

Newsletter

12 May 2018



Duty Roster

Saturday 12 May, Yarra Glen

Richard Dobson (R), Andrew Nielsen (TC), Nick Hainal (TC), Phil Johns, Allan Hicks, Sean Wilkeson, Andre Weber, Sean Hardy, Richard Harvey, Nick Panou

Saturday 19 May, Gruyere

Tony Curulli (R), Graham Cadd (TC), Ray Watts (TC), Juanita Cadd (TC), Rob Castellani, Brendan Wain, Chris Joy, John Pritchard, Brad Thexton, Dean Tune, Pat Ruys

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

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Last Saturday's 2018 Club Criterium Championships at Casey Fields attracted 62 riders, including a big field of 17 in Men 55–59. Well done to all who took part – to the winners, and also to those from lower grades who might have expected a pasting but took to the start line regardless. Results and reports are inside.

This Saturday marks the start of the winter season, with graded scratch races at Yarra Glen for race 1 of the Toughen Up series. Race 2 in the series will be held the following Saturday 19 May at Gruyere. Races 3 and 4 are on Saturday 9 June and Saturday 16 June, again at Yarra Glen and Gruyere, respectively.

Series points will be awarded as follows:

- 8 or more riders in a race: 1st – 5 pts, 2nd – 3 pts, 3rd – 2 pts, everyone else 1 point
- 6–7 riders: 1st – 3 pts, 2nd – 2 pts, everyone else 1 point
- 4–5 riders: 1st – 2 pts, everyone else 1 point
- 3 riders or less: 1 point each.

Dean Niclasen has been good enough to sponsor the series again via his business Toy Bricks in Bayswater, which is a Lego retail outlet. Please keep Toy Bricks in mind if you need a gift for a Lego enthusiast of any age.

Weekly prize money will be given out as usual. On top of this there will be a total of \$600 for the five riders who accumulate the most series points: \$250 for 1st, \$150 for 2nd, \$100 for 3rd, \$60 for 4th & \$40 for 5th. And, if you're tough enough to get onto the podium, you will be awarded a prestigious 'Toy Bricks Legoman' trophy to display in the trophy cabinet.



A pair of 'veterans' veterans', if ever there were – Ron Stranks and Rod Goodes, Club Champions for 2018 in the 80–84 and 85+ age groups, respectively. Photo: Mark Edwards



Club Criterium Championships, Casey Fields, 5 May

Age group	1st	2nd	3rd
Women			
50–54	Paula McGovern	--	--
55–59	Susan Williams	--	--
60–64	Sue Sharples	--	--
Men			
35–39	Matt Clarke	--	--
45–49	Glenn Newnham	Perry Peters	Darren Woolhouse
50–54	Tony Kimpton	Anthony Gullace	Phil Smith
55–59	Phil Cavaleri	Rob Amos	Russell Newnham
60–64	Chris Ellenby	John Williams	Hylton Preece
65–69	Mark Edwards	Peter Webb	David McCormack
70–74	John Thomson	John Pritchard	Colin O'Brien
75–79	Keith Wade	Harry Hibgame	John Eddy
80–84	Ron Stranks	--	--
85–89	Rod Goodes	--	--

Women (all age groups)

By Susan Williams

Ladies, where were you? We have 15 registered female members and only three riders competed on Saturday.

Although it was windy, we had a great time doing rolling turns for 30 minutes, and then after that it was game on. Paula McGovern and Sue Sharples shot off, leaving your Madam Secretary to amuse herself and sprint to the finish line.

Many thanks to referee Jim Swainston, Shelly and Barry, drinks boy Dean, J.C. on the barbie



From left, Paula, Sue and Susan





and Peter Gray for the catering – and, of course, handicapper Peter Mackie.

PLEASE! Ladies, support your gender and your club, and come along for a good social hit-out, even if you know your riding ability is way above or below that of your age group. It would be great to have more of us riding together – why should the guys have all the fun?

Put these dates in your diary:

EVCC TT Champs: 25 August 2018

EVCC Road Champs: 20 October 2018

PS Don't forget, you need three races to qualify.

Men 55–59

By Rob Amos

The wind had cleared the shower away and the sun was shining for the start of the 2018 Club Crit Championships. A good bunch of 17 riders across the grades. Age racing always shows who has been in the right grade, plus you do not know many of the other riders or their form. Russell Newnham got the race up to pace after the neutral lap, but it soon became clear that not many riders were willing to do a turn, so I decided to take my turn and found I had a small gap, so I continued on to test my legs. I was soon joined by Club President Adam, who asked Jim Swainston if he could ring the bell after two laps. The reason became apparent when Adam slipped off the back after taking a turn.

I knew it was too windy for me to go solo so I kept the gap for a short time to see if anyone would join me, but with no offers I eased back to the bunch. The pace eased until someone attacked, which was quickly jumped on. With at least three riders in the bunch who would easily outsprint me, I rode off the front again with about 40 minutes remaining and soon got a nice break. After a few laps I was relieved to see someone bridging the gap, though unfortunately for me it was Phil Cavaleri, the in-form sprinter. Beggars can't be choosers, so I took the gamble and eased up to help Phil across, although it also put me in striking distance of the bunch.

As soon as Phil was on, we went full gas to open up the gap. The bunch was still quite big but luckily for us they were not working together, so we were able to marginally increase our lead. The bunch split, with four riders going clear, including Russ and Steve Ross, who then worked together with Gavin Plummer and Walter Savini. It then became a bit of a pursuit with the gap switching each lap.

As the bell was rung, we had a comfortable lead if we did not play silly buggers. In my head I knew I had to attack Phil, but knew that he would jump on me straight away. I got closer than I thought in the sprint but Phil still won comfortably, and Russ the defending champ took out 3rd.



From left, Rob, Phil and Russell



Men 65–69

By Mark Edwards

A small field of four at a blustery Casey, not a gale but noticeable wind:

- Paul James – the reigning Club Crit Champ, a sprinting machine
- Peter Webb – the reigning Club Road Champ, an all-round rider with a punch and a kick
- Dave McCormack – a rouleur, fresh off a Belgian Classics training camp with TriVelo racing, more of a long-distance specialist
- Mark Edwards – five long years after my first and only Crit Championships, targeting this one, super keen.

Pete, Paul, Dave and Mark. We come from the postwar baby boomer generation. Not really a pop group, maybe a mix tape of Old and New Testament. Gnarly, scratchy, wrinkly, grey old buggers who like to suffer and don't understand why. No Jaydens, Dillons or Jetts in our lot. Old school.

In a five-year window I only get a couple or realistic chances before the 1954 rockets come up and spoil the party. I can't stay with 'em on a hilly road course and I've never done a time trial, so these Crit Champs were my only chance for maybe another five years. I usually race B Grade and love it, but it's getting harder and harder to get on the podium as younger and stronger and faster riders keep coming in. I wanted to make the most of this, trained a big solid block, tapered a few days and slept in.

Webby and I had pretty much the same idea as we talked about the race – fast. Paul was going to be near impossible to beat if it came down to a sprint so we'd get away if we could. I had sorta, not really, worked for Pete in the Jindivick road race. I would have skinned him at the uphill end if I could. I tried, hard, hard enough to make the finish marshal and multiple world champ Dave Moreland comment about my (lack of) sprinting ability! Anyway, back to here and now. The trouble was, we talked about the race in a yeah righto way but we never got into details. I thought we were going to do short surges in turn to try to

break the elastic, but the first time I went, Pete came too, so I sagged. Dave and Paul watched him go away waiting for me to close the gap. This went on for a while, surprisingly long, as Webby rode further away, till Dave turned and asked if we were all going to work together. I said nup, and that I was going to sit on, then try to jump across, so Dave and Paul decided there weren't a lot of options and set to working together for a few laps, not gaining much on the flying Webby.

When he was almost out of sight, I chose to go, had to go. P.J., even though he'd been working hard towing me for a while, tried to jump on and very nearly succeeded. I went so deep getting away that, when he finally let go and I could settle in, I didn't really have enough left to bridge. I was inching away, afraid if I got there at all I wouldn't have anything left, but Pete saw me struggling and kindly eased up enough to let me get on. We worked together after that, towing the dropped boy President along for the ride. Dave and Paul trained up and were able to shadow us but not get close enough. I was able to get a breath and lower the heart rate a bit till we got near the bell.



From left, Webby, Mark and David





Perhaps the pre-race briefing should include something about finished racers not spreading across the track, because we got road-blocked on the bell lap. After we cleared that, I took off early as I can't get over the little fella in the short uphill sprint. It was a long way to go for a tired old man. I was too scared to look behind because I doubt I could have gone on, so I stood and sat and stood and huffed and puffed. I could feel him all over my back, just waiting to blow by, but it turns out I was paranoid and could have eased up.

I was really pleased at how it panned out – as planned. I have a lot of plans but they don't usually come off. Not everyone in the field was so pleased, and I reckon there's one who mightn't be too keen to work with me, or for me, for a while!

Thanks, Webby. We'll do it again sometime :-)

Men 70–74

By Colin O'Brien

Although only a field of six, it was stacked with some serious competitors: John Pritchard, who has many, many years' riding experience, and with those huge thighs can sprint; John Thomson, who competed very successfully at the recent Easter Vets Australian Championships in Maryborough, including a close 3rd in a high-quality road race; last year's winner, Neil Cartledge; and the logical favourite and well-known cagey sprinter Bob Lewis, who won the Australian 70–74 Crit Championships at Maryborough.

How to disrupt the expected order of things was to be the strategy for the day. John, who is riding very strongly, was always going to try and break away from the field and not end up in a two-up sprint with Bob Lewis, who easily accounted for the bunch the previous week when he took 4th at the new Rowville circuit.

J.P. started proceedings with an early break, a strategy club members are familiar with, and at one stage was 600 metres or so ahead and gradually moving away. Enough was enough, and the small bunch began to work to pull him back until just John and Bob made it across the gap. Shortly after, John made his own break, which left

J.P. and Bob together. The other three riders were back some distance. A few laps later, with John soloing away, Bob Lewis was on his own in 2nd with J.P. 3rd. After Colin and Neil worked together for some laps, gradually narrowing the gap to J.P., he finally took pity and waited until they joined him.

With at least 20 minutes left to ride, there was no enthusiasm to bridge the gap to Bob, for whom Neil and Colin, at least, knew they would be lambs to his slaughter in any sprint. But they all knew that riding solo in the windy conditions was not going to improve Bob's well-known sprinting prowess ... and so it was.

John continued to solo away and, with 300 metres left, J.P. and Colin finally began their sprint from about 20 to 30 metres behind Bob, who did not respond as they flew past for 2nd and 3rd. Not a particularly fast or aggressive race, but then it is the club champs.

A very strong and deserved win by John, and another amazing ride by Neil who, as many of us know, continues to be unwell.



From left, J.P., John and Colin





Wednesday criterium, the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 9 May

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1a (8)	Stephen Lane (N)	Fraser Short (N)	Tony Hallam (G)
Division 1b (11)	Ray Russo	Chris Ellenby	Pete Morris
Division 2 (10)	James Black	Russell Wheelhouse	Richard Dobson
Division 3 (7)	Andre Weber	Mick Dewdney	Ken Allan
Division 4 (7)	Susan Williams	Barry Rodgers	John Eddy

Thanks to referee Steve Barnard, Keith Bowen and the usual band of helpers.

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

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