

18 December 2021

Eastern Cycling Club

Newsletter

Duty Roster

Saturday 08 January
ECC Graded Scratch Races
Casey Fields
2:00 pm
Susan Williams (R), Russell
Newnham, Martin Deeley

Saturday 15 December
ECC Graded Scratch Races
The Loop 2:00 pm
Mark Edwards (R), Peter
Ransome, Colin Doherty, Roman
Suran.

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 Justin van Tol:
mincka82@gmail.com
Editor: Peter Morris
pmoz@ozemail.com.au

A well-timed cool change swung through METEC just in time for the qualifying scratch races of the Christmas Handicap. It was good to see a sprinkling of family and friends. A few kids pitted their bike skills on the course before and after the races and enjoyed the delicious BBQ after the race. Plenty of strategy was on display in the qualifiers, with many riders saving their energy, having consolidated breaks in their respective grades. No hiding in the handicap though, with sprinter-extraordinaire and Club Champion, Paul Webster taking the bickies. Riders from A, B, C and D grades made up the minor places, attesting to the brilliance of our handicapper.

Photos from the day can be accessed here: [Xmas Handicap Photos](#)

An extended medal presentation was included in the post-race festivities. Medals were presented for the Xmas Handicap, the Road and Crit Champs and of course the Club Championships.



Limit let loose in the Xmas Handicap

The next weekend race is on Saturday 08 January at Casey Fields. So in the interim, here's wishing you all a very merry and safe Christmas.

Finally, see the news section below for details of a group ride from Ballan to watch the Buninyong National Road Championships.



Note from outgoing Editor

This will be the last newsletter under my watch, but don't despair. Mark Edwards and Steve White are ready and willing to take over editorial duties. Be sure to support your new media barons by keeping the contributions coming. Thanks to all who have contributed over the last couple of years. I have enjoyed compiling this rag and gaining an insight into our diverse member base.

Merry Xmas All, Pete Morris

METEC, ECC Christmas Handicap, 18 December

Place	Name	Grade
1 st	Paul Webster	B
2 nd	Steve White	B
3 rd	John Williams	C
4 th	JP Leclercq	A
5 th	Mark Edwards	B
6 th	Alan Adams	A
7 th	David Brown	C
8 th	Sam Curry	C
9 th	Max Kornhofer	A
10 th	Kath Simpson	D
1 ST unplaced female	Danielle van Tol	F





B Grade

By Rob Lackey

Saturday kicked off like any other, wrangling kids to sport whilst running errands around the place.

One thing that did catch my attention was the wind! The temperature was fine and I love a good warm one like the next racer, but that wind!!!

A gentle cruise out to the track didn't allow for any race tactics to be discussed as it was something that we would get round to once there... well at least I thought so.

Occupied with a couple of punctures along the way, we got to the track and everyone seemed to go about their business. Whilst the numbers were a lot lower than what would be seen on a typical Tuesday night, I thought this will be a little challenge in the wind over our 45 minute run.

After what was labelled a 'suicide run' very early in the race I was content to settle in and watch what unfolded but there was hardly any action to speak of. The small group of ten B graders were content to roll about the track perhaps waiting for the bell and then letting all hell break loose.

That was until Steve White let rip closely followed by Craig Stannard. Dangling around a couple of A graders they were just within reach but weren't if you know what I mean. The two A graders had been 'dropped' but were still in contention at positions 4 and 5. My mind was wondering at this point, do I or don't I?

Long story short, I over thought it and probably should have gone for it when it (they) were in reach (well in theory anyway)!

Mark Edwards took off at the right moment and was able to join his colleagues Stannard and White on the front with an ever-increasing gap over the rest of us.

Now, toward the pointy end of the race, there were two positions up for grabs and no one was really making a concerted effort to clamber the

three-away back to the main group. Jack Smith had a nudge but the group maintained itself and it became a procession.

Thinking, thinking, thinking what to do! The wind was a factor here so what could I do I asked myself on the front leading the B grade Christmas parade. I gave it a red hot go but felt that these efforts would be useless given as to how close everyone seemingly stuck to my wheel. I later found out that I should have persisted with that attempt or had another couple.

Down to the last lap and I resigned myself to trying to win one of the remaining positions in the sprint- a tall ask but I was up for it.

A good lead out by Jack, Corey had gone and I just couldn't come past Paul's wheel, in fact I hadn't come close.

A few lessons learnt in that one and extremely proud of the boys who made it through to the final and nailed it!

A big thankyou to those who arranged the day. There was a lot of work that goes into an event like the XMAS Handicap and I would say it all went off without a hitch.

See you next year that little bit wiser



Rob Lackey, 'Thinking, thinking, thinking'...Photo: P Morris





B Grade

By Mark Edwards

Riding to the race from Blackburn with the local crew, I should have driven. Young, fit, fast, toey. It was hot. I wanted to cruise in but instead got a bunch of Strava PRs and a flat instead.

The first scratch race went according to the no plan I had, though others did, hard men Stannard and White away, then way a way, me tagging along trying to slow them down, save a bit for the real thing but these boys don't know how to ease up. White for his first win in B, then Webster and Williams, the sprinters, rolling the rest to complete the five. Just the one sprinter would have been better? Never mind.

The four-lap handicap blast.

We sorted a plan. Craig and Steve and I would roll hard turns to try to keep away. Hold Corey and Paul back to jump on A if they came by. Wash off C if we caught them. Wax the money, all in. Nice.

C Grade in front of us. The dodgy brothers. Especially Johnny W, he's trouble. Tough, fast and sneaky. Paul James maybe. Dunno. D and E Grade often bring out a smokey.

A Grade behind us. Oooh, real racers. Adam and Adams, the other White, plus JP and Muscles Maxie, the most powerful Franco-Austrian marriage since Josephine, even if the Bishop couldn't be at the altar. No consummation. Tough love for A Grade, and a lucky break for B.

D and C getting held, clipped in, track style. Beauty! I'll have some of that. Click up four gears, roll down to the line and wait to clip in. Hello? Anyone? No-one. Damn. With two

seconds to go someone, Dean I think, grabs me but it's too late. Neither cleat in. Wrong leg on and a big gear. Two-one-Go! Bogged down on the line, it's 50m and five seconds lost before I get going, and I'm the lead out! Steve's had a similar issue, Craig rolls through and we start working, not really sorted 'til about the rail crossing. C is outta sight. We start working, Craig and Steve are a twin motor freight train, I pull some turns. Corey, where's Corey? Near the end of lap three we catch D and C together, big top turn, and sneak past, but not fast enough. I should have stayed in the gutter but messed up and rolled down, felt JBG latch on and thought if I ease off, I can shed him but the blighter only swung across onto our train. Last lap, Craig pulled a monster turn, dropped all of C except Johnny, then he pulled out, job done. I'm cooked, Steve takes over again, he's got a bit left, somehow. Webster's sat licking his lips, fresh legs, hanging on to Steve's seat post, armchair ride. Still no A Grade? We're a chance here! Bloody Johnny, my legs have turned to mush, I really wanted to beat him.

Down the finish straight I ease down, I could carry the bike home from here. Quick shoulder check. Oh-oh, someone's coming, and fast. Not far to go, he's miles back, no chance! Up ahead JW stands up and looks like he might roll the exhausted Steve so Paul W does what he has to do, one insouciant kick and rolls home. Our White for a brilliant second, Williams third, damn C Grade, how did we let that happen? I'll be fourth, easy peasy, the line's just there. Yeah but no but yeah but. That Frenchie Frog comes bounding down, faster and faster, I start pedalling again but nothing happens and just before the line JP flies by. So fifth. Yeah happy with that, we





finally found Ginga Ninja and shared the cash, all good.

Handicapping by Peter Mackie worked well, hard job, and I think all Grades got on the extended podium. B Grade, the best grade, with three of the top five. I reckon everyone can agree that's a great result.

Thanks to all, another fun year of racing.

Hope to see you all again in 2022



The frog gets the hop on Mark

Photo: P Morris

B Grade

By Rob Suter

Christmas Handicap 2021 - a tale of three parts

Casey Fields (the usual venue for this calendar regular) comes to METEC: 30C and strong and gusty S-SW winds. At one stage riding past the traffic lights as I shifted hand position the front wheel was almost taken out from under me (aka Chris Froome and Harry Hibgame).

Part 1. Last millennium, as I started in cycling the racing was a constant diet of handicaps, the racing style said to give everyone a chance. Except if you're on second scratch - as I usually was - where the bunch was also

known as 'chop', as in chopped up by scratch (the best riders) week in, week out, and spat out the back. If you could hang on and scratch didn't 'get up', then second scratchers couldn't contest the sprint for the consolation prize of fastest time. If scratch did ride through the field, then the seconders were unlikely to feature in the money, even if they'd been able to swap turns all day with the scratchmen. Handicaps were won by the most even bunch that had the most riders consistently taking turns, with the sprinter with the freshest legs at the end winning the race. Then they'd split the winnings amongst them, also known as 'being in the chop'. So, seconders rarely got to see any prize money.

Fast forward to this century and I joined the AVCC movement, which ran almost exclusively graded scratch races, also said to give all riders a chance (graded scratch apart from the rare race at Eastern, or the VVCC Opens). Although, with the top three of the Club champions for 2021 all being B-graders, I'm not sure any others got a look in often!!! But there was the peculiarity of the Christmas Handicap; one part, a graded scratch selection race, the second part a leg-burning, heart-stopping 4-lap handicap. I've watched many of those latter races from the sidelines to overhear the oft repeated refrain from those who had ridden too hard in the selection races to be able to finish the handicap with their co-markers: "The legs were dead: I just blew up". My observation was the winning grade was the one who could put their strongest 3 or 4 into the final, along with their best sprinter (or two), all having ridden an easier selection race.

Part 2. METEC 18 Dec 2021. Lining up with half the B-grade bunch behind the regular start line I suggested THE game plan:

"Roll around then let Steve, Mark, (Big) Craig





and possibly (Young) Rob go with 10 to go, then let Paul (W) and Corey sprint it out for the remaining places in the final.”

Off we set for 40 or so minutes under Tony’s direction, and after the neutral lap Young Rob tears the script up, and sets off for four suicide laps solo. Steve and Big Craig do a bit of the work to bring them back, then I set to work re-establishing THE plan, spending the next 15 minutes on the front or at second wheel sheltering Steve and Paul and others. Craig tried a variation for a bit. Then Steve set to it over the rise, chased by the others and I was gone; trying to get on over the hill the next lap when Steve formed the break with Mark and Big Craig; 5 minutes early, but sort of THE plan.

A lap or two solo watching the race unfold amongst the other grades, then try to circulate with the Newnham Bros for a few, then back to grandstanding.

In A, JP, Max and another had broken the field apart early on and proceeded to lap the group circulating behind them, then stupidly rode away to contest the sprint. Another rider chased all day in between; and Nathan did a power of work in the chasing group and got up in the sprint for the last place in the A-grade bunch in the handicap.

In E-grade Neil spent the race 200m ahead of the rest of the field to get his desired win. C- and D- seemed to do the group approach well, riding as a coherent bunch(es) for the sprint, but not guaranteeing having their strongest in the handicap.

The three away in B shared the work, and on the bell lap (to use the parlance of horse racing) were eased up before the line, riding the final 200 in a conservative 48 seconds flat! The remaining B-grade riders also circulated conservatively, to the chagrin of C-; before

Corey bit the bullet on the bell lap taking off before the hill to secure the fourth spot in the B-grade bunch. Meanwhile, Paul W does just enough to secure the final spot, showing his superiority and experience as a sprinter.

Part 3. The Christmas handicap, as viewed from the bleachers.

The race panned out as in previous years: all those earning footnotes in the selection race were gapped sooner or later; although the three A-grade strongmen did get into the money, there wasn’t enough in the tank for them to reel in Steve who gave Paul the perfect lead-out. They did catch Mark 20m from the line when his legs died, leaving Paul to take home a double chainring set for Xmas. Time for the drinks, chinwag, presentations and BBQ of vege burgers, rissoles and snags, but no chop!

PS I trust this report doesn’t lead to next year’s edition having the five slowest scratch races on record!



Rob with plenty of Christmas Spirit but no chop

Photo: P Morris



B Grade

By Steve White

Paul Webster was a man with a plan. Recruit the strongest riders from the selection race to deliver him to the finishing straight for "B Grade" glory. Roaming around the registration desk like The Batchelor at a rose ceremony- he rounded up Craig Stannard and Myself. Get away together, the others chase and Webster sprints his way into top 5. That should give us a Handicap team with a combination of horsepower (Clydesdales) and firepower (Cheetahs)

We roll off from the start at a very sedate pace, then Rob Lackey puts in some hard laps but doesn't manage to get away. I'm worried that the Blackburn crew might throw some combination attacks. Stannard pushes the pace at the 20-minute mark and we get a gap. This might be a bit too early for the two of us but then I realise Edwards AKA "The Silver Fox" has joined us.

Three or four hard laps and the gap continues to grow, so we settle into a more comfortable pace to conserve energy for the handicap.

The three of us cross the line, with me in first place as the others jam on the brakes. The sprint from the bunch is Corey and Paul Webster rounding out the 5.

The plan for the handicap- split the money, and we all do some work. Stannard, Edwards and I roll turns while the sprinters sit at the back drinking champagne, waiting for their moment.

First lap and Mark has taken it out hard, negotiating his way around sink holes and fault lines, Craig follows. Corey went off to look at some coffee beans and we didn't see him again. Around lap 3 we catch a large bunch – I don't get a good look but see a lot of Blue hats, some yellow, Mark goes wide around the bend onto the ripple strip, we get past them and onto the bell lap- Webster calls out- "Its just us now", so I give

it 98%- unsure if anyone is left ahead of us, and hoping to stay away from A grade.

Into the home straight and the road is empty- "Let's Go!" Webster says, as he powers past me, Jonny B Good in my wing mirror, and surely A grade must be closing in fast, but I dare not look back.

1st, 2nd and 5th for B Grade, Great teamwork, and a hugely fun event- thanks to everyone involved in organising it.



B grade work horses; Steve Craig and Mark. Photo: P Morris

C Grade

By Sam Curry

With mid 30's forecast and strong winds those who entered Saturday's Xmas Handicap were going to have to earn the cold drinks on offer post-race.

With the temperature peaking at 34 degrees C, the warmup was more of a mechanical check. Most riders had peeled off to the starting area by 1:50 pm seeking shade.

Ivana Cicchelli whom had ridden with all the way from Ivanhoe carried that momentum into the first few laps to chase down Peter Mackie and then established a break with yours truly on her tail. Not perturbed by the conditions she yelled out "it's a little early but let's get going". Inspired by her attitude I gave the thumbs-up and we quickly





established a lead. B grade was going through its own break up affair with 5 riders away. The remaining B grade riders weren't chasing meaning it wasn't long before we rode up onto them. Paul James had joined us up front but only to let us know that rules stipulate we couldn't pass. Forced to sit up and let B grade ride ahead the remaining C grade riders bought the grade back together in quick time.

The next 30mins went by with only a couple of attacks from Peter Mackie (good on you Peter) and John Williams

The bell went for the last lap and Peter had timed another attack to perfection and he led the peloton by 7 seconds. Ivana was second and me on her tail. Turning into the left hander and a strong wind a couple of riders went BANG and it was a race to the finish. Ivana and I went from top 2 to bottom 2 in a flash. Peter ran out of puff around the rail-crossing while Paul James and David Brown had booked their ticket for the final a long way out for EPO-charged sprints. I pipped a rider for 5th and it was off to the handicaps.

Four laps of the smaller loop meant roughly a 5-6min all out pursuit. E and D grade went off and then it was our turn to roll tuns as best we could. Paul James was encouraging and gave us all a good verbal prep of what was about to unfold. B grade caught us with 1-½ laps to go and it was only David Brown, John Williams and I who were able to pivot past a couple of D grade riders and jump on their charge. JP went by around the final turn with Max hot on his tail. John unleashed his sprint again to get on the podium (3rd) while David Brown nabbed 7th. I took 8th and was more than happy after only just scraping into the final. The handicapper did his maths with all grades represented in the top 10 bar E grade.

Great hospitality was on offer after the race with bread, sausages and free soft drink provided. Thank you to everyone who made

Saturday possible and making my partner (Samantha) and son (Alex) feel welcome.



Ivana inspiring Sam to 'get going'.

Photo: P Morris

C Grade

By John Williams

The tortoise was being interviewed by the cops after being mugged by a snail.

"Can you tell us what happened?" asked the cop.

"It all happened so fast" replied the tortoise.

I know how that tortoise felt. One minute I'm leading C grade past D and E around the top corner, with only a lap and a finish straight to go, when wham, three B graders fly past, deep in confident discussion on how to split the winnings.

Mark Edwards peeled off, Steve White took the lead with Paul Webster tucked in so close he could have been performing a colonoscopy.

Dave Brown and I jumped on Paul's wheel, with Mark dropping in behind us as the bell rang for last lap. Steve led for most of the last lap, being the final leg of Webster's formidable lead out train including Corey Williams, Craig Stannard, and the aforementioned Mark Edwards.

Turning into the finishing straight, I heard the discernible sound of Paul clicking into his cleats as he commenced pedalling and stormed past Steve to take out a glorious team win. I was





praying I could hang on for 3rd when, all too late, I realised I could get past Steve for 2nd. I was drawing alongside as we flashed over the line with JP closing fast. It would have been robbery if I had got past Steve, but I would have taken it.



All happening so fast for John Williams. Photo: P Morris

METEC, CCW Summer Series, 21 December

Grade	1st	2nd	3 rd	4 th
A Grade (10)	Daniel Bishop	Steve Martin	JP Leclercq	Kevin King
B Grade (22)	Kon Skordilis	Scott Barrow	Darren Woolhouse	Mark Edwards
C Grade (10)	Chris Law	Devon Boyd	Richard Knight	David Brown
D Grade (7)	Ken Bone	Ron Gillies	Anthony Cox	Chris Norbury
E Grade (2)	John Wilson	Neil Cartledge	-	-

Wednesday criterium at the Loop, Yarra Boulevard, 22 December

Grade	1 st	2nd	3 rd	4 th
A Grade (7)	Russell Newnham	Alan Adams	Zac Anderson	-
B Grade (9)	Michael Hartman	Ross Clark	Dean Niclasen	-
C Grade (8)	Tony Renehan	Anthony Martin	Walter Dapcich	-
D Grade (7)	Mel Humphreys-Grey	Phillip Curtis	John Wyatt	-
E Grade (2)	Shane Dwyer	Neil Cartledge	-	-



National Road Championships, Buninyong, 16 January

A group of riders will once again be riding to Buninyong to watch the Men's and Women's National Road Champs.

Meet at Balan Station at 8:30 am on Sunday 16 Jan

Ride 32 km to Buninyong in time to watch most of the women's race, grab breakfast in the town.

12:30 pm: Men's race starts. Watch race from various vantage points on the course, including the famous Col d' Buninyong.

Around 5:30 pm, at the culmination of racing, 32K ride back to Balan for the drive home.

All welcome. No drop ride.

Interested. Text John Williams 0419 713 087, and he will provide more details.



Buninyong Action

*****Call for Traffic Controllers*****

We need more traffic controllers to run open road races. Without TCs we can not safely and legally race on open roads. If you are interested in completing a TC course please contact Andrew Buchanan tiptop2@optusnet.com.au

EntryBoss – Reminder for Members

This is a reminder for clubs using EntryBoss – please make sure members are changing their Membership details from any previous legacy membership number (that is not in use). To their AusCycling (AC) membership number. If a member is having trouble changing their details in EntryBoss they can contact support@entryboss.cc

Members can find their membership number:





In their confirmation email on the top right hand side.

Once a member downloads their digital membership cards.

Croydon Cycleworks Summer Series

Here's the prize list. Thanks Dave and CCW for your generous support!



Summer Series Prize List

1st	Kickr Core	\$1,249
2nd	CCW kit	\$350
3rd	Shimano RC5	\$250
4th	100% Sunglasses	\$220
5th	Pirelli Tyre Pack	\$200
6th	CCW Free Service	\$150
7th	Muc-off cleaning pack	\$100
8th	Road Tube Pack	\$60
9th	CCW Gift Voucher	\$50
10th	CCW Gift Voucher	\$25





ECC YouTube Channel

Thanks to Mark Edwards, your club now has a YouTube channel. We are looking for usable footage from members to upload, on or off the bike, old or new.

- * Please subscribe, we need 100 subscribers to get our own channel name
- * Channel link is: youtube.com/channel/UCaBg6iyx_22APIW3tiEG_BQ
- * Looking for volunteers to help Mark Edwards, to create some member videos for keepsake

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.



ECC Sponsors



CROYDON
CYCLEWORKS

The logo for Croydon Cycleworks features the brand name in a bold, italicized, sans-serif font. The text is white with a black outline and is set against a red oval background. This oval is centered on a horizontal band consisting of a yellow line above and below the red oval, all set against a dark background.

TOY
BRICKS

The logo for Toy Bricks features the word "TOY" in a large, bold, yellow font with a blue outline, positioned above the word "BRICKS" in a similar bold, black font with a yellow outline. The text is set against a red background that resembles a brick.

ORIGINAL
ENGINES CO

The logo for Original Engines Co is enclosed in a black hexagonal border. The word "ORIGINAL" is in a large, bold, black font, and "ENGINES CO" is in a smaller, bold, red font below it. There are three horizontal lines on either side of "ENGINES CO".

ENGINE REMANUFACTURING

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eastern
CYCLING CLUB

The logo for the Eastern Cycling Club features a stylized graphic of three blue and green mountains with a white cyclist icon. Below the graphic, the word "eastern" is written in a bold, green, lowercase font, and "CYCLING CLUB" is written in a bold, white, uppercase font on a dark blue background.