

## The First Queensland Opperman All Day Trial by Gale Schaub

Our first Opperman (1995) was a roaring success with four teams and twenty finishers - the best part was that everyone finished! The awards breakfast had a festive atmosphere, with one team member (some skinny guy) even sleeping under the table!

Like any Audax year, our rides are best described as fluctuating between the sweet and the sour - hot and cold - wet and dry. The worst of it hit just six weeks ago when our regional leader, David Minter, was struck by a car and run over by a second. With nine rather nasty fractures his spirits are, nonetheless, soaring - quite the contrary to many a drained Brisbane cyclist suffering from a 400km or 600km brevet. Dave has a rather strange way of securing an extended holiday! Still, I've seen this man finish two 600km brevets and a thousand with less training than most of us think of as adequate for a 200km brevet. Like many a rugged tourist he gets in shape during the ride!

Our 1994 and 1995 seasons were rather gutsy. The 1994 season found David, myself, and Andrew Row struggling through Brisbane's first Super Randonneur Series. Later that year the three of us along with Peter Brown went down south to finish the Victorian Opperman. The twenty-four hour event was flanked by thirty six hours in travelling with little sleep in between. Some call this a brave accomplishment. We were called the Brisbane Bonkers for obvious reasons!

Regardless of the success of our premier year it wasn't until the 1995 season that two local champions appeared. All of us here in Brisbane are very proud of Kristine Kersley and Lindsay Green who, after finishing the '95 Super Series (along with Dave and I) went on to the ultimate glory of being the first Queensland finishers of PBP. Kris at twenty five had been seriously riding a bike for less than one year before knocking over the French event. In contrast, the veteran Lindsay Green at sixty three has extended experience in cycling - an A-grade racer in his youth and finisher of England's famous End to End. They both returned home in high spirits and with enough memories to last a lifetime as any PBP rider knows only too well.

Before Paris '95 we had a little warm-up ride in July. Dave and I thought it would be a nice gesture to accompany Kris and Lindsay on Brisbane's first 1000km brevet. With head winds strong enough to slow us to a crawl during the day and temperatures so cold that water bottles turned to solid ice during the night, we all finished, except Kris who decided to catch a flu bug 300km into the event. Every ten minutes thereafter she was at the side of the road doing what comes naturally under the circumstances. Afterwards, she became quite accomplished at throwing up while remaining on the bike! After 200km of this acquired technique, Dave had to twist her arm really hard to get her to call it quits.

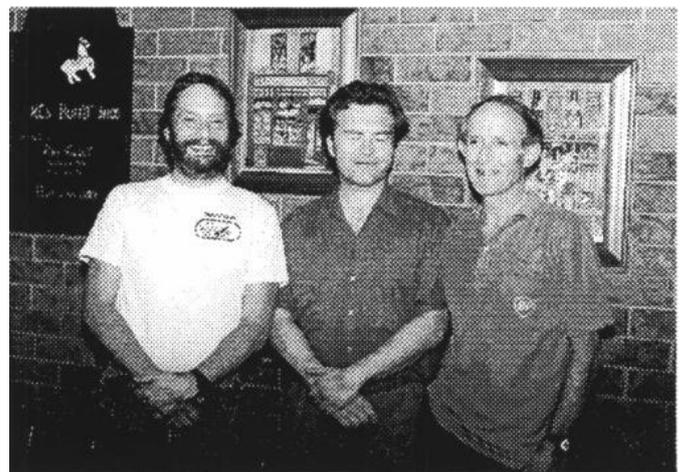
The Brisbane finishers of the 1000km brevet were flanked by two outstanding riders from down south. Fred Surr from Melbourne came in first. In my view, he is the classic Audax rider - one that has a handle on the meaning of the words "positive attitude". Also in our group of five finishers was Stephen Poole from Sydney, with three PBP finishes and three Randonneur 5000 awards. It was my personal pleasure to spend several hours after the ride chatting with this rather eccentric individual - testing our command of sleep

deprivation until the sun rose high in the sky. We wish Fred and Stephen all the best and extend an open invitation to join us on any of our future rides.

Thus was the state of affairs leading to Brisbane's first Opperman All-Day Trial. I captained "Team SEQUENCE" with veterans Lindsay Green and Peter Brown. The team name is an anachronism for "Southeast Queensland Ultra-endurance Cycling Ensemble" which produced several "ooooooooo" from the awards audience! Kris Kersley's "Team Two Up" consisted of three tandems and two singles with a mixture of new and experienced riders; her husband Ross Kersley, Jenelle and Howard Davies, Andrew Wood, Paul McAntee, Glen Cannell, and Mitch Carr. The remaining two teams consisted of riders new to the art of Audax. Team "Gusto", with Mark Spakshott at the helm, consisted of Dan Reid, Diana, Andrew, and Nicole McPhee (a real family affair!). The final team ("Three Skinny Guys and a Fat Guy") with four support members, needed all the support they could get. The course they chose had lots of trucks, lots of rain (try several inches in twenty-five minutes!) and more flats than most of us have in a whole year of riding! Team captain Rieks van Klinken led Ben Webb, Zane Cavinn, and Daniel Farrelly to the finish line, which I'm sure must have looked like the gates of heaven!

In '94 and '95 the Brisbane region held a total of twenty one rides which includes brevets of 50km (1), 100km (1), 200km (7), 300km (3), 400km (3), 600km (2), 1000km (1), an Opperman All-Day Trial and two midnight centuries — not bad for a rookie organisation! The 1996 calendar will be a tad more relaxed (normal procedure in most states for the post-PBP year). But rest assured, we will be organising a 1996 Opperman and plan to do so on a regular basis - so come up and join us sometime for an all-day adventure. For all of you 5000 freaks we will be hosting a 1000km/1200km super event in 1997 (possibly late in 1996) so keep an eye out in *Checkpoint*

Best wishes to our friends Australia wide and a special thanks to our outstanding support crew members with special mention to Ross Kersley, my wife Diane Schaub, Peter Brown, Andrew Row, and our cook Rene Cabourdin. From all of the Audax riders in Brisbane we extend our deepest gratitude.



*Team SEQUENCE*



*Gusto*

### Hint for future OADT Teams

*Is it just coincidence that all four Queensland teams successfully completed their OADT goals? Perhaps more teams should be investigating the beneficial preparation provided by KC's Buffet, indiscretely identified in the Queensland teams' photographs. And \$11.95 is far cheaper than those space-age high-carbo toenail-enhancing imported powdered preparations. Sorry to those in the North, but your secret is out!*



*Three Skinny Guys and a Fat Guy*



*Team Two Up*

### Nationwide OADT planned for '96

*In 1996, Audax Australia will have finishing points for the Opperman All Day Trial in every state of Australia.*

*OADT will run in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania, New South Wales and Queensland (in case you forgot the names of the states). See the 1996 Audax Calendar for contact details.*

*This is a great boost to what is already one of the most popular and famous Audax events. Sincere thanks to the volunteers in the various Audax Regions who make this event possible.*



*Shepparton Hopefuls*