

"Four Figure Foray" - Queensland first 1000km Audax Ride

Lindsay Green

Time has had somewhat of a diminishing effect on memories of the ride, and I don't expect to get many marks out of ten for journalistic excellence here, but fortunately I had made a record of rider details etc, - the rest I have made up from the experience of riding with my dear friend Gale, plus time entries on my brevet card.

The ride started from, and finished at Gale Schaub's home at Jamboree Heights, at 9am. Saturday 1st July 1995.

Starters were:-	Gale Schaub	Qld
	David Minter	Qld
	Lindsay Green	Qld
	Kristine Kersley	Qld
	Stephen Poole	NSW
	Fred Surr	Vic
	Steve Agnew	Vic
	Alan Walker	Vic

The first control was at Laidley, via the Grandchester Range, by which time the field had spread out considerably. Two of the Victorian entries withdrew at Laidley, due in part, to navigational difficulties. In those days there were no Garmin - GPS guides to follow, and one relied on hand written route slips, which were sometimes lacking in accurate detail.

Clifton (156k) and Oakey (248K) were the next controls, before heading for Dalby (352k) where motel rooms had been booked for those who wished to sink into a warm bed, and lay their head on a soft pillow, bearing in mind it's the middle of winter. The first ones to arrive were the first ones to leave next morning, so it was Fred, a one time PBP ancien, Dave, and Stephen (3xPBP) who headed out early, clad in the latest in thermal insulation, - woollen leg and arm warmers, balaclavas, booties, gloves and scarves.

It wasn't until they were on the way out to control number five at Oakey (456k), that Gale and Lindsay sighted Fred and Dave again, they were coming back from Oakey on their return journey back through to Clifton. At the time, Gale and Lindsay were stopped at the side of the road, mulling over the fact that the sun in the Sunshine State, doesn't always shine with sufficient warmth to thaw out their frozen bidons. Gale's wife Dianne was at the Oakey control to greet them with sumptuous hot porridge, toast, and coffee as well as that all important welcoming hug. Kristine was experiencing severe digestive problems along the way to Oakey, with the result she was reluctantly forced to withdraw from the ride.

Riding conditions became idyllic once the sun did what it's supposed to do and there was very little breeze. With just a few undulations, Oakey to Clifton via Pittsworth is relatively flat, but Gale was going through one of those dreaded personal flat spots, that most of us have experienced, and was slowing considerably. Having "been there before," during his preparation for the Race Across America, he was aware that by staying positive, and with some urging, - he could "ride through" the problem and we reached Clifton (547k) in good time.

The section from Clifton to Laidley (634K) could attract that rare classification of being a relatively easy ride and Dianne was there again to feed the pack, and sign everyone's brevet.

The thought of a hot shower, a change of clothes, a feed, and a warm sleeping bag back at Gale's place (704K), was a strong incentive to press on regardless. So press on we did, and arrived at Gale's home at 2230hrs, where Fred, David and Stephen, were already tucked-up on the lounge room floor.

Somerset Dam (801k) via the Brisbane Valley Highway was the next goal, and then quite a testing section was encountered after Somerset, to reach Kilcoy (827k). A headlight beam coming towards us beyond Somerset told us that Fred was already on his way back from Kilcoy, followed about an hour later by another headlight beam belonging to Dave, then another, this time it's Stephen.

It follows that with all "out and back" routes, - if it's tough on the way out - it's going to be tough on the way back, and so it was, but by now we had ridden ourselves into a nice rhythm and it seemed to be not quite so testing after-all, and we arrived at the Lowood checkpoint (928k) at 2230hrs feeling pretty good. Peter Brown checked us in and out in fairly quick time, and we were on our way again. Along the way we spotted up ahead a red tail light blinking away. Who should it be, but Stephen, riding along at his own pace, and wisely electing to continue doing so.

By the time we reached Gale's home at 0137hrs Monday 3rd, Fred and Dave had wisely left for home. However once Stephen joined us, we were treated to a very interesting discussion with him. It transpired that, along with Frank Brandon and Russell Moore in 1981, he was one of the first Australians to take part in PBP since Oppy won the event back in 1931, and had completed it on two subsequent occasions since.

Ride results:- Fred Surr	61hrs 30mins
Dave Minter	63hrs 55mins
Gale Schaub	64hrs 37mins
Lindsay Green	64hrs 37mins
Stephen Poole	65hrs 04mins
Kristine Kersley	DNF
Steve Agnew	DNF
Alan Walker	DNF