

Last Sunday saw the Griffith Cycle Club hold its first race for the 2010 calendar after negotiating the minefield called the approval process.

Ten riders faced the starter for the first round of the Griffith Motor Cycle Centre Cup. This ten race pointscore series runs through the calendar of 2010 where the top six riders to finish in each race score points. A riders best eight results determines the pointscore champion.

The series rewards the riders who consistently turn up to race and it helps if they can sprint a bit.

The handicapper split the field in to five two man groups. Peter Stockwell and Peggy Carpenter were the first group away with a 16:00 minute handicap.

Peter Bastianon and Dick Hore were next away with a 10:00 minute headstart. Matt Nugan and Lyall Mumford were the middle markers with an 8:00 minute handicap.

Russell Webb and David Alpen made up the chopping block group for the day and started 5:00 minutes in front of the scratch pairing of Jason Minato and Jeff Stoll.

The wind was blowing down the front straight which meant the black straight was going to be a headwind slog. This is the place the back markers usually make up their ground.

The first lap saw Stockwell riding strongly for the limit pairing with Carpenter also riding well. The second limit group was also riding well and caught the limit pair at the start of the third lap.

Webb and Alpen were powering along and the chopping block group caught the middle markers by the end of the straight on lap three.

There were now three groups on the road and the scratch group was struggling to make up the ground.

The pace at the front was starting to tell on the final lap with first Carpenter and then Stockwell dropping off leaving Bastianon and Hore alone at the front.

Webb and Alpen were getting some help from Nugan and they were reeling in the leading pair but the finish was fast approaching. The scratch pair were out of it and had to be content with a great training ride.

As the line approached it was Bastianon who kicked for the line to take a solid win from Dick Hore in second place. David Alpen profited from some strong work by Webb in the final lap to take third place from Lyall Mumford in fourth and Webb in fifth place. Matt Nugan hung on to sixth place and final points. Fastest time went to Jeff Stoll after the scratch riders saw no one all day.

Peter Bastianon now take the series lead with the second race to be held on 18 April.

Club rider Peter Budd travelled to Sydney with his daughter for a swimming carnival on the weekend and managed to get in a race with the Waratah Veterans. The race was a one hour criterium event with Budd racing in B grade.

The race was hard and fast with many attacks during the race but the finale came down to a sprint finish where Budd was able to use his experience and fast legs to take out a great win against some pretty fit looking masters racers. The riders travelled 42 kilometres in the hour.

This weekend sees the second round of the Tour de Riverina to be held at Stockinbingal by the Cootamundra Club.

This event is the shortest of the TdR events at just under 40 kilometres which means the racing will be very fast.

Griffith Club rider Jason Minato currently lies in fifth place on the TdR pointscore and will be looking for a good result this weekend to move up the ladder.

