

Last Sunday saw Griffith Club riders travel to Albury to contest the fourth round of the Tour of Two Rivers.

The Bellbridge course is one of the best and toughest in the Riverina calendar and makes for some exciting racing. With the big Bethanga climb to get over the riders need to dig deep to crest the hill with the leading riders.

With two laps of the course to race in the 66km event the riders climbing legs needed to be working overtime.

In the C Grade event Griffith was represented by Jed Cutter, Kingsley Massey, Mitch Harrison and Steve Bertoldo.

The pace was on from the outset and the legs were already starting to hurt when the riders hit the Bethanga climb for the first time.

Harrison was immediately in trouble and just before the top so too was Massey. Cutter and Bertoldo had ridden a good climb to be with the leaders.

Massey put in a strong effort to get back to the bunch only to get smashed the second time up the climb. This time for good. Bertoldo and Cutter were riding a strong race and with the finish looming Cutter put in a good sprint to take fifth place. Bertoldo wasn't far behind in eighth place.

This result sees the consistent Cutter consolidate his fourth place standing in the series and just two points from second.

In the D Grade event Neil Warnock had Louise Strachan, Troy Pietsch, Brendan Horton, Rob Houghton, Jeff Shaw and Dennis Irvine for company.

The Bethanga climb smashed a few D grade legs but Warnock and Irvine survived to contest the finish. Warnock took a strong third place with Irvine finishing in fifth. Rob Houghton made the top ten with his eighth place finish.

Warnock's placing consolidated his second place in the series but is well behind the leader who has won the first four events. Louise Strachan still holds down fourth place.

The next T2R event is in Wagga in three weeks time.

This week sees the Club riders contest the Yoogali Cup. This scratch event is one for the back markers to win as the race sees a mass start.

The 42km event has riders completing four laps of the course and unfortunately there are no hills to provide attacking opportunities.

The raging favourite is Paul Clancy who is expected to dominate the event. Clancy has been slowly coming into some strong form and will hurt many legs with his bursts of speed at the front. Riders will need to be ready for these +50kph efforts.

It is difficult to see anyone who can beat the inform Clancy with a few riders out injured such as club champion Peter Budd and Robert Hall who are both still recovering from a race crash two months ago.

Jason Minato has been struggling with colds and the flue so the edge will be taken off his super sprint.

One rider who could surprise is Jason Austin who recently rode the 228km Grafton to Inverell race so the distance will certainly be no problem.

In the B grade event it looks like the clubs Leeton members could be the ones to watch. These riders having been getting some invaluable experience in the Riverina events and it will be interesting to see how their tactics have progressed.

Look out for Dennis Irvine to try to repeat his Hanwood Cup winning effort.

In the C Grade event it will be down to the ladies of the club to make this race. With the handicapper setting all the clubs female riders into the same grade it will give them and opportunity to put some aggressive tactics into operation.

Look to Leanne Kennedy to provide some fireworks but Louise Strachan has been riding very well in the interclub events.

Albert Ravanello is always a chance and will be dangerous should the race come down to a spring finish.

Racing commences at 9:00am with riders asked to be at the sign on by 8:45am.