



BSCC senior road racing results page

Race name: Victoria Park Criteriums

Date: 4th Nov 2009

A Grade

1st Harry Bade

2nd Mitch Brodgen

3rd Phillip Orr

B Grade

1st Charles Martin

2nd Michael Veal

3rd Shane Cody

C Grade

1st Roger Bade

2nd Peter Hayes

3rd Scott Denno

Race description:

A Grade

The first A grade crit of the season started in wintery conditions, yet 14 riders saddled up for the 20mins + 2 mins hurt-fest. The race was on in earnest from the gun - with opening attacks from Mitch Brodgen, Ciaran Conaughton, James Crafter, Rhys Gillett and Harry Bade. The young brigade had trained tough over winter, and grown a year, and were eager to show their form. Small groups formed but on each occasion they were brought back by the elders of the bunch - Phil Orr, Johnny Townsend, and Joel Hossack. And this was all in only the first 5mins! Following this flurry of attacks, the peleton slowed to catch their breathe and so Jay Bourke saw this as an opportune time to attack. Bourke stayed away for some 5 laps, but in the gusty conditions you could sense the peleton was happy to leave him out in front alone to tire in the wind.

With 3 laps to go, the pace wound up - Bourke was reeled in, as Lacey, who literally suffered

after missing the B grade start, lost the wheel. 2 laps to go was called, and the bunch filtered into single file with some jostling to fine-tune positions for the sprint run home. Track sprinter, Damien Keirl was still in the bunch and the obvious wheel to follow. It was going to be a tactical sprint finish into the headwind with riders wanting to make their kick hard and late. Bourke jumped out early, up the side of the road, trying to use the wind to his advantage, however his was a slightly longer run for home on the outside of the final bend. Harry Bade, who looked like he had grown 2 inches through winter, kicked through the inside of the corner, taking with him Brodgen, Orr, and Conaughton. Meanwhile, Keirl was stuck behind Bourke and late to react. Bade sprinted from the front into the wind and won clearly with Mitch Brodgen 2nd in what was remarked as a changing of the guard - the young boys had grown up. Phil Orr was closing but the line came too soon and so flew the flag for the old blokes in 3rd.

B Grade

With only six in the field and a 38.5 k average the b grade race was an honest affair. No-one was able to make a gap or get an advantage. Scott Bilney was superstrong and Liam continues to impress using only the little chainring. In the sprint it is hard to beat a representative track sprinter but we all tried.

C Grade

A small C grade group of 6 gathered for the first race of the season. A cold and drizzly Ballarat Spring evening greeted the riders as they lined up, making the already treacherous circuit an even more daunting task. Thoughts as to why the "cycling capital" of Victoria doesn't have a purpose built criterium track firmly etched in their minds.

The first lap was a sight in affair enabling riders to identify the pot holes and cracks in the road and get a feel for the grip level of the damp road. The pace was steady with all riders grabbing a wheel to try and stay out of the blustery wind. Big Scott Denno in his first race put in a strong first turn at the front and then Dave Peters took over and lifted the pace above 40kph, not a bad effort into the wind. Roger Bade was sitting nicely and although having not raced crits for a couple of years was still looking menacing. The two younger competitors Chloe Heggert and Killian Plastow must have decided it was far too cold on the circuit and dropped out, heading for somewhere warmer no doubt. The group of four took to a bit of tactical riding as the laps counted down and Big Scotty found himself the sacrificial lamb as the other riders left him on the front. Pete Hayes had a couple of goes up front and as the group came around for the bell lap Roger Bade went to the front and put in the big ones out of the first corner hairpin. Dave Peters tried to get across to him and Pete Hayes was after Dave. Big Scotty had spent his bikkies and started to fall away. Just as Dave Peters had wound himself up and was sucking in the big ones, too big as it happened, he spat out his dentures. He sat up quick smart, much to the surprise of Pete Hayes, and went back to find his choppers before they got run over. Roger Bade rolled in easily to take 1st place with Pete Hayes 2nd, Scott Denno 3rd and Dave Peters with teeth firmly reinserted 4th.