



Eastern veterans cycling club

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter September 12th 2009

Avon Tyres Handicap (almost) – September 5th

Race report

Another westerly gale greeted the sixty-one starters at Casey Fields for the Avon Tyres Handicap, one notable absentee at registration was the sponsor - Nick Hainal. In Nick's absence the decision was made to postpone the race to a later date and conduct hour and a half scratch races. A slight southerly component to the wind adding to the chill factor making arm and leg warmers mode du jour, the odd gilet making an appearance also in an effort to curb the effect of the icy wind.

Unfortunately the day's proceedings were marred by a serious fall in the d-grade finish which resulted in only e & f-grade results being recorded, all other races being cancelled as the casualties were tended to. The club is fortunate in that it has many qualified members who are prepared to help in cases like Saturday's. The club is thankful to Mark Wallace, Graham Cadd, Juanita Cadd and JC Wilson, and the others, who were quickly to hand to assist the fallen. The wash from the crash was a lot of skin left on the track, most of it Murray Howlett's and unfortunately Paul Kelly in hospital with a severely broken femur that required pinning. Murray was also taken to hospital having taken a knock to the head that had smashed his helmet but was given the all clear and released later Saturday evening. The club has a good safety record and prides itself on this, but the nature of the sport is one that makes it susceptible to accidents, we have to learn from these incidents and ensure they don't happen again.

a-grade

With a howling westerly wind it was going to be a brave soul who went it alone, the small field discouraging break away attempts also. A couple of laps testing the conditions and it didn't seem as bad as a couple of weeks ago at METEC so the attacks started. Phil Smith again trying to break the shackles to get away alone and TT it to the finish, Rob Amos trying to split the group and leave the sprinters behind, Frank Nyhuis and Steve Ross chipping in as it seemed like the thing to do. David Holt bided his time figuring it was way too early to be exerting oneself and the sprinters content to let the others destroy their legs.

None of the moves stuck, one away not considered a threat but as soon as someone tried to bridge it was a scramble for wheels and the lone aggressor was quickly reunited with the remainder. The lack of success didn't stop Phil, Rob, Frank or Steve from trying (fatigue eventually curbing Steve's

aggression), David also getting into the action, but no attempt lasted more than a lap nor gained more than 200m. Until around the hour mark when Rob attacked and quickly opened a decent gap as the fatigued muscles of the remainder slowly responded to the 'call to legs'. Rob enjoying three laps alone before the mass got organised into a rolling bunch and slowly returned him to their midst.

Phil Smith countered the reunion which put Steve Ross into difficulty and out of the race but the others responded and it all came back together again within a lap only to be stopped two laps later as the six rounded the corner at the end of the back straight to be confronted by Hylton waving them down and a mass of people gathered around the fallen d-grade riders.

At the time the race was cancelled a-grade had covered 57k in a couple of seconds under the ninety minutes for an average of 37.7kph. Rob recording a top of 54 somewhere along the way.

b-grade

Ninety minutes, an hour and a half, those who'd voted to postpone the handicap having second thoughts about their initial wisdom. It was a big enough field to hide, if turns were shared evenly it would be 5.625 minutes in the wind and 84.365 minutes in the shelter of somebody else's wheel - just hope it was Ian Smith's and not Mark Wallace's. All may be fair in love and war but this was vet's racing and after ten minutes Kevin Starr set about unbalancing the equilibrium and hog a bit more time to himself. In what looked like a repeat attempt of a couple of weeks ago at METEC, Kevin instigated a little feeler attack. They may be old but the memories haven't yet gone, Kevin's solitude very short lived as the bunch quickly shut the gate.

That was it, if Kevin wasn't going to share the time nor was Ian Smith. The bunch in two minds about Ian's sojourn up the road, it was a risk to not bring him back but those deep rims were a worry in the bunch. Greed winning out over care, Ian was returned. Only to be replaced by John Pritchard - to nobodies surprise. John's move eliciting a less enthusiastic response but a response none the less. And so the pair continued to swap turns at stirring the bunch only to be dampened by a group response. Interspersed amongst the pair's antics others had a go, the first was Rob Harris who pretty much countered John's initial counter, the bunch more weary than wary allowed him to open a handy gap. Before the others got their heads around the situation Anthony Gullace kicked and bridged. Damian saw the potential and repeated the dose, closing on the leaders a glance behind showed the smiling faces of the masses, or was that grimaces?

Ian and John continued their dance, the odd interloper grabbing the spot-light for a while, and the pace ebbed and surged, one surge splitting the field with Thorkild, and an un-race fit (despite his European trip) Nigel Frayne on the wrong side of the split with a couple of others. The race was down to half the original number, the surging, the pace, and the wind playing havoc in the scramble to cover wheel costing some more than they had to spend.

As the hour ticked over Rob Harris jumped in a repeat of the earlier move. His ever attentive little friend - Anthony, quick to join him and again the bunch hesitated. Again it was Damian who initiated and led the chase, only this time under no illusion that he was going alone and with no intention of doing it alone. With the gap down to less than ten seconds Damian figured he'd done enough and sat up to let the next domestique through to continue (and hopefully complete) the job. The gap was quickly back to fifteen seconds, nobody volunteering for the position, and growing. Then a-grade came through and propped between the lead pair and their followers, confusion as to whether to pass or not allowed the leaders to consolidate their break a little till Rob Amos put in an attack that cleared the a-grade bunch from the b-grade race only to reveal that the lead pair, given the anticipated remaining time, had an almost unassailable lead.

Around ten minutes to run and two up the road it was destined to be a bunch sprint by the remaining half dozen for the two remaining paying positions. Sure of the bell next time past the officials it all came to an end as the race was called off with one hour twenty-nine on the clock.

c-grade

No report.

d-grade (Mal Jones)

With the typically strong Casey Fields wind blowing across the track and the threat of rain, the signs were ominous for the 15 d-grade riders as they started their 1 hour 15 minutes of potential slog. Early on, a few spits of rain caused some anxious looks towards the sky as everyone expected the inevitable downpour to really put a dampener on proceedings.

Thankfully though, those few spits of rain stopped almost as soon as they started, at least eliminating wetness from the possible wind and rain equation. Even without the rain though, the wind was having an effect, with a very slow pace only occasionally interrupted by a burst off the front before the bunch came back together again.

As is often the case in the d-grade crits, the pace was being set by one or the other of the Robinson brothers – Matt and Brett. When they were taking a break, Peter Mackie would set off on a burst in an attempt to up the pace before coming back to the field.

So it went for more than an hour. Towards the closing minutes, Graeme Parker almost prophetically warned the entire bunch to hold their lines – especially in the expected sprint finish.

Whether it was the wind, or the day had just been one when everyone rode like an undisciplined rabble, Graeme's warning struck home in the last 100 metres towards the line.

A clip of wheels brought Murray Howlett down and left Sam Bruzese lucky to stay upright. Paul Kelly wasn't far behind and took evasive action to the left. He went onto the grass on the inside of the track and in a freakish moment of bad luck, hit b-grader Dave Hyde who was standing opposite the finish line marshals. As Paul's bike cannoned back into the firing line, Jake Jodlowski was unlucky to also get involved and went down as well.

The aftermath wasn't pretty, with Paul Kelly sustaining a broken femur and Murray Howlett concussion and gravel rash. Jake managed to get away with only destroying a set of riding gear. Paul was taken by ambulance to the Alfred and had a plate and/or pins inserted on Sunday. Murray was released after observation and treatment for his numerous abrasions.

Our sincere wishes go to both riders for a speedy recovery.

e-grade

Of the ten on the start line half a dozen went into the last lap together. Half of those lucky to still be in contention, Michael Paully, pushing big gears on his heavy bike from the gun, raising the speed from zero to forty before turning west and hitting the wind for the first time. With three companions it could have been over there and then but the chasers dug deep to bring it back together. Clive Wright having enough breath left to let Michael know just how he felt about being left on the start line, something about being old men and if he wanted to ride like that he should go up a couple of grades. After Clive had run out of words Michael retreated to the back of the bunch to consider them, not to be seen again until after Clive got dropped.

The initial surge from the line and the tough conditions proving too much for Juanita who finally let go of the bunch after six laps. Juanita's cause not helped by the likes of JC Wilson and George Goodrope who insisted on making repeated efforts to get off the front. Juanita may have been the first to slip from the bunch but she wasn't the last. The continual surges by JC, George and a few others costing another half a half-dozen their places in the field till there were six left to contest the final lap.

A lap that was led out by Michael, overestimating his remaining reserves and underestimating the distance from bell to flag, the remaining five enjoyed the tow until he himself flagged and the sprinters came out to play. It was a tight finish with JC doing his thing, timing his run to perfection. Graham Cadd, caught on the back foot when the sprint started, closed on JC, passing Geoff Cranstone in the process but unable to close the gap before the line. JC first, GC second and GC third.

f-grade

No report.

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	September	12	2:00pm	Steels Creek	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	20	2:00pm	METEC	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	September	26	2:00pm 2:30pm	METEC METEC	Woman's Scratch Race Graded Scratch Races
Monday	September	28	8:00pm	Maroondah Club	General Meeting
Saturday	October	3	2:00pm	Casey Fields	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	September	13	10:00am	East Trentham	Pig & Whistle h'cap – 44k
Sunday	September	20	9:30am	National Boulevard	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	27	10:00am	Broadford	Perfect Pilates Mountain Goat Classic (h'cap - 46k)
Sunday	October	4	10:00am	Carlsruhe West (Woodend)	Graded Scratch Races

Gippsland Vets Program

Sunday	September	20	10:00am	Kernot (Melways 512 S10)	46k scratch races
Sunday	October	11	10:00am	Kernot (Melways 512 S10)	46k scratch races

Victorian Veterans Cycling Council Program

Sunday	September	13	10:00am	Wangoon	Jack Brennan Memorial handicap	Closed
Sunday	October	4	10:00am	Paraparap	Stan Howard Memorial handicap	28/9 - \$15

Note : Entries are to be on the appropriate VVCC Open entry form (available on VVCC website) and are to be accompanied by the requisite fee.

Other Results, etc.:

For your calendar

Date	Location	Event
13/9/2009	Mt Waverly	Alan Cunneen welcome home party. For details and to RSVP contact Keith Bowen.
18/10/2009	Melbourne	Around the Bay in a Day.
7/3/2010	Falls Creek	BV - Alpine attack, 230k. Registrations open 1/9/2009 - \$150 - www.bv.com.au/great-rides/42359

Women's racing / new rider's day;

Saturday September 26th has been designated as a day for prospective new members to come along and have a go. To promote the sport to the fairer gender the club will be holding a race for them before regular proceedings commence.

There will be a training session from around 1:00pm for all new comers (male and female) then at 2:00 the women will enjoy a half-hour criterium of their own before things return to normal.

So if you know anybody who has expressed an interest in racing, gender inspecific, invite them along.
