

Last Sunday saw nine Griffith Cycle Club riders travel to Wagga to contest the Butch Menz Road Race.

This 72km handicap event had riders from the Riverina and Canberra chasing the trophy and prizemoney on offer from the hosts the Wagga Cycle Club.

Rob Hall put in a magnificent ride to take 5th place with David Alpen not far behind.

Leanne Kennedy and Matt Nugan were the first Griffith riders away in the limit group. They were followed by Kingsley Massey, Nigel Kennedy and Malcolm Blake in group 6.

David Alpen started in group 5 with Jeff Stoll one back in group 4. Peter Budd and Rob Hall both found themselves in group 3.

At the half way point of the race all the groups were still in order but the scratch group were making a big charge through the field. Hall, Budd and Stoll were safely riding with the combined back marker groups.

With 15km to race the scratch group had hit the lead and it was a charge to the finish with over 50 riders in the bunch.

Hall and Stoll were well placed towards the front of the group. David Alpen was riding an inspired race and he too was making his way forward with 5km to the line.

At the final climb 2km from the finish the leaders attacked hard. There was a split in the field and only Hall and Alpen were able to make it into the front group.

With only a kilometre to the finish from the crest of the climb Hall had little time to recover but put in a magnificent sprint to pass many riders on his way to a very good fifth place.

David Alpen capped off his great ride with a top 15 finish and his best effort in an open event.

Matt Nugan put in a strong ride as did Leanne Kennedy in the small limit group. Nigel Kennedy also put in a good ride and was looking comfortable towards the end of the race.

This weekend sees the Club riders contesting the second round of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup. The scratch riders won the first race of the 2011 series so the handicapper shall be out to see another group take the honours.

With many of the Club's riders contesting away rides recently there shall be plenty of strong legs on Sunday. Racing commences at 9:00am with rider registration by 8:45am. Riders are reminded to bring your race numbers.

The following week shall see the Griffith Cycle Club host the third round of the Tour de Riverina with the Dean Carter Memorial Road Race. It is hopeful a record field will contest this event.