

Newsletter



Duty Roster

Saturday 23 December
No racing

Saturday 30 December
No racing

Saturday 6 January,
Casey Fields
Mark Edwards (R), Lawrence
Lee, Tony Lateo

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, tiptop2@optusnet.com.au

Editor: Nick Tapp
nick.tapp@detail-ed.com.au



Welcome to the final issue of the EVCC Newsletter for 2017. A goodly bag of race reports from last Saturday's Christmas Handicap at Casey Fields are inside (and there's another from Phil Smith on the Team Skope Facebook page).

Racing was cancelled in the heat on Tuesday evening, but a record number raced at the Loop in Kew on Wednesday morning. Results and a wrap of the year are on page 6.

Note that there will be no Eastern Vets racing on Saturday 23 December or Saturday 30 December. We resume at Casey Fields on 6 January.

Also inside this week is an end-of-year message from Club President, Adam Dymond. It being the time for end-of-year messages, I'd like to send a big thank-you to everyone who has contributed race reports, news, photos, profiles and other material for the newsletter during 2017. Please keep them coming in the new year!

I hope you have a refreshing short break from racing. There's more to life, after all – or so I'm told. And here's an idea if you left it too late to find a tree ... Merry Christmas to all.





Letter from the President

Dear members,

As the year draws to a close, I just want to reflect on 2017. It's been a big year for EVCC. We have some new faces around the committee table, and we have undertaken some great initiatives:

- Re-invigorated our Facebook page
- Created a set of Club Values with a view to increasing comradeship around the club
- Re-invigorated (and won) the Tour de Metro series against Northern Veterans CC
- Run the Get Into Road Racing new member initiative, which helped us to achieve the committee's goal of having 250 or more members by the end of 2017
- Formed a 'race committee' to focus solely on improving our racing calendar and finding new circuits to race on
- Run great social events such as the Tour de France night and a trip to the movies to watch the Orica-GreenEdge film *All For One* at Belgrave Cameo.

Unfortunately, there were some bad falls during the year. We are always working to make our races as safe as possible; however, this is an unfortunate part of our sport that cannot be avoided. In particular, we were all affected by the tragic accident that took Paul Semmens's life. In this regard, the committee agreed to partner with Southern Masters CC to send Paul's wife, Alison, the proceeds from the BBQ and rider donations after Paul's death. Our committee agreed to round this up to \$500, which SMCC matched. Cycling Victoria came on board and assisted generously. All these funds, which totalled several thousands of dollars, were transferred to Alison two weeks ago to help support her and the family coming into Christmas. Bill Upston from SMCC tells me that Alison was blown away by this gesture and asked for her sincere thanks to be passed on to all.

I would like to thank all our wonderful committee and all the other volunteers around the club, of whom there are too many to mention here. What has become clear to me this year is that the club has a great group of tireless and passionate helpers, who all come together and somehow make it all happen every week on race day, to get you all out and competing in a safe and friendly environment.

I wish all EVCC members and their families a wonderful Christmas and Happy New Year with family and friends. Please ride safely over the holidays. I look forward to seeing you all back, a bit leaner and fitter, for a huge year of racing in 2018.

Regards,
Adam



Christmas Handicap at Casey Fields, 16 December

Qualifying scratch races					
Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
A Grade (7)	Phil Smith	J-P Leclercq	Rob Amos	Steve Ross	Perry Peters
B Grade (11)	Chris Ellenby	Geoff O'Loghlen	Mark Edwards	Darren Woolhouse	Dean Niclasen
C Grade (18)	Paul James	Peter Gray	Matt Clarke	Bob Lewis	Chris Joy
D Grade (8)	Chris Norbury	Mike Joss	David Griffin	Rob Castellani	Ian Smith
E Grade (6)	J.C. Wilson	Pat Ruys	Barry Ellem	Ron Stranks	Susan Williams
F Grade (3)	Jim Swainston	Rod Goodes	Brian Farrell	--	--

Handicap final				
1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th
J-P Leclercq	Steve Ross	Phil Smith	Rob Amos	Dean Niclasen
6th	7th	8th	9th	10th
Chris Ellenby	Mark Edwards	Paul James	J.C. Wilson	David Griffin

A Grade


By Rob Amos

After 5 months without racing, and no real training since Easter, I had managed 30 kilometres in the week and was surprised by how well I was going. A triple biopsy on my knee a couple of weeks ago had relieved some of the pain, allowing me to get out of the saddle for the first time in 5 months. Expecting a start in B Grade like last week, having worked out the tactics in my head, I was shocked to find myself back in A after just one placing! Even on the neutral lap I was struggling to hold on and it did not take too long for Phil Smith to turn it up to 11, stringing the bunch out. Nick was first to go, having just completed his turn on the front and not able to recover in time. By the end of the lap we were down to the five qualifiers. Shouts to Phil to ease off fell on deaf ears

for a while, but we then managed to roll soft turns for the rest of the race, although Phil could not hold back and rode off into the sunset as we eased off to let C Grade sprint.

After spending the 15-minute break icing my knee, I told the others I might not be much use to them – the gaps looked very big between the grades. Steve Ross led us off as I struggled to get on, using my corner speed through the first bend to grab last wheel. Perry Peters was next to put in a big turn, but was unable to recover to gain the last wheel, as the big guns of the grade in Phil Smith and J-P turned it up another notch. After two laps and the bell, it looked like we might have a chance as a strong B Grade had lost two riders, the in-form Chris and Dean were driving them along. Phil did a massive turn of more than half a lap to lead us all out. The only problem was that B Grade had jumped on the





back and I could not freewheel as I had Steve behind me. In the end it worked out perfectly, with us taking the first four places. Thanks to the others for towing me round, it may be a short-lived comeback as I wait for the operation

B Grade

By Mark Edwards

A Tale of Two Races (with apologies to Dickens)

'It was the best of times, it ...'

Another Crit at Casey, last of the year, clear skies, cool breeze, no hills. These are the best of times. Race One, GSR, first five in each grade go through.

A Grade, 7 riders

'It was the age of wisdom'

If the points and the money are in race two, the handicap, it makes no sense to pony up in a phony game of musical saddles. Save a bit, *non?* With only two seats to be removed, the music was andante. After two short, sharp rounds the pretenders, Nick and Paul, were stranded and the contenders settled down to ride tempo. No sweat – like, literally no sweat, no heat, no pace, a pre-race warm-up. Wisdom.

B Grade – in the green corner – 11 riders

'It was the age of foolishness'

A few of us chatted in the warm-up, Dean in particular with the novel idea to cruise and snooze. So who goes to the front and pushes? Now the blood is up, Daz Woolhouse decides as a sprinter his best chance is repeated leg-sapping breakaways. Newman goes inexplicably early. A jittery bunch, more treacherous than a Labor preselection. It ends up being cleaner to just clear out than deal with the fuss. Ellenby and I work together (it's still early) and go across to GO GO O'Loughlen, who stopped going and grabbed on. Three and a gap, whoa boys, easy, roll on home. Chris sees a shadow and jumps and we are off again, full tilt. As we close down A Grade, the dial comes off, like, two per cent, GO and CE have their blood up, I give up trying to explain the universe and meh along. Last lap, just for fun they crank it up and I trail off for 3rd. Niclasen and Woolhouse come in on the next wave. Utter foolishness.

C Grade – an 18-rider army in blue

'It was the epoch of belief'

Is C Grade even a proper grade? Blokes well capable of tagging along in B, sprinters, skivers, duckers and divers. Last time at Casey, they rolled over us B Graders and rode away. Straight past the Handicapper. In race one, from what I could tell, they stayed pretty much in formation and five sprinters got up for the handicap. Five sprinters for a 6 km time trial? Good luck with that! At least they seemed pretty fresh. With a bunch of optimistic sprinters, the word was 'belief'.

I'm not sure what happened in the other grades, but regardless, the referee knew and the field was set for the big one. Race Two, the three-lap handicap, 30 seconds.

The handicap

'Nothing that we do, is done in vain. I believe, with all my soul, that we shall see triumph.'

A Grade are together, prepared, confident. We try to get B Grade together but no Ellenby. He's circled this one in red, didn't race Thursday night, didn't ride Friday and drove to the race, then cruised for an hour, so he's now feeling underdone and needs to warm up the muscles. I'm stuffed and take some water, some milk, some protein powder and a Coke. Now I feel a lot worse. O'Loughlen is confused, and big Nic is wired. We five mumble for a moment, 'Track turns, peel off, not too fast, work together, don't drop anyone' – all the right noises but we are B Graders for good reasons so this ain't gonna work. C Grade looks brave and the rest are already sent off and in the distance.

We line up, I'm on the inside, no plan, it just happens that way. Go. I'm on Speedplay, clip in and am off. As I peel off on the first turn, I realise the others are still searching for their neanderthal cleats and we have given about a third of our start to A Grade in just 100 metres. We scratch about, a rabble, surging, gapping, cries of 'Wait, slow down, faster, peel,' elbows flicking, but even so we can see blue hats getting closer. Lap one.

O'Loughlen says, 'If we may ride with you, Citizens Mark, Chris and Dean, will you let us hold your hands? We are not afraid, but are a little weak, and it will give us more courage.'





Gmol and Dazza are courageous enough but we three are bound for glory and unknowingly abandon them both, leaving only three to work. Our 900 W Thomas B vs the 2000 W+ Gordon A train. I'm scared of white hats, especially the black one of the Frenchman. I can hear early Spielberg music, bits of *Duel* and *Jaws*. It's not just the heat and the effort making us sweat. Lap two done and still a chance.

C Grade has started to swivel, always a sign. As we turn upwind on the last lap, they slow and spread for the switch. Our Green Machine is shouting the pass just as the A Grade express train goes through. Curses, foiled again. We three scrabble on, just. C Grade misses the catch and now A Grade is on a mission to reel in some others still away. At 45 km/h it doesn't take long. Phil Smith is pedalling like he wants to teach us a lesson, and what I learn is that A Grade is too fast, but my bride of 40 years is waiting and watching. I can't bail as I'm yet to impress her. I'm thinking about what organs to donate to the effort, in which order.

Mercifully, the kick is on, and to my surprise Ellenby and Niclasen have kept a bit back and roll straight over me, chasing white hats speeding up the road. J-P Leclercq (representing the other city?) shows us why he is again the Club Champion. Chapeau.

Saturday night, perfectly exhausted at the wonderful Melbourne Philharmonic Orchestra and Australian Children's Choir Christmas Carol Concert at St Paul's, I was able to relax, enjoy and reflect on how lucky we are, most of us anyway.

Thanks to everyone at the club for another year of racing. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

F Grade

By Jim Swainston

Nice day, bit of a southerly providing lots of side winds to make things reasonably hard. F Graders a bit short in supply, with only Rod Goodes, Brian Farrell and myself in attendance – which was always going to make us minus 2 in the final. It would have been nice to borrow 'Doc' Cunneen, who missed out in E, but I only thought of it tonight – 'Too late!' she cried. Brian was having an ordinary day and was lapped by us two dynamos. I must acknowledge Rod as he always keeps popping through for his turn.

Bit of a quandary re the final, as I was off to Hisense to watch the 'Big Guns', but the whole three of us lined up. Always a new experience, getting held up, and a relief to be told to GO. Brian wasn't able to contribute but Rod offered great moral support and apologised for not being able to come through – not that I expected him to. I thought we would be caught about two to go by E, but it was almost another lap before J.C. and Pat Ruys reeled us in and I was able to lift a bit and stay there but not working.

All was looking good and I thought we might take the places but suddenly, with half a lap to go, a sinking feeling as the Scratch peloton swept past and I was counting heads down the back straight. J.C. did well to hang on to 9th and Pat was a bit stiff to just miss out after a lot of hard work.

Another excellent ride by Jean-Philippe, rounding off two great years. Thanks to all contributors to EVCC throughout the year making it enjoyable for all.





Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Kew, 13 December

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1 (12)	Chris Munro (CV)	Matt Arthur (GSC)	Phil Cavaleri
Division 2 (18)	Tom McDonough (N)	Peter Webb	Gavin Plummer
Division 3 (16)	David Griffin	Geoff Darroch	Stephanie Coulson
Division 4 (8)	Alan Cunneen	Barry Rodgers	P. Griffiths

2017 at the Loop in review

By Laurie Bohn

Today was the end-of-year Loop championship races with a record 54 entries (results above).

John Eddy won the 2017 Loop aggregate by two points from Peter Gray, and Barry Rodgers finished 3rd. Unfortunately, I forgot to pick up the medals, but they will be forthcoming. Sorry, chaps.

At the age of 85, Frank Lees has decided to retire from racing, today being his last one. After about 70 years, on and off, of pushing the pedals, Frank has purchased an e-bike so riding will be forever downhill. Congratulations, Frank. Another e-bike rider is Keith Bowen. E-bike races may be on the way in the future.

Keith is reducing his involvement with the Wednesday races so thank you, Keith, for the time and effort you have put in to keep the Wednesday show on the road over the last however many years. How he kept tabs on 56 riders today is amazing! Many thanks also to all other members who helped out during the year. Note that racing *will* be held next Wednesday 27 December. Merry Christmas to all and ride safe.



Photo: Mark Edwards





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 or Wednesday before the race, as advertised. Riders who enter a handicap *must* pay the entry fee regardless of whether they participate. 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 to the handicapper via email or TeamApp, or on any race day before the event.

Northern Vets

For details, go to www.northerncycling.com.

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