

Last Sunday saw sixteen Griffith Cycle Club riders contest the seventh round of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup.

The riders faced a tough wind for the 42km handicap event that was going to see some fast speeds along the back straight.

The handicapper split the field into four groups. The limit group got things underway and started with an 18:00 minute lead. The limit group was six riders strong with Peggy Carpenter, Leanne Irvine, Dick Hore, Peter Stockwell, Ross Blake and Robert Minato.

Group 3 had Matt Nugan and Damien Giason starting on 11:00 minutes and with plenty of work to do with only two riders.

The chopping block group had Steve Bertoldo, Peter Pearson, Phil Twigg and Dennis Irvine starting with a 4:00 minute lead over scratch.

The scratch bunch was also four riders strong with series leader Mal Blake, Jason Minato, Paul Clancy and Jeff Stoll.

At the halfway point in the race the limit group was riding well. Leanne Irvine and Dick Hore were doing a lot of work on the front.

Nugan and Giason were riding well but with only two riders were struggling to make up much ground on the leaders.

The chopping block group were all riding well with each rider pulling good turns. The consistent pace was working to their advantage and they were making ground on the groups ahead.

The scratch group were in trouble when they lost Jeff Stoll. Clancy was pulling strong turns and Jason Minato was starting to get his racing legs going.

With one lap to race the groups were still in their start order and the limit group had looked to have the race at their mercy. Their wheels were going to have to fall off to not win this one.

Back behind the chopping block group was making ground and they had caught Nugan and Giason and were powering along trying to close to the leaders. The scratch group was out of it although Clancy wasn't about to give in easily.

With the line approaching it was Irvine who timed her sprint the best and she took a great win from Peter Stockwell and Dick Hore in third. Ross Blake was fourth across the line with Rob Minato taking fifth place. Steve Bertoldo took a deserved sixth place and final points after a strong ride. Jason Minato took fastest time honours in 1:01.30.

After the seventh round Mal Blake still holds the series lead with 97 points. Steve Bertoldo moved up to second place with his good ride and 92 points. Jeff Stoll is third with 90 points. Rob Minato has moved up into fourth place with 89 points with Jason Minato on 84 rounding out the top 5.

The next GCC race is the Yoogali Cup to be held in two weeks time.

This weekend sees six Griffith Cycle Club riders travelling to Wagga to contest the 135km Wagga to Albury road race. Paul Clancy, Jason Minato, Kingsley Massey, Mal Blake, Dennis Irvine and Peter Budd are the riders taking up the challenge.