

Audax Ride Report

Fleche Opperman

Sat/Sun 15/16 March 08

370km

Participants:

The Chamois Cream Dream

Tony Gillespie
Hari Goonatilake
Chris Antoniou

The Flying Fixes

Bjorn Blasse
John Eden
Wayne Hickman



Weather conditions:

Absolutely perfect. Light cool westerly breeze during the day. Dead calm at night.

Ride Report:

Both teams assembled at Fremantle Fishermen's Warf for an 8.00am departure. We traversed the well worn, well known route along the river's edge and down the freeway to Dog Hill, Hopelands and North Dandalup. All regrouped at Dwellingup (control) looking forward to the downhill run to Waroona (at least it seemed to be downhill in the car).



Upon leaving Dwellingup the fixed wheel crew decided to put their map and route plan away so they could squeeze in a few extra long hills on the road to Boddington (maybe doing a bit of reconnaissance for next years route). Silly buggers. The ride through the hills was delightful giving our friendly photographer many opportunities to take snap after snap of our mad bunch in picturesque surrounds (we'll post some pics on the WWW site soon). Waroona meant we could take on more fuel including Bjorn's favourite big fat cheesy sausages.

We pushed on through the flat farmlands around Waroona, Yarloop and Harvey. Arrived at Harvey 6.00pm (10hours for 200km) right on schedule. We extended our tea break in Harvey to allow the wayward fixed wheelers to rejoin us for the home run. Night fell and great riding conditions turned into perfect riding conditions. Six hours (and 120km) later we turned in to Gillespie's Singleton residence for a refreshing Guinness, a feed of Rose's fantastic veggie slice and a rest for our weary bodies. Up again at 4.30am, we hit the road at 5.00 with aching thighs and back-sides it was full-steam ahead (half-steam is probably more like it). Off to Freo for breakfast and rendezvous with the long distance crew. We rolled in to the Mill Bakehouse at 7.30am. All weary but happy with our accomplishments, we devoured the biggest brekky on the menu (x 2 in John's case) accompanied by much laughter and back slapping.

The awesome 620km crew rolled in soon after us to conclude a monumental ride which will surely place them in contention for Audax Australia's Opperman shield (for the longest Oppy anywhere in Aust). This award has been previously won by WA teams on three occasions – 1988 (532km), 1989 (636km) and 1996 (551km).