

Last weekend saw 18 riders face the starter for round 7 of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup. Russell Webb went into the race with the series lead but Lyall Mumford was looking to put in a good ride to put pressure on Webb.

The handicapper split the field in to five groups. Frank Signor was the sole rider on limit with a 16:00 minute handicap. Big Frank was going to have to ride the 42km race all by himself if he was going to take the win.

The second limit group started on 8:00 minutes with Peter Bastianon trying out a new demo bike with Lyall Mumford, Jenni Massey, Dick Hore and Albert Ravello.

The middle markers had Troy Pietsch Neil Warnock, Brendan Horton and Jed Cutter starting off 4:00 minutes

The chopping block group received a 2:00 minute start with Russell Webb, Kingsley Massey, Phil Twig and David Alpen who was also trying out a flash new demo bike.

At the half way point Signor was still toiling away in the lead. Never before has he done such a long turn. With his eyes on the prize Signor kept the pressure on the pedals and ticked off the k's.

Ravello in the second limit group had found the pace a little hot and had dropped off to his own pace.

The scratch group was working well together with all the riders pulling good turns but it was Robert Hall who was being the work horse. Half way through the second lap they caught the chopping block group and were now in pursuit of the lone leader.

With one lap to go Signor was daring to dream of a great victory but another 10km lay before him.

The middle markers were starting to look like they were the ones to win and were doing a great job in keeping the back markers at bay. The four Leeton based riders were riding well together and showing improved paceline skills as they caught the second limit group. Troy Pietsch and Jed Cutter were powering along.

Brendan Horton in only his second race was working well whilst Neil Warnock was showing his tremendous stamina with some mighty turns at the front.

The back markers had the front of the race in sight but it was going to a little too far to win this race.

Signor had two kilometers to the line and still had a lead of over a minute. He rounded the final corner and with 800 metres to the line could see he wasn't going to be caught.

Signor rolled across the line a gallant victor just as the middle markers rounded the final corner. Lyall Mumford surprised everyone by putting in a slick sprint to take second place with Neil

Warnock in third. Jenni Massey showed a good sprint to take fourth place with Troy Pietsch in fifth after doing a mountain of work. Final points in sixth place went to Dick Hore.

The back markers were sprinting for nothing for fastest time and with 500 metres to the line disaster struck when a touch of wheels at 50 kph brought down Rob Hall followed by Peter Budd.

Unfortunately the ambulance was needed to be called to take Hall to Hospital. Hall ended his race with two fractures of his pelvis and a fracture of his collarbone.

Budd rode his bike home but later in the week found that he had two fractures to his spine to go with some massive bruising and an unwanted rest from the bike. Both riders are in good spirits and are expected to make a full recovery in time.

With his second place ride Lyall Mumford takes back the series lead on 94 points. Russell Webb drops back to second on 91 points. Dick Hore moved in to third with 81 points and is poised to make a move over the final three rounds.

Peter Budd is in fourth place with 74 points but his series is now in doubt. Neil Warnock has jumped into fifth place with his great ride putting him on 72 points. The next pointscore race is 19 September.