

# RIDE REPORT

## AUDAX IN THE WEST



### OUR FIRST RANDONNEE 1200KM & 1500KM

by John Martin

When the 1200km Randonnée was introduced it did not arouse my interest. However, last year when we were advised that a 1500km Randonnée could be held, it had the same effect on me as when I first heard of the Paris-Brest-Paris. It became something that I had to do.

During the months leading up to the scheduled starting time of Good Friday, 29th March 1991, illness and injuries looked as if they would cheat me of the chance of satisfying my ambition, but thankfully I was able to take part. Unfortunately this was not the case for some of our riders. Some people will do anything as an excuse for opting out! Rod Evans broke a leg and Brett Rutherford injured his back only a week before. It was disappointing not to have them on the ride but you can't keep Audax riders down for long as we were pleased to discover when they both reported for backup duty.

With injuries and the Easter holidays taking their toll it left only two starters for the 1500km, Phil Giddins and myself, leaving York at 06:00hrs. on Friday, 29th March with Colin Farmer and Andrew Oakely who were doing a 1200km Randonnée.

We had only gone about 2km when Phil disappeared. On returning to see what the problem was I found Phil had blown a tyre and was teaching a group of inquisitive horses how to change a tyre.

Shortly before reaching our first control at Pingelly we found ourselves sitting behind a kangaroo but obviously he was not Audax material because after a

short sprint he hopped off across the paddock never to be seen again. At the end of an otherwise eventful day we returned to York about 01:00hrs Saturday with 400km under our belt.

On the road again Saturday morning we were joined by three riders doing a 600km Randonnée for the first time in Kevin Norris, Ken Ward and Graham Wilton with most of us returning to York by midnight in readiness for an early start Sunday for the finish of the 600km and the continuation of the 1200km and 1500km. Saturday's highlight was when Phil and I decided to buy some good wholesome food in the way of a hot pie (not microwave) from Stumpy's Roadhouse at Brookton. The pies were hot (they'd been in the warmer for at least a week), but our teeth were not sharp enough to eat them. After receiving a refund and a free sandwich thrown across the counter we vowed never to return to Stumpy's Roadhouse.

On Sunday we were joined by Barbara Farmer on her second 300km and Greg Larkin on his first. Sunday was to go on record as puncture day. Most people had one and some greedy people had two. We seemed to spend more time changing tyres than riding our bikes and eventually returned to York around 22:30hrs with a 1000km in credit.

Overall the weather was very good, not too hot or cold and the wind generally moderate, changing from favourable to unfavourable. Monday we were doing 300km, the first 120km being the hardest section of the 1500km. Which-ever way we went the wind had been there and was there on the way back too. At the control 53km before Brookton we were talking to two speedy young lads, Graeme Burton and Phil Ellen who were doing a 300km and Phil said he wanted to be in Brookton by 14:00hrs. I thought that was beyond my capabilities after doing 1100km so I set off ahead of them. Well that 53km turned out to be the most enjoyable section as we had favourable winds over undulating country and I averaged 30km/h and we all arrived in Brookton at exactly 14:00hrs.

On arriving in York at about 22:00hrs I suggested to Phil that we ride through the night and finish the remaining 200km but he thought that was not his idea of fun so we opted for a few hours sleep.

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Colin Farmer and Andrew Oakely had arrived in York a few minutes before us after completing the first 1200km in Australia. Something I feel is worthy of mention is the age difference between Colin and Andrew, as Colin is retired gentleman in his early sixties and Andrew, a student at the tender age of sweet sixteen. Also, Colin is very short while Andrew is quite tall. All things considered you could say they are an unlikely combination.

With all other Randonnées for the Easter weekend completed Phil and I set off on our final 200km on Tuesday morning. Apart from dashing for cover to avoid the possibility of being run down by a very large tractor on a very narrow country road, the uneventful day ended with a 6km sprint into York to celebrate the conclusion of our first 1500km Randonnée.

### COMING RIDES IN THE WEST

Remember you can join us on a ride whether you are a member of Audax or not - just don't breakdown that's all.

**Donnelly River - 200km.** This should be a great weekend for all. Book the 15th to the 17th of Sept. The whole weekend accommodation costs only \$150 for a cottage - bring the family, girlfriend, boyfriend or even a relation.

The weekend will be spent by riders pedalling up and down the river for 200km. on heavily inflated pedal boats towing 2 metre logs and shouting 'Tarzan' to the adulation and applause of friends and relatives. The organisers require a deposit by Aug 1st, this is your chance to escape the recession.

**200km** - 14th July. A nice friendly stroll organised by Brett Rutherford - give him a ring and join us.

**Populaire Rides** - In 1990 the Brevet scheme was extended to allow registration of two new events, Populaires of 50 and 100km and Permanents. The first of the Populaires to be held in Western Australia will be held in early July - covering 100km. under normal Audax rules. Ring Brett Rutherford on (09) 339-7059 for details.

**Flat 200km** - Aug. 18th. Starting from Armadale railway station and travelling towards Pinjarra. This is an ideal starter ride for those who would love to try Audax. This is your chance.

### THE OPPERMAN

This one day trial is to be held from 9:00am Saturday 19th October to 9am 20th October 1991. Start thinking now - it is for teams of 3 to 5, and every member must complete at least 360km within the 24 hour period in order to qualify for the Opperman All Day Trial Award. This year the start is from Midland Town Hall and remember each team must submit their own route plan of at least 360km. Contact Phil Giddins on (09) 384 6895 for more details.

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### AUDAX JERSEYS

*FOR INFORMATION REGARDING  
PURCHASE OF AUDAX GARMENTS*

*PLEASE CONTACT*

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