



Eastern veterans cycling club

www.easternvets.com.au

Respecting the Rights of all Road Users

Newsletter October 30th 2010

Graded Scratch Races – Arthurs Creek - October 30th

Race report

Wet, wet, wet – that was the forecast and that affected the turnout for the last race of the winter – road – season. Only 36 riders making the trek to Arthurs Creek to take on the bureau and other hardy soles, almost half the numbers being in a-grade for the last of team's series. The weather Bureau got it half right, the races starting in dry conditions with a mild northerly wind that but the rain closed in from the north dampening more of the circuit on each lap until it was full on rain by race end. A southerly change late in the proceedings dropping the temperatures around ten degrees and making it uncomfortable for those still on the road - tail of a-grade and b-grade.

The conditions highlighting the reasoning behind a couple of the clubs safety requirements, although the race started under reasonable conditions with good visibility it ended in poor conditions with poor visibility reinforcing the club's stance on tail lights being required for races on road. From January 1st 2011 tail-lights will be compulsory for all Eastern Vets road races. The other aspect is the requirement to keep left of the centre line at all times and riding in a way that ensures riders do not cross to the wrong side of the road. Saturday showed this up on the corner at the bottom of the hill, a couple of riders going wide and lucky there was no on-coming vehicle. In situations like the wet or technical descents riders need to practice extreme caution and ride within their abilities in accordance to the conditions and bunches need to ride in a way that supports this. Bike setup may have been a contributing factor here, high pressure tyres do not offer the best grip in the wet so where wet conditions are evident or anticipated riders should drop a few PSI from their tyres. A lot of riders were complaining of wheels slipping on the corners, running tyres at 90psi instead of 120-130 would have provided better grip.

a-grade – teams race

The stage was set, the script was written. A point separating the two top teams, so many scenarios that could change the result, but Adriatic (85 points) had to make the race, Doherty / Eltham cycles (86) only had to defend but with gaps in the points at the podium end of the scale (15, 12, 10, 8, 6) the boys in blue and orange had to be on their toes.

Things started off civilly enough, a reduced field of fifteen was led through the neutral zone by two of the Doherty riders, the third on their wheel and in the company of the first of the Adriatic riders, his two team-mates just behind - the players to

the fore, the support cast in their wake, waiting to see what would unfold.

Nankervis Road came and went, racing commenced (or was supposed to), there was no movement in the bunch, somebody'd forgotten their lines. It was a kilometre into the race before Tony Chandler (Adriatic) finally attacked. On cue Shane Stiles (Doherty / Eltham cycles) covered the move - two away but not expected to stay away; the games had begun; the battle joined. Roy Clark (Croydon Cycleworks / Pick-a-Part), unfamiliar with the script, jumped from mid-bunch and bridged. Scripts were discarded and rather than the break come back to the field the field went up to the break.

The next couple of kilometres followed the same pattern, Tony would attack, Shane would shadow, one or two in the bunch would respond, the bunch would respond, it returned to the way it was before.

Two-thirds of the way to the Strathewen turn Jason Theobald (Omara cycles) rode off the front and, while options were considered back in the bunch, opened a decent gap. James Steward (Adriatic) responded, James' shadow for the day – Peter Howard, shadowed, the pair quickly closing the gap and riding past Jason. Sensing an opportunity Nigel Kimber (Omara cycles) jumped and bridged to Jason but got no further. Rob Amos (Velocino) did better, passing the Omara pair and bridging to the two ahead. With four of the six teams in the race having riders up the road Roy Clark and Trevor Coulter (Team Degani) set about balancing the break. It proved too much for Nigel who sat up and waited for the bunch whilst Jason hooked the back of les pursuants deux. Three away, three chasing and the bunch settling down to a ride in the country.

At the Strathewen turn the race was pretty much settled – one-eighth of the way in, all that was required was for the three chasers to close the twenty odd metres to the three leaders and there'd be two races, a situation established before the leaders crested the small rise away from the turnaround.

The next six-eighths were pretty much a procession, the lead six working hard together to establish their advantage, the chasing eight doing enough to make it a race without threatening their team-mates in the lead group. An echidna on the road breaking the routine as did the odd and occasional effort to break up the chase group but each attempt coming to naught as all responded.

It took two mechanicals in the third lap to affect any changes in the two groups. Early on, a fall at the tight left-hand-bend at the

base of the drop taking Nick Tapp out of the second race and putting Nigel, Guy Green (Doherty / Eltham cycles) and Tony under the hammer as they had to chase after being gapped. Nigel requiring a kilometre or so, and a stop-work meeting to decide who'd lead the race, to regain the back of the bunch. A puncture to Jason late on the return of the third lap reducing the lead group to five and taking away Omara cycle's chance of a race win.

As the lead group headed into the final turn at Strathewen the second bunch on the road were still two-thirds of the way out and about to be tested. Shane Stiles testing his legs and attempting to secure valuable points for Doherty / Eltham cycles. It was a case of the shadow leading the object as David Holt (Adriatic) covered the move.

No interest from their two team mates meant it was going to be up to one of the others to do something about it. Nigel taking up the task and maintaining a tempo that would bring the group back together once Shane conceded David wasn't going to let him go. Unbeknownst to Nigel he was alone, Guy and Tony happy to do nothing, Darren Darling (Team Degani) biding his time leaving it to Damian Burke (Omara cycles) to set the pace. Each time Nigel got within cooee of the two ahead Shane put in an effort, an effort that David responded to but that opened the gap back to Nigel.

Seeing Nigel was in need of assistance Damian tried to bridge, his efforts matched by Guy and Tony while Darren's efforts to go with them threw his chain jamming it between chain-rings - and that was his race run. On the run up the final rise before the drop to the far turnaround Guy attacked Damian, Tony responded, the pair bridging to Nigel and then to the two leaders. Nigel burying himself to regain the shelter of the now diminished group as they crested the rise.

Over the crest the sound of air leaking from a tyre heralded the end of David Holt's race and the chances of Adriatic stealing the series. Unaware of David's fate Shane continued to push to the turn, Tony and Guy on his wheel, Nigel desperately trying to be there come the turn and the neutral zone - despite closing under brakes it wasn't to be as the trio hammered it back up the hill to see the hand that fate had dealt.

Seeing David walking Tony knew it was over, Guy and Shane hitting him relentlessly on the final return, eventually opening a gap that he could not close.

As the fragmented second half of the race returned for the last time the leaders were well up the road and still together although the efforts were beginning to show some cracks. Enough that Trevor Coulter launched an attack up the final pinch that put Rob Amos out the back. With Peter Howard and James Steward watching each other Trevor was able to open a gap followed only by Roy Clark. So it was that two groups of two and a lone Rob raced down the final descent, round the cone for the last time and back into Greens Road for the run to the finish.

From the top of the hill Rob emptied the tank in his chase, passing Peter and James, who were still marking one another, along Greens road but unable to close on the two ahead. With strong legs in pursuit Trevor had little option but to keep the

pressure on the pedals, Roy enjoying the sit all the way to the line where he simply stepped out of the slipstream to cross for first. Trevor second. Rob home comfortably third before the sprint for the series points started. It was James who got the better of Peter, by half a wheel, and Adriatic had the series lead; 93-92.

But not for long, eventually the procession that was the rest of the race came through, Shane Stiles restoring the series lead to Doherty / Eltham cycles with the sixth place points and Guy Green reinforcing the point finishing seventh with Shane. Tony crossing the line a little later bolstering Adriatic's tally but, after losing David Holt, was never in the fight. Finally Nigel and Damian crossed the line under their own steam. Darren and David relying on the generosity of Evan Butler at the far turnaround to transport them back to the finish.

b-grade

A very small field - only five starters, an opportunity for a solid performance to win the day. The first lap was conducted at a very civilised pace, all five returning to start the second lap together.

The light frame of the ever young Martin Stalder opened a gap up the climb to start the second lap, safely down the other side Martin worked hard to increase his advantage. In the chase Alan Adams (a Northern visitor), set about joining Martin and by the Strathewen turn had done so. The return showing Mathew Cornfield and Alan Goodrope a couple of hundred metres in arrears of the leaders and, flat-track specialist, Ken Bone a further hundred metres behind them.

For the remainder of the race the two pair worked together, the leaders continuing to increase their advantage over the chasers. On the pinch for the last time Alan Adams rode away from Martin and continued to push away to win by a good margin. On the pinch for the last time Mathew Cornford road away from Alan Goodrope and continued to push away to finish third.

c-grade (Mal Jones)

One of this scribes favourite songs was etched into the psyche on Saturday at Arthurs Creek, although it all started with another from English punk band The Clash: Will I stay or will I go now?

That was the question being mulled on the news of a forecast that had something on its way akin to a flood of the sort of proportions that would have seen Noah loading his Ark.

Anyway, always liked The Clash song, so happily humming away it was into the car and off to the always challenging Arthurs Creek course.

The combination of holiday weekend and threatening weather really had an effect on numbers, with only 8 victims - err sorry riders, turning out for c-grade.

So it was a small but obviously keen bunch that set off to face a very stiff crosswind out on the first lap. At least it was just wind at this stage.

The first half lap proved uneventful, with everyone sticking together and loosening the legs before the trip back.

Perhaps the pace went up after the turn, and with it the level of effort that had Peter Webb showing signs of struggle on the return half. Midway through it wasn't him but his bike that quit when his chain derailed at the bottom of one of the smaller hills.

Soon after Mal Jones decided to test his legs and went up the outside to grab a handy break, finally being caught at the top of the last hill by the bunch led by Richard Dobson.

Into the second lap, and the wind had ceased, only to be replaced by rain. Softly at first, then the intensity increased to for want of a better term, bucketing down.

Probably the only consolations of the rain starting were that at least the wind had stopped – and it wasn't cold.

On the way out to the turn point on the second lap, a few bursts were put on, with Dave Worland, Ian Smith, Jim Swainston and George Goodrope all putting in efforts. Even in the conditions, the pace was kept up (at least we'd finish sooner...), but the remaining bunch stayed together, save for a few continuing bursts that were quickly closed down.

With Peter Webb still chasing, but a long way back and well out of contention, and Tony Curulli withdrawing, it was down to just six to do the last lap.

If anything the rain was getting heavier, making the conditions just about miserable (remember, at least it wasn't cold), but at least the finish was getting closer. The 6 stayed together all the way and hit the final hill together. Mal Jones found the final climb too much and fell off the back, leaving the remaining 5 – George Goodrope, Jim Swainston, Ian Smith, Richard Dobson and Dave Worland to make the dash over the top, down the hill and to the finish.

In the dash for the line Dave Worland proved to be the strongest to take the win with Richard Dobson second and Ian Smith third.

Oh, and that other song? Of course it was The Doors 1971 classic: Riders On The Storm...

d-grade

Another small field and even though it was bolstered by the two e-grade riders who had braved the conditions it was still only eight who set out for three laps of the Arthurs Creek – Strathewen circuit. With the lower grade riders in tow the pace for the first lap was relaxed.

On the second lap it stayed much the same with Andrew Buchanan and David Ryan sharing the load at a comfortable d-grade pace, a pace that started taking its toll on the regular e-grade riders who, with the undulations, started to feel the effects and slowly drifted off the back. Dave Ryan not lasting much longer as his heart-rate monitor first told him to take it easy then mechanical issues forced his retirement - it was down to five.

Over the last lap it was reduced further; Andrew, Ben Muller and Peter Mackie first riding away from Mark Granland and then JC Wilson. Into the foot of the pinch for the last time muscles were flexed and chances taken, Ben and Andrew cresting with a clear gap over Peter who chased down the other side but (fortunately) never quite regained Peter's wheel. A moment of Oxygen deprived miscalculation led to a Bradburian moment. Ben, keen to get out of the rain and forgetting the parcours, turning right into Greens Road right in front of Andrew who was heading for the cone 20m up the road. With nowhere to go Andrew went into Ben and then onto the bitumen as Peter Mackie cruised past to turn at the cone and return to see if everybody was ok before riding to the finish to get first-aid assistance for Andrew, oh, and to take first place.

Behind Peter JC Wilson and then Mark Granland came through for second and third as Graham Cadd attended the fallen Andrew.

e-grade

No race

f-grade

No race.

Results

	First	Second	Third
a-grade (15)	Roy Clark (Croydon Cycleworks)	Trevor Coulter (Team Degani)	Rob Amos (Velocino)
b-grade (5)	Alan Adams	Martin Stalder	Mathew Cornford
c-grade (8)	Dave Worland	Richard Dobson	Ian N. Smith
d-grade (8)	Peter Mackie	JC Wilson	Mark Granland
e-grade (0)			
f-grade (0)			

Officials

Thanks to Peter Mackie and Ron Stranks on the desk taking entries. Thanks to the helpers on the day who were; Steve Gray, Evan Butler, Graham Cadd, Phil Cavaleri, Andy Burmas and Robert Castellani. Who were ably led by Michael Paull. 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 bringing 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.

Final Team's Aggregate Results

Individual

	Rider	Team	Points
1	Peter Howard	(Doherty/Eltham Cycles)	53
2	Trevor Coulter	(Team Degani)	32
3	James Steward	(Adriatic)	30
4	Guy Green	(Doherty/Eltham Cycles)	29
5	Tony Chandler	(Adriatic)	28
5	Michael Hay	(Croydon Cycleworks)	28
7	Justin Davis	(Omara cycles)	27
8	Phil Smith	(Adriatic)	25

Team's

	Team	Points
1	Doherty/Eltham Cycles	101
2	Adriatic	96
3	Croydon Cycleworks	55
4	Omara cycles	43
5	Team Degani	35
6	Velocino	33
7	Celtic / TFM	32
8	Bicycle Super Store	1

Eastern Vets Program

Saturday	November	6	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Saturday	November	13	2:00pm	Dunlop Road	Graded Scratch Races & Team's Race
Saturday	November	20	1:00pm	Yarra Junction #	Omara 100#
Saturday	November	27	2:00pm	Casey Fields	Graded Scratch Races
Monday	November	29	7:30pm	Maroondah Club	General Meeting
Tuesday	November	9 16 23	6:00pm	METEC	Croydon Cycleworks Criterium Series
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.

Northern Vets Program

Sunday	November	7	8:30am	National Boulevard	DC cycles, Balwyn - Crit series, race 2
Sunday	November	14	10:00am	Broadford	President's Mountain Goat Classic - 64k
Sunday	November	21	8:30am	National Boulevard	DC cycles, Balwyn - Crit series, race 3
Sunday	November	28	10:00am	Pyalong Rd, Seymour	Chooka's Wheel Race

Gippsland Vets Program

Sunday	November	7	9:00am	Pakenham (melways 317, G6)	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	November	14	10:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	November	21	9:00am	Pakenham (melways 317, G6)	Graded Scratch Races
Sunday	November	28	10:00am	Kernot	Graded Scratch Races

Gippsland vets run a regular group ride Wednesday mornings, leaving the Kernot Hall at 9:00am

Victorian Veterans Cycling Council Program

Sunday	November	21	10:00am	Halls Gap	Grampians Open	10/11 - \$25
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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.:

Andrew Buchanan update

After a fall on Saturday at Arthurs Creek late in the race, d-grade rider Andrew Buchanan was transported to Knox Private Hospital (thanks Graham Cadd) and admitted with severe pain in the left hip. Andrew was kept in overnight for X-rays the following day that revealed no breaks. A subsequent MRI the day after showed a fracture in the left socket of his pelvis – hence the pain and inability to put weight on the left leg. The break/fracture kept Andrew in hospital for the week, and he was finally released on Saturday morning on the proviso he stays off the leg for at least five or six weeks.

He'll be on crutches in the meantime and hopes to be able to get back to work on a limited basis during his recovery.
