

Dear Fellow Queenslanders,

The Ides of March will soon be upon us. But more importantly, The Oppy will soon be upon us.

Sarah Chaplin (Audax Victoria President) recently posted on Facebook links to the recently digitized film: "The Endorphins"



The Endorphins Oppy 1993 World Record Ride - Part 1

Part 1 here: https://youtu.be/-yZYLGX_0l0



The Endorphins Oppy 1993 World Record Ride - Part 2

Part 2 here: <https://youtu.be/YB1nz6EWPuc>

Wonderfully evocative, from the scratchy super8 film, the steel frame bikes, the classic '90s soundtrack, and the all-important "endorphins". It's a must watch.

Registration in 2018:

2018 registrations have accelerated, the only way to keep up-to-date is look at the web-site here: <https://audaxqld.wordpress.com/queensland-oppy-finishers/>

If you are on a team and haven't registered, do it now. Instructions:

https://audaxqld.files.wordpress.com/2018/02/oppy_how_to_sign_up.pdf

What are the other teams doing?

As the organiser I have seen all the registered routes. But since teams may be going for records, I won't reveal anybody else's route/distance. People can and will talk among themselves, and that's fine, but I'm not giving out any info.

Rules

People are familiar with normal Audax rules. **1. Lighting Rules** (2 front&2back&reflective vest), **2. Course Rules** (no same road twice in same direction), **3. Support Rules** (Support from an organised support team only at designated checkpoints). But what are the different rules in an Oppy?

A) Checkpoint times don't matter. In normal Audax you have to arrive at a checkpoint in between the opening and closing times. In the Oppy it doesn't matter, it's the distance at 24 hr. (You still have to get your intermediate checkpoints signed though).

B) You have to ride >25km in the last 2 hours. Not a problem. Unless you have punctures / mechanicals or oversleep. Both these things commonly happened. This rule is to encourage teams to finish at similar times. It might not be so relevant for Australia, but in France/UK, there are 100s of teams converging to a single finishing point. This year it will be great to see so many teams finish together in Brisbane.

C) The 20%/15% rule. See below.

What's with the 20%/15% Rule?

This doesn't usually come up, in previous years teams have been "satisfied" with completing their nominated distance at the end (ie: they're stuffed). But since there are so many teams, someone may want to do this.

20% less rule: You can still successfully complete the Oppy as long as you do 80% of your nominated distance (20% less rule). As long as you still fulfil a minimum of 360km and do 25km in last 2 hrs. For example: if you nominate 450km and you hit bad weather, bad luck, or bad legs; you can stop at 360k (20% less than 450k) and still be successful in completing the Oppy.

15% more rule: If you arrive at the finish early and you have finished your nominated course, you can elect to do up to 15% more. For example: if you nominated 450km and you finish early you can do up to 67.5km more. So you could get 517.5km, even though you only nominated 450km. However, to actually do this, you would have to be ~3hr early. And in this case the extra distance isn't optional. You would be forced to do at least some extra distance since the rules say you need to do >25km in the last 2 hrs.

Where do you get this extra distance to ride? The rules say that the RO gives it to you at the finish. Since I won't be at the finish early (I plan to take maximum time for minimum distance) the long-suffering wife has been delegated to provide the appropriate cue sheets at the finish. These will be various "river-loop" type distances allocated according to the particular team. (To keep within the Audax spirit of "no road twice in same direction". And no Mt Coot-thas will be involved.)

What if we meet another team?

There are some similarities between the submitted routes, but I would be surprized if you come across another Oppy team. If you do, the official advice is to not to draft between teams. Having said that, when you get close to the finish, you may come across another team. I just hope that someone has a camera to record Oppy teams time-trial racing their way to the finish among the usual weekend-warrior bunches.

When do we get our Brevet cards?

Once all members of a team have registered, I will either send out the Brevet cards by mail or organise to get them to the team captain in some other manner. I need all team members to register first so I can fill out the Brevets. The team captains are responsible for carrying out a lighting check before the beginning of the ride and to initial everyone's Brevet card in the lighting check box.

Breakfast at St Lucy's

It will be great to see so many teams finish together in Brisbane this year. I hope many of you will be able to stay for Breakfast at St Lucys. Supporters especially welcome too.

It's not too late to register a team.

Just do it!