



January 2015

Bound for Paris-Brest-Paris 2015 Bulletin #4

Welcome to PBP year!

This is our fourth bulletin for Australian PBP aspirants, and we begin with the news that the PBP start day has been confirmed as Sunday 16 August.

Start place this time will be at the (brand new) National Velodrome which is to the west of St Quentin, near the old camping ground.

The velodrome is as easily accessible as the old start, and is just 1 km from the St Quentin RER train station.

Click [this link](#) to see the access map on the velodrome website.



A reminder also that PBP is fully supported - the French do a fantastic job! You don't need anyone along the route helping you! In fact, trying to support a rider is a difficult (and often thankless) task, so think carefully before you put that burden on your nearest and dearest!!

Support vehicles have very restricted access to the route and must comply to Article 17 of the PBP regulations

<http://tinyurl.com/PBP2015-regs>

There are many sleeping spaces along the route: official (organised by the ACP) and unofficial, provided by various citizens and community groups. Riders also have the option of booking hotel accommodation any of the towns that they will pass through.

Remember that we have made arrangements for a bag drop so that you can have a bag and spare gear transported (details below).

Will you be in Brighton for the Audax Alpine Classic?

Come to a PBP information session
Chat to *anciens* and *anciennes*
Benefit from their experience

2 - 3 pm, Saturday 24 January,
Audax Tent on the village green in Howitt Park

4 - 5 pm, Saturday 24 January
Audax Annual General Meeting
Senior Citizens' clubrooms
Cobden Street, Brighton
(off roundabout at top of main street)

Map of Brighton

Some astute thoughts from an *ancienne*

- Preparation tips - prepare body, mind and bike.
- No-one plans to fail, just fails to plan. Now is the time to research and work out a plan.
- Pick the brains of *anciens* and *anciennes* about what's worked for them - on rides, in *Checkpoint* articles, on the Internet. Anticipation is half the fun of the event. But remember that no single PBP approach is right and no story tells you everything.
- Start thinking about whether you want a day or night start; the full or an abbreviated time limit (80, 84 hrs)
- Think whether you want to pre-book accommodation or rely on sleeping at controls

The official Event Regulations are now available on the PBP website

<http://tinyurl.com/PBP2015-regs>

These cover all aspects of the of the event including the entry fee, entitlements, how and when to enter, event rules and time penalties etc.

Homologation of BRM rides is now a very speedy process with Audax Australia members receiving an email containing their brevet/ homologation number very soon after the event.

Please keep the emails or at least note the homologation numbers for use in the PBP website entry form. This will be particularly important with brevets completed closer to the cutoff dates.

Keeping a record of your own numbers will reduce the number of queries sent through to the brevet secretary at what becomes a very busy time.

We are planning to make available for sale to riders, an Australian PBP cycling jersey and are also looking into sourcing a reflective vest which complies with EU regulations, and carries our logo.

In addition, we are looking into having for sale, to both riders and accompanying people, a polo shirt with our club logo.
More information on all these down the track.

Reminders about the club hotel, the bag drop, qualifying rides and pre-registration can be found below.

Semaine Fédérale

Sunday 2 August to Saturday 8 August



Each year since 1967, in the first week of August, the French have been gathering to discover by bicycle the beauties and local attractions of regional France. Organized by the French Federation, this week is the biggest gathering of cycle tourists in Europe and attracts nearly 15,000 people every year.

The magnificent town of Albi, about 90 km north east of Toulouse will organize SF in 2015. The cyclists of this Region will be showing off the scenery, culture and, of course, gastronomy to the rest of France.

A city of tents and campervans will mushroom on the old airport, meals for 400 will be served, and much beer, wine and cider consumed.

But for the PBP entrant, the attraction is a full on week of cycling in one of the loveliest parts of the world!! There will be circuits of 40 - 180 km available each day, and although the majority of participants will be there for some cycling and lots of conviviality, for some there will be more hard-core cycling and a less exuberant participation in post-ride festivities.

Note: If you have travelling companion(s) who would like to ride, but are not keen to transport a bike halfway around the world, Bikestyle Tour's Howard Duncan can supply high quality road bikes from the company's nearby French base.

[Semaine Federale: english page](#)

Facebook is a good place to get information about PBP.

See the official Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/ParisBrestParis>



Audax Australia has established a Facebook group for all Australian *aspirant(e)s* to use as a centralised location for PBP chat and queries. Benefit from the collective wisdom of the well-ridden and well-travelled!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/PBP.Australia/>

...and of course, there is the official event website which is both comprehensive and easy to navigate

<http://www.paris-brest-paris.org/index2.php?lang=en&cat=accueil&page=edito>

Qualifying rides

The qualifying period is

1 November 2014 - 30 June 2015

The required distances are 200, 300, 400 and 600 km

All eligible events are listed on this year's Ride Calendar

You cannot use Permanents or the Oppy as qualifying rides for PBP.

Hotel accommodation



Howard Duncan and Bikestyle Tours have again found a hotel for Australians going to PBP.

After months of work and negotiating they've managed to organise a group booking at the Kyriad St Cyr l'Ecole which is less than 3 km from the start of PBP and has good transport links for those arriving by train.

Full details are on Bikestyle Tours website and bookings can be made now.

<http://www.bikestyletours.com/tour-de-france/2015-paris-brest-paris-hotels>

La Grande Randonnée

Organised by Bikestyle Tours, this fabulous trip will take you to some of the most beautiful areas in France in the 2 weeks leading up to the 2015 Paris-Brest-Paris. The cycling will be a mix of the

challenging and easy with plenty of time scheduled to relax and take in the scenery along the way. Your non riding partners are welcome to join the tour as the trip has been designed with plenty of sightseeing opportunities off the bike in the lead up to the big event. All you have to do is turn up and enjoy yourself!

<http://www.bikestyletours.com/tour-de-france/2015-paris-brest-paris-tour>

Self-catering accommodation: cabins and camping

In past years, members have rented cabins at Huttopia in Versailles which is located about 11 km from the start/ finish of PBP. This is a wooded park-like holiday camp with a small shop and restaurant and is within easy walking distance to shops.

Huttopia has a variety of sites to suit tents, campervans and caravans.

[link to Huttopia Versailles pitches](#)

There is a wide variety of cabins available, most with private bathrooms.



Bookings are now open.

[link to Huttopia Versailles](#)

Note: the camp site in St Quentin, which some of you may have used in the past, has been derelict for a number of years.

Bag drop

This will be handled by Des Peres Travel who were responsible for the bag drop in 2011.

Riders will be able to have bags transported to Loudéac and Villaines-La-Juhel. Charges will be based on the number of bags used, so those opting to have bags left at both locations will pay a charge for each bag.

As in 2011, bags will be picked up from, and returned to the Audax hotel (Kyriad St Cyr L'Ecole) after the event.

More details later

Registration and pre-registration

Pre-registration is available to anybody who has completed at least one calendared ride in the period 1 November 2013 - 31 October 2014 and this will allow you to reserve a place for PBP 2015, subject to availability and your completion of the qualifying rides. During the preregistration period, available places will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The opening date for pre-registration depends on the longest ride completed.

For Australian members, pre-registration periods open on the following dates.

Longest brevet	Date
2013 - 2014	
1000 KM or RM1200+	April 26, 2015
600 KM	May 03, 2015
400 KM	May 10, 2015
300 KM	May 17, 2015
200 KM	May 24, 2015

For information from the event organisers, please visit the official Paris-Brest-Paris website

<http://www.paris-brest-paris.org/index2.php?lang=en&cat=accueil&page=edito>



PBP committee
Audax Australia Cycling Club Inc
January 2015

