

RIDE REPORT

WESTERN AUSTRALIA REPORTS

AUDAX IN THE WEST

Coming Events:

1. In addition to the rides already advertised, riders will be pleased to note we have a Training Ride organised for 17th. March starting at the Carriage Coffee House in Fremantle at 6:00am riding to Midland Town Hall, and leaving there at 7:30am to take part (if you want) in the CTA 50km. Achievement ride from Bullsbrook. The Audax ride will then return to Midland and Fremantle. Riders from the northern suburbs can join us at Midland if they prefer.

2. The 400Km ride starts at 5:0am on March 2, 3 from John Martins home. Ring John Martin on this one if you intend joining us (293-8170)

3. Another reminder that this Easter will provide the opportunity for some 11 starts varying from 200 to 1500km rides over the week-end. All rides begin from the Old Hospital at York and we need as many as possible to stay at the hospital and join in the Sore Bum Balloon Races each evening. Naked riders of both sexes will be put together in teams to pass a Vaseline covered red balloon from one to the other without touching it with their hands or front of their anatomy. When discussed at the last committee meeting several members argued against mixed teams but it was decided that "complementary cleavage" would outweigh the likelihood of pricking the balloon.

WE NEED YOU

The Easter rides from the Old Hospital at York need some helpers. Many of our usual support people have kindly offered again to help, but we need more. Please give Phil Giddens (384-6895) or Brett Rutherford (339-7059) a call if you can help with any of the rides. As you know we are organising 11 starts over the Easter week-end.

EXECUTIVE DECISION

At the last committee meeting just after the 200km ride (see write up below). It was decided by a unanimous vote that the ancient Audax custom of rabbit catching (or buck stopping) must be suspended late at night. The committee was firmly of the opinion that such practices upset new riders who are not familiar with this custom and they become disorientated because of the lights. Some female riders have already complained about young bucks on the rides.

300km RIDE 27th JAN 1991

(The following write up on our first 1991 ride was written by John Martin and Don Briggs)

In order to beat the heat the 300km started at 17:00hrs on Sunday the 27th January- This ride being the first for 1991 and the first time ever that we have started any later than 09:00 hrs. The ride attracted 30 entries of whose 28 started and 25 finished. If 1991 continues to see this number of starters it will indeed be a very good year. The route took us from Midland through historic Guildford and the vineyards of the Swan valley across Gnangara Road, skirting the pine forests to Wanneroo, a rapidly expanding town north of Perth. By the time we reached Wanneroo the field had spread considerably with the stronger riders taking full advantage of the favourable winds to Guilderton, our first control point. There was a secret control at Yanchep, but by the time I arrived there with the tail-end bunch, the fasties had long gone. This was causing some concern for our control vehicle which Graeme Burton was in charge of. On arrival at Guilderton, Graeme, in his usual very professional manner, sorted out the problem of the widely spread field with a phone call to Margaret Oakeley who was on standby to help out in situations like this. At this point I would like to point out how fortunate we are to have such competent people to assist with running the rides. (Thanks to

Graeme and Margaret and the able assistance of Adrian Freeman).

It was pleasing to see four women on the ride as well as noting that we had about 4 or 5 people doing a 300km for the very first time. Tracy Horsman from the U.K. was on the ride and only has 200km to do on the 10th Feb to qualify for his Super Randonneur and his entry to the Paris-Brest-Paris. All of these rides have been done here in WA, and Tracy has been very popular among the other riders.

After reaching the secret control point, Tracy Horsman, Tom Freeman, and Don Briggs went ahead to become the third group on the road. They caught up with the second group at Guilderton just as they were getting ready to leave back towards the east with a tail wind, to Gingin.

Tom was in trouble with his back just before Gingin and after some slow very painful kilometres, a head wind and steep hills, limped into the Bindoon control. They left before the second group and just near the Bindoon Hotel "T" junction, Don's front wheel was hit by a very frightened rabbit - no-one was hurt.

The Bindoon Hill really took its toll on Tom and after reaching the top found relief by walking alongside his bike for about 200 metres. After getting back on their saddles, some pain peddling for Tom, they arrived in Toodyay behind the second group who had passed them in the dark. That section was an interesting experience as the moon was seen to set and a short while later Mercury and the sun were seen to rise from the hills in the distance. Tracy and Don decided to go on, leaving Tom to rest and wait for the last group. Both travelled strongly towards Red Hill for that long free wheel, well earned run down into the Swan Valley and Midland.

Unfortunately Brian Meads had a blow out in his front tyre and had a closer look at the ground. He was unable to continue but was not seriously injured except maybe his pride. Better luck next time Brian! Bill Clues was finding the

hills too much for him and was next to retire, maybe a little more training? A little further on Arie Lemson was a little concerned about his knees and decided to withdraw rather than risk a repeat of past problems. I am sure Arie will be back with us soon. Jane Nield, on her first 300km tangled with a gum nut injuring her knee and her pride when dumped on to the bitumen but was brave and carried on to finish the remaining 120km.

On the way across to Toodyay the wind changed but even though it was not in our favour, it was not very strong and from Toodyay home to Midland it was of some assistance. Although I did not set any speed records I enjoyed riding with the tail enders, with David Midolo offering encouragement to less experienced riders, Jane Nield and Barbara Farmer on their first 300km putting in very effortless rides. I am sure both these girls will be Super Randonneurs this year and who knows we may be able to convince Barbara to ride the Paris-Brest-Paris with Colin. Judging by the comments and the lack of complaints this could be the first of many evening starts. A little bit of sad news to finish, we are losing John Tudley and Kate Greenway to Melbourne for 2 years - our loss if Melbourne's gain. The following riders successfully completed the 300km ride:

D. Briggs	R. Clarke
B. Farmer	C. Farmer
T. Freeman	J. Garvin
P. Giddens	K. Greenway
B. Hawes	T. Horsman
H. Hyde	B. Jones
B. Kershaw	J. Martin
A. Oakeley	D. Midolo
J. Millar	J. Nield
C. Nobbs	K. Norris
B. Rutherford	J. Turley
K. Ward	G. Wilton
P. Meads	