



Cervelo Waratahs Super Series Round 1 Eastern Creek Dragway 6 June 2010



Waratah Vets are hosting a pair of races to start the winter with big fields and great sponsorship from Cervelo, TWE, Bont and 2XU. The first was at the Eastern Creek Dragway, the second is at the Penrith Regatta Centre on the June holiday Monday. Racing was graded A to E with anyone the Waratah's didn't know bumped into A grade so tough luck to JDS and Greg. I rolled out in B grade with Grant and about 60 others.



Garmin's meandering path

The course goes up and down the drag strip and then meanders around the car park with a few 90° turns.

There is one tiny rise heading out of the car park and a dead flat finishing straight.

This is a poor attempt by Garmin to plot my route. Start finish line is marked.

That bit at the bottom should be a straight up and down.

Our race started briskly but soon fell into a bit of lethargy as people kept failing to pull turns as they rolled through. Grant was prominent from the start and soon went off the front. This was not as stupid as it might sound, if 3 or 4 guys had gone with him he could have got a good break given B grade's normal reluctance to chase.

Grant's attack was probably the last of the excitement with no one else chancing their arm. I managed to hold a position in the top 10 most of the time and did my best to raise the pace a little each time I hit the front but really I just tried to get around the corners cleanly and conserve energy.

As we took the bell I was sitting pretty in about 8th spot when suddenly lines started coming left and right and I was quickly towards the back of the pack. Fortunately another rider in the same predicament drove up the outside so I jumped on his wheel and got a free ride to the front again. Grant was there in third spot and I slotted in behind him as we traversed the car park bends. Pace was tempo up the rise and around the roundabout then slowed as people started to look at each other. I rolled to the front waiting for the acceleration but nothing happened. As I got to the wide 180° bend at the top of the drag strip, I dived in quickly then jumped out hard, only 400m to the finish! I stuck my head down waiting for the whoosh as the fast guys came past but none did. I was so paranoid I even threw my bike for the finish line but I had daylight second. A rare win in several years of trying!



No class – should have my arms in the air and the sponsor's name on show

I hung around to watch A grade which was brutal. Attack after attack, with 2 guys getting away with another 2 then 4 chasing. Meanwhile at least half of the 80 odd field were shed by the half way mark. JDS was grimly hanging on the back of what remained of the main bunch.

The 4 caught the 2 and then the 6 caught the lead 2 so a bunch of about 8 were together for the finish. Less than a wheel separated the first three with Darren Cash taking the win.

Drastic.

Thanks to Mark and Tom for the loan of the Fulcrums