

Last Sunday saw eight Griffith Club riders travel to Coolamon to contest the fifth and final round of the 2010 Tour de Riverina. There were over 100 starters making it a fitting climax to the series.

This 63km event is raced over undulating terrain and is a great test of fitness. The finish of the race provides an uphill sprint which is made worse by another tough hill 900 metres from the line.

Once again the scratch bunch powered through the field after another generous handicap saw them hit the lead with 15km still to race.

Canberra riders filled the first three places with the best Griffith rider Peter Budd finishing in 15th place. Rob Hall was not far behind with a top 20 finish.

Jenni Massey had put in a strong ride out of the limit group and was one of the last riders to be caught by the rampaging scratch riders.

The Club's new Leeton based riders also put in good rides with this step up in racing level. Jed Cutter, Rob Houghton and Neil Warnock all look to have been bitten by the racing bug and are now looking forward to the scratch race series the Tour of Two Rivers in the spring.

Russell Webb and Mitch Harrison showed some good form throughout the race and were in the mix in the final kilometers in the 80 strong peloton.

Phil Twigg started with both Hall and Budd and the speed was on from the start with the group working very well. Twigg put in some good turns through the hilly middle section of the course.

During the series there were 23 Griffith riders who contested at least one race. Jason Minato was the best placed Griffith rider in 13th place from a total of 218 riders who contested the series.

Peter Budd was next best in 27th and Russell Webb right on his wheel in 28th. Budd was also placed 4th in the +45 age category to just miss out on winning some money.

The highlight for the Griffith riders came in the form of Rob Hall winning the major sponsor prize of a new pair of carbon fibre wheels. Hall was the lucky rider to have his name drawn out of the hat from all the other riders who had contested the series.

Riverina racing continues in the spring with the five race scratch series called the Tour of Two Rivers with the Griffith stage being held on 11 September. In the meantime racing continues.

This week will see four riders contesting the Wagga Open. Russell Webb, Jenni Massey, Mitch Harrison and Neil Warnock will be competing in both the handicap road race on Saturday and the graded criteriums on Sunday. With over 200 riders entered for the weekend there promises to be some great racing.