

Last Sunday 14 riders braved cold conditions to contest the fifth round of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup.

Russell Webb took a handy 8 point lead in to the 42km handicap event and was looking for a good result to consolidate his position.

The handicapper had split the field in to five groups with the limit group enjoying a 13:30 minute start. Jo Polkinghorne was looking for her first win of the season and she had Peggy Carpenter, Peter Stockwell and Michael O'Meara for company.

The second limit group had new rider Jeff Shaw with Lyall Mumford, Dick Hore and Gary Polkinghorne starting with an 8:30 minute handicap.

The middle markers for the day was the in form Matt Nugan and Troy Peitsch who started with a 3:30 minute lead over scratch.

Kingsley Massey and Russell Webb were the rabbits receiving a skinny 1:00 minute start over the scratch pair of Jason Minato and Peter Budd

The scratch duo were making hard work of catching the chopping block pair but finally had a working group of 4 part way in to the second of four laps.

In the lead the limit group was riding a very good race and were working well together with some nice smooth turns. This riding was going to make it hard for the back markers to get to the front of the race.

At the half way point the limit group was still firing on all cylinders but the second limit group were starting to make some inroads in to the lead. Jeff Shaw was putting in a strong ride in his first race. Steady riding by Dick Hore and Lyall Mumford was keeping the speed up and in the distance they could just make out the leading group.

With one lap to go the back markers had caught Nugan and Peitsch and were in chase of the out of sight leaders. This was not going to be their day.

The race was now down to the two front groups. The limit riders were digging deep to try to keep up the speed. The chasing group behind were slowly reeling them in.

With two kilometers to the finish the catch was made but with tired legs from chasing it was still anyone's race.

The final bend saw Dick Hore powering on the front in an effort to shed the shadows on his wheel. With 200 metres to the line it was Jeff Shaw who kicked for the line. Showing great speed Shaw took a super first up win with Lyall Mumford flashing home in second.

Gary Polkinghorne showed his improving riding by taking a good second with Dick Hore fourth.

Jo Polkinghorne put in a good sprint against the second limit riders and was the first of her group home in fifth place. Peter Stockwell took the final points on offer with his sixth place finish.

Peter Budd took fastest time honours

After the fifth round and his good result Lyall Mumford has taken the top spot with 65 points. Russell Webb just a point back on 64. Dick Hore is third with 56 followed by Deninis Irvine and the first back marker Peter Budd on 46.

That rounds out the top five with a log jam of riders just behind waiting for the handicapper to show them some sympathy.

The next pointscore event is August 8.