



Eastern Cycling Club

15 June 2019

Newsletter

Duty Roster

Saturday 15 June, Yarra Glen
Richard Dobson (R), Nick Hainal (TC), David McCormack (TC), Steven Davis, Sam Curry, Mick Jamison, Rob Castellani, Graham Haines, John Eddy, Phil Cavaleri

Saturday 22 June, Jindivick
Andrew Buchanan (R), Graham Cdd (TC), Juanita Stumbles (TC), Ross Bowlby, Andre Weber, Tony Lateo, Lisa James, Andrew Mapstone, Greg Harvey

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.

Banner photo: Pete Morris

Editor: Nick Tapp
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Last Saturday's racing was blessed with good weather but showed yet again why Gruyere is an ideal circuit for the Toy Bricks Toughen Up series. Scroll down for results and race reports, and keep going to see series points after round 1.

Racing this Saturday in round 2 of the Toughen Up series is at Yarra Glen. The desk will close at 1.45 pm and racing starts at 2 pm. Registration and parking are opposite the cemetery on Glenview Road. Don't forget to charge your tail light. As usual, you can sign up ahead of time via TeamApp. Next week we take a break from toughening up and instead we race at Jindivick.

There's been a slight rejig to the allocation of prize money – see **News etc.** Also there is a tribute from Keith Bowen for Alan Sandford, a founder and long-time stalwart of the club, who died last week.



Don't weigh 100 kilograms between them, you say? Of course they do – but probably not 200. The B Grade podium on Saturday suggests that Gruyere is no place for carrying excess weight.



Graded scratch races (Toughen Up series round 1), Gruyere, 8 June

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd
A Grade (7)	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	Alex Randall	Tony Kimpton
B Grade (15)	John Blyth	Liam Oliver (N)	Nick Tapp
C Grade (12)	David Griffin	John Williams	Steve White
D Grade (11)	Ian Michelson	Des Brown (ACT)	Don Steward (Eur.)
E Grade (4)	Jason McCoy	Ken Allan	Geoff Miller

B Grade

By Nick Tapp

Sometimes we get a bit set in our ways and don't realise it. Then something changes. What changed at Gruyere on Saturday was that four Northern CC riders were among the 15 who signed on in B Grade.

Most weeks there is some chest-puffing and sizing each other up on the Killara Road hill, maybe some action on the first little pinch on Medhurst Road, and seldom much in the way of really aggressive racing on the rest of the circuit. Unless Chris Ellenby is there, in which case anything could happen at any point, and probably will.

But the visitors from Northern are not there most weeks, and clearly didn't know the drill. Two of them in particular – Liam Oliver and Craig Harvey – set a punishing pace from the drop, and kept it up for the best part of three laps. I wasn't the only one to observe that this felt like a recon for the Tour de Metro, and that B Grade looked like being tough for B Graders once again this year.


John Blyth was there too, and took to the front with apparent ease up the hill on lap 3, which impressed the visitors and may have prompted a change in their plan. Then on lap 4 (I think) Paul Webster rode away strongly

up the top one-third of the hill and set up a handy gap. For someone who doesn't express much love for hills, he made it look easy. Personally, I was fine with that at this stage of the race. At least Paul was 'one of us', and it remained to be seen whether he could stay away for another eight laps, or would even want to.

After the first lap, the ascents on Killara Road had not been super fast, but the constant pace elsewhere on the circuit meant little relief and not much chance to recover before the hill came around again. I think this was making life difficult down the back, and when lap 6 was the quickest so far, and the pace up the hill was faster as well, it spelled the end for Dean Niclasen and Walter Savini. Pete Morris and John Clarkson, who we haven't seen much on a bike recently, may have come unhitched even sooner.

By now Paul had sat up at the top of the hill and rejoined the group for the rest of the race. Ian McGeoch was still there and stirred the pot with a strong attack from time to time. Chris E. appeared from down the back and did what he does, and at least three of the Northerners – Liam, Craig and Adam Williams – were also still in contention. John B., Craig Stannard and I made nine, and I think that was it by the last few laps.





With a couple to go, Chris attacked from the back on the descent towards Killara Road corner and threatened to do what he does so well, which is upset everyone's plans for an orderly procession towards a bunch sprint. But he didn't do enough to keep the climbers at bay, and by the bell it was business as usual. Time to take a last drink, tighten the shoes and prepare for the reckoning.

John went early on the ascent, looking as if the gradient for him was somehow down instead of up. A few weeks ago, John rode away from us the last time up the hill, but 'Ant +' Netkow chased and caught him before the line. Not today. The only one to mount a serious response was Paul Webster, and he appeared to labour by comparison. The rest of us picked it up as best we could – and, as usual, some could not. By the top a select group had all but gathered in Paul, but John was gone.

I may even have led down the hill – one of very few forays on the front for the day – but on Cahillton Road it was Paul who towed us along. Closing on John, who we could at least see, but not close enough. At the hump, with a couple of hundred metres to go, Paul swung off and I was again briefly on the front, going full gas this time, before Liam came past on the right. Ian was there too, further over, but I found enough space to edge up on the inside of Liam and keep my wheel in front of Ian's. So a deserved and comprehensive win to John, a well-earned 2nd place to Liam, and 3rd for me.

Thanks to referee Col Mortley and all the day's marshals and other helpers.

C Grade (I)

By David Griffin

First-time writer, long-term cyclist ...

Gruyere – love it, hate it or just trying to survive it. Feeling the latter, we set off in

beautiful weather. Chatting at the start with El Presidente Adam, he was hoping to survive till around halfway. Not saying so, so was I. Last time here I got dropped on the small climb on Medhurst Road on the third lap, so it would be fair to say I had trepidations about what was to come.

As expected, with some lighter bodies and strong riders in the group, there was a consistent attempt on virtually every lap to split the group at various parts of the circuit. As the race went on, I found my groove on the rise up Killara Road and at times felt stronger closer to the top.

Last lap was quick from the get-go, no time to catch ya breath – as I expect B Grade is every lap? On the tight right uphill corner on Medhurst Road, there was a clash of wheels directly in front of Kym Petersen and myself – no falls, no time to think about it as the group stretched out down the other side – but just as quick it came back together at the start of the rise on Killara Road. The group started with a steady, solid pace up the rise until Johnny Williams felt in the mood and took off, which set the cat amongst the pigeons. Trying not to redline myself before the top, I backed off and went over the top around 5th or 6th, with the front rider 10–20 metres ahead. Still trying to get my breath back, and feeling comfortable with the gap, we cruised down to the corner of Cahillton Road, only for Kym to yell out from behind for me to pull my finger out. With a couple of strong pulls we cornered well and had caught the leaders.

Sitting 3rd or 4th wheel, there was an attack on the left (way, way too early). I grab the wheel, taking me up the front, only for Kym P. to attack on the right (again, way too early). By the time I reined in Kym, it was still too early, but I had to go and was lucky to hold off the ever-persistent, fast-finishing and cagey Johnny (B. Good) Williams.





C Grade (II)

By Sam Curry

Although I'd competed in a couple of criteriums over summer, Saturday was my first road race with Eastern Cycling Club since joining up in February this year.

Arriving early and greeted with sunshine, I decided to drive a lap of the course before the gun. A relatively straightforward anti-clockwise loop, it all seemed too easy, but I couldn't shake the feeling I had forgotten something. This feeling proved to be right in a light-bulb moment when I arrived at registration holding my credit card and no cash. Adam was good enough to give me until the following week to 'pay up' and I collected my bib number 66. Route 66, I thought. Like the sound of that!

I went back to my car with a sense of relief. Then my back light decided it didn't want to turn on. The guy who parked next to me was a godsend and introduced me to Nick (Hainal?), who offered me his spare. Thank you again, Nick!

At 2 pm we were under way. There were 12 in our bunch and things started fairly comfortably. An effort up the Killara Road hill, a reprieve on the descent and easy into the

headwind on the flat. That was about the order of the day for the first five or six laps. I looked back a couple of times, and after an hour there were still nine of us in our leading bunch. No one was willing to give a breakaway a go, which was fair enough. I had brief intentions of 'having a go' with two laps out, but with seven Killara Road efforts in my legs I didn't think that was wise. A big guy in green pushed up the hill on lap 6, but come lap 7 the effort seemed to have zapped him and I thought that could be me.

Before we knew it the bell went, and still no one attempted to break away. Although Killara Road does provide an opportunity to get away, a descent into the final turn tends to nullify any effort up the hill. This was my post-race summation – my 185 bpm effort up the final climb and lead into the final turn was in vain as the bunch pounced with 500 metres to go. First one, then two, and after that I lost count of the riders that went by me in the final few hundred metres.

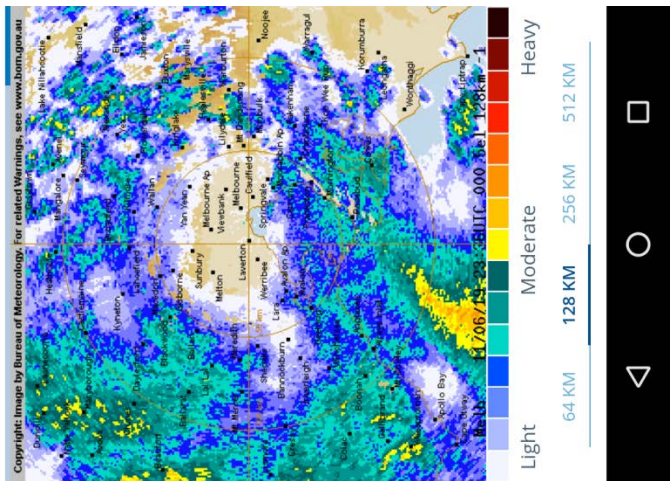
Plenty to learn and still with my road race training wheels on, I still get overwhelmed with how giving everyone is with their time, energy and friendship. Although it's white line fever when the gun goes off, the peloton has your back. On and off the track.

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 12 June

So Wednesday racing this week was cancelled ...



Melbourne Radar
10 mins ago



Vale Alan Sandford



17 October 1936 – 7 June 2019

It is sad to note the passing of Alan Sandford after a battle with cancer.

On the initiative of Alan and friend Jeff Dungan, Eastern Veterans was formed in 1980. Since then, Alan has been a pillar of the Club: he was President from 2001 to 2004, Handicapper in 2000 and a Life Member. After the closure of AFL Park in 2002, he was instrumental in starting Wednesday morning racing at the Loop.

Alan returned from Queensland earlier this year and, on his return, continued to race off limit in handicaps.

Alan was a very talented sprinter, who had numerous wins at various levels throughout his career.

Sincere condolences to Alan's family and friends.

Keith Bowen

Toy Bricks Toughen Up series

After last Saturday's first round at Gruyere, the top 12 in the Toy Bricks Toughen Up series (i.e. anyone who scored more than 1 point) are shown below.

Points	Rider	Points	Rider
5	John Blyth	3	Des Browne (ACT)
5	David Griffin	2	Alex Randall
5	Ian Michelson	2	Nick Tapp
3	Jean-Philippe Leclercq	2	Steve White
3	Liam Oliver (N)	2	Don Stewart (Eur.)
3	John Williams	2	Jason McCoy



Revised prize money

At this week's committee meeting it was decided to rejig the distribution of prize money according to the number of riders in each grade, as follows:

Riders	Prizes
1-2	n/a
3-4	1st \$30, 2nd \$20, 3rd \$10
5-15	1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20
16-20	1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20, 4th \$15
21+	1st \$30, 2nd \$25, 3rd \$20, 4th \$15, 5th \$15

The new arrangement comes into effect this Saturday.

Future events

Eastern CC events

Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <https://easterncycling.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.

Sponsors

