

Last Sunday saw the Griffith Cycle Club riders contest round 8 of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup. The 42 km handicap event saw 17 riders contesting the event with another 3 sadly injured riders watching on.

Russell Webb and Lyall Mumford have battled at the top of the leaderboard all season and with Webb out due to injuries it was up to Mumford to secure some points to consolidate his slender series lead.

The handicapper split the field into five groups with the limit group starting with a 13:30 minute lead. Anthony Forlico was having his first race and was out to test his legs. He had the experienced company of Frank Signor and Peter Stockwell.

Lyall Mumford was next away with Dick Hore and Jenni Massey having an 8:00 minute handicap.

Starting on 5:00 minutes was the strong group of David Alpen, Matt Nugan, Dennis Irvine, Troy Pietsch and Jeff Shaw.

The chopping block group was four strong with Phil Twigg, Jeff Stoll, Kingsley Massey and Frank Mastrobattista starting with a 3:00 minute handicap.

The scratch group had Paul Clancy and Jason Minato with a lot of work to do to catch anyone.

Anthony Forlico was putting in a great ride in his first up race and along with Signor and Stockwell was riding an evenly paced race. At the half way point they still enjoyed a good lead but behind them the chopping block group was making big inroads.

Mastrobattista was riding strongly and with the smooth riding of Stoll and assistance from Massey and Twigg they had almost caught the middle markers.

The scratch pair were in hot pursuit but the lack of numbers was starting to tell.

It is always hard for the chopping block group to win a race but they were flying and they had rounded up the middle markers on lap 3 and hit the lead proper before entering the final lap.

Mastrobattista was pulling some strong turns and the speed was being maintained making it difficult for the scratch pair who were still 45 seconds down with 5 kilometres to race.

As the leaders hit the final corner Mastrobattista took up the challenge to powered out of the corner and hit hard for the final 800 metres to the line.

Massey was holding close to his wheel with Stoll next in line. With 350 metres to the line and the win up for grabs Mastrobattista started to fade after his big effort and Massey was left with a tough decision to go early or wait and risk being swamped from behind.

It was go early and 300 metres from the line he kicked for home but Stoll was alert and comfortably sat his wheel. With 160 metres to the line Stoll kicked and showing some rarely used sprinting skills pulled clear.

In a great ride Stoll flew across the line to take a great win. Jeff Shaw put in a strong sprint to take second and Kingsley Massey holding on for third.

Troy Pietsch was close by in fourth place after a good race with David Alpen in fifth and final points going to the workhorse Dennis Irvine in sixth.

The pointscore has seen another change atop the leaderboard with Russell Webb taking back the top spot due to his 14 duty points and Mumford unable to capitalize on Webb not being able to race.

Weeb is 105 points with Mumford on 104. Dick Hore holds on to third place with 91 points followed by Peter Budd on 88 in fourth. Kingsley Massey has moved into fifth place after his good ride on 78 points.

The next round of the pointscore is 10 October.