

The 2011 year of excellence just keeps on rolling for the Griffith Cycle Club.

Sunday saw the final round of the Tour de Riverina staged in Wagga and with it the crowning of the Griffith Cycle Club as the premiere Riverina club by winning the prestigious Barry O'Hagan trophy.

The O'Hagan trophy is contested by the five Riverina Clubs throughout the five race series and it is the first time that the Griffith Club has taken the title.

This year has seen many Club riders travelling to race and the trophy was a just reward for the Club as it continues to raise the bar.

Unfortunately Malcolm Blake's shot at the overall series winner was taken out of his control when a rider handicapped in front of Blake won the day and with it the series by the barest single point margin.

Blake's second place deserved more after his two sensation wins in rounds three and four. Blake has improved incredibly in that time and has gone from a front marker enjoying big starts over the field to a back marker and having to chase. A much harder proposition.

Another first for the Club saw it field two scratch riders out of the field of 60 riders. Paul Clancy is getting back to his best and he was joined on scratch by Peter Budd who was promoted to the scratch group for the first time after a series of excellent results in recent times.

Rob Hall, Steve Bertoldo and Kingsley Massey also contested the fifth and final round of the TdR along with Blake, Clancy and Budd but all the riders missed a top ten finish.

Clancy put in a strong ride as did Hall but the front markers combined too well to take all the prizes.

So far in 2011 the Griffith Cycle Club has seen riders win three State silver medals, the Wagga Open road race, the Wagga Open E grade criterium, the Dean Carter Memorial road race, the Coolamon Classic, second place in the TdR series and the Barry O'Hagan trophy.

With riders now backing off over winter in preparation for the spring events it is hoped the excellence can continue.

This weekend sees the Club riders contesting the Hanwood Cup. This trophy race is a handicap event held over 42km and is generally hard for the back markers to win.

With many of the back markers frazzled from a big racing season so far the front markers are a big chance to continue their success rate in this trophy event.

Race briefing is at 8:45am with racing to commence at 9:00am

