

23 January 2021



Eastern Cycling Club Newsletter

Duty Roster

Saturday 23 January
Teardrop Criterium Track
Nick Tapp (R), Paul Anderson,
Doug Page, Phil Taylor

Sunday 31 January 10:00 am
Bazalgette Dve
John Williams (R), Hylton Preece
(TC), Graham Nicholson, John
Eddy, Marcus Herzog, Martin
Peeters, Franc Tomsic

*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.*
tiptop2@optusnet.com.au

Editor: Peter Morris
pmoz@ozemail.com.au

Welcome members to another year and hopefully a more normal one than than the preceding one. It's good to see many of us emerging from lockdown with good racing form while others are yet to 'peak'. This week's newsletter has some great reports and photos (thanks John Williams) from Saturday's racing and also some information on upcoming events.

Low numbers did not detract from spirited racing in all grades at last Saturday's METEC GSR. Rain threatened and a lazy headwind up the finishing straight quickly saw splits with the strongest riding away to victory. It's good to see some new faces from other clubs and welcome to our new members.

Any contributions to the newsletter can be submitted by Wednesday night to the new editor, Peter Morris (pmoz@ozemail.com.au). Thanks to Nick Tapp for his many years of professional editorial dedication. You leave big shoes to fill.

Graded scratch races, Metec, 16 January

| Grade | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| A Grade (8) | Glenn Newnham | Jean-Philippe Leclercq | Steve Ross |
| B Grade (6) | Paul Webster | Paul Firth | Craig Stannard |
| C Grade (7) | Ian Smith | Peter Webb | Ken Saxton |
| D Grade (10) | Justin Van Tol | Jason McCoy | Ivana Cicchelli |
| E Grade (4) | Danielle Van Tol | Harry Hibgame | John Wilson |

A Grade

By Glen Newnham

One of the many great things about bike racing is that everyone races differently. Endurance and power aren't enough. If you're smart you can take advantage of your strengths and exploit the weaknesses of others. When you're on the wrong end of those tactics it's pretty frustrating.

The rain was threatening at METEC last Saturday, but it was the head wind on the straight that was going to be the main factor. I know some people hate METEC, but I love the bumps and tight corners because it always seems to produce an interesting race with lots of surging and breakaway attempts. There were ten in A grade at the start, including Pete Morris and Steve White who'd been promoted after some strong breakaway performances in B grade.

We rolled around for the warmup laps, and then just continued at a surprisingly slow pace, with the regulars happy to let Steve W and Pete M pull us along. Gooch had a couple of surges off the front and after a few attempts Steve Ross decided it was all getting too boring and went with him. After a couple of laps, they had almost the length of the straight on us. JP was sitting at the back and I was keeping an eye on him, but nobody was

looking like chasing. Dean Nicholson asked "how much gap are we going to give these guys? I was thinking the same thing, so I put in what I thought was a pretty decent attack. After half a lap out of the saddle I was only 10m behind the front two, but I looked around and everyone had come with me. Damn!

Gooch was obviously feeling good because he kept jumping off the front, with Steve Ross and Rob Amos both going with him at times. The rest of the group were playing tactics though and sitting back. At about half race distance I took my turn going off the front with Gooch and we started rolling some turns and building a gap. I was beginning to think we might be able to stay away, but then Gooch yelled "they're on us". I looked around and it was Steve Ross and JP. "Perfect combination" I thought, but JP had other ideas. For a breakaway specialist like JP there were too many sprinters in the group. To be honest, given our recent battles just having me in the group was probably one too many sprinters. JP was going to play to his strengths, so he sat on the back of our breakaway and continued the games. This frustrated Gooch who was just keen to stay away from the rest and make the breakaway work, but no "encouragement" was going to work on JP.

After a couple of laps JP attacked over the bump and we lost Gooch. After another couple





of laps JP put in a stinging attack down the straight and we lost Steve. JP had one more attack left, and he used it over the bump to try to ditch me. It wasn't quite enough, and we did the last couple of laps together preparing for the inevitable sprint finish. I was feeling pretty confident and let JP lead out into the wind. It was a tougher sprint than I'd anticipated, and I only just managed to get half a wheel ahead by the line. Steve Ross had kept his head down and finished a well-deserved third place.

There were some words exchanged after the race about tactics. In true ECC style the conversation ended with respectful handshakes and the conclusion that as long as we race safely then the tactics are part of the game.

Many thanks to the important people; those who keep our club and our races running safely. Well done to JP for another tough race, congrats to Gooch for animating the race, and to Steve White and Pete Morris on a strong showing in A grade.



A Grade with Race Faces on. Photo: John Williams

B Grade

By Mark Edwards

Wow, it's been a long time since the last race report. I'm glad to be back in the saddle.

Cycling goes through a lot of phases and fads - the current one seems to be tough touring. I see on Strava a few nutters like Pete Morris doing crazy stuff, rough riding on brumby tracks. Others suffer the cobblestone lanes on the Melbourne Roobay. Whenever I feel the need to loosen a few fillings, jar the back and bounce my bum I head out for an hour at METEC to bump and grind and dodge and weave, and I've saved on a fancy CX bike. What a ride.

And so our local Blackburnish bunch met up and headed out to METEC, quite a few of us except for all the ones who didn't turn up, so it was just me and the hard headed Craig Stannard rolling along The Dandy Creek, just getting a METEC softener with the tree roots under the tar. Sign in, strap on, easy peasy, but there's only six of us so no points and not as much hiding as I would have liked, in the dodgy cold windy "summer" Melbourne weather. No pain no gain.

We start out hard, with top gun Paul Webster looking to give a grand farewell B Grade performance before returning home to A Grade. 45kph, just showing off really, no sign of A Grade behind. Some hard laps and he flicks the elbow. Stannard is ever keen, he's that kelpie pulling on the leash. Paul Firth and I take a few turns but Firthy hasn't really warmed up and is struggling. Peter Mackie and Kym Petersen settle in at the back to hang on. There's some early hard breaks. Who goes off solo with 50 minutes to go? Webster does, with that sly smile, enjoying dishing it out. Craig just forges across, I jump across knowing that's all I'm gonna have, spent in 15 minutes, and suddenly there are three of us away. Well away. Miles away. We





can almost see their backs we're so quick. I'm knackered so I tell the boys to ease up, we are safe. About a hundred meters of softer pedalling and here comes Firthy, dragging the other two across. That was some effort, I thought he'd never get back, I would have pulled out in whiny tears if I'd been gapped like that. Firthy starting to warm up but it's taken a savage toll on Mackie and Kym who get spat out a lap or two later.

Now it's four in a team time trial, much harder than a race where I can normally do a lot of wheelsucking. Webster is enjoying himself coz he's doing it easy. Stannard is loving it coz it's so hard. His pin up boy is Rob Amos. If you look at the pictures you can see Firthy and me hurting, and I can't focus properly. After about 45 minutes I can't take a turn anymore, especially into the block headwind, so I sit on and tell the rest I'm not gonna sprint. Not that I could anyway. I did take the odd desultory turn before being swamped again.

Craig Stannard is an Instrument Technician by day. He knows the measure of things. He knows about fast and slow, and he knows, the whole world knows that Webster has got rocket legs in a sprint. So Craig goes away, again and again, usually surging from the front, over the lump. The Energiser Bunny. Near the end he almost got away, but Firth brought us back. The bell was blessed relief, I was happy to camp on the back (Kym P had jumped on the back after recovering a lap down and was mothering attack orders, I worry about her kids) and watch Rocket Man stand up, spin up, click up and win easing down, Paul F a well deserved second and the War Horse a spent third. I thought about jumping Craig but it wouldn't be right..and there were no points on the line.

A tough ride home, spent. Gooch took it easy on us but the little hills seemed like mountains. Shower, couch and whisky, but not in that order. Later that night, the WhatsApp Locals

ping. A Grade winner Glenn Newnham says who wants to go for a ride in the hills tomorrow? A few are in. For me it was, ummm, yeah nah.

Thanks to all. And to Paulie W, give us a wave as you fly by. It's been nice racing with you.



B grade inflicting A grade pain. Photo: John Williams

C Grade

By Peter Webb

I think there were only seven starters in C grade, due to the early inclement weather which would have deterred many from entering. We started at a reasonable pace for a few laps with most having a turn on the front. I thought this was a good idea and was happy to roll around swapping turns. But there's always someone who wants to spoil the party and that someone was Ian Smith. Ian jumped and I quickly got on his wheel, next to come was Ken Saxton followed by Hilton Preece. Hilton was already suffering from his effort to get across to us and when I surged again that put paid to Hilton. So now it was just the three of us with about 35 minutes to go before the bell lap. We organised ourselves and starting to roll turns with great effect. In working together we created a large gap and towards the end of the race we were able to relax a bit and turn the speed down to a comfortable level. On the last lap we held our places and waited for the sprint to happen. As we rounded the top corner onto the finishing straight Ian led out and deservedly took the win with Ken and myself riding for the minor placings. I came second and Ken placed third. Thanks as



always to those on duty for getting most of the water off the track before racing began and also to the officials for making the race happen.



Webby in control. Photo: John Williams

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 20 January

| Grade | 1st | 2nd | 3rd |
|--------------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| A Grade (9) | Alan Adams | Tom Crebbin (H) | Iain Clark |
| B Grade (15) | Ross Clark (N) | John Hasouras (N) | Terry Hollibone (N) |
| C Grade (7) | Trevor Rim | Paul Meehan | Mel Humphries-Grey |
| D Grade (10) | Tanya Simpson | Tony Renehan | Phil Curtis |
| E Grade (5) | Shane Dwyer (N) | Meredith Kelly | - |

Croydon Cycleworks Summer Twilight Crit Series, METEC, 20 January

| Grade | 1st | 2nd | 3rd | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|---------------|
| A Grade (12) | J-P Leclercq | Tyfun Urgasbul | Glenn Newnham | Max Kornhofer |
| B Grade (7) | Ray Russo | Dale Walton | Sam Bruzzese | Tim Maffey |
| C Grade (10) | Peter Ransome | Dave Brown | Brendain Wain | Hylton Preece |
| D Grade (9) | Kristopher Masters | Philip Tamszewski | Peter Brann | Keith Wade |
| E Grade (2) | Harry Hibgame | Kath Simpson | - | - |

David Richards announced this seasons prizes. With over \$2500 worth of value spread over the top six places, the CCW Summer Twilight Crit Series will no doubt be hotly contested. David and the CCW team have been sponsoring this series for over 15 years. Thanks as always for your support. Please make sure you support CCW with your custom.

Top Six Prizes

Wahoo KICKR Core RRP\$1250

Road Ultimate Service & Bikefit RRP\$500

PRO Digital Torque Wrench RRP\$350

100% Sunglasses RRP\$250

Pirelli Tyre pack (Tubed or Tubeless) RRp \$220

CCW Gift Voucher RRP\$100





News etc.

Race Entries

Race entries for Tuesday night and Saturday is online via Entry Boss <https://entryboss.cc/calendar/ecc>.

Future events

National Road Champs, Sunday 7 February: Ride from Ballan to Bunningyong.

For the last 7 years a group of Eastern riders have met up at Ballan Station to ride 35k to the Nationals at Bunningyong, and then make the return trip after the events have concluded. This has proved to be a fantastic ride, and provides the following benefits:

- * No parking problems - plenty of space at Ballan Station, just a few minutes off the Hume.
- * Get to see the Nationals AND get your own ride in (Just under 70k return)
- * Leisurely start - No need to be up at Sparrow's. Leave Melbourne around 7:15 for an 8:30 Depart from Ballan. That will get us to Bunningyong in time for breakfast near the finish-line before the halfway mark of the womens race. We then watch the entire men's race on the Hill and the big screen.
- * Safe, low traffic ride through attractive "undulating" countryside.
- * Nobody gets dropped

Let John Williams know if you are interested: John.Williams@jhw.com.au or [0419 713 087](tel:0419713087)

Ballan is a 70 minutes drive from Camberwell.

Eastern CC events

Please refer to page 1 of this newsletter, or go to <https://easterncycling.com/event-calendar/>

Note: Graded scratch race entries are accepted ahead of time on Entry Boss <https://entryboss.cc/calendar/ecc>. 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. 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.

Wednesday racing at the Teardrop/Loop is still cash on the day with registration closing at 10:00 am and a start time of 10:15 am. Cost is \$4 coins or a \$5 note. No change is offered due to ECC Covid Safe procedures.





Eastern Grand Prix women's race

Saturday 1 May is the ECC Womans Grand Prix at Casey Fields. This is a multi race womens only event with more details to follow. So mark this in your diary and spread the word. If you're female, 30+ years of age and would like to give this road road racing a try, get yourself an Australian Cycling license and come along. Casey Fields is a closed circuit so is a safe place to learn the art of cycling!

The poster features a central logo consisting of three stylized mountain peaks in shades of blue and green, with a white silhouette of a cyclist in motion to the right. Below the logo, the text 'eastern CYCLING CLUB' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, with 'eastern' in green and 'CYCLING CLUB' in blue. The event details 'Saturday May 1st 2021' and 'Casey Fields' are centered below the club name. Three promotional phrases are arranged around the central text: 'Save the date!' on the left, 'closed circuit! new fun format!' on the right, and 'give racing a try! it's just for women, 30+yo with current AC race licence.' at the bottom right. The top of the poster reads 'Eastern Grand Prix' and '3 races in 1 day brought to you by'.

Eastern Grand Prix
3 races in 1 day
brought to you by

Save the date!

*closed circuit!
new fun format!*

**eastern
CYCLING CLUB**

Saturday May 1st 2021
Casey Fields

*give racing a try!
it's just for women, 30+yo with
current AC race licence.*

Northern CC events

For details, go to northerncycling.com.au. Please note that Northern road races start at 10 am on Sunday; start time for criterium races at National Boulevard is 9 am.





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