

Last Sunday saw the Griffith Cycle Club riders contest the penultimate round of the season long Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup.

The evergreen Lyall Mumford has been battling Russell Webb all season atop the leaderboard but has seen off that challenge with Webb's departure to further his racing career in Adelaide.

Was round nine going to throw up a new challenger for one of the Club's most prestigious trophies.

The handicapper split the field into six groups. Dick Hore was given a lift to limit where he joined Frank Signor and Albert Ravello with a 14:00 minute start.

Lyall Mumford was next away on 9:00 minutes with Leanne Kennedy and Malcolm Blake for company.

Troy Pietsch and Phil Twigg were the middle markers for the day with a handicap of 4:30 minutes.

Kingsley Massey, Steve Bertoldo and Frank Mastrobattista were next away with a handicap of 2:45 minutes.

The chopping block group had Jason Minato and Jeff Stoll starting a scant 45 seconds in front of the days only scratch rider in Paul Clancy.

The first two laps of the 42km saw the limit group get into a good rhythm early. They carried good speed with the tailwind legs and kept up a steady tempo into the headwind on the back straight. The steady influence of Dick Hore was providing a good springboard to challenge for the race victory.

Paul Clancy had rounded up the chopping block pairing early on and the trio set about the catching the next group on the road.

The 2:45 group also caught the middle markers midway through lap two with some strong turns by Bertoldo and Mastrobattista.

Heading into the final lap the limit group still held a potentially winning lead over the next group on the road but the final headwind leg could see that lead evaporate.

The back markers had caught the middle groups heading into the final lap but there were only four workers and they needed big efforts from all the riders to haul back the leaders.

Dick Hore was riding a brilliant race from the front and pulling some great turns. Ravello and even Signor could see the opportunity to win and they stepped up their efforts.

Heading into Murrumbidgee Avenue for the final time the limit riders could see they weren't going to get caught and they could now think about some finish tactics.

Turning the final corner Hore jumped on some speed with Ravanello taking over 700 metres out from the line. Signor even pulled through for a turn and with 200 metres to the line Dick Hore launched his big finish sprint.

Kicking hard, Hore opened up a gap and he powered to the line to take a great win from Ravanello in second place and Signor third.

The final three places saw Troy Pietsch put in a super sprint to take fourth from Jason Minato fifth and Kingsley Massey rounding out the top six.

The days result saw Lyall Mumford still leading the way on 114 points with only one round to race. Dick Hore was the big mover jumping into second on 111 points and now a real challenger for the title.

Russell Webb is third with 105 points but that is all he will get with no more races for him.

Kingsley Massey also moved up the ladder and holds down fourth place on 93 points with Jason Minato has moved into the top five with 90 points.

This weekend sees the Hanwood Cup up for grabs. This event is a 42km handicap race over four laps of the Thorne Road course.

Success in the event requires good cooperation from the riders in each group with a commitment to ride hard for the whole race. It then comes down to who has the legs to sprint.

This is a good race for the front groups to challenge for and often sees some inspired riding with a trophy up for grabs. On rare occasions the back markers can be in with a show but it is usually only after riding at race record pace.

Racing starts at 9:00am with riders to sign on by 8:45am at the line.