



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter September 20th 2008

Graded Scratch Races, Arthurs Creek – September 13th

Race report.

The forecast was for strong to gale force winds over the state for the weekend, and the bureau got it right. Coming from the north it was tempered a bit by the geography but still made the outbound leg hard work, the homeward leg seeing some decent speeds registered on the old flight-deck.

Despite the wind, or because of it, the temperatures were mild and it was 53 veteran cyclists who gathered at the Arthurs Creek School for a couple of hours exercise.

a-grade

The wind in our faces and around sixty-five kilometres to travel surely nobody would attack on the first leg of the race, surely it would be a steady but solid journey to the first turnaround. Wrong! Fifty metres past Nankervis Road and it was on, Tony Chandler pounding the pedals to jump clear of the eight others in the bunch, Mick Jamison, the only one to react, quickly joined Tony and it was two away but too early in the race to be of concern. Or was it? Tony has a reputation of being able to stay away (well he did in one race). Just in case the bunch tempo was upped to match that of the break, enough for the escapees to concede that they weren't going to get away and ease off to await capture. After reunion the pace dropped off, too much for Tony who had another dip, this time with Roy Clark for company, Guy Green, on the front of the bunch, showed no interest in chasing, or even limiting the rate of escape, allowing the gap to grow at an almost alarming rate.

A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing and with the ken that Tony was capable and Roy had been winning time-trials Nigel Kimber decided that this might be the break to be in albeit with still 60k to race. Jumping from second wheel he was grateful when the bunch picked him up a minute or so later and carried him the remaining twenty metres to the lead pair. Two solid attacks in the first leg of the race and it still wasn't over. With a couple of kilometres to the first turn Tony went again and again it was Mick Jamison who was with him. The proximity of the turn instilled a little urgency in the bunch as the chase was joined to eliminate the pair's advantage at the turn, some late braking into the turn ensuring that we were considered a bunch for the purposes of neutrality.

The wind at our backs, surely the pace will be fast enough to prevent any attacks. Wrong! No sooner had the neutral zone been cleared and Tony was at it again (it sounds like he had redcordial on his Froot Loops™ at breakfast - ed.), this time it was Rob Amos who elected to keep him company. The pair built quite a handy lead before the chase got serious - out of sight but not out of mind (although ... - ed.). The orchard cool-store came and went before the pair were reunited with the bunch and it still wasn't over as another move saw Tony up the road again with company, Guy was interested this time and as the race approached the bottom of the pinch for the first time it was two, one, five and one, Damiano Ambrosini succumbing to the relentless surging and destined to finish the race alone.

Desperate to keep it together Nigel buried himself going up the hill and over the other side, Rob taking over halfway down saw the chasers tenuously in touch with the three leaders at the turn, enough to call it a bunch. The leaders didn't think so and a surge out of the turn saw Mark Wallace and Phil Cavaleri scramble over a failing Nigel to regain the last wheel of the bunch. It was now seven and one as Nigel rode the dirt back to school.

Things didn't cool down on the second lap only that this time Tony took a bit of a back seat as others relentlessly hit the field - attack and counter attack. The pace eventually proving too much for Phil Cavaleri who was the next to slip away. Tony's first effort of the second lap came half-way out and stretched the rubber band to breaking point and it was three and three, one and one. Tony, Rob and Guy against Mark Wallace, Rob and Mick; Phil and Damiano riding home to the beat of their own metronome. Guy was a little green around the gills and wasn't able to contribute a great deal to the break but with Tony and Roy working to the max the lead group continued to pull away from the chasers despite their making a concerted effort to stop that from happening.

Tony and Roy didn't let up on the third lap, Guy managing to hold on and do the occasional turn. In the chase Mick couldn't keep up, leaving Mark and Rob to swap turns, and stories of pain, as they slogged out the last two laps in the knowledge that it was only going to be a mechanical in the lead group that would give them a podium position.

The out-bound leg of the last lap was a little easier for Guy with the other two backing it off a little, but that was the calm before the storm. Over the last half-dozen kilometres Tony and Roy set about hitting each other like a pair of sideshow boxers, Guy

having to dig deep to hold the wheel of whichever of the pair was responding to the other's attack. Neither rider had enough to get away but both riders had enough to stay in contact so it was that as the race turned down Greens Road it was destined to be a sprint to decide the places. Guy's unwellness relegating him to third. Roy's experience proving the difference, rolling Tony in the sprint for the major prize.

b-grade

The 12 riders who rolled out in B Grade were chatting amongst themselves in a friendly manner through the neutral zone. An acceleration by Matt Cornford marked the transition into the race zone and, with a sigh and a groan, the chase was on. As we rounded the first bend we were immediately greeted with a stiff head wind and Matt rejoined us as the reality of the task at hand hit home, 4 laps into an honest northerly. Only a madman or a super-hero would escape and survive solo in these conditions.

We settled into a rhythm enjoying the sunshine with Thorkild, Martin Stalder, Phil Pelgrim and Steve Ross all prominent up front driving the loco. But the pace was not enough for Kevin Starr so up he moved to drive up the pace. Matt Cornford joined in the agitation with one or two mock attacks none of which survived long. And so things go for the first lap. All a bit too comfortable for Mick Hay who decides to attack halfway through lap 2. 'He won't last long out there on his own', we all groan. Despite that 'fact' the pace has picked up enough to begin the shedding of riders starting with Ian Smith, Peter Gray, and an ailing Nick Tapp (still recovering from a week of gastro).

Through lap 3 the group rolls on but lacks any unified sense of purpose. While Kev Starr and Martin Stalder are attempting to get a system of rolling turns other riders are sitting in trying to survive. Nigel Frayne is in there, his first B Grade race for 12 months. His quest is simply to survive. A pattern of surges on each hill adds to the concern of the surviving types, distracting them from the need to chase down the long disappeared escapee, Michael Hay. Frustration sets in for the stronger riders, Kevin, Steve Ross, Phil Pelgrim and Damian Burke who has rolled up front to get into the action.

It all gets too much for Thorkild and on lap 4, some 4km from home, he attacks. No one chases immediately until Martin decides to have a crack on his own followed shortly thereafter by Steve Ross. The conservative ones that remain decide their best chance is to keep the group together to 'the hill' and chase them down in the final kilometre. However, as the final climb is reached Damian breaks free with Nigel in hot pursuit. Over the crest and slipping onto the big ring Damian continues to pull away and we're strung out like a line of morse code. At the turn we all get to assess the situation as we turn back on ourselves and head for the traverse to the line.

Three minutes earlier, Mick Hay had made the same turn, solo, after a lonely and powerful display over 2 and a half laps battling that wind. He heads for the finish sprinting, as he says, on the small ring! Tired but victorious. The next

arrival is Thorkild who has stayed away from the chasers. Steve and Martin have joined up and, in the true spirit of fair competition, sprint alongside each other in a drag race rather than contest a battle of sitting wheels. Steve edges out Martin. Damian Burke is next followed by the remnants of the group, Kevin, Phil and Nigel happy to just have survived. Peter Gray eventually arrives a little worse for wear as he has had a minor crash after entering the sharp left-hander down the hill just a little too quick. A bottle of wine for the ride of the day should help ease the pain having lost a bit of bark on the left side.

Stats:	Distance	67.3 km
	Time	2hr 05min
	Ave speed	32.1 kph
	Max speed	63.9 kph

c-grade

The wind, and common sense, saw the baker's dozen ride the first leg of the race at a sensible speed, members of the group getting a feel for the course, the conditions and the competition. With the wind at their backs after the first turn the pace picked up but it was still a complete set that crested the pinch, rolled to the bottom and turned into the second lap.

Having 'sussed' out the conditions, and the competition, Matt White took the role of leadership to the next level and rode away from the others garnering a decent break that nobody in the bunch seemed keen to do anything about. A strong ride by Matt keeping the bunch at bay for almost a whole lap and honest in its endeavors, the pace seeing a few riders shed from the chasing bunch.

Having spent the majority of the second lap on his own the president returned to his people at the top of the climb at the start of the last lap. From the top of the pinch to Strathewen things remained much the way they were; Steve Short and Hylton Preece, along with a few others, keeping the diminished group rolling at a respectable speed.

On the return to the finish Steve Short backed himself from five-kilometres out and, with no chase (or support) coming from the bunch, he built on his lead and held it to the finish. The members of the bunch were reluctant to chase, seemingly content to fight for the minor placings they stayed together to the end. Rounding the last corner it was approximately half the starting bunch that joined the sprint for the minor placings. Matt, in his leadership hat, led the field out along the last straight only to be swamped by the field; Darren Darling proving the fastest of the rest with Kevin Jackson second fastest and Matt bringing up the rear in seventh overall.

d-grade

The stiff northerly wind did a bit to keep the fourteen d-grade riders together for the majority of the first leg out to Strathewen, a handful of individuals doing the majority of the bullocking into the 'breeze' in what was a fairly uneventful leg. But things changed quickly as the race rounded the cone and headed downwind from whence it came. As spinnakers were set and speeds picked up it was Debbie Chambers who made the best of the conditions getting away and building a 150m lead.

Not to be outdone by his daughter Ted McCoy set about joining her and Paul Kelly (70) wasn't going to let the younger Ted (68) have it all his way as he jumped to join the chase. Tony Rodriguez and Graeme Parker scrambling on board made it a break of five against the remaining nine. But with the colonel in the mix it was always going to be a tough job for the chasers and as the leading quintet rolled turns back to complete the first lap the chase group struggled to stay together.

Over the next two laps the lead bunch continued to work hard, the stronger doing more solid turns to ensure the break stayed away. Whilst behind the chase group shattered and were scattered along the road like the leaves that were being tossed about in the persistent northerly.

Two kilometres from the finish the lead bunch were still together and Paul Kelly was looking forward to a sprint finish. Maybe it was the anticipation of the finish or the fatigue of maintaining the pace required by colonel Parker, but Paul miscalculated, failing to engage the small chain ring till too late on the last climb and being relegated to watching the other four crest ahead of him and ride away down the other side. In the sprint it was the younger legs of Debbie that prevailed, father Ted was the next across the line with Tony Rodriguez close on his wheel, Graeme content to let the others battle it out for the podium cruised over the line in fourth with Paul crossing half a minute later, well clear of the stragglers that shuffled in even further back.

e-grade

Given the conditions common sense indicated that staying together would be the sensible option and Juanita Cadd wasn't afraid to put in to keep it that way nor was she shy about getting on the front to set the pace. After the first turn, and with the wind at his back, Bruce Hawker tried to ride off the front of the bunch but only succeeded in temporarily increasing the tempo as all in the small bunch were able to match his acceleration.

Results

	First	Second	Third
a-grade (9)	Roy Clark	Chandler, Anthony	Guy Green
b-grade (14)	Michael Hay	Thorkid Muurholm	Steve Ross
c-grade (13)	Steve Short	Darren Darling	Kevin Jackson
d-grade (14)	Deb Chambers	Ted McCoy	Tony Rodriguez
e-grade (7)	Bruce Hawker	Mark Cheeseman	Ken Saxton
f-grade (6)	Kenton Smith	Les McLean	Graham Cadd

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ronnie Stranks who were on the desk taking entries. Thanks to the helpers; Chris Norbury, JC Wilson, Richard Dobson, Phil Moss, Brain Farrell, Keith Bowen and Andrew Neilsen who were under the direction of Mick Paull. Thanks also to JC for bringing the trailer, to Peter Mackie who was on hand with the drinks and thanks to Richard Dobson who is responsible for the roster and looking after helmet covers and numbers.

It was the hill at the Arthurs Creek end of the circuit that settled the race, the first casualty occurring on the steep face, the return up the long face (this horse walks into a bar and the barman says "...") was where it blew apart, Juanita bidding farewell to the boys early as they rode away up the incline. Two-thirds of the way to the top Bruce made his move taking Mark Cheeseman with him, Peter Smith started to go but not having the legs found himself in no-mans land as he crested some twenty metres behind the two leaders, John Thomson and Ken Saxton a further twenty or so metres behind hoping that they could catch the leaders over the next sixteen kilometres; after having caught their breaths.

John and Ken managed to catch their breaths and then they caught Pete but Bruce was going like the proverbial bat out of a holy hot place and with Mark making the most of the slipstream the pair were never seen again by the chasers. On the last climb the dynamic duo split up, Bruce riding away to a comfortable win, Mark taking second place well clear of the chase trio who had continued to work together in the hope they could regain the leaders. The race for the last of the money places was tight fought, John Thomson leading the group down Greens Road and into the last hundred metres where Peter and then Ken rode over him, Ken riding a brilliant finish to roll Peter on the line by a tyre.

f-grade

No report.

Post race wrap

Peter Gray was awarded a Ride of the Day award for his determination in finishing the race, being dropped early from b-grade and despite an encounter with the wall at the bottom of the pinch he continued on to finish.

Eastern Vets Program

Sunday	September	21	9:00am	The Basin	Indoor Outdoor Imports Hill Climb
Saturday	September	27	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	September	29	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	Monthly General Meeting
Saturday	October	4	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	October	11	2:00pm	Yarra Junction	Club Championships
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	September	21	9:00am	Somers	Lang Laycock Trophy
Sunday	September	28	9:00am	Lang Lang	President's Cup – 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.

* Due to Victoria Police requirements competitors for these events must have a flashing red taillight and a white headlight.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	September	21	10:00am	Broadford	Mountain Goat Classic handicap (49k)
Sunday	September	28	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	October	5	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	October	12	10:00am	Avenel Road, Seymour	Vin Nuttal handicap (64k)

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

Sunday	October	5	10:00am	Paraparap, Geelong	Stan Howard Memorial H'cap	29/9 - \$15
Sunday	October	25	10:00am	Camperdown	Camperdown – Warrnambool	20/10 - \$20

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
12/10/2008	Traralgon	2008 Jayco Herald Sun Tour Masters Support Races
14/10/2008	Warragul	As a part of the Jayco Herald Sun Tour Southern Vets, in conjunction with Cycling Australia and Cycle Sport Victoria, are running support races over the Herald Sun Tour courses. Cost is \$16.50 (for non SVCC members) + \$20.00 per event entered. See the SVCC web site (www.southernvets.com.au/modules/news/article.php?storyid=209) for more details and entry form.
16/10/2008	Mansfield	
18/10/2008	Carlton	
16/10/2008	Mansfield	
19/10/2008	Melbourne	BV Around the Bay Nigel Kimber will be leading a 250k group, there will also be a group going to Sorrento and back.
13/12/2008	Shepparton	Scotty's Ride. A 120km recreational challenge ride on the quiet country roads around Scott's home town of Shepparton. For details check out Cyclo Sportif's website; - http://www.cyclosportifvic.com.au/page/events.html

Other Results, etc.:
