

Peter Budd from the Griffith cycle Club won the prestigious Wagga Open road handicap event on Saturday.

Budd was part of a contingent of five Griffith Cycle Club riders who contested the 88km event around the challenging Wantabadgery course.

The course is very hilly with the riders heading through the town centre of Junee before returning through Oura and facing two tough climbs in the last 15 kilometres of the race.

Conditions were also testing with cold, rain and a strong cross wind making the leg to Junee a challenge. The 600 metres of gravel and mud made the ride seem more like a Paris-Roubaix..

Budd was riding off scratch along with fellow Griffith riders Rob Hall and Mal Blake. Jeff Stoll was one group ahead with a 2:30 minute handicap and Jed Cutter was in group 4 with an 8:30 minute handicap.

The scratch group rode well and by the half way point in the race had picked up the chopping block group with Hall riding well.

The next 10 kilometres saw the scratch group pick up every group on the road except for the limit group and they too finally were brought to heel with 20 kilometres to race.

The last 10 kilometres saw a flurry of attacks with Griffith's Mal Blake amongst those to chance their hand. With big money to race for no break was going to succeed and the final climb with 3.5 kilometres to the line saw the peloton all together.

Speeds were hitting 70kph on the fast downhill descent and the line quickly approaching. Jeff Stoll took a tight line up the inside of the peloton and with Budd on his wheel moved towards the front.

At the 600 metre point the Albury train made its move and charged through to the front with their sprinter David Mann ready to be launched to the line.

Budd quickly positioned himself onto Mann's wheel as the speeds picked up to 60kph with 300 metres to the line.

Mann launched his sprint at the 200 metre mark with Budd matching his acceleration on the uphill run to the line. Budd kicked with 150 metres to go and blasted passed Mann to hit the line a winner by two bike lengths. Mann held on for second and Wagga rider Mark Wilson in third.

Budd also took the fastest time honours in a time of 2:02.28 for the 88km race distance.

On Sunday the Wagga Open Criterium races were held and another Griffith riders starred with Jed Cutter winning the E grade event.

Cutter rode in a good position all race and was ready to launch his sprint at the final corner. Cutter had to pass some traffic and brilliantly rode up the inside to take a half wheel length victory and his first open win.

Rob Hall contested the C grade event and was also seen in all the right places throughout the race.

Hall lead the riders across the line with one lap to race but was shuffled back after some attacks along the back straight.

Hall put in a good sprint to take eighth place but just out of the prizemoney.

Peter Budd was promoted to B grade after his success the day before and was the only rider over 50 amongst a peloton full of flat bellied youngsters.

Budd was racing well and was always in a good position inside the top 10 riders.

With ten minutes to go in their forty-five minute race the rain started to fall and a five rider pile-up quickly resulted on the slippery road.

The rain continued to fall with the riders still committed to the cause and a race to be won. Budd finished in seventh place in his first time in a B grade Open event since 1985.

This weekend will see Jennifer Massey and Peter Budd travelling to Sydney to contest the second and third rounds of the Cervello Masters Super Series at Eastern Creek.

Both Massey and Budd are in good form with both recording wins over the weekend and hope to continue that success in Sydney.