

# Newsletter



## Duty roster

### 24 September, Seymour (TTT)

John Thomson (R), Rob Giles (TC), Rob Devolle, Nathan Dewar, Chris Ellenby, David Holt, Chris Sheers

### 1 October, Casey Fields

Andrew Buchanan (R), Gavin Read, Kerry Ryan

*If rostered for duty, you must be there at least 1 hour before start time. It's your responsibility to find a replacement if unable to do your duty, then advise Andrew Buchanan, [tjtop2@optusnet.com.au](mailto:tjtop2@optusnet.com.au)*

Editor

[nick.tapp@detail-ed.com.au](mailto:nick.tapp@detail-ed.com.au)



A good crop of reports again this week from a fine afternoon of racing at Yarra Glen, including more brevity/wit from Max Michelson. Thanks to all our contributors.

It has finally arrived again. This week we return to Seymour for the second Eastern Vets Team Time Trial. Good luck to all those competing. First team rolls off at 1.30 pm, and don't forget it's nearly 5 km from the registration desk to the start line.

And Croydon Cycleworks Tuesday night racing returns soon – as soon as daylight saving, in fact – to METEC, Colchester Road, Kilsyth. Keep an eye on Team App for the latest.



*The welcoming committee. Peter Mackie and Ron Stranks at the desk – as they are most weeks. Photo: Alison Skene*

## Graded scratch races, Yarra Glen, 17 September

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
A Grade (11)	John Clarkson	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	David De Pedro	
B Grade (17)	Paul Webster	Nick Tapp	Glenn Newnham	Martin Peeters
C Grade (16)	Anthony Plummer (H)	Geoff Darroch	Sam Bruzzese	Neil Cartledge
D Grade (12)	Gavin Read	Greg Harvey	Ken Allan	
E Grade (6)	Rob Devolle	Max Michelson	Zenon Gawronski	

### A Grade (I)

Yarra Glen, I like this place. Weather was fine, a bit of wind and with 11 riders in A grade. Could not believe to see Phil Smith on the starting line, as I knew he had been struggling all week with a bad cold/cough. He was still badly coughing on the starting line.

As we started on the first lap, I could not stop thinking about last Saturday in Gruyere, was a tough one for me, had low energy (stupid flu the week before) and could not attack or respond to any acceleration whatsoever. The only thing I managed to do was survive. And for sure, got smashed in Gruyere and with missing set of batteries.

Today, I had no more excuse, got back my 3 kg from stupid flu, was two weeks ago, so no more frog whingeing, ha ha ha! However, I was still not confident with those legs, knew I got back some 'kind of' strength during the week on the indoor trainer but no idea if at frog or snail level. So, I was waiting for that Yarra Glen bump hill to see how the body would react.

First bump hill felt OK, but I finally knew when John Clarkson and Dave De Pedro started their combined attacks. I was relieved to see I could respond to those first attacks, was good to feel free again on the bike. After a series of attacks from Dave and John, we gradually went from 11 to five riders. I decided not to attack as I could read this race, and it was clear I would have been

counterattacked. So, my strategy was to watch carefully and 'jump' on any attacks (simple strategy, heh?!) In one of my 'frog jumps', I ended up in a short breakaway with John for a lap or so, but Phil/Rob/Dave caught us, so back to the original five riders. In the last three laps, we all knew we could not get rid of each other, so we were all patiently waiting for the last lap. On the last hill, I thought a big attack would have been launched (I was ready), but nothing happened. On the last straight road before the finishing line, Phil was bravely leading the four of us, then Dave took over in the last kilometre, I was just behind, with John at my back. In the last 200 m, I took off but John passed me nicely in the last 50 m. John for 1st, me for 2nd and Dave for 3rd.

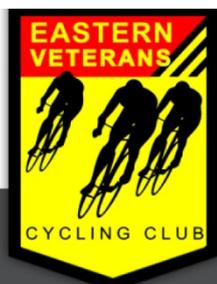
Big kudos to Phil, who was with the four riders at the front. He repeatedly attacked (as he usually does) during the race, on the hill and flat sections, and all this with a bad cold and cough. 'Never give up' type of person, Phil, even when sick. What a warrior (has to be an All Blacks breed!)

*Jean-Philippe Leclercq*

### A Grade (II)

The warmer weather brought out a good bunch of 11 riders for the A Grade race.

The first lap was completed at the same pace as the neutral lap as riders continued their conversations. A few laps in saw a couple of riders off the back as John Clarkson set a fast





pace into the headwind up the hill. The two Croydon riders, John and Dave De Pedro, started to use Team Sky tactics, with one setting a high pace before the other attacked.

By half distance only seven remained. Steve Ross was next to go off after leading up the hill. Another attack had Phil Smith (still recovering from flu), Rob Amos and Paul Firth off the back before a strong turn by Phil got him and Rob back on.

The next lap saw John away before J-P jumped across, but with Dave, Phil and Rob rolling turns it was all back together within half a lap. And that was how it stayed until the end, with Phil leading out the sprint, John holding off J-P to take the win and Dave holding off Rob for 3rd.

*Rob Amos*

## **B Grade**

Yarra Glen greeted us with sunshine and a strong northerly, which always means a tough headwind up the hill. As 16 of us B Graders set off for our 12 laps, we were joined by a couple of A Grade riders just to make the race a bit harder.

It's fair to say that not too many wanted to go near the front on the climb up the hill; when you were sitting in and protected from the wind it felt OK, but when you thought that you might have a crack at breaking up the bunch the headwind would soon change your mind. Early in the race Doug Reynolds and Nick Tapp were keen to try and do this but it never eventuated into much of a break. Some people did big turns down the main straight, notably Glenn Newnham, Martin Peeters and Paul Webster.

On lap nine, just as we topped the hill, Chris Ellenby came flying past and we all knew that this was the start of a series of the attacks for which Chris is famous. Most of us went into survival mode, just waiting for the next Ellenby attack and hoping we could hang on. The bell rang and I was on the front and feeling good. As we turned to go up the hill I slowed down and waited for someone to attack and it was Bruce Will who charged ahead. There wasn't much response for a while but when we got closer to the top the accelerator

was hit and we closed Bruce down. We were pretty much all together on the turn onto the finishing straight.

Paul Webster went to the lead, followed by Martin and Paul Semmens, and I was in behind them. Paul Webster started to sprint, Anthony Gullace moved up on my left and got blocked out, then Nick Tapp and Glenn Newnham came fast past me on my right. I was going nowhere but held my position, finishing 6th. Paul Webster rode very strongly to finish 1st, with Nick, Glenn and Martin filling the minor placings in that order.

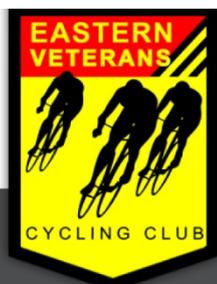
As usual, thanks to all the officials and volunteers for organising the race and keeping us safe.

*Peter Webb*

## **C Grade**

It was a beautiful day for racing, clear and sunny, but the north-east wind would make nine climbs of Glenview Road even more challenging. Sixteen starters, but very few showed their nose to the wind. Rob De Bernardi, Russ Wheelhouse and myself were regulars at the front, and big Anthony Plummer, a new rider from Hume, made a few surges along Yarraview Road, but didn't really have much of an appetite to go on with it after turning into the wind and up the hill. Geoff Darroch, Sam Bruzzese and Bob Lewis seemed to be sitting comfortably a few wheels off the front and I joined them for much of the middle and later stages of the race. Dave McCormack made a break down King Street around lap six, and with one or two other quick responders seemed to be away, but Bernie Evans worked very hard for most of Yarraview Road to get the pack back up to them.

Even the bell didn't seem to create any urgency in the peloton, and after turning into Glenview Road for the final time, I nearly ran into the back of riders as everybody seemed to experiment with how slowly they could ride a bike. If there is no accident, it will all be set up for the sprinters, thinks I, so instead I thought I'd try a brave 4 km break for home. If nothing else, it might stretch them out and take some sting out of the faster guys' legs. It all started well, my rapid acceleration catching everyone off guard, but the





wind was being unkind, and before long I was pedalling squares and first Russ, then a line of others, scooted past and left me desperately to trying to catch rapidly receding wheels.

By King Street, I was still 30 metres off the back, but working hard downhill I finally managed to get into Adam Dymond's slipstream, sitting last of the 14 or so. Moving rapidly along the finishing straight aided by the tailwind, it was too crowded and fast to move forward so I elected to sit on the back and see what the legs could do when the acceleration happened. Anthony was first to go, and everyone responded, but he was gone. I gave it what I had, passed a few, but at the line I still had four clear of me: Anthony, Geoff Darroch, Sam Bruzzese and Neil Cartledge. Congratulations to each of them.

If I had a new bike, maybe I could have caught a few others?

Thanks to all the volunteers who made it happen!

*John Williams*

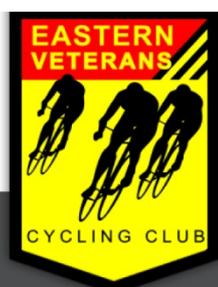
### **E Grade**

Things were looking up this week in E Grade, we had four riders so there was going to be someone missing out on the pot of gold. The pace was on and halfway around it got down to two riders to contest 1st place. Congratulations to Rob. Great ride. Day enjoyed by all.

*Max Michelson*



*Ian Smith and Matt White warming up at picturesque Yarra Glen. Photo: Alison Skene*

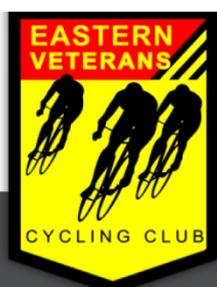




*Jean-Philippe Leclercq (A Grade) and Sam Bruzzese (C Grade) approach a corner. Photo: Alison Skene*

## **Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Kew, 21 September**

There was no racing at the Loop again this week. Another wet Wednesday.



## News etc.

### The last Wellington to Auckland

Dynamo Events New Zealand has announced that the 2017 edition of the Wellington to Auckland Cycle Challenge, from Sunday 12 to Saturday 18 February 2017, will be the last.

John Williams reports considerable enthusiasm for a serious challenge from this side of the ditch, with interest so far from John Williams, Geoff O'Loghlen, Greg Foster, Steve Foster, Dave McCormack, Chris Ellenby and John Clarkson.

Cost of race entry (12 stages, 7 days, 800+ km fully supported), accommodation, baggage transit and meals will be around \$1,600. Budget \$700 for flights.

If you are interested, flick John an email ([john.williams@jhw.com.au](mailto:john.williams@jhw.com.au)) and he will add you to the list.

There's plenty of time – entries won't close until much later in the year – but best start thinking about it now, and blocking out the dates in your diary.

For more information and entry details, visit the following link: <http://dynamoevents.co.nz/event/bdo-wellington-to-auckland-cycle-challenge-2017/>.

## Future events

### Eastern Vets

For other events, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <http://easternvets.com/roster/>.

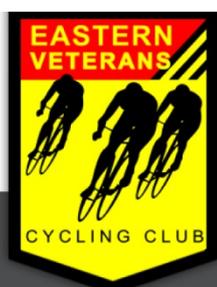
Note: *Graded Scratch Race entries are accepted on the day up to 15 minutes before the advertised race start time. Handicap entries close the Tuesday before the race. Riders entering a handicap MUST pay the entry fee regardless of participation. Fees are due on race day; entrants will NOT be allowed 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

For more details go to [www.northerncycling.com/](http://www.northerncycling.com/).

## Training rides

Day/Time/Place	Route	Style
Sunday mornings Beach Road Ride. Leave 8.00 am sharp. Meet at Peanut Farm Reserve, cnr Blessington & Chaucer Sts, St Kilda	Ride along Beach Rd to Frankston. 10 min stop. Then ride back to St Kilda (approx. 65 km)	Social ride, coffee back at St Kilda
Saturday mornings (7.30 am) and Sundays/public holidays (8.00 am) Meet at Ringwood Clock towers, Maroondah Hwy, Ringwood	Maroondah Hwy to Carlton for coffee, then return	Fast social





## Sponsors



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