

01 May 2021

Eastern Cycling Club

Newsletter

Duty Roster

Saturday 08 May

**Toughen Up Series, Race 1,
Gyere, 2:00 pm**

Mark Edwards (R), Neil Cartledge (TC), Rob Lackey (TC), Max Michelson (TC), Jason McCoy, Paul Webster, Rob Birch, Phil Taylor, Shane Dwyer, Keith Wade Trevor Rim.

Saturday 15 May

**Toughen Up Series, Race 2,
Jindivick, 1:30 pm**

Richard Dobson (R), Ian Smith (TC), Ray Russo (TC), Kirsty Johnson Cox, Sam Curry, Paul Firth, Perry Peters, Paul Anderson, Geoff Miller, Darren Woolhouse, Doug Page

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



Wow! The inaugural Women's GP was a massive morning of racing at Casey Fields. Three races were contested, a hot lap, a GSR and an elimination race. The smiles on the riders faces said it all. Thanks goes out to all who helped to make this day such a success. That includes our generous sponsors: Croyden Cycle Works, Snooze Nunawading/Tempur, BikeGearNow and Engagement Matters. The organising committee went above and beyond to make this day possible and the army of volunteers did an awesome job making everything happen. Then there is all those who brought a plate on the day to feed the hungry masses. Here is a link to photos of the day's action: [Photos](#) Full Race Results here: [Results](#) The to finish the day was an ECC GSR followed by a BBQ (thanks Peter Gray!).



Women's GP, Scratch Race lineup, Photo: Peter Morris

Also this week Ron Stranks has been good enough to provide a couple for stories from 'Yesteryear'. I will publish these over the next couple of weeks. See the News section below for Ronnie's amazing account of the shenanigans at the first amateur meet after the 1956 Olympic Games.

This Saturday marks the first race in the Toughen Up race series at Gruyere proudly sponsored by Dean Niclasen and Toy Bricks.

Casey Fields, GSR, 01 May

Grade	1st	2nd	3rd
A Grade (10)	Alan Adams	J.P Leclercq	Alex Randall
B Grade (13)	Paul Webster	Marcus Herzog	Brendan Farrell/Craig Oliver
C Grade (11)	Steven Saunders (NC)	Doug Reynolds	Peter Mackie
D Grade (9)	Peter Gray	Ken Allan	Tony Renehan
E Grade (3)	John C Wilson	Phillip Johns	Neil Cartledge
F Grade (3)	Martin Deeley	John Eddy	Ron Stranks

Casey Fields, ECC Inaugural Women's GP, 01 May

Results and Photos

Full race results for all of the Women's GP races can be found here: [Results](#) . All photos of the day's action can also be accessed here: [Photos](#)

Letter of Thanks

From Kym Petersen

I would like to extend a big thank you to all Members who contributed so generously to helping cater the Women's GP.

I was truly overwhelmed by the number of plates that were brought out to the track!

We even had some Members bring not one, but two offerings!

It was lovely to see all the ladies (and men) sitting around after the event, plates full, chatting, eating, drinking and smiling away. The atmosphere was so welcoming and being able to enjoy such a variety of homemade goods and the like, well it was wonderful!

Thanks again for contributing to such a successful event!

Kym



Kym Petersen, setting the pace in the A-Grade Scratch Race

C-Grade

From Paula McGovern

Well we ordered the perfect weather for our first Women's Grand Prix. It has been 2 years in the making (due to COVID) and it was so satisfying to see an idea that we floated and sent to the ECC committee come to fruition!! Mega kudos to the committee for backing this idea. I always believe "Build it and they will come". (could be a good line for a movie).

Forty-one ladies signed up for this event and unusually for me I was in the C grade (oh yeah!!). We had 13 ladies in this group with varying degrees of experience racing but we had a hoot!! The "Hot Lap" was well, hotly contested! With all riders finishing with 51 seconds of each other!! Kirsty Johnson Cox was equal quickest with Genevieve Graham (who travelled all the way from Wagga Wagga to race) on 3:37min.

Anna Harrison from Footscray won the crit from Kirsty (who was riding it like an ITT at the front) and Genevieve. These 3 ladies were so strong!! Anna backed it up with a win in the Elimination race with Genevieve hot on her heels. I am sure if Kirsty could have stayed for the final race she would have featured at the pointy end there too.

The C grade ladies had so much fun and were very supportive of each other all morning. I loved mingling around with them between and after the races to get their thoughts on the format. I had asked if they enjoyed the day and it was resounding YES!!!

I can't say enough about the support we received from the ECC members. From ride marshalling duties, to photographers to ref duties, holders and especially the food – you guys really came to the fore!! Big thanks to Barry and Helen Beachley for looking after the food service and keeping us COVID safe and to all the partners, kids and supporters who were cheering from the sidelines. I think we demonstrated that if we can provide a safe, friendly and supportive environment we can get more women to race!

I know that a few guys were itching to have a go at this format – I reckon it could work at a club race day to mix it up. Why should the girls have all the fun??? 😊

Finally, a big shout out to the gals in the organising committee. A wonderful, persistent and great bunch of people – You all rock sistas!!!

Over and out.

Paula McGovern



Paul McGovern, all smiles in the C-Grade Scratch Race



Briefing of just a few of the marshals and volunteers that made the day happen. Thank you all!!!

A-Grade

From Kym Petersen

The Weather Gods truly shined upon us last Saturday for the first ECC Women's GP. It's a pity the Gods of Coffee did not show us the same love. After a last minute cancellation by our long-ago booked van - and I do mean last minute as I received a text from Madam Secretary at 4.20pm Thursday arvo - calling for help. It took me the next 24hrs to contact every person I have ever known even remotely connected to the coffee industry, plus those **in** the industry, to find someone. This new booking was confirmed by 4pm Friday night.





However by about 9/9.30am on Event day, our cute little coffee caravan had packed up and headed back from whence they came - broken generator in tow.... All was not lost, just a slight hiccup to the start of the day....

We had a fantastic turnout of 41 women for our Event, all lining up to give our 3-race format a go. A Grade Women had 5 starters, a little on the light side but perhaps next time we shall grow our Group!

The Hot Lap kicked off proceedings and indeed it was Hot. Going flat stick for 3-4 mins requires a measured and controlled effort. Anyone that knows me will attest to my loathing of time trialling and true to form I buggered up this effort entirely! Dean N held me on the start line, my OCD kicked in and I politely asked him to centre me. Left or right he says? Wasn't happy with the lean, but once he'd squared me up, it was time to head off. Round the first corner I'm then up and out of the saddle, trying to get over the gear, but in the process going out way too hard. As a consequence, my legs and lungs were heaving as I hit the 'wiggles' or the back twisty, uphill section. A moment of settling down and trying to keep up the RPMs. Straight into the back straight and round the corner to head uphill into a slight headwind breeze, nothing too sinister but enough to say hey, I'm here, push against me if you will. Left turn into the finish straight, the clubhouse finishing straight this time for our spectators, and the torture was over. Thank goodness, not sure my breakfast was going to stay put for much longer. Managed 8th overall, Caitlin Wade rode a fantastic Lap to take out first place, great effort indeed.

While the results were being collated, there was lots of chatting and post-race huddles going on, with all of us keen to see how each went and what they thought of it. So far, it was all very positive, the adrenaline of the Hot Lap and the pleasure at being out in the sunshine, was quite evident.

Onto the Crit, 1hr for WA, not an insignificant duration off the back of our lap of torture. As there were only 5 of us, everyone shared the load but most active in our bunch was Suzy. There were relentless attacks, might've been my imagination but a lot of these seemed to happen in front of the clubhouse. I was determined to not get dropped in full sight of our supporters! Rae also joined in with some blistering efforts but no one was allowed to get away. That was until the bell lap! Suzy once again put in a leg zapper, Rae managed to get on her wheel and I thought I would wait for someone else to chase but I guess at this point in the race, the fatigue levels were very similar amongst the now group of 3 chasers, myself, Caitlin and Dale. We watched them ride away, putting a handy gap between us. Poor Caitlin, we did leave her sitting out the front for virtually that entire bell lap. Fair to say that Dale and myself have probably raced just as many crits as Caitlin has had MTB events, so we sat in for as long as possible, using our race craft to dodge a turn at the front! The end was always going to come down to sprinting it in and I was interested how the finish in front the clubhouse would go, as I'm used to hitting that last lefthander and just giving it 'what for' in the usual uphill finish. So I waited a little more patiently this time, tried to shelter from the headwind, then took off before the end of the long straight, rounded the corner in 1st position and managed to hold off Dale in the sprint for 3rd.

Onto the Elimination Race and yes, the legs were starting to feel it by now! With only 5 of us starting, it did mean that we had the advantage of not having to do as many laps as perhaps some of the other Grades. We all started off together and I knew that the front was exactly where I didn't want to be. I can be a crafty bugger at times and had no issue in positioning myself exactly where it counted. Each lap I did enough to get in front of the last person. Didn't matter where I was as long as I wasn't last!



The last lap came down to Dale and myself and once again, I found myself at 2nd wheel. I decided to go a little earlier this time and used the tight left-hander to slingshot outside of Dale, rounding the corner on her outside, totally into the wind but the best position to be in. I rounded the final straight and could feel that she was behind me but on the other side of the track. I'd taken the long way home, on the far right, but it worked and I managed to hold her off to the line. Nice to have the CCW girls in 1, 2, good for the sponsors!

The day was rounded out with final presentations and the post-race feed which was plentiful!

A massive thanks to all on the Race Committee that worked super hard to bring this event to life. The Club Members that pitched in on the day - whether that be on setup/packup duties, helping serve / cleanup catering, ride Marshals - a massive thanks to Andrew and Pete M, you both looked to be having a wonderful time out there. To the support given to the ladies on the Concierge desk, helping with general enquiries etc....everyone did a stellar job.

To my Mum and Dad, Helen & Barry, that supported me with the catering which basically allowed me the time to race, thank you enormously.

To all that gave of their time to support this fantastic event. You made it the success it was and it is greatly appreciated.



What a Spread! Barry & Helen distribute the goodies. Thanks to all who brought a plate and those who helped on the table.

Wednesday GSR, Teardrop Criterium Track, 05 May

Grade	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	4 th
A Grade (15)	Mark Adams (N/A)	Mark Seddon (NC)	Ben May (GMBC)	Jodie Lindstrom (CobCC)
B Grade (15)	David Rooke (NC)	Nick Tapp	Val Usatoff (CCCC)	-
C Grade (7)	Doug Reynolds	Rebecca Williamson (BruCC)	Doug Page	-
D Grade (8)	Peter Gray	Ken Allan	Kerry Gigante	-

News etc.

Toughen Up Series

This Week marks the start of the Toughen Up Series. Special thanks goes out to Dean Niclasen and Toy Bricks for their generous support. So it is Wiry Whippet Season again which is also the time for all those beefy Crit-sprinters to Toughen Up! Or in your editor's case a perfect time to be out with injury! The first race is at Gruyere, then we head out to Jindivick, then it's Yarra Glen and the finale is back at Gruyere. For the second race, keep in mind The **Jindi Caf** for a pre-race lunch/coffee/drink. The Café has relocated across the road from the old General Store and is now opposite the hall at 1070 Jacksons Track. The menu looks pretty darn good, especially that award winning home made Passionfruit Sponge Cake.

Web Page: <https://jindivick.com.au/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/TheJindiCaf/>



Covid Safe QR Code

We now have a QR Code that needs to be scanned by all non-riding attendees/spectators on race days. Riders entered for race do not need to scan.

Wanted

Second hand 56cm men's road/race bike.

Potentially a bike that you have upgraded from.

Doesn't have to be flash, just suitable for a young rider getting into crit racing.

Please contact Dale Walton on:

0409 943 663 OR

dale@designeq.com.au

Thanks,

Dale Walton

Rostering

It seems all clubs have experienced reduced membership in recent years. This means that we churn through the duty roster faster. In past years a member would be rostered for marshalling maybe twice a year. This year, for us to hold a full winter road season, your rostered duty is more likely to come up every four months or so. It is important that we all fulfill our duty obligations, or arrange a replacement if you cannot (see procedure below). The frequency of duty for our traffic controllers and referees is even greater, so spare a thought for them.





Duty Roster

A friendly reminder to all club members. If, for some reason you are unable to fulfil your roster responsibilities, it is your responsibility to find a replacement marshal to swap with AND then notify the duty co-ordinator (Andrew Buchanan) preferably within 72 hours of your scheduled duty. If members need the phone number of a potential swap, contact Andrew Buchanan.

Call for Additional Race Day Facilitators

The role involves directing the marshals to their pre-determined (road course) locations 1 hour prior to the race. With this role you can still race on the day. Contact the duty co-ordinator (Andrew Buchanan) if interested in helping.

ECC on Instagram

Eastern Cycling Club has cast its social media net further and now has an Instagram page. Be sure to follow your club to access photos, news etc

Tales from Yesteryear. The night the Sh*t hit the fan.

By Ron Stranks (written 01/09/2001)

Preface: '2021 marks 65 years since the 1956 Olympics. The following is a reproduction of a story I was asked to write 20 years ago. *Please note that Alan Sandford and Ivan Collings have now passed away. A highlight of these games was Italian Baldini's incredible Road Race win and his Individual Track Pursuit win in the space of a week.' - Ron Stranks

Olympic Velodrome, the night of 14 December 1956 Little did we know when we arrived at the Olympic Velodrome this night that it would have been the most frightening night in Australian sporting history. More about that later.

I am pleased to say that after nearly 45 years, of the 160 riders who took part that night, only 3 are still racing and all with Eastern Vets*. Our vibrant President Alan Sandford, Ivan Collings and me. There was an L Gibson from Stawell entered who may be Leon Gibson racing with Stawell Vets. There is a strong connection between Ivan, Alan and me, Ivan and I raced on the road together and mostly off the same mark for a long period in the 50's. I transferred to Brunswick in 1959 after 10 years and raced against Alan, who had to give me a start in track racing, he was always a great sprinter. Ivan of course had the wonderful distinction of being a great road rider and has also achieved the dream of all trackies, winning the Austral. This was the night we had all waited a long time for, to race for the first time on the new Olympic Velodrome. The meeting was an all-amateur international meeting commencing six days after the closure of the Melbourne Olympic Games. Members of the Italian team were also entered on this wonderful night of racing consisting of various events.

The Italians were led by the incredible Ercole Baldini, who 7 days previously had destroyed the world class field in the Olympic Road Race, winning by 1 minute 59 seconds from Arnaud Geyre of France and Alan Jackson of Great Britain third. Baldini also held 3 world records, I think one was the one-hour record and I am not sure of the others. Also present was Leandro Faggin, 1 km Track Time Trial winner in record time of 1 min 9.8 seconds. He was also world record holder of the event with a time of 1 min 9.2 seconds. You could not miss this bloke, he was one of those Italians with blonde hair. Faggin also won gold in the Olympic Teams Pursuit. Other members of the were Valentino Gasparella, Antonio Domenicali and Franco Gandini. Guglielmo Pesenti who won a silver medal in the Sprint also raced that night.

So you can see that the Italian team was easily the most successful in the Olympics, with 3 gold, 1 silver and a bronze in the tandem. Never had such a line up of stars raced at an Australian Amateur track meeting, Baldini, Gasparella, Faggin and Pesenti, also our great bronze medallist in the sprint, Dick Ploog, Neville Perkinson (NZ), Jan Buis (Holland), Peter Brotherton (GB) and Fred Marjus (Canada). I must mention that



Australia won gold in the Tandem with Melbourne's own Ian Browne and Tony Marchant, with remarkable time of 10.8 sec for the last 220 yards, and of course Dick Ploog was also from Melbourne. Ian rode for Hawthorn, Tony for Chelsea and Dick, Coburg. All three medals by local boys and by God, we were proud of them. Scratch-men in the Velodrome Handicap were Clive Middleton (Essendon), Peter George (Footscray) and a human powerhouse in John Perry (Brunswick).

By the time the first event is due to start, spectators are hanging from the rafters. At least 11,000 are present in a stadium limited to 10,000. They are packed in like sardines and 10,000 are Italians, come to see their idols in action. In all my years at the Essendon Board track, I had not seen anything like this, an awesome sight.

Racing got underway with a Junior B Grade scratch race of 3,000 metres (9 laps) and contained futures stars in Ron Baensch, Brian Drew and Tassie Johnson. The next event is the E Grade scratch and includes Stewart Doyle, who has made his name as a great cycling announcer/caller. The third event is the D Grade scratch and I get a bit of a buzz to be balloted to carry number 1, Ivan Collings is number 4 and my lifetime mate John May is number 15. I am happy to finish a close 5th after a pretty rough ride. Most riders had not ridden the track before as we were not allowed to train on it. I dug my pedal into the bend coming into the finishing straight. Pretty frightening. Many riders did the same thing over the years at this spot, a small bump on the surface perhaps.

One of the feature races of the night is a Pursuit Match race over 4000 metres. Clive Middleton, the local Essendon rider versus Ercole Baldini. This freakish Italian runs down Clive in about 5 of the designated 12 laps. Baldini was an absolute machine and made it look so easy. I take nothing away from Middleton, he was a great rider. By now the Italian crowd are going crazy, they have got what they have come to see, their man has won the road race and a track pursuit in the space of 7 days, awesome stuff.

Then we have the Velodrome Wheel Race heats, Alan Sandford has 25 yards, Ivan Collings and I have 60 yards, limit is 150 yards. My mate John tells me that John Baker (Brunswick), 130 yards won the final over 3 laps (1,000 metres).

Then at 9:52 pm the second heat of the International Derby starts, Guglielmo Pesenti, John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta are away over 3 laps (1,000 metres). To me Pesenti appears to be riding in a nervous manner in strange surrounds. At about halfway they are working up to about half pace, Pesenti is trying to get a sit on Perry, but Max is helping John and positions himself between them to back Pesenti off. Pesenti doesn't handle it and hits the deck. The fall appears to be a light one, but the Italian spectators go berserk. The roar that went up is unbelievable and continues with abuse and catcalls because Pesenti doesn't get up. He stays down like a soccer player trying to get the offending player sent off. All sorts of missiles start to come over the fence as John Perry, Max Guest, Arthur Bateman and Tony Andreatta come into the front straight. Suddenly the blonde-headed Faggin runs at Perry, swinging a chair at him.

John, who is a big guy and does not take crap from anybody, is off the bike and as the Italian team manager starts to swing at him like a barn door, he grabs his bike by the front wheel and swings it like a golf club at the two of them. After copping a whack, the team manager loses interest very quickly.

This is where we get to the title of the story; The shit hits the fan. The Italian spectators are coming over the fence and we are in big trouble, within a minute it's on for young and old in the centre of the track. The situation doesn't appear to get any better because Pesenti is still sitting on his backside in the middle of the back straight. Maxie Guest is shaping up to them and letting them know he will not take any shit either.

According to Alan they all keep their distance from Maxie, but this time the mob are all getting stuck into the rest of us. Someone yelled out, 'Get in a group. Get in a group', and that probably saved us from serious injury. Think about it, we are outnumbered 10 to 1, and are arming ourselves with anything we can lay our hands on, most guys do what Johnny and I did, arm ourselves with our pumps which were all made of metal in 1956. Two or three have bike chains and suddenly a huge brawl erupts in the main stand. My mates from South Melbourne Pros are right in it, particularly the Brothertons, Keith and Billy. They are doing well until Billy gets bowled down the concrete steps, hits his head and takes no further part. The whole stadium is total chaos for about 15 minutes, with fights, missile throwing and abuse, until the police reinforcements arrive and quickly take control of the situation. In 1956, unlike today, they were allowed to use a bit of force in the

situations like this.

Eventually Pesenti gets up and walks back past me with arms stretched out in front of him. I can see he's lost a bit of skin off his claws and I'm thinking that the pathetic look on his face suggests that maybe he has never fallen before, can't be true. I would like to have ten bucks for every time I have.

The place comes to order very quickly when the fans see that Pesenti is OK and after a quick clean up of the track, racing gets underway again without any further incident.

In closing the story, I must say the 14 December 1956 was most frightening day of my life. Three days before my 21st birthday. Looking back on it, were very lucky that night.

Hope you enjoyed the story.

Ron Stranks.



PESENTI

Italian Rider, Guglielmo Pesenti

Future events

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 in coins or a \$5 note. No change is offered due to ECC Covid-Safe procedures.

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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