



BSCC senior road racing results page

Haddon - Triangle

Date: 1st May 2010

A Grade

1st Tony Mirabella
2nd Scott Keating
3rd Doug Garley

B Grade

1st Grant Gilbert
2nd Stuart Brien
3rd Jason Haire

C Grade

1st Thayne Turley
2nd Craig Lightfoot
3rd Peter Canny

D Grade

1st Will Madams
2nd Molly Hegert
3rd Wendy Ross

Race description:

A Grade

Tony Mirabella writes:

Saturday 1st May at the Haddon triangle circuit. 7 laps with a total of 50 km. There were ten starters in A grade. The North Westerly wind made it a difficult ride with side winds.

There were several falls: one incident early in the race, and later another four riders had an altercation and came down, again only minor injuries.

Scott Keating attacked on the first climb but failed when all riders chased him down. There were a number of riders trying to break the field, but all attempts failed. Mirabella and Macallister managed to break away for almost a lap but with Cameron Shaw's strength and speed, were caught as the bunch sat on him in the tail wind.

It was the last lap that saw Scott Townsend attack and Tony Mirabella stayed on his wheel. The two broke away but it was Mirabella who put in a surge to ride away and cross the line first giving him his first win for the season. The powerful Townsend was second with Doug Garley tailing for third. The remaining riders crossed the line one at a time, as they were all exhausted after trying to chase the leaders.

B Grade

Jonathan Lacey writes:

In B grade, star triathlete and new BSCC member Grant Gilbert did as Fabian Cancellara did a few weeks ago at the Ronde van Vlaanderen (Tour of Flanders) and Paris-Roubaix: he simply demolished the field. Gilbert went to the front at the top of the Sago Hill climb on the first of seven laps, and lined the 15-rider field out into the crosswind. Colac's Zac Shaw, grandson of Ballarat's 1978 Melbourne-to-Warrnambool winner Dennis Shaw, skipped away on the climb the second time, but the field reeled him on Kopke's Road. Gilbert lined the field out in the crosswind again on the second and third laps, stretching the elastic holding the bunch together with increasing effect. He started the climb the fourth time with a small gap. The in-form Charlie Stebbing went with him. Consistent attacker Clive Silcock was the next to go. When strongman Warren Faneco jumped across to Silcock, the rest of the field recognized the danger and started a serious chase. The chase caught Stebbing, Faneco and Silcock, ejected Silcock, and created a selection consisting of Stebbing, Faneco, Ben Clark, Stuart Brien, Jason Haire, Bilneys Les and Neville, Joel Hossack and Jonathan Lacey, chasing Gilbert the time-trial machine. While this group is a long way from the firepower of the Paris-Roubaix *poursuivants* (*poncy French word for chasers - ed.*), it's a strong, evenly-matched group, who were immediately motivated and organized. Nine against one sounds like a mugging, right? It was, but not the way the numbers suggest. At the end of Kopke's Road the 4th time, the gap to Gilbert was just under 20 seconds. It got close to 10 seconds on the 5th climb, but no less. Like Fabian, Gilbert was in another league. The chase continued at full power for the 6th lap, but by then the gap was over 30 seconds, and it was clear that, barring a crash or a complete collapse, the chasers were riding for second place. Consequently the last lap was more tactical. Faneco, arguably the strongest rider in the chase group, but wary of the top-end speed of Brien and Haire, and the acceleration and guile of the Bilneys, blasted off on the climb, to be dragged back by Clark, with Haire and Lacey hanging on by the skin of their teeth. First Faneco and then Clark went again on Kopke's Road, and were again collared. Haire, recovered from the climb, started the real finale in the tailwind a long way from the finish line, and the exhausted bunch shattered. Criterium maestro Brien got past Haire for second, and Haire's strong ride was rewarded with the third place. After the race,

several of the vanquished said that Gilbert's ride was the most impressive they had seen in a BSCC club race for some years.

Thanks to chief marshal Matt Smith, and to marshals Dean "Austral" Taylor, Shannon Gratton, Andrew Stinchcombe, and Scott Kramer.

C Grade

Craig Lightfoot writes:

10 people saluted the starter in the May 1 C grade Haddon triangle. Some of us the first time, some old hands, some young bucks, but one consistent factor, a nice little hill followed by a nasty cross wind.

Would we all be kind to each other for at least a little while? The first time up the hill with Sam Edwards riding a nice tempo seemed to keep everyone comfortable and get the legs warmed up, then we hit the cross wind.

For the next two laps everyone mostly worked together with the odd small surge. Sam, Thayne Turley, Paul Crack and Killian Plastow (mostly the young guys) did most of the work out front though a theme was developing along the cross wind of Kopkes rd.

Things hotted up when Roger Bade decided it was time to test the legs up the first part of Sago hill, stringing out the bunch and putting a couple including Melissa Keirl in real trouble. I think everyone was scared of the Keirl name and sprinting. At Kopkes Rd corner first Peter Canny then Craig Lightfoot took over to try and string things out even further. There certainly was no riding "up the road" everyone was hanging on to a wheel in the gutter in a cross wind. The inevitable happened, Don hit the immovable object of the brick on wheels Pete Kyatt. With Don in the dirt and Paul, Sam and Ben caught in carnage the lead 5 were away.

Some inspired riding by those caught in the crash saw them reach the leaders at Kokpes corner for the last time. Sam et al not only caught the lead group but then had the audacity to attack. The decisive move of the day would follow with Thayne making a break half way along the cross wind about 3k's from the finish, never to be caught. Don despite his crash managed to finish minus a few bits of bark.

Roger led a charge of the remnants with Pete Canny and Craig trying in vain to catch Thayne on the down wind reach but it was all in vain. A great win on the back of a brave move.

Roger Bades summation of the day ? " you know I really learnt something today, next time i feel like attacking up a hill - don't, I'm too old" - better keep that one in the memory bank everyone.

D Grade

Kylie Zelly writes:

Oh My Goodness, I think there was actually enough starters in D grade to call us a "Peleton". Seven keen eager and able cyclists lined up to battle it out around the Haddon Triangle. D grade were to complete 5 laps of the 7km circuit.

The group worked really well, committed to seeing the bunch stay together for as long as possible. We hit Sago Hill for the first time and I don't know about anybody else but I thought I was going to be in for a hard day. As we flew around the corner we were hit head on by the wind straight in our faces. The smaller riders certainly appreciated having Bjorn and Will in the bunch to protect us from the wind during the rotations, but boy did we feel it when we took our turns out the front.

Meg unfortunately dropped off to reduce the bunch to six (still a bigger group than I have ever had the pleasure of racing with). Racing down the back straight you forget the climb ahead, and, then you round the round-a-bout and it comes back at you not just once but for another 4 times.

Bjorn and Mark (who reportedly was only out for a time on seat ride but never the less rode really well) were the next casualties of the hill.

The group was now down to 4 – Will, Wendy, Molly and Myself (Kylie sorry I didn't introduce myself before). On the back straight of lap 4 the B grade riders caught us (I think it was b grade apparently they caught A) it was a big bunch anyway.

Will made his move, he took off , which left the girls to scramble. Wendy and Kylie worked to reel in Molly who was able to keep out the front till just before the turn up the hill for the last time. Up the hill we went, around the corner and the game was on. Wendy attacked into the wind but the group managed to stay together. Into the back straight we went, tail wind prevailing and at least 1 woman (me) who had no idea what to do next. I have never been in a situation where I have had to sprint to the finish.

The pace increased, I hoped I just had the power to stay out the front. Unfortunately that wasn't the case. In an exciting sprint to claim 2nd and 3rd (will had already gone through for 1st) Molly and Wendy put the pedal to the metal and managed to push passed to claim the respective places.

Not quite a photo finish but an exhilarating end to what was a great race.

Thank you to all the marshals and competetiors.