

Last Sunday saw Griffith Cycle Club riders contesting the Yoogali Cup trophy race. This event is a scratch race over 42km. Hot favourite going into the event was Club strongman Paul Clancy and it was difficult to see who would be able to resist his challenge.

Step forward Mitch Harrison who turned in one of the best rides seen in the Yoogali Cup. Harrison rode the perfect race and at the end it was Harrison and Clancy still battling it out just 80 metres from the finish line.

Harrison went on to take a superb victory by the barest half a wheel margin. The smile on Harrison face as he crossed the line said it all.

The race was run at a solid pace despite a headwind on the back half of the course. Nigel Kennedy, Kingsley Massey, David Alpen and Frank Mastrobattista were intent on keeping the pace high throughout. Clancy would also increase the pace when he hit the front just making those legs hurt a little more.

Harrison was glued to Clancy's back wheel throughout the race as that was where the danger lay. Clancy was allowed to even have a sit on the back as the four front riders kept hammering the fast pace.

At least the fast pace kept Clancy from launching his feared attacks that can snap the legs of the fittest of riders.

With one lap to race the peloton was all together and Harrison had just about purchased the real estate on Clancy's back wheel.

As the peloton turned into Murrumbidgee Avenue for the final time Clancy made his first move. Driving it hard his acceleration soon dislodged Kennedy, Massey and Alpen.

Mastrobattista went through to the front followed by Harrison and Clancy from the back attacked again. Harrison was quickly into his draught whilst Mastrobattista went out the back. It was now down to two.

Clancy drove it hard into the headwind hoping to shake Harrison but he was stuck harder than a limpit. Around the final corner and 800 metres from the line Clancy continued to try to gain an advantage but Harrison was stuck fast.

With 300 metres from the line Harrison made his move and moved up beside Clancy. It was now a drag race to the line with nothing separating the two riders.

Harrison was out of the saddle and with 80 metres to the line could sniff a chink in Clancy's armour. Driving hard on the pedals and Harrison inched ahead. The line was rapidly approaching but 50 metres out Harrison knew it was his. His perfect race had been won.

In the Griffith Motorcycle Centre Cup the B grade riders took thing a bit easier into the headwind. This change of pace saw Malcolm Blake take advantage and launched a number of attacks.

Going into the final lap another Blake attack took three other riders clear of the field. Peter Bastianon, Brendan Horton and Jeff Shaw combined with Blake to gap the field in what looked like the winning move.

A hard turn by Horton had Blake and Shaw in trouble and were caught off the back. Horton and Bastianon kept the pace high whilst Blake and Shaw dropped back to the chasing peloton.

It was now a race between the two leaders and the chasing peloton with only 5 km left to race.

The two leaders were dangling out the front barely 200 metres in front. A combine charge by the peloton would have them caught but no one was committed in the chase.

Going around the final bend the two leaders had maintained enough of their lead to fight out the finish. Bastianon caught the hard working Horton by surprise and kicked for the line early. He opened a gap quickly and it was race over.

Bastianon took a solid win from an unlucky Horton. Jeff Shaw showed some sprinting legs to take third place.

This weekend will see the Individual Time Trial Club Championships being held. Once again Paul Clancy is at unbackable odds to take the title he hasn't contested for a couple of years. The only question is can he get close to his own course record?

Unfortunately for Mitch Harrison there are no wheels to sit on this weekend but he should be on a high after his win on Sunday and could put in a strong showing. Nathan Wood will be another strong contender for the title given his triathlon background.

In B grade it will be a battle between Bastianon, Blake and Neil Warnock.

The A graders race over 21km whilst the B grade field do 10.5km

Racing will commence at 9:00am with riders being seeded and leaving the start gate at 1:00 minute intervals.