

Newsletter



Duty Roster

Saturday 22 December, Casey Fields

John Williams (R), Phil Thomson,
Aaron Field

Saturday 29 December

No racing

Saturday 5 January 2019, Casey Fields

Colin Mortley (R), Anthony Van
der Spek, Mark Wallace

If rostered for duty, you must be there at least 1 hour prior to start time. If unable to do your duty, it's your responsibility to find a replacement, then advise Andrew Buchanan, tip2@optusnet.com.au.

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The new circuit on Rocco Drive was a hit, or so it seems – fast, on wide, well-surfaced roads, with some up and down for added interest. Results and race reports from last Sunday's first fixture there are inside, as are results from Tuesday at METEC and Wednesday at the Loop.

Next Saturday's racing is the Christmas Handicap at Casey Fields – graded scratch races, with the first five in each grade through to a three-lap handicap. It all begins at 2 pm and will be followed by a free barbecue. There will be no racing on Saturday 29 December, but come along to the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, if you fancy a hit-out on Boxing Day. Desk opens 10 am, racing starts at 10.15 am.

Club Aggregate Championship 2018

Congratulations to Aggregate Champion for 2018, Phil Smith. Note that we had neglected to credit Phil with 8 points for his 4th place at the Gruyere handicap on 10 February, and this has now been corrected. After Sunday's race at Rocco Drive, the top three places on aggregate are:

Phil Smith	69 points
J-P Leclercq	63 points
Peter Gray	56 points

Membership renewal

It's membership renewal time of year. AVCC licences expire at the end of December, so go to the membership page of the club website at easterncycling.com/membership, click the 'Renew' button and follow the instructions to be covered by insurance etc. for racing and training in 2019.

Christmas message from the Committee

Dear Eastern members,

Your committee would like to wish you and your family a safe and happy Christmas with your friends and loved ones. Thanks for all your support in 2018. It's been a big year, with a name change and new logo, new club colours and a new website. Your committee is working hard on the new club kit and this will be forthcoming in the next 2–3 months.

Most of you will take the opportunity over the holidays to spend more time on your bike. Please be mindful of when, where and how you're riding.

We look forward to an even bigger and better year of racing for ECC in 2019.



Graded scratch races, Rocco Drive, 16 December

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
A Grade (15)	Chris Hughson	Lawrence Lee	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	Sean Hardy
B Grade (11)	Max Kornhofer	Pete Morris	Walter Savini	--
C Grade (18)	Geoff Darroch	Chris Beard	David Griffin	Dean Tune
D Grade (12)	Peter Gray	Chris Norbury	Greg Harvey	--
E Grade (7)	Susan Williams	Michael Muscat	Ed Holmes	--

A Grade

By Phil Smith

The new circuit was looking interesting and during warm-up I was trying to figure out if it would suit me. The hill was a bit short for my liking, but it might be similar to the Loop, where multiple climbs lead to attrition of the fast finishers ...?

A good turnout of nearly 20 riders, and it was good to see strong riders like Chris Hughson and Guy Green turn up. We all knew that we were going to be in for a hard race!

It did not take too long for Chris Hughson to put in an attack up the hill, it was too hard and too early for me, so I sat back and watched others bridge and join Chris. Ones and twos jumped across and before too long there was a strong bunch of six away, including J-P Leclercq, Sean Hardy, Alex Randall, Lawrence Lee and – last to bridge, seeing the threat – Guy Green.

Guy Green has immense experience, and seeing him work hard to bridge was a warning to the rest of us that the break was a serious one likely to survive. Still there was a hesitation for others to jump across – perhaps they were waiting for my attack and bridge but, alas, I was having a bad day and had no ability to jump across!

The break of six was held for three or four laps but it just took one soft turn and suddenly the break was out of sight and the race was pretty much over for the rest of us.

I settled in for the remainder of the race, with my only aim being to avoid being lapped on this short circuit. In our chase bunch there was a lack of cohesion; only a few riders were pulling consistent turns. Kevin King rode strongly and kept the pace up, he won the prize for best cornering skills and highest speed on the downhill corner!

On the last few laps, I tried to up the ante to see if we could close the gap, and it was clear to see that hard pedalling on the descent – rather than freewheeling – was improving lap times by 2–3 seconds. But it was all too little, too late!

Last lap and, as I understand it, Lawrence Lee in the front bunch made a well-timed attack just before the hill, he got a part gap and almost held out team mate Chris Hughson, but was pipped at the post. Mr Consistent J-P finished strongly for 3rd.

B Grade

By Pete Morris

I arrived early at Rocco Drive to get a feel for this new circuit. Admittedly I trolled Ray Russo's Strava post from earlier in the week when he tested the circuit. His posted profile appeared similar to the Loop, which is a plus for us Wednesday regulars; however, in reality it is probably a tad less technical and has the makings of a safe yet demanding crit circuit, with an uphill finish that would take a bit of getting right.





A small but strong 11 lined up for B Grade. Walter (Dodgy Back) Savini was looking strong on the hill in the warm-up and it wasn't long after the start that he broke off the front. I hesitantly covered his efforts and it wasn't long before we were all back together. Nick Tapp, Craig Stannard and Webby were looking attentive and it became evident that I didn't have a lot of these chases in me, so I assumed a more sedentary role towards the back of the bunch.

Other than a few half-hearted surges, the race was pretty well under control until Edwards attacked and quickly disappeared off the front. The hill, which was coming around every minute-and-a-half, was obviously hurting us all. There was little or no interest in chasing down He Who Doesn't Know His Limitations. So, with what we thought was a race for 2nd, the bunch settled into a rhythm of sorts and delegated the relatively new B Grader, Max Kornhofer, to drag us around. With about 10 minutes to go, we noted Edwards pulled over at the finish line. I'm not sure why, but maybe he does have limitations, or perhaps he is just avoiding the Wrath of Mackie and an A Grade promotion.

With darkening skies and the threat of imminent rain, the lesser grades' bells began ringing, signalling a shortened crit. Sure enough, it was evident that our moment of truth was not long off. Max, seemingly not content with doing the lion's share of the work, attacked just prior to the bell. Again, no one seemed up to chasing him down so, with our bell tolled and the sweeper at the bottom of the hill safely negotiated, it was time to pick a wheel. To my left there was Nick Tapp – he seemed not too keen on leading out. To my right was Webby, who appeared a little more eager to step on it, so onto Webby I went, and he led me into the final left-hander and promptly died. Oh well, he offers bugger all draft anyway. So it was my turn to have a crack. With a pretty big gear I somehow managed to wind it up well enough to hold on for 2nd. Chapeau to Max for a strong race and well-deserved win.

Thanks to all helpers and marshals, the coffee van and the brewery for hosting our post-race presentations and imbibations. Also thanks to

Colin Mortley for going to the trouble of finding and making this great circuit a reality. It is much appreciated and I am looking forward many more Rocco hit-outs.

D Grade

By Peter Gray

Tell me why I don't like Mondays.

The answer was simple when I was a child. (Some might argue that's still my status.) The weekends had been filled with so much fun and frivolity that, come Monday morning, just the thought of having to concentrate on something other than games, trains, bikes and getting up to mischief was sufficient excuse to drag the bed covers over the head and return to 'The Land of Nod' despite Mum's insistent calls of 'Come on, you'll be late for school'.

So, what's this got to do with a cycling race? Well, here I am, some 50-odd years later, and nothing much has changed except now it's Maya who prompts my exit from slumber.

Last weekend (that's the one penultimate to Christmas) was such an enjoyable and carefree affair that I'm not looking forward to returning to the humdrum of work.

I guess it's kind of like returning home from an overseas cycling holiday. You've conquered the Alps, Pyrenees or whatever, and frequented enough bars and cafes to know they exist for drinking and talking. Anything less just seems acutely mundane.

Sunday's inaugural graded scratch race at Rocco Drive was one of those races that should be remembered and recalled in years to come (for all the right reasons). Despite a 'high probability of rain' forecast right upon our starting time, the conditions were pretty mild as 60-plus riders departed for their neutral lap, under the diligent eye of referee John Thomson.

If ever there was justification for a settling-in period, this was it. While the triangular-shaped circuit seemed simple enough, the two bends at the bottom end of the course required a cautious and measured approach. It took a while to get the





hang of fast cornering in bunches, not to mention selecting a suitable gear for the sharp rise on the other corner.

So 'off we rolled' for an hour of fun and frivolity. It wasn't Flanders, but we were all determined to perform well in the final aggregate points race of 2018.

The early laps went fairly quickly, with Greg Harvey taking the initiative for setting a high pace up the short incline, gaining speed down the long descent, through the sweeping left-hand bend, along the flat, then do it all over again. The only predictable respite for us occurring when a higher grade was overtaking at the top end (highest elevation) of the circuit.

Max Michelson went to the front after Greg, saying in a 'post-race interview' at the Beach Hut Brewery that he just intended 'to have a wiz-bang time' (to paraphrase Max). Just between you and me, I think he meant that he likes to inflict a lot of pain on the rest of us.

Chris Norbury was reliably holding 2nd or 3rd wheel for the race duration, so I figured he would be a good one to follow.

Ken Allan was holding cards close to his chest, and I wondered if this had something to do with the closeness in points between the two of us. A win for Ken today would find him equal 3rd if I were not to place.

As the bunch headed up the inclined Jellico Drive bend, Juanita Stumbles (demonstrating some of the benefits of cycling the mountains of Spain) initiated a surge around the outside and led us, might I say pretty darn fast, for a couple of laps. A strategy even Jens Voigt would be content with. While the rest of us were shouting, 'Shut up, legs!'

Number 101, Ron Gillies, turned the screws a bit further following one of Nick Hainal's explosive attacks.

Max kept popping up at the front despite a steadily increasing headwind into the start/finish straight. Juan politely suggesting that he desist from 'time trialling'. Funny! I seem to recall a certain Graham Cadd receiving that same request several years ago at Casey Fields.

It was around this time Neil Cartledge found himself off the back but he managed to close the gap in typical (diesel-powered) N.C. style.

About 40 minutes had passed and the sky to our north-east was looking dark. Drops of rain had begun to wet the roadway, potentially making the bottom bend dangerous. Referee Thomson decided to start 'ringing-in' the grades.

Having rehearsed several high-speed descents during the warm-up, I was keen to open up the throttle on the bell lap, in order to get enough momentum around the Rocco Drive bend to carry me up into the finish without too many gear changes. This didn't go strictly to plan, because Ken showed his hand by rolling off the front just before the bell. Max was not responding so I jumped on Ken's wheel. It was a moderately fast descent but I was determined not to overcook it prior to the uphill finish into that headwind.

With a couple of hundred metres to go, Chris flew past and seemed destined to lead over the finish line. Just as quickly as he overtook the sprinting hopefuls, Chris momentarily stalled due to a gear selection issue, allowing yours truly to zip through for 1st place. It must have been frustrating for Chris as he had looked strong and in control for the entire race.

There were a few names who didn't get a mention today. Geoff Mackay was quiet (until I accidentally cut across his front wheel – sorry about that, Geoff) but still persistent near the front. Don't recall seeing Dan Ives. Last but not least, Zen Gawronski made a special Christmas visit to spectate the Austral Wheel Race and see many of his Eastern buddies.

Well, I think that just about does it for this year. And what a year it has been! Special applause must go to Colin Mortley for establishing this new circuit, undertaking most of the planning, foot and paperwork himself. Everyone I've spoken with is ecstatic about the venue and its future prospects.

Wish all my cycling buddies a very safe and happy Christmas.

P.S. I might get to sleep in next Monday!

Woof.





Croydon Cycleworks Summer Twilight Crit Series, METEC, 18 December

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
A Grade (10)	Steve Ross	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	Rob Amos	Garron Buckland
B Grade (9)	Max Kornhofer	Ray Russo	Walter Savini	Dale Maizels
C Grade (13)	Haydn Chapman	Adam Dymond	Tim Maffey	Dean Tune
D Grade (14)	Chris Norbury	Peter Gray	Greg Harvey	Peter Brann
E Grade (7)	Michael Muscat	Leon Bishop	Phil Johns	--

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 19 December

Division	1st	2nd	3rd
Division 1a (5)	Mark Seddon (N)	Tony Hallam (G)	Troy Jordan (N)
Division 1b (12)	Nick Tapp	Ray Russo	Pete Morris
Division 2 (10)	Russell Wheelhouse	Tony Curulli	Doug Reynolds (GC)
Division 3 (7)	Geoff Forbes (N)	Simon Bol (N)	Neil Cartledge
Division 4 (6)	Michael Waterfield	Barry Rodgers	Laurie Bohn

Thanks to referee John Williams, Dean Niclasen and other helpers.





Future events

Eastern CC 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 until 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 ECC 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 CC events

For details, go to <http://northerncycling.com.au>. Please note that Northern has a new start time of 10 am for road races. Start time for criterium races at National Boulevard remains unchanged at 9 am.

CAMS 2019, Adelaide, 12–17 January 2019

You are welcomed as an interstate rider to this important AVCC/SAMCA event.

What's new?

- A Sprint, Hill Climb and KOM on Willunga Hill (just like TDU)
- You can enter five events: Criterium, Sprint, Road Race, Time Trial and Hill Climb
- Aggregate Mens/Womens trophy with 2nd and 3rd being recognised

Here's what we are offering

- Saturday 12 January: Graded Criteriums at Victoria Park Crit Track followed by Sprints, both using Mylaps timing (\$5 hire covers both events)
- Sunday 13 January: Graded Road Race at McLaren Flat with KOM on Willunga Hill – just like TDU – using Orion timing (\$5 hire)
- Monday 14 January: Individual Time Trial at McLaren Flat using Orion timing (\$5 hire)
- Thursday 17 January: 6 km Hill Climb along Old Mt Barker Bike Track using Mylaps timing (\$5 hire)

We have deliberately kept the transponder hire as low as possible.

The events are being run as close to the city as possible and finished in time for you to get to the TDU.

Road Race and Time Trial are in the McLaren Vale premium wine district in beautiful countryside.

Photos of you racing and on the podium, with results, will be posted on the website that day.

We are asking our riders if they would be willing to host a fellow cyclist from interstate. If you are interested, please contact me: rfreak@bigpond.com.

The usual attractive prize money, recognising more riders in bigger fields; giveaways; incentives for being there at presentations.

Nominations for CAMS events are now live on the SAMCA website: <https://www.samc.org.au/cams/>.

Robert Freak – CAMS Race Director, on behalf of the CAMS committee





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