

In the build up for the 2019 Oppy on March 23rd, I have been doing a little research over the last few months. While it is not a complete record (mainly because of incomplete of old records), it is accurate as i can make it. Will you see at the end of my report I have made a listing of what is missing, if you can help me fill the gaps that would be great. In the meantime I hope this inspires you and your team onto record breaking feats.

cheers

Matt Rawnsley

Audax Australia Brevet Editor

FOR THE RECORD FLECHE OPPERMAN

The first Fleche Velocio in France was in 1947, in response to locals and internationals randonneurs who want to meet in a location outside Provence. The Flèche Vélocio traditional heads to the Easter Cycling Rally in Provence, in memory of Paul de Vivie (Vélocio). There was only one team and they started in front of Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris and finished in Limonest after 461 kms. Their names were Jean de Jeans, Paulette Callett (on tandem), Charles Porthault and Alfred Gadeceau.

The Australian Fleche was the first non-French Fleche. Audax UK started an 'domestic-award' Fleche in 1988 and then ACP-homologated Fleche in 1995 and British Columbia Randonneurs's (Canada) first Fleche was 1998.

Between 1985 and 2018 the Audax Australia Fleche Opperman has seen 834 teams, completing 1,290,630 kms with 3,516 riders. This includes the results from the Petit Oppy (introduced in November 2004), (*including DNF, etc*). In October 1993 *The Endorphins* from Victoria still hold the Australian record. The closest to that has been *Pane e Acqua* with 730 kms in March 2014.

The biggest Opperman was in October 1996; 53 teams, 233 riders and completing 84,476 kms and in November 1997, 48 teams, 192 riders and completing 73,433 kms. There has been another six years where the kilometres count has been over 50,000 kms (including the last four out of five years).

(The following Fleche Oppy records here are only completed rides)

Taking into account that I am still missing 79 riders names from 7 different Oppy years, **the leading Oppy riders are:**

Rider	Fleches	Kms	Years
Kevin Ware (VIC)	23	8,046	1995 to 2018
Andy Moore (VIC)	19	7,057	1998 to 2018
Lorraine Allen (VIC)	18	6,684	1993 to 2016
Barry Moore (VIC)	17	5,967	1996 to 2018
Tim Laughher (VIC)	16	5,925	1985 to 2017
Garry Armsworth (NSW)	15	5,489	2002 to 2018
Leigh Paterson (VIC)	14	5,329	1998 to 2018
Peter Donnan (VIC)	14	5,240	1990 to 2018
Chris Rogers (VIC)	14	5,122	2003 to 2018
Geoff Robb (NSW)	14	5,121	2002 to 2017
Sue Taylor (VIC)	13	4,868	1990 to 2003
Ron Gauld (NSW)	13	4,426	2006 to 2018
Steve Xerri (VIC)	12	4,419	2007 to 2018
Ray Marsh (VIC)	13	4,395	1995 to 2011
Michael Dunn (ACT)	11	4,178	2007 to 2017
Peter Dixon (NSW)	12	4,159	2002 to 2013
Matt Rawnsley (SA)	11	4,096	1998 to 2011
Wayne Hickman (WA)	11	4,059	2007 to 2018
Hans Dusink (VIC)	11	4,054	1995 to 2010

Ian de Bruyne (VIC)	11	4,023	1995 to 2009
Alan Walker (VIC)	10	3,751	1985 to 2016
Henry Boardman (NSW)	10	3,692	1996 to 2009

There has been 3 riders who have completed 13 Fleche Oppy's

2 riders for 12 Fleche Oppy's

5 riders for 11 Fleche Oppy's

6 riders for 10 Fleche Oppy's

11 riders for 9 Fleche Oppy's

17 riders for 8 Fleche Oppy's

16 riders for 7 Fleche Oppy's

21 riders for 6 Fleche Oppy's

38 riders for 5 Fleche Oppy's

68 riders for 4 Fleche Oppy's

130 riders for 3 Fleche Oppy's

343 riders for 2 Fleche Oppy's

959 riders for 1 Fleche Oppy's

94 riders who did not finish.

There has been 3 teams to complete 700 kms or more (in 1993, 2014 and 2015).

Nine teams have completed Oppys between 600 and 699 kms.

56 teams between 500 and 599 kms.

148 teams between 400 and 499 kms.

576 teams between 360 and 399 kms.

35 teams whom have not finished.

If your 2019 team is looking for a distance not covered yet, here are the distances not touched yet:

387 kms, 394 kms, 397 kms, 414 kms, 421 kms, 427 kms, 428 kms, 429 kms, 431 – 435 kms, 437 kms, 440 – 442 kms, 446 kms, 447 kms, 455 – 460 kms, 462 – 468 kms, 471 – 474 kms, 476 – 489 kms, 491 kms, 493 – 499 kms. Above 500, let me know. But if your team wants join the masses, the popular distance is of course the minimum: 360 kms, which has been done 95 times.

The complete list of finishing teams over 600 kms or more.

Distance	Team Name (Region)	No. of Riders	Year	Start Place
601 kms	Muchea Do About Nothing (WA)	4	2010	Cockburn, WA
605 kms	Opperman 1 (WA)	3	2009	Albany, WA
611 kms	DC (VIC)	4	2014	Ballarat, VIC
617kms	The Famous Five (VIC)	5	1994	Rutherglen, VIC
622 kms	Team Mongreal Dogs (NSW)	5	1999	unknown?
622 kms	Opperman 1 (WA)	5	2008	Perth, WA
636 kms	Australian Time Trail Association (WA)	5	1989	unknown?
655 kms	The Untouchables (VIC)	5	1992	Mildura, VIC
671 kms	Gold Rush (WA)	3	2012	Widgiemooltha, WA
701 kms	Team Brevet (VIC)	5	2015	Beachport, SA
730 kms	Pane e Acqua (VIC)	3	2014	Ballarat, VIC
770 kms	The Endorphins (VIC)	5	1993	Mildura, VIC

All the teams above are all made up of male riders

The five highest distances for all Female teams are:

Distance	Team Name (Region)	No. of		Year	Start Place
		Riders			
550 kms	Attitude Is Everything (VIC)	5		1996	unknown?
535 kms	Attitude Is Everything (VIC)	3		1998	unknown?
531 kms	Les Femmes Fatale (VIC)	3		1994	Ouyen, VIC
405 kms	The Fanny Pack (VIC)	4		1993	unknown?
401 kms	Phsycle Sisters (VIC)	5		1991	unknown?

(Note: Debra Eason and Sue Carey figured in both 'Attitude Is Everything' teams)

The five highest distances for Mixed teams are:

Distance	Team Name (Region)	No. of		Year	Start Place
		Riders			
573 kms	Mawson (VIC)	3		2013	Traralgon, VIC
560 kms	Koiled Crazies (QLD)	5		2018	Toowoomba, QLD
550 kms	No 'Opers (WA)	3		1996	Midland, WA
532 kms	Titanic (NSW)	3		1999	unknown?
516 kms	The Team With a Dream (VIC)	3		1999	unknown?

The Winning Team for Each Year:

Year	Distance	Team Name (Region)	No. of		
			Riders	Start Place	
1985	570	Port Fairy Cycling Club (VIC)	3	Port Fairy, VIC	
1986	587	South Australian Team (VIC)	5	unknown?	
1987	545	Audax Australia Team (NSW)	3	Griffith, NSW	
1988	532	Audax WA Team (WA)	5	unknown?	
1989	636	Australian Time Trail Assoc. (WA)	3	unknown?	
1990	510	Audax Sydney Team (NSW)	3	Maryborough, VIC	
1991	536	Electric Prunes (VIC)	3	MacLeod, VIC	
1992	655	The Untouchables (VIC)	4	Mildura, VIC	
1993	770	The Endorphins (VIC)	4	Mildura, VIC	
1994	617	The Famous Five (VIC)	3	Rutherglen, VIC	
1995	500	North by South West (NSW)	5	Forbes, NSW	
Joint Winners 1996					
	550	Attitude Is Everything (VIC)	5	unknown?	
	550	No 'Opers (WA)	3	Midland, WA	
1997^	400	TMAAB'97 (QLD)	3	unknown?	
1998	553	Sil-E-OI-Fules (VIC)	5	unknown?	
1999	622	Team Mongreal Dogs (NSW)	5	unknown?	
2000	461	We Break for No One (VIC)	5	unknown?	
2001	420	No Easy Challenge (VIC)	4	unknown?	
2002	536	Ex Murray to Moyne - No Worry to Groin (VIC)	4	Port Fairy, VIC	
2003	405	Barney's Bananas (VIC)	4	unknown?	
2004	530	Team SA (SA)	3	Adelaide, SA	
2005	550	Numbnuts After Dark (VIC)	6*	unknown?	
2006	415	Don't Know Why (VIC)	5	unknown?	
2007	439	We Are Gunna Get About (NSW)	5	Wagga Wagga, NSW	
2008	622	Opperman 1 (WA)	5	Perth, WA	
2009	605	Opperman 1 (WA)	3	Albany, WA	
2010	601	Muchea Do About Nothing (WA)	4	Cockburn, WA	
2011	587	Gold Diggers (WA)	4	unknown?	

2012	671	Gold Rush (WA)	3	Widgiemooltha, WA
2013	573	Mawson (VIC)	3	Traralgon, VIC
2014	730	Pane e Acqua (VIC)	3	Ballarat, VIC
2015	701	Team Brevet (VIC)	5	Beachport, SA
2016	515	Postie Run (VIC)	5	Woodend, VIC
2017	528	Flat Out Oppyunists (QLD)	4	Evelyn, QLD
2018	560	Koiled Crazyies (QLD)	5	Toowoomba, QLD
2019	???			

Notes:

* Two riders must have been on a tandem (2005)

^ I have only found team who rode in the 1997 season

WA has the longest consecutive wins (5) 2008 to 2012

VIC has won the '*Oppy Shield*' 18 times (including one year as joint winners).

WA has won it 8 times (including one year as joint winners).

NSW has won it 5 times.

QLD has won it 3 times.

SA has won it once.

None for Tasmania as yet.

The Oppy has moved date four times over the years

October 1985 to 1997, November 1997 to 2005, April 2007 to 2008 and March 2009 to Present.

Most Riders on One Team

That definitely goes to 'Team X' (from Victoria) with 10 riders on one team, yes, 10!

During the 1992 Oppy this team completed 375 kms with 5 tandems (6 males & 4 females)

In 1995, Team Two Up (QLD) had 8 riders, 392 kms, made up of 3 tandems and 2 single bikes (6 males & 2 females).

Also in 1995, Team Lemmings (VIC) had 7 riders, 372kms, made up of 2 tandems and 3 single bikes (4 males & 3 females).

There has been 13 teams with 6 riders, 311 teams with 5 riders, 289 teams with 4 riders and 176 teams with 3 riders.

The First Five Fleche Opperman Years with a little more details.

1985 Winner.

570 kms – Port Fairy Cycling Club, start: Port Fairy (VIC).

Members: Graham Woodrup, Stan Malbut, Sonny Brooker, Neil Hyland (DNF), Ian Hay (DNF), Bob Jackson (DNF).

There were 11 teams with 49 riders (including 4 women). 7 all male teams and 4 mixed teams. 20,225 completed kilometres.

Sir Hubert Opperman was there at the finish at the World Trade Centre, Melbourne to see the all Victorian Opperman All Day Trail in. The Retail Cycle Trader's Association Trophy ("generously donated and magnificent silver trophy") was presented to the longest distance by OPPY himself to Graham Woodrup (captain of the winning team). Ian and Bob started on a tandem.

1986 Winner.

587 kms – South Australian Team, so far start location is still unknown.

Members: Stan Malbut, Sonny Brooker, John Bassett, John Dam, Ian Cook.

There were 7 teams with 36 riders covering approx. 14,095 kms. (I have only found full details of one team so far). I do know that it finished somewhere in Melbourne.

1987 Winner.

545 kms – Audax Australia Team, started Griffith (NSW).

Members: Nick Payne and Bob Chorley (on Tandem) and Neil Irvine and Keith Hyndes (DNF)

There was only two teams to sign up, but the MacArthur Cycling Club team failed to start.

At the time it was policy to conduct one Oppy each year in a different state. Organised by Russell Moore and attracted on teams from Victoria. On Neil's team the tandem riders had to switch to solo bikes as Keith withdrew to due to exhaustion and keep within the minimum of the three machine rule.

1988 Winner.

532 kms – Audax WA Team, so far start location is still unknown.

Members: Brian Hawes, Peter Meyer, Jim Mathews, Terry Allen, Fred Cottier.

The all Western Australian Oppy saw 7 teams with 30 riders covering 11,392 kms and for the first time an all-female team.

Robert and Suzane Lepertel from Audax Club Parisien, France spent large portion of their 36 hours in Perth supporting and encouraging Audax and a great boost by having our O.A.D.T. medals presented by Robert.

1989 Winner.

636 kms – Australian Time Trail Association, so far start location is still unknown.

Members: Brian Hawes, Terry Allen, Rob Evans and Peter Meyer (DNF), Tim Frodsham (DNF). There were 15 teams with 65 riders spread over two states (WA and VIC), but most of the Victorians team I am yet find riders names and distances. Saying those unknown teams average 360kms, the total Oppy mileage for year was 24,654 kms.

There were many riders who had not ridden this event before and it was considered a success. The majority of teams in the East had positive comments about finishing in Albury.

Final Notes:

While I am still searching for unknown riders names, I could do with some help. If you remember or were involved in, please let me know.

2007 – I have one name missing. Rode with Rod Potts and Peter Horsley, but DNF. The team name was 'Mt Waverley Express' (A Victorian region team) and were aiming for 400kms.

1999 – I have three names missing. All from one team, the 'Port Fairy Flyers' (A Victorian region team). They were aiming for 360kms, but all DNF.

1998 – I have three names missing. All from one team, the 'Crabs Rule' (A Victorian region team). They were aiming for 422kms, but all DNF.

1997 – As mentioned above, I have only found one team during this season. Are there anymore?

1989 – I have 36 names missing. According to the Audax Australia magazine issue December 1989, there were 10 teams and 43 riders. I have a full list of one team (but team name unknown). They are: Bruce Curran, Fred Brauneis, Alex Pleismanis, Michael Susskind and Peter Nelson. And another team where one rider name is missing. The two of the three riders names I do have are: Robert Reid-Smith and Mark Sorrell (team name and distance unknown).

I have nothing on the other 8 teams (riders names, team names or distance). (A Victorian region event).

1988 – I have two names missing (both DNF). (A Western Australian region team). Team unknown, but the riders who I do know are: Rod Masterman, Ken Ward, Peter Cooksey.

I am also missing the other 6 teams names for this WA Oppy.

1987 – I have three names missing. (A New South Wales region team). They all DNF. The team was 'Macarthur Cycling Club' and were aiming for 370 kms and started from Canberra.

1986 – I have 31 names missing. According the information I have found these riders were divided into 5 teams. I do not know their teams names, riders names or distance).