



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter May 10th 2008

Graded Scratch Races – Casey Fields – May 3rd

Race report.

Relatively light winds and benign conditions greeted the sixty-two riders who made it to Casey Fields for the day's racing. The wind, initially from the Southwest, swung Southerly and abated as the day wore on and was almost absent by the time proceedings were completed.

a-grade

The nine starters in the top grade were content to start in second gear, maintaining a comfortable and steady b-grade pace for the first quarter hour of so. It took that long before Ian Milner decided it was time to put the wind up the sprinters and took off up the road, taking a quick one hundred and fifty metres before propping and waiting for someone to bridge. Not a lot of interest was shown and Ian sat off the front like a hostage sent out to sweep the field for mines. Ian remaining friend free for around ten minutes before the chase got serious and the gap came down.

Tony Chandler took full advantage of the other's efforts in bringing Ian back and as soon as reunification was accomplished he counter attacked. Darren Sayers tried twice to build a bridge to Tony but was twice chased down, his second attempt looked promising enough to warrant completion of the bridge but unfortunately the others managed to scramble across before the stays were cut. Bringing it all back together with around two-thirds of the race completed.

The remainder of the race was characterised by moves from all quarters, Kevin Starr, Ian Milner, and the Phils Cavaleri and Thompson trying to break the strings of attachment, but all to no avail. No attempt powerful enough to crack the desire for a bunch kick. And so it came to pass that the bunch lined up around the last lap and along the back straight in preparation for the sprint, Tony getting caught on a bad wheel was boxed in as the sprinters started their run into the last corner, going from second to last.

Out of the corner it was Phil Thompson who broke first, an attentive Kevin Starr on his wheel and a not quite so attentive Darren Sayers lagging a couple of seconds behind him. The gap proving too much for Darren but Kevin taking the most out of the sit surged past Phil before the line to greet the chequered flag first, Darren holding on to third by the grace

of the finish line not being a couple of metres further up the road.

b-grade

The b-grade bunch pretty much maintained pace with the a-grade bunch for the first forty minutes of the race. The solid tempo of Thorkild and Frank Nyhuis keeping the pace high ensured that a-grade didn't draw away over the initial stages of the proceedings. The customary attacks by John Pritchard, peaking heart rates as he wound it up in the biggest gear he could find before sitting up as the consequent chase ensued ensured the average speed matched that of the a-grade bunch. Additional attacks by Ian Smith, Martin Stalder, Frank, Thorkild and the ever aggressive Peter Shanahan also contributing to maintaining a high bunch speed, as the 'don't leave me behind' mentality that b-grade is renowned for, saw the bunch often stretched in pursuit of each and every move but holding together.

As the a-grade race started to pick up its pace as riders attempted to grab the initiative the b-grade race backed it down a notch as the riders started to think ahead to the inevitable bunch sprint. Thorkild gave it one more shot on the bell and almost got away with it. While the others looked at each other for inspiration he quickly took fifty metres and was still moving away when Tony Curulli cracked and set off after him. A collective sigh of relief from the others in the bunch, as they tucked in behind him, aiding him in his endeavours.

With the bit between his teeth and momentum on his side Tony drove past Thorkild around the loop at the bottom of the circuit and continued his punishment along the back straight, providing a three-quarter lap lead out for the sprinters. Tony's legs finally giving out soon after the last corner where he was swamped by Frank Nyhuis and the remainder of the bunch. A very strong Frank riding away to the win, the minor places decided in a tight finish with John Pritchard just ahead of Rob Truscott and Trevor Coulter.

c-grade

c-grade started at a moderate pace and continued as such for around the first fifteen minutes until Nigel Letty decided it was time to get serious. It took a while for the bunch to reel him back in and when it did it was Dave McCormack who countered, getting away and staying away for around a lap before the bunch chased him down also. After that the pace was full on with

several riders rolling through to keep the heart rates close to the maximum and limit the options.

Despite the attempts of the 'bunch' Nigel Letty and Anthony Gullace were able to get away late in the race and hold off the chasers for four laps until, on the penultimate lap, they were also returned to the fold. Next time through the finish zone the sound of the bell brought relief to the ears, it was just going to take a little longer for that relief to spread to the legs.

Brian McCann was keen to end proceedings, jumping from the middle of the bunch to start the sprint well short of the final corner. His move catching a few by surprise, obtaining himself and two others a little gap that they held to the finish. A chase by Anthony had the surprisesees on the wheels of the surprisers by the line but too late to stop Marcus Herzog from coming off Brian's wheel to take the win, Brian getting second and his other mate – Hylton Preece finishing third.

d-grade

Gary Leroy and Richard Dobson set the pace for the first half of the race, a pace that the other dozen riders either found to their liking or too hot to challenge, encouragement from Richard for the others to join in was met with disinterest. At the thirty-minute mark though, interest was peeked and, as yet unnamed riders came through to try and break things up. Nick Hainal one of the unnamed initiating several attacks, Richard Dobson (still fresh from his efforts in the first half - ? ed.) also joining in in the hammering of the others. Peter Mackie using each chase to launch a counter attack doubled the number of moves that had to be chased down. Juanita Cadd, her usual terrier self (foxy that is – ed.) chasing down many of the breaks, Richard chasing down some of those that he didn't feature in and Tony Rodriguez also ensuring that nobody had to ride alone for long.

And just as everybody was settling in for the run to the line Nick had another go. Another chase and half a lap from the bell the recalcitrant Nick was back in the bunch. The bell

saw Richard Dobson back in the fray again, dragging the others round for the last time. Into the back straight Richard had the others line astern; the sprinters queuing up for the ideal sit. Out of the last corner Tony Rodriguez went right with the majority of the bunch on his wheel, Mark Granland went left with Alan Hicks on his wheel. Alan got it right but didn't have the legs to get around Mark; Tony didn't quite get it right but had the legs to hold off his followers and claim third.

e-grade

With a couple of new faces in the bunch the gentlemen of e-grade started out at a reasonable pace, well, everyone that is except Brett Robinson who'd obviously not been listening to the pre-race group vibe. After a lap on his own Brett listened to the voices and retreated to the group. From there on a steady rotation of riders at the front kept the pace moderate and relatively even, a little surging occurring as fresh legs came through but quickly settled back into the accepted regime (no "tebit eerf" tee-shirts here). One small surge catching one of the newcomers out and gapping her enough that she caught the wind and, despite Phil Cox dropping back to assist (above and beyond the gentleman's code of conduct Phil - ed.), wasn't able to catch the bunch back up – the pair completing the race in their own time.

It was Neil Cartledge who led the eight or so riders through the bell and into the last two-point-two kilometres. As hard as he tried, no manner of effort, or lack there of, enabled Neil to lose the lead until the final turn when he was swamped by riders who were suddenly keen to be at the front. Track savvy Ken Saxton had started his move half way along the back straight, positioning himself perfectly for the final run to the line. Brett Robinson had the sheer strength to power himself to the finish for second behind Ken and Rohan Schied completed the podium.

f-grade

No race.

Results

| | First | Second | Third |
|---------------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|
| a-grade (9) | Kevin Starr | Phil Thompson | Darren Sayers |
| b-grade (15) | Frank Nyhuis | John Pritchard | Trevor Coulter |
| c-grade (10) | Marcus Herzog | Brian McCann | Hylton Preece |
| d-grade (14) | Mark Granland | Alan Hicks | Tony Rodriguez |
| e-grade (14) | Ken Saxton | Brett Robinson | Rohan Schied |

Officials

Thanks to Keith Bowen on the handicappers desk and Ron Stranks for handling the cash. Today's racing was brought to you by Rob Amos, Laurie Baigent, JC Wilson and Ronnie; the latter two on crutches. Thanks also to JC for bringing the trailer and to Peter Mackie on hand with the drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

| | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-----------|---------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 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 |
| Monday | May | 26 | 8:00pm | Maroondah Club | General Meeting |
| Saturday | May | 31 | 2:00pm | Killara Road | Graded Scratch Races |
| 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 | 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 |
| Sunday | June | 1 | 9:00am | Cora Lynn – Modella | Anniversary Handicap |

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 | 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 |
| Sunday | June | 1 | 9:30am | National Blvd, Campbellfield | Graded Scratch Races |

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

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|----------|-----|----|---------|----------------|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 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 www.racerightcyclingcamp.com 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.:
