

## **400km supported ride 12 AUG 2006**

### **Ross Cussons organiser support**

It should have been easy. Bjorn had given me the folder with entry forms, route sheets Brevet Cards and a pen weeks before the event.

Then with entries coming in it was noticed that route was to include the Old Bunbury Road which has been excluded now that traffic volumes have increased very considerably. So the route had to be changed. This was not hard but while we were making changes it was decided to change the starting place.

Once again it should have been easy but somehow I neglected to notify Colin and Wayne of the changes. As a consequence Duncan, Bjorn, Chris and Eamonn arrived at the new starting place at Alan Tolcher's for a 05.00 start, and Wayne and Colin arrived at the formerly announced start point.

The first four set off in light misty rain on wet roads at 5am. After a phone call Colin and Wayne arrived at Alan's and started some 50 odd minutes late, as the rain really set in.

It is on days like the day that we had that I really admire Audax riders. It was hard driving from Gosnells to the first control at The Half Way House at North Bannister so it must have been a tough ride. Wayne and Colin made up a lot of the time they had lost and all riders had a hot cuppa and some food at the control. Very wet clothes were rung out and put back on, or if available dry ones were put on. All riders left the control together in improving weather.

On the ride to the next control at Dwellingup, the riders except Wayne, stayed together and arrived fairly dry. Unfortunately there was a very heavy shower just before Wayne pulled in so he got wet again. Hot drinks and some food went down well again. I'm sure that the downhill from Dwellingup towards Pinjarra was appreciated as all riders headed towards the flat and the control at Harvey. The lady in a deli snack bar at Harvey had agreed to stay open at the prospect of six hungry Audax riders. All enjoyed the steak burgers with their hot drinks, before they headed off to Pinjarra.

The control at Pinjarra was set up at the usual place near the park and Post Office, opposite the Chooks shop. Some of the riders took advantage of the Chooks which was closing at 8.30pm. A light shower, as the food and drink was being enjoyed, necessitated a move under cover into the Post Office post box area before the riders headed off together on the last leg back to Gosnells.

While the weather on the day could have been better, from the point of view of the support person the day went well with the riders staying together and supporting each other and completing the event in good time.

Ross Cussons  
organiser/support