

Last weekend saw 16 riders face the starter for the second round of the Griffith Motor Cycle Centre Cup. The riders were faced with 4 laps of the 10.5km Hanwood circuit.

The handicapper split the field into 4 groups. The limit group were first away with an headstart of 9:00 minutes. The group consisted of Leanne Kennedy, Neil Warnock and Dennis Irvine.

The next group away was lead off by Kingsley Massey with Albert Ravello, Mark Dickie, Nigel Kennedy and Rob Houghton having a 4:30 minute start.

The chopping block group was also 5 riders strong with Phil Twigg, David Alpen, Russell Webb, Mitch Harrison and Nathan Wood enjoying a 1:30 minute start.

The scratch group for the race was Rob Hall, Jeff Stoll and Peter Budd.

After the first lap the limit group looked to be in total control of the race. New members Irvine and Warnock were putting in some great turns on the front and setting a blistering pace for a limit group. Kennedy was riding brilliantly well to be able to mix it with the guys.

The second limit group were also riding well with Massey almost back to his best. Dickie was putting in a powerful ride in his first race.

The chopping block group were holding the scratch group at bay and had lost no time after the first lap. Wood was the powerhouse and showing his time trialing skills on the front.

At the half way point the limit group was still in control of the race. They had only lost 2 minutes of their lead and if they could keep the pace going were going to be clear winners.

The chopping block group had started to make a bit of ground on the second limit group and had cut the gap to under 2 minutes. The scratch group were out of the race at the half way point unless a big third lap pulled them back in contention.

Going in to the final lap the limit group were still powering along in the fast time ever set by a limit group. They enjoyed a 4 minute lead over the chasers and were going to win comfortably provided they could keep the pace up.

The chase behind was getting interesting with the chopping block group now having the second limit group in their sights. Wood was still the driving force but he was getting able assistance from Twigg who was a commanding presence in the group. Russell Webb was also putting a strong ride, his best for a while.

Harrison punctured half way round the final lap leaving the chopping block group down a rider. The chase was now on with the second limit group only a hundred metres ahead. Dickie saw an opportunity and attacked from the second limit group and soon had a gap.

Up ahead the race was over with Dennis Irvine taking a great win in his first race with the club. Neil Warnock was just edged in the sprint taking second with Leanne Kennedy showing how much she has improved over the last six months a bike length away in third.

Dickie was now starting to feel the strain. Behind him the chopping block group had rounded up his second limit group and it was going to be a big sprint for the minor placings.

Dickie realized that the line was too far away and chose to return to the safety of the bunch as they sped along with less than 2 kilometres to the line.

As the riders rounded the final corner with the line 900 metres away Nigel Kennedy made his charge attacking hard out of the corner. Unfortunately he didn't take anyone by surprise and soon had the riders lined up on his wheel.

Nathan Wood showed that he had the power in the sprint too with a strong effort to take 4th place with Kingsely Massey putting in his best sprint in a while taking 5th and Phil Twigg edging Webb for 6th and final points.

The club welcomed the five new riders to the club and it was pleasing to see them all put in strong rides in their first up race. The next pointscore event is in a month's time on 30 May.

There are lots of races however with this coming Saturday being the Club's big event, the Dean Carter Memorial Road Race. This is a Riverina interclub event of 60km that commences at 1:30pm on Saturday. It is expected that a field of over 80 riders will face the starter.