



# Eastern veterans cycling club

www.easternvets.com.au

**Respecting the Rights of all Road Users**

**Newsletter August 28<sup>th</sup> 2010**

## **Casey Fields – Graded Scratch Races - August 21<sup>st</sup>**

### **Race report**

We were back at Casey Fields and Casey Fields was back at its best, a solid westerly coming across the flat open plains promising a hard slog along the section by the rooms and the stretch up past Tristan's Pond. But the danger was always going to be the shorter crosswind sections leading into the headwind, a lost wheel here would be hard to regain into the wind. With a few members resting for Sunday's State Masters Championships, a couple still overseas or just back and the forecast deterring a few more it was just sixty-four riders who lined up over five grades.

The announcement of an hour-twenty for the top grade prompted a few prayers in the mass, equally divided, half for the rain to stay away and allow a dry race, half for it to come early and end the suffering. The weather kind of complying, a brief shower passing across the fields mid-race but not enough for the officials to terminate proceedings.

### **a-grade**

Ten on the line; two teams - three sporting Adriatic colours and three in the white and black of Degani, and four independents. An hour and twenty to determine a result. After twenty-minutes of to-ing and fro-ing the major parties jumped to a clear lead, Andy Burmas (Adriatic) and Trevor Coulter (Team Degani) separating themselves from the rest. Seeing the opportunities Rob Amos (ind.) jumped to join the leadership, Anthony Gullace (ind.) in tow. Four away was too much for the bunch who chased it down over the next lap.

A couple of laps together again before Andy jumped and rode away to spend the next couple of laps on his own ahead of the rest. As the hour closed it was time to close Andy down and Frank Nyhuis (Degani) pulled a big turn to return the status quo. But it cost a team mate in Steve Ross and a couple of the independents in Rob Harris and Anthony Gullace and it provided the platform for David Holt (Adriatic) to counter attack the reunion. Rob Amos again chased and the pair built a handy lead. Degani caught on the back foot, Steve out of the race, Frank out of legs, leaving Trevor to bridge the gap to restore the balance of power. Despite a determined effort it was a gap he was unable to bridge, close but ultimately the wind drove him back to the chase.

It was a chase group of five, Frank and Trevor being allowed to do the majority of the work, Andy and Phil Cavaleri with no interest in chasing and Phil Thompson doing a bit where he

could. The cooperation and determination of the leaders saw their lead grow to almost half a lap over the closing stages of the race, then the chase faltered with Frank puncturing, reducing the chase to four. With David well and truly ensconced in the break Andy took a bit of the workload in the chase onto his shoulders, giving Trevor some respite now and then.

At the finish the leaders had maintained their advantage and in the sprint for first it was David who had enough left to out-sprint Rob, winning by a length. The margin for third was closer - the officials unable to separate the contenders. With little to gain, and Phil Cavaleri in the mix, Andy Burmas led the chase through the last lap, Trevor on his wheel Phil T. on his and Phil C bringing up the rear. Andy pouring on the pace early, Trevor coming off his wheel out of the last corner and hugging the right side of the track to make any contender work for a result, but not tight enough, Phil T. finding a bit of room and using the protection drew alongside but was unable to pass, the two crossing the line as one.

### **b-grade**

A good collection of 13 starters in b-grade. Unsurprisingly it was John Pritchard who got proceedings underway with a JP classic on the second lap, Graeme West chased, but when caught John sat up and the pair returned to the bunch. John exercised his legs a couple more times over the next fifteen minutes, Graeme covering most of them, each attack putting a bit more pain in the legs of his companions. Twenty minutes down John went one more time, Graeme again shadowing him and Peter Alsop hanging on. This time there was no returning to the bunch, well not for John and Graeme, Peter found it a bit tougher than the others and returned to what was to become the chase.

The expectation that JP would shortly sit up and return allowed the lead pair the opportunity to build a healthy break before those left behind realised that this time - it was serious, the lead pair working hard to establish and then maintain their lead. The realisation that this was it initiated a flurry of bridging attempts from the bunch behind, eventually Clem Fries (from the Gippsland club) was able to separate himself from the chase and make it across to the leaders, Ray Russo put in an equally strong effort to do the same a little later. Four away with around eight chasing.

In the chase there were some keen to close the break down and some content to allow the break to take the glory, Owen Anstey was of the former attitude and put in some hard turns but to no avail. As the clock ran down the leaders maintained their lead

and the chase was whittled away, riders dropping off out of fatigue from the chase or frustration from the lack of chase. Until, in the closing stages, it was still four away; John Pritchard, Graeme West, Clem Fries and Ray Russo with two and a half chasing; Owen Anstey, Peter Alsop and Ian Smith (not necessarily in that order - ed.).

On the bell it was all over bar the final decision. John, showing fine form, led the lead quartet along the final downwind stretch, rounded the last turn and was able to hold off all comers for the win. John finishing just ahead of the tight fight for the minor places, a scrap won by Clem with Ray adjudged third and Graeme fourth.

### c-grade

A large field of seventeen; the most likely scenario - no breakaways (despite a few attempts), a gradual attrition (caused by the conditions), and a sprint to decide the final result. Expectations were almost met, Chris Ellenby and another making a myth of the first, the subsequent chase seeing the second realised as the pace and the conditions took their toll, and a constructed chase seeing the break eventually pulled back in time for the final showdown. With the leaders returned to the depleted bunch there were no counter attacks, there was no energy left in anybodies legs, the bunch rolling round in recovery mode till the bell.

The sound of the bell doing little to change the attitude of those still in the race, it wasn't until seventy metres from the final corner when David McCormack stepped up, stepped out and stepped on the pedals that things hotted up. With Ken Bone tucked in behind his big frame the pair rounded the last bend with a gap on the now seriously chasing field. With sprinters' legs, sprinter's timing and a sprinters' hide Ken abandoned the shelter of David's shadow thirty metres out and bolted for the line - a race well ridden, David having done enough to hold the bunch sprint at bay took second ahead of a very fast finishing Sam Fazio and Chris Ellenby.

### d-grade

Another race of seventeen and the expectation was for another race of attrition to be decided in a bunch sprint. Peter Mackie warming the legs and getting heart rates up early with a few surges, at one point pulling a bit of a gap with Nick Thompson

but the pair deciding the chase group was too large and the distance remaining too great. With Peter and Nick returned the attacks continued with Cube Taylor, Mark Cheeseman, Andrew Buchanan and Tom Saunders taking turns at either hitting the bunch or driving it hard. But the conditions and the determination of the bunch saw all fail. Finally Cube managed the most promising move of the day, a move acknowledged by Graeme Parker and Nick Thompson, the pair separating themselves from the bunch and riding across to the lone leader. Too late for Cube, despite desperate efforts his time alone came back to bite him and he had to let the pair go, alone again till he was picked up by the now depleted chase group.

Graeme and Nick showed great strength to increase their lead whilst Cube took a bit of recovery time before getting back into the chase. Cube and Andrew Buchanan doing a power of work in an effort to bring the lead pair back but there weren't enough legs in the chase and as the race drew to its conclusion, and the leaders drew away, the bunch resigned themselves to racing for third. The final nail in the coffin of the chase coming when Robin Condie was blown from the circuit going up the finish straight and came down, bringing one other rider down and disrupting the chase group. The chase regrouped but it was over, the lead pair able to recover a bit before their dash for the cash.

In the finish Nick proved too strong for Graeme to take first. In the small group behind Cube and Andrew B. had managed to garner a small gap going into the last corner which was enough for them to stay ahead of the remainder and contest mano-a-mano for the bigger of the minor envelopes. Cube taking third, Andrew fourth - a just result given the work they had done throughout the race.

Robin Condie survived his tumble with just a little lost bark, fortunately his bike coming off better than he - unscathed. Robin has asked that his thanks be extended to all those who assisted him after his fall.

### e-grade

No report.

### f-grade

No race.

## Results

	First	Second	Third	
<b>a-grade</b> (10)	David Holt	Rob Amos	Trevor Coulter / Phil Thompson	
<b>b-grade</b> (13)	John Pritchard	Clem Fries	Ray Russo	
<b>c-grade</b> (17)	Ken Bone	David McCormack	Sam Fazio	Chris Ellenby
<b>d-grade</b> (17)	Nick Thompson	Graeme Parker	Cube Taylor	Andrew Buchanan
<b>e-grade</b> (7)	Laurie Bohn	Ray Watts	Stewart Jenkins	
<b>f-grade</b> (0)				

## Officials

Thanks to Peter Mackie and Ron Stranks on the desk taking entries. Thanks to the helpers on the day; Harold Simpson, Kenton Smith, Darren Smith and Dario Piubellini. Also thanks to Richard Dobson who manages the duty roster and ensures we have enough people on the day for our races, to JC Wilson for brining the trailer along and to David Ryan who was on hand again with cold drinks.

**Note :** Members rostered for marshal or traffic control duties must be at the circuit at least one hour before the scheduled start time to assist with the setting up of the course.

### Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	August	28	2:00pm	Macclesfield #	Team's Race & Graded Scratch Races #
<b>Monday</b>	<b>August</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	<b>Maroondah Club</b>	<b>General Meeting</b>
Saturday	September	4/5	2:00pm	TBA	TBA
Saturday	September	11	2:00pm	Kernot #	Graded Scratch Races #
Saturday	September	18	2:00pm	METEC	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.

# Tail lights are a requirement for all EVCC Road events in the winter season

### Northern Vets Program

Sunday	August	29	9:30am	National Boulevard	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	5	9:30am	Yellow Box Drv, Somerville	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	September	12	9:30am	Toolernvale	Races
Sunday	September	19	10:00am	East Trentham	Pig & Whistle h'cap

### Gippsland Vets Program

Sunday	August	29	9:00am	Kernot	VVCC Open handicap
Sunday	September	5	9:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races

### Victorian Veterans Cycling Council Program

Sunday	August	29	10:00am	Kernot	Gippsland Open	Closed
Sunday	September	12	10:00am	Learmonth	Eureka Open	1/9

**Note :** Entries can be made on-line through the VVCC website or 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
12/9/2010	Whittlesea	Degani Kinglake Ride - <a href="http://www.supersprint.com.au/events/degani-kinglake-ride-2010.aspx">http://www.supersprint.com.au/events/degani-kinglake-ride-2010.aspx</a>
17/10/2010	Melbourne	Around the Bay in a Day Nigel Kimber is doing the 250k option and will be coordinating an EVCC group.
27/11/2010	New Zealand	Wattyl – Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge Mal Jones on 0412 569 100 or email <a href="mailto:mal@shotproperty.com.au">mal@shotproperty.com.au</a>

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