

Last Sunday saw the Griffith Cycle Club riders contest the road club championships.

The A grade event over 63km was won in brilliant fashion by Paul Clancy after riding a smart race.

Jenni Massey took the ladies title with Dennis Irvine was crowned the B grade champion after a 42 kilometre race long break away.

Joanne Polkinghorne finally won the elusive championship in C grade after putting in some great early morning training.

There was a strong eleven rider field in A grade who faced 6 laps of the Hanwood circuit. Paul Clancy, Peter Budd, Jed Cutter, Malcolm Blake, David Alpen, Jason Minato, Peter Pearson, Phil Twigg, Kingsley Massey, Jeff Stoll and visiting rider Andrew Snaidero faced off in the very windy conditions.

Snaidero put the pressure on going into the second lap and in the strong cross wind had the field strung out. A number of riders got in to trouble with Massey and Alpen getting gapped.

Blake attacked once the race hit the tailwind and he was joined by Cutter and Snaidero. This trio got the gap to the peloton and moved out to a 30 second lead.

Budd and Clancy were having to do the bulk of the chasing but were given assistance by the other riders to help control the break.

An attack by Clancy on lap three was quickly covered by Budd and they almost closed the gap to the leading trio. The pace went off allowing the chasing peloton to recover and the leaders pulled out more time. Once again the gap moving out to around 30 seconds.

Going into lap 4 Budd decided it was time to close it down and did a big turn on the front, Clancy joined in with a strong effort and it was all back together with a lap and a half to race.

The race was going to come down to a sprint and Blake took the peloton around the final corner with 800 metres to the line.

Snaidero attacked with 500 metres to go and was quickly covered by Budd. Cutter wound up the speed from behind and with Clancy on his wheel hit the lead. Clancy blasted off his wheel with 220 metres to go and set sail for the finish.

Clancy was unchallenged to the line to take a great win. Budd had recovered his sprint to take second from Cutter in third.

In B grade Dennis Irvine attacked from the start and gapped the peloton. Brendan Horton, Jeff Shaw, Frank Signor, Gary Polkinghorne, Neil Warnock, Steve Graham, Jenni Massey and Lyall Mumford were left wondering whether to chase. With 42 kilometres to race it was an audacious attack by Irvine.

With one lap to race Irvine was still in the lead. Behind him an attack by Graham saw Horton and Shaw cover the move and they split from the peloton. Their efforts to catch Irvine were to explode apart with first Graham and then Shaw getting dropped.

Irvine took a great solo victory and can look forward to A grade next year. Horton held on for a solo second place with Shaw sprinting from the reduced peloton to take third.

Joanne Polkinghorne was finally rewarded for all her training efforts with a victory in the C grade championship raced over 3 laps. With a small field to control Polkinghorne was too fast in the sprint from Leanne Irvine in second and Ellen Irvine taking third.

This week will see club riders travelling to Coolamon to contest the fourth round of the Tour de Riverina. With many of the Griffith rider in good form there is a chance of success in the 64km handicap event.

Mal Blake and Kingsley Massey are well placed in the series and a good result could see them jump up the leaderboard. Blake won the last round of the series when he took the honours at the Dean Carter Memorial in Griffith.