

Last Sunday saw Griffith Cycle Club riders contest the Hanwood Cup trophy race. Good racing conditions faced the riders for the 42km handicap event.

Dennis Irvine from Leeton dominated the event with a 25km break away effort that stunned the onlookers and the riders.

The handicapper split the field into six groups. The limit group had a good head count of five riders with Frank Signor, Jo Polkinghorne, Peter Stockwell, Albert Ravanello and Michael O'Meara receiving a 12:00 minute start.

Last weeks winner Dick Hore had been pulled a group and had Lyall Mumford and Jenni Massey for company and a 10:00 minute start.

Leanne Kennedy, Malcolm Blake and Dennis Irvine were next away with an 8:30 minute handicap.

Kingsley Massey and Mitch Harrison started on 4:30 minutes and were in for a tough ride with just the two swapping turns.

Jason Minato and Jeff Stoll were the chopping block riders with a 45 second start over Paul Clancy who once again started from scratch all by himself.

The 12:00 minute handicap to the limit group looked catchable by the back markers however with five riders the limit group once again could have been the group to provide the winner.

Paul Clancy started fast as he always does and had caught Minato and Stoll after 5km of racing. It would take a while longer for him to catch the next group.

The middle group of Irvine were riding well and by the half way point of the race had hit the lead. Denis Irvine attacked and going into the third lap had a lead of 150 metres with only Albert Ravanello for company.

The front markers were all pulling turns to try to catch the leader but Irvine was a man on a mission and was now riding solo after shedding Ravanello.

Clancy had caught Harrison and Massey before the end of the third lap but had to make up 3:00 minutes on the final lap to take victory.

Irvine was showing his enormous time trialing skills and was staying clear of the chase groups. Rounding the final corner Irvine had a 30 second lead over the chasers with Clancy a further 30 seconds back.

Minato and Stoll had buried themselves with big turns for Clancy to try to get him up to the leaders but the line was approaching too fast.

Irvine crossed the line exhausted but an elated winner after a stunning ride. Lyall Mumford took the sprint for second from Leanne Kennedy in third and Jenni Massey in fourth. Paul Clancy was a minute back but took the honours of fastest time.

All talk however was on the courageous ride by the winner and it is many years since such an audacious break away ride had succeeded. Irvine never is never shy about doing his turn at the front and with the triathlon season approaching obviously decided to test his legs.

He succeed with flying colours in taking a great win but as always, the handicapper was watching.