



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter May 9th 2009

Casey Fields – Graded Handicap – May 2nd

Race report

The weather gods were smiling as 75 members rolled out onto the Casey Fields circuit for the day's racing. No wind (for Casey Fields), patchy clouds and a cool 16.8 degrees was going to make for some fast racing.

The format for the day was a 6.5k group handicap; a series of fifty-five minute criteriums to determine the qualifiers for the three lap handicap final, the first six in each grade going through to the final.

qualifying

The dilemma with this format of racing is; does one soft pedal for an hour to preserve the legs for the final and hope to qualify in the inevitable sprint for placings or does one make a race of the heat in an effort to cull the bunch and hope there's enough left in the legs for the final?

The a-grade qualifier took the middle line starting at a reasonable pace with the group rolling turns, not in preparation for the final, nor to prevent a breakaway, they just rolled turns for the first half-hour but then thoughts of preservation started creeping into the minds of some and the rotation became erratic, inconsistent and hesitant. As some in the bunch were beginning to look to the sprint the best form of defence became attack and Rob Amos did just that, quickly garnering a gap. Steve Ross was of similar mind and joined Rob, the pair swapping off turns and opening up a decent break. Now the dilemma gained an extra complexity; Rob and Steve would be handy to have in the handicap, so do you leave them out there and hope to finish top four in the sprint, or do you try to join them, or do you bring them back? After ten minutes of sporadic chasing David Holt chose door two and left the bunch to set about improving his odds of being in the final. This was the straw that panicked the remainder into making an effort. The chase putting in a big effort to bring the break back, coming back together at the fifty-five minute mark.

With time running out David Holt made another effort to assure his place in the final but with time running out none in the chase were prepared to reduce their own odds, David's break very short lived. On the bell lap Stuart Bendall tried to get the jump on the field into the slight westerly breeze but David led the bunch back onto his wheel along the back straight in time for a bunch sprint. As expected the sprinters came out to play, Steve Ross unfortunate to not make the final

after all his work in the heat; David and Rob luckier, scraping in with fifth and sixth.

The initial thinking in the big b-grade bunch was that there were too many legs for a break to succeed and conservation was the way to go. With no Kevin Starr (racing a-grade) to stir things up early it was a slow start but the pace gradually picked up. A few forays up the road by John Pritchard were short lived, the bunch not prepared to humour his antics. A few forays up the road by Gary Wishart were similarly dealt with, all in the bunch keen to join him in an odds reducing breakaway. The sheer weight of numbers carrying the full field through to the last lap where Peter Shanahan had a go at improving his chances only to drag the bunch out for almost half a lap before it concertinaed back as the last corner approached. In the ensuing sprint a tight group of six crossing the line together made it easier for the officials to decide the eliminated rather than the qualified. Ben Schofield, the first of the eliminatees, was promoted to the final when Matt White withdrew for Presidential duties.

Another sizeable group in c-grade and the thinking was much the same as the higher grades. Any attempt to get clear was quickly quashed taking the incentive with it. Consequently it was a fairly uneventful race and an almost complete bunch went into the last lap, chances of making the finals were quickly improved after the bell with a few of the sprinters deigning to not participate in the final by pulling out of the race.

e-grade saw Brian Farrell and Stewart Jenkins having their usual stints at the front but it all stayed together till the end where a couple withdrew leaving just over the half dozen to vie for the final. Brian ruing his earlier efforts just missing the cut.

handicap

Half-minute gaps between the first three groups then twenty second intervals meant limit had one-hundred and twenty seconds on scratch was it enough?

Second scratch's tactics were to wait for scratch and use their strength to haul in the out markers. Scratch were initially scratching to catch their own wheels before settling down and overhauling second scratch three-quarters of a lap in. The b-grader's timing their capture impeccably, the tail wind along the long straight enabling all to hitch their velos to the train, Gary Wishart (20sec) was quick to join the rotation at the front, the others a little slower (if at all).

Justin Davis (scr) had been studying the form and doing the math and it wasn't going to subtract. Into the finish straight for the first time Justin surged and broke free of the twelve strong group in pursuit of glory. Nobody in the chase able to match his youthful exuberance, their hearts already beating to the max. Over the next two laps Justin relentlessly chased down and passed the outer marks, taking no passengers until it was only the remnants of a disintegrated limit bunch (2min) ahead - JC Wilson and Charles Lethbridge peddling for all they were worth in an effort to delay what had been the fate of all others.

In Justin's dust the a-b-group mopped up the intervening bunches, picking up a few whilst leaving the remainder to ponder the wisdom of having tried so hard in the qualifiers, the sixty second group the last to succumb halfway through the last lap. As Justin bore down of the now hapless leaders the juggernaut commenced the last windward stretch. Toward the end of that stretch Ben Schofield (20sec) drew on his reserves in an effort to steal fourth or better, heading for the lead. Barry Woods (scr) also had reserves and similar intent, Ben fortunate to fall onto his wheel as the pair rode clear of the bunch. Barry

led Ben and the strung out chase down the last straight, the two remaining limit riders in sight, Justin, having shown them no mercy, was powering his way to a clear win.

Into the last corner the limit pair were living on borrowed time, not daring to look behind, heads down, pushing their legs like never before until JC crossed the line in the shadow of Charles. They had done it, they had held the baying chase at bay. In the sprint for fourth Jamie Goddard (scr) unleashed his sprint, catching and passing both Barry and Ben to claim fourth. Rob Amos (scr) caught Ben but not Barry, Barry holding on for fifth, Rob sixth and Ben seventh. The remainder of the scratch bunch - Phil Thompson and David Holt, filled out the next two places followed by three pairings of subsequent marks; Peter Allsop (20sec) completing the top ten, fellow marker Martin Stalder next across the line followed by two forty-second riders in David McCormack and Grant Greenhalgh and two from the sixty-second bunch; Neil Wray and Richard Dobson.

Results

Heats

	First	Second	Third
a-grade (10)	Jamie Goddard	Justin Davis	Barry Woods
b-grade (18)	Peter Allsop	Gary Wishart	Kevin Jackson
c-grade (15)	Darren Smith	Grant Greenhalgh	David McCormack
d-grade (15)	Sam Brusezze	Richard Dobson	Neville Williamson
e-grade (10)	Ross Goodings	Kenton Smith	Paul James
f-grade (7)	J C Wilson	Charles Lethbridge	Petra Niclasen

Final

		Mark
First	Justin Davis	scratch
Second	Charles Lethbridge	2 mins
Third	JC Wilson	2 mins
Fourth	Jamie Goddard	scratch
Fifth	Barry Woods	scratch
Sixth	Rob Amos	scratch
Seventh	Ben Schofield	20 secs
Eighth	Phil Thompson	scratch
Ninth	David Holt	scratch
Tenth	Peter Allsop	20 secs
Eleventh	Martin Stalder	20 secs
Twelfth	David McCormack	40 secs
Thirteenth	Grant Greenhalgh	40 secs
Fourteenth	Neil Wray	1 min
Fifteenth	Richard Dobson	1 min

Aggregate to May 2nd

	Pts
JC Wilson	31
Darren Smith	24
Justin Davis	21
Richard Dobson	21
Alan Goodrope	19
Nigel Kimber	19
Robert Truscott	19
Kevin Starr	19
Les McLean	19
Trevor Coulter	17
David McCormack	17
Jim Swainston	17

Officials

Thanks to Graeme Parker and Ron Stranks who were on the desk taking entries and to Graeme for handicapping the final. Thanks to Michael Pearce, Phil Pelgrim and Damian Burke for overseeing the heats and managing to identify the top six in each grade. Thanks also to the pushers; name them if you can. Also thanks to Richard Dobson who manages the duty roster and ensures we have enough people on the day for our races and to JC Wilson who brings the trailer to all our races and Peter Mackie with the drinks.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	May	9	2:00pm	Macclesfield	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	May	16	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	May	23	2:00pm	Killara Road	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	May	25	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	General Meeting
Saturday	May	30	2:00pm	Macclesfield	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.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	May	10	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	May	17	10:00am	East Trentham	44k Handicap
Sunday	May	24	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	May	31	9:30am	National Blvd, Campbellfield	Graded Scratch Races

Victorian Veteran Cycling Council Program

*	Sunday	May	24	10:00am	Cororooke	Colac May Open	18/5 - \$15
*	Saturday	May	30	1:00pm	Rochester	“Oppy” Handicap	25/5 - \$15

Note : Entries for the two May opens are to be sent to Tom Finning (**not** to Harry Tams) at 59 Wolseley Grove, Geelong North, Vic. 3215 .

Other Results, etc.:

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
13/9/2009	Shepparton	Fruitloop ride, 50, 100 & 200k ride options. \$90.00 registration - www.fruitloopshepparton.com/fruitloopride/
18/10/2009	Melbourne	Around the Bay in a Day.

Committee Matters;

Eligibility for Club Championships was raised at the April General Meeting and it was decided to formalise the wording of the rules to enforce the spirit of the rule, to the effect (I haven't seen the official wording);

- For a rider to be eligible to race in a club championship event they must have competed in, or completed rostered duty for, three EVCC club events as an EVCC member in the season that the championship pertains to – i.e Summer for Criterium championship, Winter for Road championship. The exception to this is the Time Trial championship where the club member must have raced in three club events in the calendar year prior to the championship to be eligible for the championship.

As the time trial championship runs in parallel with a club handicap (and this year a VVCC open) entry to the time trial is open to all AVCC licensed riders, but only eligible EVCC members will be racing for the club championship.

Club Clothing;

A range of cycling clothing is available for sale and usually available from Kevin Starr at the races on Saturday. The clothing is made by Giramondo and is sold to members at cost. EVCC colours and designs are easily recognised in bunches and as such make it easy for you to find your Eastern friends on organised rides. They also stand out well in cloudy and gloomy conditions so that members are visible on the roads whilst training or racing and at the same time you will be promoting the club.

Have a look at the website (www.easternvets.com/clothing.php) for our range of clothing.
