

Newsletter



Duty Roster

17 December, METEC

Richard Dobson (R), Harry Hibgame, Troy Jordan

24 December

No racing

31 December, METEC

Tony Curulli (R), Mark McGillivray, Phil Johns

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

Editor

nick.tapp@detail-ed.com.au



Last Sunday saw a full round of racing at Dunlop Road. Race reports from C and E Grades are inside. This week it's come one, come all, to METEC for the Christmas Handicap. This will be a big family day, with a barbecue and a display of vintage bikes. Families are invited to join members for the warm-up and to ride the circuit once racing is done. There will be a one-lap ITT for kids after the day's racing.

Racing makes way for other things the following weekend, then returns on Saturday 31 December at METEC.

Peter Morris will wield the editorial red pen through January while your regular wordsmith takes a break. This is the final issue of the newsletter for 2016.

Thanks to all those who have contributed race reports, photos and other material throughout the year. Here's to a safe and happy Christmas for all club members, their family and friends, and people everywhere.



*No, it's not because he'll be in London this time next week. The Editor looks happy because he's been dropped by Division 1 at the Loop and now he can slow down. Results are inside.
Photo: Peter Morris*

Graded scratch races, Dunlop Road, 10 December

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A Grade (18)	Ian Clark (N)	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	David Holt	Richard Abel	
B Grade (24)	Perry Peters	Owen Lewis	Ross Tinkler	Walter Savini	Grant Greenhalgh
C Grade (16)	Peter Gray	Darren Woolhouse	Franc Tomsic	Adam Dymond	
D Grade (18)	Graeme Parker	Doug Page	Colin Mortley	Rob Devolle	
E Grade (8)	Craig Stannard	Juanita Cadd	Graham Haines		
F Grade (6)	Laurie Bohn	Tony Lateo	John Eddy		

C Grade

Every groundhog has its day

There was a feeling of sentimental nostalgia in the air as I watched about 20 riders depart the start line in Geddes Road for their 50-odd minutes of fun and frivolity. The odd thing was that I would have been one of those yellow-helmeted competitors had I not opted to 'put myself up!' and enter the realms of C Grade.

This 'self-elevation' occurred due to some recent encouraging performances in D Grade. For some time, handicapper Mackie has been procrastin ... undecided about whether to throw me into the Colosseum of Lions – you know, fight or flight. A couple of years ago he had put me into D from E Grade but I often failed to finish with the bunch, let alone place. This time I made the decision for him but thanks, Peter, for your understanding and patience over the years.

C Grade, here we come

Writing a C Grade race report as a 'newbie' wasn't as easy as racing it. There were at least a dozen riders I was unfamiliar with and a few that I knew well. The main objective for me this afternoon (there's that Paul Sherwinism again) was to finish with the bunch.

Get the ball rolling

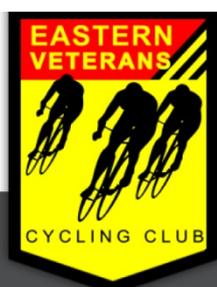
Dean Niclasen started the ball rolling by leading the peloton over the opening laps. There were many aggressive attacks by individual riders to follow. In no particular order were Rob Giles, Darren Woolhouse, Stephen Barnard, Sam Bruzzone and others. Rob upped the pace early on but couldn't hold it without support of the rider following. I wonder who that might have been?! Darren probably established the largest gap (100 metres) for the longest time and was looking dangerous when A Grade overtook the chasing group. Eventually, there was a concerted effort to pull him back. Steve tried to achieve the same thing but in a much shorter period, the bunch obviously attuned to his ability to launch a successful breakaway. When Sam tried to create a gap nearing the bell lap, I knew that was one to keep under control and so chose to bridge it myself.

Location, location, location

That popular real estate catchcry certainly holds true in sprinting, especially when you have about 20 or so riders all wanting to squeeze through a five-metre-wide opening at full speed.

A rider stands an excellent chance of placing if he/she can tick the three boxes:

- location in the gears – tick



- location on the bike – tick
- location in the bunch – tick.

To my surprise, there were no attacks immediately following the bell. The group tended to bunch together on the Dunlop Road section, turning into McDonalds Road four abreast. I could feel the nervous tension as everyone jockeyed for position.

There is a fourth box to tick: position of the mind. Reactions at this point in the race need to be instinctive. There's just no time for 'what if' scenarios. The pace slowly picked up, but not as much as I thought it might until we passed Pickering Street.

Don't know who made the first move but I'm relieved they did. I do recall some shouting from the rear but it sure wasn't safe to be looking at the colour of the marshall's flag as the bunch rounded the corner into the sprinters' playground.

300 metres

Things were starting to stretch out a little as the concertina effect (sounds like the title of a movie) created some gaps between riders. An opportunity arose to move up a few places before the elastic band snapped. All I remember is a few riders to my left, including Frank Tomsic, and another rider a couple of bike lengths ahead.

200 metres

We had passed the parked truck. My legs seemed happy enough to stop complaining (no 'shut up, legs' necessary) and I was fortunate enough to obtain a slingshot from the forward rider's draft.

100 metres

I think there were now three of us level across the road, including Frank, with Darren sniffing at my wheel. With about six seconds remaining, it became head down and bottoms up and prepare for a lunge. I managed to gain a length or two for 1st place but wasn't contemplating looking behind any time soon, with Darren apparently following just ahead of Frank.

Stats

Didn't have my bike computer on.

Average speed = 36.4 km/h (Heard someone mention it later?!)

Maximum speed = Felt Very Fast

Big wrap-up

I was very happy to take the victory this afternoon.....today, 'cause I know I'm going to suffer when the road racing season comes around. Thanks to C Grade for a challenging, enjoyable and safe race.

I think we're going to need a good finish line camera in future!

Acknowledgements

Thanks also to officials and marshalls. It can't be an enthralling job, watching your mates compete in good weather conditions like those we had today.

Special thanks to Nick Hainal, who helps set up and pack away the gear every week. A couple of weeks ago, we forgot to acknowledge Rob Lackey for fetching the BBQ from Casey and bringing it to the Charity Day, and he'll be doing the same for the Christmas Handicap this Saturday. Thanks in advance, Rob.

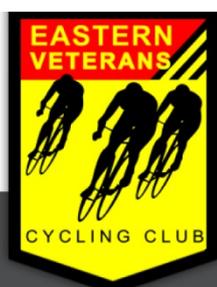
Shelly Timson and Kevin Marks, our first aiders, deserve our recognition as they often perform duties beyond their call. So thanks, Shelly, for helping with registration, start/finish duties and drinks. Kevin for picking up broken-down cyclists and locating the best pear orchards at Arthurs Creek.

That's about it. Cu at METEC next week.

Peter Gray

E Grade

When I dropped in two weeks ago at Dunlop Road for a look, I noticed a bit of attacking going on, mainly due to JC. Sure enough, as our race progressed on Saturday, the tempo gradually increased. This time it was Craig Stannard who tested his legs and spread us out with about 10 minutes to go. Craig has only had about six races with us but has shown steady improvement each week. He put in a good ride at Arthurs Creek,





followed by a win at the Northern combine and a convincing win on Saturday.

The durable Juanita Cadd was at home with a bit of tempo as was Graham Haines, and Barry Rodgers hung about while the rest of us were a bit like Brown's cows – all over the place.

It was fantastic to see good numbers getting around at Dunlop Road. It really proves that if we can put the races in a popular spot, people will turn up.

Jim Swainston

Tuesday racing at METEC, 13 December

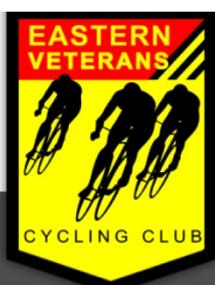
... was cancelled under the heat policy.

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Kew, 14 December



Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1	Ian Clark (N)	David Holt	T. Kimpton
Division 2	Craig Tucker	John Williams	Daryl Beovich
Division 3	Doug Page	S. Bol	David Drew
Division 4	Barry Rodgers	P. Griffiths	Laurie Bohn

To see more of Peter Morris's images from the Loop this week, go to www.dropbox.com/sh/45akpapubeshqbr/AABZfYtMJCM2wo3IRWdcRu5ma?dl=0.





Future events

Road National Championships

Ballarat (Buninyong), Sunday 8 January 2017

Women's race at 8.00 am (102 km)

Men's race at 11.50 am (183.6 km)

EVCC BBQ on the Hill

Location is near the top of the Mt Buninyong climb (look for the EVCC tent).

The barbecue is fully catered for by EVCC volunteers. Drinks are available at club prices.

Parking is available near to our proposed site if you arrive early enough.

Further details to be advised later, when known (by email or on EVCC website).

All welcome. If you are interested in watching the racing and having a barbecue with your mates, please email Colin Mortley (cmadcab@bigpond.net.au) so that numbers are known for catering.

Ride to the Road Nats

Last year, a small group drove to Ballan Station and rode 30 km or so to join the BBQ on the Hill and enjoy the closing stages of the women's race and the entire men's race. At the end of the day we had a return ride. It solved a number of difficulties with attending the Nationals:

- Have to leave so-o-o early to get a park.
- Even then, difficult to park near the course.
- Miss out on my Sunday ride.

John Williams, David Brown, Mal Jones and Walter Savini are all intending to repeat the ride next year, meeting at Ballan railway station at 8.30 am on 8 January. Let John know (0419 713 087) if you want to join us (so we know who to wait for). Also please email Colin Mortley with BBQ numbers.

Eastern Vets

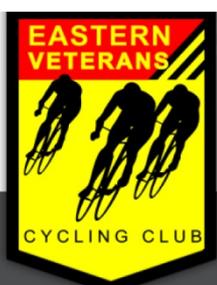
For other events, please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <http://easternvets.com/roster/>.

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 .





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

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