



## **BSCC senior road racing results page**

Race name: Small Dog 2009 Criterium Championships

Date: 18th March 2009

### **A Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> Sam Witzmitz

2<sup>nd</sup> Damien Keirl

3<sup>rd</sup> Jon Townsend

### **B Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> Clive Silcock

2<sup>nd</sup> Tom Hamilton

3<sup>rd</sup> Charlie Stebbing

### **C Grade**

1<sup>st</sup> Jason Haire

2<sup>nd</sup> Bob Morley

2<sup>nd</sup> Peter Hayes

Race description:

### **A Grade**

With breakaways determining the outcome of the previous 3 crits, all A grade riders were well aware that they couldn't let certain riders get a gap on the field. With this in mind, the pace was hot and the bunch was spread out in single file for much of the race. The attentiveness of the peleton didn't stop riders such as Rhys Gillett, Harry Bade and Ciaran Conaughton from each trying solo breaks. On each occasion the solo rider got no more than 100m on the peleton before a committed chase reeled them back into the pack. On each occasion, however, the strain showed a little more on the chasers clenched faces and as the race neared 3 laps to go, Rhys Gillett shot off the front and took Sam Witzmitz with him. With 1st and 2nd from last week's race out in front together, the peleton sensed the danger but large gaps opened up with riders blowing from the 50km/hr surges. Tony Mirabella showed a great turn of speed and managed to cross the gap alone, but the diesel engine that is Gary Gullock dragged what was left of the peleton

up to the leaders and with just over a lap remaining everyone was together with many of the track sprints just hanging in there. At the bell, Jay Bourke leap down the side of the road to make it a long 1km tt run for home. Immediately everyone was out of the saddle. With 300m to go Bourke was still the solo leader; at 290m, Sam Witznitz caught and clipped by a fading Bourke, before Damien Keirl flashed after Witznitz, gaining on him with every stroke. The line came up too fast however, and Sam Witznitz took a perfectly time first up win, just in front of a fast finishing Keirl. Johnny Townsend came through for 3rd sprinting well off a fast final lap. The average speed was 43km/hr.

## **B Grade**

The Race committee is keen to hear of any members competing in the B grade crit who might be keen to contribute with short report of their race. Anyone keen, please contact Phillip Orr at [phillip@ncable.net.au](mailto:phillip@ncable.net.au)

## **C Grade**

A field of 7 riders of even ability fronted the starter. The Mars factory was once again well represented with Vince Madder and Andrew Stinchcombe back again. Stinchcombe was encouraged by his performance last week and confident enough to deck himself out in the Mars kit. We assumed they would work as a team.

The race started a fairly pedestrian pace for the first couple of laps then Vince Mader thought he would have a crack with a blistering attack in the home straight. Bob Morley was ready and covered the move but the rest of the field missed it and was struggling. In fact the pace was so hot that Mader's workmate Stinchcombe shot out the back so fast it looked like he had been picked off by a sniper! So much for working as a team.

The pace was high for the rest of the race and the young guys, James Crafter Campbell Gullock and Connor Dickson were looking fresh and dangerous. The form riders in bunch were Peter Hayes and Jason Haire. Jason Haire has been getting fitter and stronger every week and is adding some riding knowledge which makes him a formidable C Grade rider.

The pace lifted to 40 Kms per hour on the second last lap as the young guns were taking the initiative. For the last lap Haire and James Crafter were riding side by side in a show of strength. The cagey Hayes was lurking as was Vince Mader.

Crafter and Haire barrelled into the last corner, side by side up the straight with the mercurial Hayes with the one sit. Jason Haire had to call upon all of his strength to hold off young James by half a bike length and Hayes spent all his pennies to be another half bike length away.

There were five lengths to the fourth place getter Bob Morley and the others rolled over the line after a very hard race with the average speed over 37 kms per hour.