

# Nomination for Life Memberships - Howard Dove and Rebecca Morton

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Clause 6.2(f) of our Constitution provides for the National Committee to grant Life Membership in recognition of services rendered to Audax Australia. Such memberships recognise individuals for their long-lasting and major contributions to the Club.

This nomination is for two such individuals who operate both individually and as a team: Howard Dove and Rebecca Morton. It has always been clear to those of us who have worked with them that, in any given capacity, even when dealing with one, the other was actively contributing behind the scenes. It is impossible to separate their worthiness for Life Membership. They each demonstrate high levels of contribution in all of the criteria to be considered when granting Life Membership.

## Active Membership

Howard and Bec have been Members of Audax Australia and actively riding and contributing to the Club for more than a dozen years, since at least the mid 2000s. Not content with merely participating in rides, they soon increased their involvement, rapidly becoming regular Ride Organisers and taking on multiple roles at the Regional and National levels.

Their names would be well known to all Members for their active participation and contributions across the full spectrum of the Club's riding, organising and administrative activities.

Their exceptional contribution and dedication to Audax Australia was recognised by being recipients of the 2012 Outstanding Member Award, and they have continued with their exceptional level of contribution to the Club.

## Club Positions held

Howard initially joined the National Committee as a General Member in 2009, when he also took on being the National Calendar Coordinator. Since becoming NSW President in 2010 he continued to serve as the NSW Region Representative on the National Committee until just recently. He remains as NSW President. Throughout his time on the National Committee, Howard always participated most actively – not merely being vocal in expressing the will of the NSW Region, but also being a Member who actively contributes to the tasks to be done. It's easy to talk, but Howard always puts his hand up to take on the work needed and follows through with that.

Bec has served on the NSW Regional Committee, often in multiple roles, since 2008 in positions as varied as NSW Region Calendar Coordinator, Web Content Manager and Regional Brevet Secretary. She has assisted and mentored members of other Regions to better manage their Club roles, even taking on the duties of Brevet Secretary for Regions other than NSW. Bec served as the National Secretary for two years, taking it on when Regional Club responsibilities already took a great part of her life.

Howard and Bec have always supported the Club's national initiatives, like taking responsibility for arranging design and production of new award types, and being early adopters and implementing online Permanents and online registration. They have also participated in the ad hoc committees planning for the Australian participation in Paris-Brest-Paris in 2011 and 2015.

Bec's and Howard's engagement with the running of the Club has always been energetic. They have actively recruited Club Members to the extended team of national position holders, finding people willing to take on duties such as International Brevet Secretary and National Calendar Coordinator.

Bec and Howard are enthusiasts who promote the Club and motivate others through their activities. Their commitment to ensuring frequent and regular rides in Sydney, their promotion of those events, as well as fostering social gatherings at the end of rides and mentoring of newcomers has translated into a real sense of camaraderie and more people riding in NSW more often. They are also regular participants on the Club's email discussion list promoting exchange of information and ideas for new and seasoned riders. During the period of their involvement, the NSW Region has nearly doubled in size, readily outpacing the national average.

## Ride Organisation

Howard and Bec are prolific ride organisers, having organised around 150 calendared rides, covering all distances, since November 2007. They have also established and operate about 15 Permanents from Sydney, ranging from 100 to 600 km in length, catering for riders who need flexibility beyond that of the calendared events. Bec and Howard have pioneered new routes and developed and enhanced old favourites, even organising rides in Victoria's alpine country.

As well as many regular unsupported brevets, Bec and Howard also organise supported longer rides such as the Take a Walk 600 and Go Loopy series. They have designed and organised several new 1,000 km brevets and a Gran Turismo series in NSW. Most recently, after previously being either a volunteer or rider in the event, they were the 2017 organisers of one of the Club's signature events, the Sydney-Melbourne Alpine 1200. Accolades have poured in from riders and families about their management of the whole ride, its route enhancements and control and volunteer contributions.

There are few in the club who can match their record of activity as ride organisers.

## Riding Achievements

Testifying to their riding achievements is the fact that Bec and Howard are both recipients of the Club's highly prestigious Ultra Randonneur award, requiring 10 brevets of 1,000 km or over and 10 Super Series. Bec was the first female rider to receive that award, and has now applied for the Australian Randonneur 100,000km – for which she will also be the first female recipient. Howard received the Australian Randonneur 100,000km in 2016. Howard has received the Woodrup 5000 on 5 occasions and Bec twice. Their names frequently feature on the Year Round Randonneur award.

They have each completed multiple Super Series, numerous Paris-Brest-Paris events, the Great Southern Randonnée, the Perth-Albany-Perth and other assorted 1,200 and 1,000 rides across Australia. Howard has completed the Sydney Melbourne Alpine 1200. And they have both completed every ACE250 offered. Of course, they are also regular Fleche Opperman team organisers. As at October 2017 Bec had not recorded a single DNF.

## Conclusion

Rebecca Morton and Howard Dove have each more than exceeded the expectations of Audax Australia Club Members deserving of a Life Membership. I commend them to you.

Kerri-Ann Smith