



BSCC senior road racing results page

Race name: Chris Cashin Memorial Handicap

Date: 24th April 2010

The annual Chris Cashin Memorial handicap race was held on Saturday, 24th April. The race was contested on the infamous Mount Misery circuit – the type of tough course that Chris loved to race on.

Chris was a very well respected member of the Ballarat Sebastopol Cycling Club and Ballarat Veterans Cycling Club when his life was tragically taken in a training accident. He was not only a dedicated and talented cyclist, but also a positive role model for the Ballarat cycling community.

Fifty one riders greeted the starter with a gap of 30 minutes between scratch and limit. As usual, prior to the start, there was a lot of animated discussion regarding who the favourites were and which bunches might dominate the race. However, there was a lot of talk about the strong 7 and 9 minute bunches and a little known “smoky” who had recently joined the cycling club.

Wendy Ross and Molly Hegert, starting from limit, set off into the wind first, followed by Scott Denno chasing a 4 minute gap. Next followed the 20 minute bunch led by the in form and determined Gail Oliver and an improving Melissa Kierl.

The scratch bunch consisted of Rob Doyle, Phil Orr, Damien Kierl and Jon Townsend.

All bunches were working hard over the initial stages as the wind was strong and the weather was rapidly deteriorating.

Some of the limit riders had the best of the conditions over Mount Misery. However, the back markers certainly copped the worst of the weather with strong wind, driving rain and even reports of some hail.

As the gaps started closing, it appeared the winner would come from the front markers or the fast moving 7 minute bunch which was being driven by a very strong Grant Gilbert, ably supported by the more mature members of the bunch, Peter Kiel and Scott Townsend and the impressive youngster Charles Martin. They bridged the gap to the 9 minute bunch which

included Charlie Stebbing and Neville Bilney. A very strong alliance of nine riders now set their minds to closing down the bunches in front.

Meanwhile second scratch with Tony Mirabella, John Polkinghorne and Guy Falla were working hard but not making up a lot of time.

Although scratch looked strong on paper and the tough conditions certainly suited them, they were not combining as expected. A dominant Rob Doyle was causing a little havoc with his explosive turns that the others found hard to match and so their overall average speed was not as high as expected.

When the riders turned at the Ercildoune corner, the 7 and 9 minute bunches were quickly put into serious pain when leading triathlete and now part time road rider, Grant (the freak) Gilbert went to the front and stayed there for around 10 kilometers at a reported 43 kilometers an hour.

At this pace, the bunches up the road were quickly reeled in. First the 11 minute bunch with Liam White and Tavis Baker and then the 14 minute bunch with Craig Lightfoot and Matt Albiston were caught. With the increase in speed, one long line of riders was formed along the road.

While all this was unfolding the out markers continued to work hard. Molly Hegert in particular was riding strongly. However, a very determined Scott Denno started to take control of the race and opened up a gap that proved to be the winning move.

At the final corner, the race for first and second was already decided as Molly and Scott powered towards the finish line.

On the top corner leading into the long finishing straight, there was suddenly chaos among the chasing riders when Bob (Muncha) Morley fell. Shortly afterwards the bunch fragmented as the riders went down the side of the road.

In the end it was Scott Townsend who greeted the chequered flag for third place followed closely by Charles Martin. There were only 8 riders left in the main bunch as the high pace of the race took toll on the legs of most riders. Rob Doyle easily out sprinted the scratch bunch to take fastest time.

Congratulations are extended to our place getters Scott Denno (1st), Molly Hegert (2nd), Scott Townsend (3rd) and of course to Rob Doyle for riding the fastest time.

Thanks to all members of the Cashin family for their continued support for this very important day of the cycling calendar in Ballarat. The magnificent trophies crafted by Chris's dad are always a highlight of the day.

Thanks also to Powercor for being the major sponsor of the race in memory of Chris.

Thanks also to our marshals for the day: Peter, Karen and Beth Canny, Matt Turner, Jenni White, Sean Lee, Bruce Bilston, Mark Templeton, Chris Liston, Peter Martin and Dean Wells.

Chris would have been slightly amused as riders fought their way through the rain and wind.

May he continue to rest in peace.

Final Placings:

1st – Scott Denno

2nd – Molly Hegert

3rd – Scott Townsend

4th – Charles Martin

5th – Tavis Baker

6th – Charles Stebbing

7^t – Craig Lightfoot

8th – Liam White

9th – Peter Kiel

10th – Les Bilney

Fastest Time – Rob Doyle