

Last weekend saw the Griffith Cycle Club riders contest the third round of the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup.

Matt Nugan put in a superb ride for his break through win with a devastating sprint to the line to demolish his opposition.

The race got underway with overcast skies and with 42 kilometres ahead of the riders it soon turned to rain. By race end soggy socks and soaked backs were the order of the day but it didn't deter the 16 committed riders who faced the starter.

The handicapper split the field into four groups of four riders. The limit group with Lyall Mumford, Jenni Massey, Jo Polkinghorne and Dick Hore were given an 11:30 minute start on the field.

Next group away on 6:30 minutes had Matt Nugan with the Leeton connection of Neil Warnock, Rob Houghton and Dennis Irvine.

Jed Cutter with Russell Webb, Phil Twigg and Mitch Harrison were the chopping block group and had a 2:30 minute start over the scratchies.

The strongest scratch group for quite a while had newly crowned club champion Peter Budd with Jason Minato, Rob Hall and Jeff Stoll looking to profit from the filthy weather.

After two laps and with two to race it was the limit group riding well at the head of the field. Jo Polkinghorne was putting in a great ride and showing that her hard training was paying some dividends.

The second limit group though were making big inroads into the lead with Nugan and the Leeton triathlon trio working very hard. Nugan was providing some valuable advice on how to ride handicap races.

The scratch group had the chopping block riders in their sights but they were a long way from the front of the race.

With one lap to go the second limit group had hit the lead and the weather was making no difference to their speed. The limit riders were now trying to hang on and with a 3:00 minute lead over the back markers the race was theirs to lose.

The scratch riders were doing it tough with no one in sight and not much help being provided by the chopping block riders. This was not to be their race after all.

With the final corner approaching the front runners were still in total command of the race with the back markers no chance of catching.

Rounding the corner with 800 metres to the line it was Neil Warnock who jumped from the corner to put the pressure on. Houghton soon accelerated passed and was followed by Irvine who took the bunch to the 300 metre point.

Lyall Mumford showed a sprightly pair of legs and kicked for the line with 250 metres to go and hit the lead. Nugan was playing it smart in the slight headwind and waited patiently on Mumfords wheel.

With 150 metres to the line Nugan kicked and powered into the lead. Never having been in this position before Nugan could only bury the head and power to the line. He crossed the line clear of the bunch to take a great win.

Mumford held on for second and Jenni Massey showed the guys a thing about sprinting by taking a good third place. Rob Houghton was just off the podium in fourth place with Dennis Irvine fifth and Neil Warnock taking final points in sixth.

Rob Hall took the fastest time honours from Jeff Stoll after a big lead out from Budd and Minato.

The GMC Cup now has three riders leading on 36 points with Russell Webb, Dennis Irvine and Lyall Mumford. Matt Nugan after his big win moves in the fourth place on 35 points and Nail Warnock a point back on 34 rounding out the top five.

This week will see some Griffith riders travelling to Coolamon to contest the fifth and final round of the Tour de Riverina. Whilst no riders are in contention for overall honours a race win will be up for grabs along with a set of wheels from the race sponsor.