along the road back from Coldstream Richard was finally hauled back into the group and at the bell it was a very stretched out 12 riders going through, over forty metres between first wheel and last. As the lap progressed not much eventuated, David Woreland and Louise McKimmie doing most of the work and by the final turn had cut the pack down to nine.

On the road home Graeme Parker was heard wording Richard up on the tactic he should use for the final climb before the downhill finish - "*Sit in and about 3/4's of the way up surge and keep pedalling going down.*" Good plan except others either heard or had the same thought. Steve Short proving too good, beating all up the final climb and then down to the finish, Richard fifty metres behind in second, Gavin Plummer twenty

metres back in third, Ted McCoy in fourth and Louise acquitting herself more than admirably to come in on Ted's wheel, Peter Mackie fifty metres behind her.

#### **e-grade (2 laps)**

Andrew Buchanan set out from the outset to spread the five e-graders across the road and turn the race into an individual pursuit. Brian Farrell and the others leaving him to his own devices, certain that he'd come to his senses and return of his own accord. When it became apparent that this wasn't going to happen Brian set about getting him back, closing half the gap before the first turnaround and splintering the remainder of the grade. Some cautious descending by Brian allowed his followers to catch and then fly past in their pursuit of Andrew.

Only one hundred metres behind the now recombined group at the conclusion of the first half lap Brian was unable to catch up, under the conditions one hundred meters may as well have been one thousand. Toward the end of the first lap Neil Cartledge took over from Andrew and again the group started to disintegrate and at the end of the first lap the race was five individuals battling the conditions and their demons. With half a lap to go Neil was just fifty metres ahead of Andrew, Brett Robinson was a couple of hundred metres behind that, Mick Paul about as far back again and Brian - the lantern rouge.

Over the last half lap Andrew did enough to drag himself back up to Neil's wheel and then past him to descend the last drop to the line around a minute ahead of Neil. Brett a further couple of minutes down and the remaining two drifting in a little later.

#### **f-grade (2 laps)**

The four f-grade riders started off sociably enough, that was until the start of the climb to the first turnaround when Peter Webb upped the effort and started to pull away with ease. Ashley Willox and Zenon Gawronski upping their tempo to keep him in reach, and JC Wilson struggling just to stay in touch. At the turn there was 75 metres between first and last but on the descent JC turned the gained potential energy into Kinetic energy and was quickly back on the wheels of the others.

On the way out to the Coldstream turn Peter put in another effort up another hill and pulled another gap. This time the hill wasn't so relentless and despite losing ground to the others on the up JC put the head down on the down, passing the pairing of Ashley and Zenon and catching the wheel of Peter by the turn. On the road back, another rise, another effort and another hundred metre gap which Peter held to the bell, JC following clear of the chasing pair. The run to the penultimate turn was a repeat of the first with Peter pulling away on the climb, JC losing ground to both Peter ahead and to the pair behind. The descent from the turn allowing him to regain some of the ground lost to the chasers and as such went through the finish area a minute or so behind Peter and two hundred metres ahead of Zenon, Ashley another two hundred meters behind him.

The last quarter of a lap saw Peter continue to draw away from the others. JC losing time to Peter but gaining it on the pair behind him and Ashley, not only make up the two hundred meters he'd trailed Zenon by at the bottom of the course, but take the same amount out of him by the end of the race. Ashley finishing a couple of minutes behind JC who was in turn a couple of minutes, plus one (or two), behind Peter.

Many thanks to those whose insights helped in producing the above race reports; Rob Amos and Gary Chamberlain (a-grade), Colin O'Brien (c-grade), Peter Mackie (d-grade), Brian Farrell (e-grade) and JC Wilson (f-grade).

#### **Committee Matters**

At the committee meeting on Monday night the decision was made to enforce the rule that members who do not turn up to do their duty will not be allowed to ride in any Eastern Vets club race or championship until they have done a turn. This decision was made because we need marshals to run our races and if a rostered member does not turn up another member has to give up their ride so that the races can go on. This is not fair.

If you are unable to do your rostered turn you can organise to swap with another member, either directly or through the club (Keith Bowen) or, if you wish to ride you can provide a replacement (a friend or partner). Regardless of whether you are turning up, sending a replacement or not turning up it is common courtesy to inform the club (Greg Lipple) of your availability so that they know where they stand for the day.

## **Results**

	<b>First</b>	<b>Second</b>	<b>Third</b>
<b>a-grade (8)</b>	Phil Smith	Mark Wallace	Gary Chamberlain
<b>b-grade (13)</b>	Thorkild Muurholm	Doug Reynolds	Trevor Coulter
<b>c-grade (10)</b>	Wayne Doherty	Anthony Gullace	Justin Murphy
<b>d-grade (14)</b>	Steve Short	Richard Dobson	Gavin Plummer
<b>e-grade (6)</b>	Andrew Buchannan	Neil Cartledge	Brett Robinson
<b>f-grade (4)</b>	Peter Webb	JC Wilson	Ashley Willox

## Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks for taking entries. Today's racing was under the direction of Ian Milner who was ably assisted by Angelo Antignani, Sid Dymond, Mark Granland, David McCormack Brian McCann, Ken Saxton, Tony Curulli, Cube Taylor and Steve Fothergill. Thanks also to JC for bringing the trailer and to Peter Mackie with the drinks.

## Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	May	3	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	May	10	2:00pm	Steels Creek	Athletic Soft Tissue Handicap *
Saturday	May	17	2:00pm	Arthurs Creek	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	May	24	2:00pm	Macclesfield	Graded Scratch Races
<b>Monday</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>8:00pm</b>	<b>Maroondah Club</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
Wednesday			10:00am	The Loop – Yarra Boulevard	Scratch Races + post race coffee

**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	May	4	9:00am	Cora Lynn – Nar Nar Goon	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	May	11	9:00am	Casey Fields	Mother's Day Scratch Races
Sunday	May	18	9:00am	Dromana	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	May	25	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	4	9:30am	Lancefield	Handicap (48k)
Sunday	May	11	9:30am	Lillee Crescent	Mother's Day Scratch Races
Sunday	May	18	10:00am	East Trentham	Handicap (44k)
Sunday	May	25	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races

## Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Sunday	May	20	10:00am	Cororooke Hall	Colac "May Open" – 64k handicap	14/5 - \$15
Saturday	May	26	1:00pm	Rochester	"Oppy Race" – 70k handicap	21/5 - \$15

## For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
23/5/2008 – 25/5/2008	Warburton	Race Right Cycling Training Camp (the people who brought the BrightBootCamp) An hour from Melbourne, two days of seminars and on-road coaching. \$650-700 for two nights accommodation (Fri & Sat) including all food. Further information is available at <a href="http://www.racerightcyclingcamp.com">www.racerightcyclingcamp.com</a> or by calling David Heatly on 0410 331 793. (or Nigel Kimber)
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 - 210k via Queenscliff sold out (2/4 -11/4/2008 (9 days)) Nigel Kimber will be leading a 250k group, there will also be a group going to Sorrento and back.

## Other Results, etc.:

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