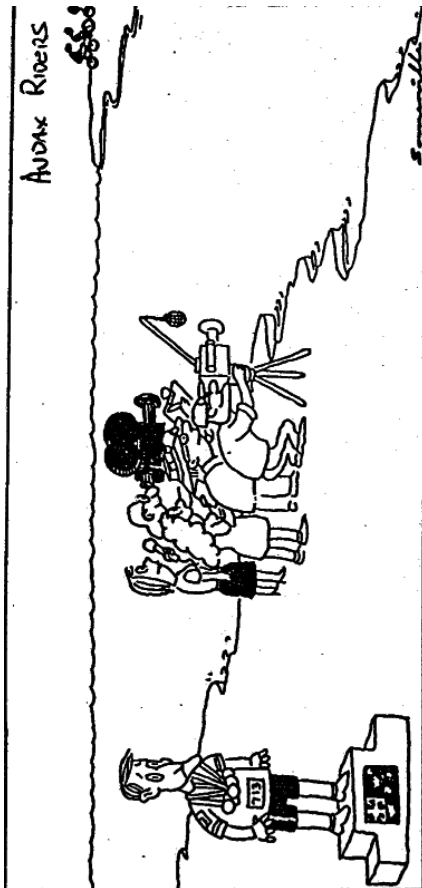


OPPERMAN 1991

you look at that darned fool cyclist in those poofy tight clothes...and what the hell is he doing there in the rocks).

From here we basically had a good ride into Rutherglen and Albury. I personally suffered from a few troughs but through determination and following the strong wheels of Sean and Mark I was able to come through it all. What a contrast for Mark and myself from our arrival last year. We were ecstatic. For Chris it was a bit of a disappointment. As for Sean, being the quiet individual that he is, his only comment was "well that was a good training ride". Me? ... I couldn't wait to get to McDonalds for the breakfast of champions...two quarter pounders, large fries and a strawberry shake. I didn't ever want to see a banana again!!!



PARIS - BREST - PARIS

by Michael Kater

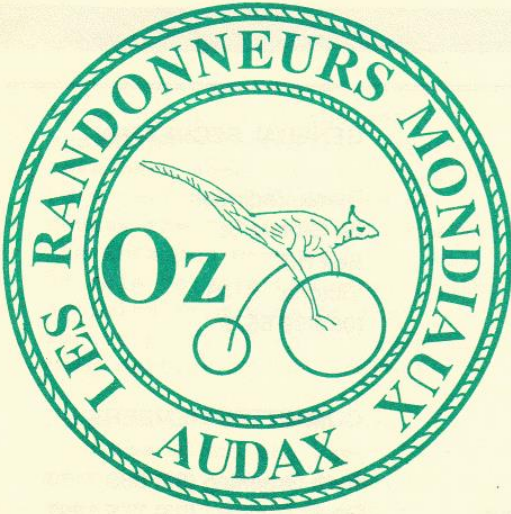
1991 PBP started at St Quentin en Yvelines at the times of 20:00h and 05:00h for 80h, 90h and 84h respectively. The 22:00h group left in 3 waves of about 700 cyclist's. Good dry conditions saw a steady stream of randonneurs to the first control at Montagne au Perche (141km). The roads were very well marked and sign posted for the PBP route and people were in all the villages giving encouragement throughout the night. As daylight greeted PBP riders for the first time, the temperatures rose throughout the day and for many riders the hilliest section between Loudeac (445km) and Carhaix (522km) was ridden in very hot conditions, and much relief was felt with the coolness of the evening. Most people we spoke to found the food at the checkpoints excellent with only short queues for both meals and route card verification. This was done both by magnetic card in a computer link, and manual stamping at every control except the four secret controls, where no computer terminals were present. The return from Brest was characterised by freshening head winds blowing a steady 20-30km/h. This gale would be evident all day for the next three days, only to abate in the evenings. None of the foolhardy cyclist's found this to their liking however the majority persevered to complete this fabulous event. Everyone who took part will have a story to tell.

Statistics: 1218kms, 365 hills, 10,040mts of elevation gain, 3388 registered to start, 3281 started. 2618 arrived before 17:00hours on 30th August 1991. The abandon rate of about 20%. Australia continued its good showing, 32 out of 33 completed the course. Alan Subkey was forced out at Tinteniacon the way to Brest after terrible knee problems. Gerald Tatrai also participated at PBP after finishing 3rd in RAAM 2 weeks before and winning a 24 hour HPV event a week before. Despite this fatigue and a broken carbon fibre seat-post (snapped bolt) Gerald finished in the sizzling time of less than 63hours. Stephen Poole was first Australian back in less than 60hours. Scott Dickson USA won his second PBP in new record time and the charming Nicole Chabirand (France)

was first woman home once again (1975) in 59:43. The Australian ladies Alethea Morrison, Ann Stacpoole and Sue Taylor all rode very well and arrived in good condition and wonderful spirits. The French people have been absolutely wonderful. The drivers were always courteous and polite, the villagers shouted plenty of encouragement. Many French waited up all night on the course to ensure we took the correct turn. The organisation was superlative with 1000's of volunteers. PBP'91 was a magnificent event. The difficult course, the heat, hills and headwinds were all made worthwhile by the camaraderie, the absolutely delightful French people and the blissful joy of finishing.

REPORT ON 1ST MEETING OF RANDONNEURS MONDIAUX

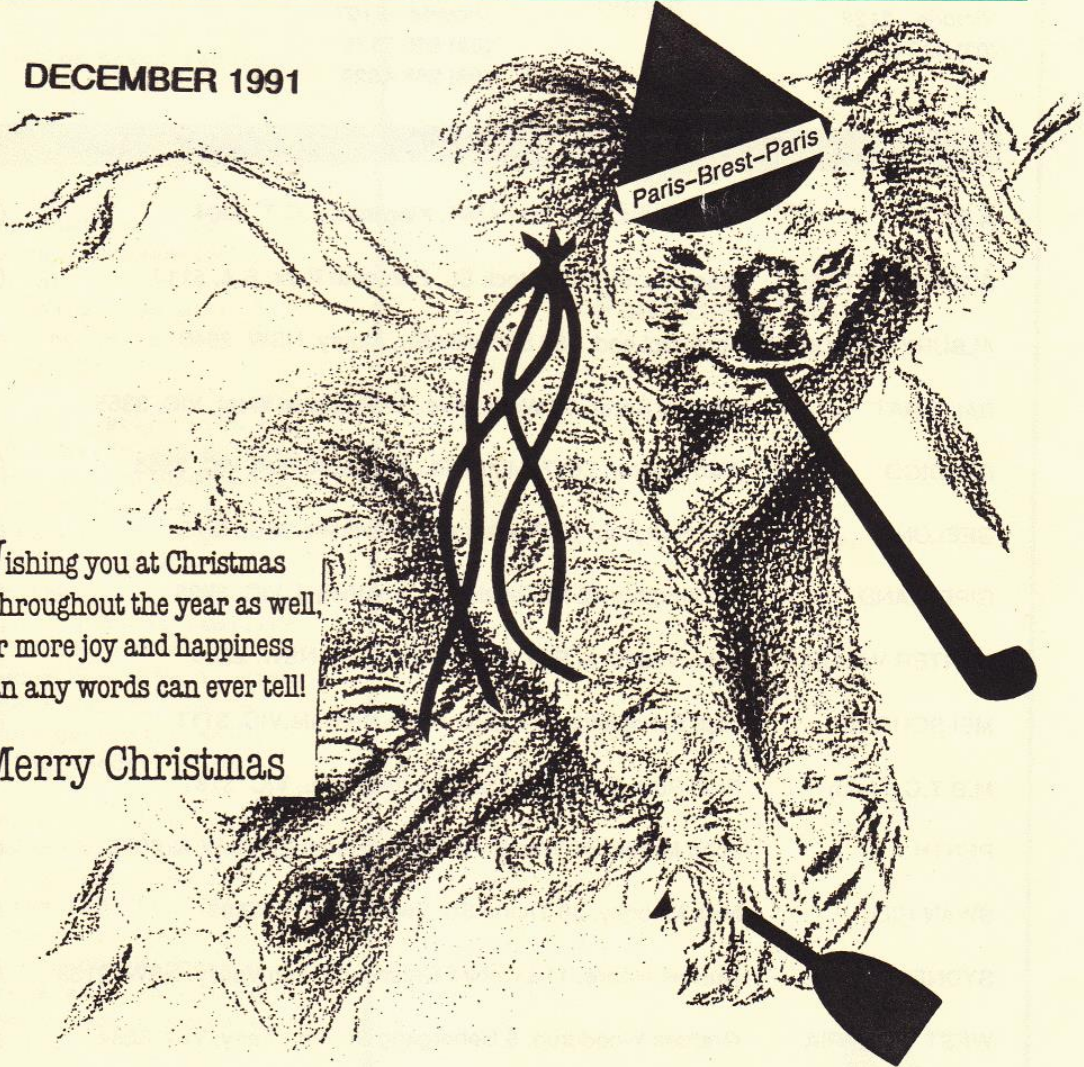
Phillip Rowley, Ann Stacpoole, Michael Kater attended the 1st meeting held Saturday 31.8.91 Les Qaudrant a Guyancourt. Jean Claude Muzellec retired as president RM. New president Francesc Porta of Spain was voted in unanimously, some proposals were put forward by the national representatives present. After the election of the new President the delegation was honoured by the arrival and presence of Sir Hubert and Lady Mavys who had flown in from Australia especially for the centenary of the PBP. Oppy gave a very moving talk and it was not only the Australian trio who were misty eyed. Oppy has been unwell lately and made the arduous flight from Australia against doctor's advice, saying the trip was worthwhile to meet once, again his French friends. Also accompanying Oppy was the film producer for the Oppy movie. Meeting closed soon after Oppy's moving speech. Newsletter is to be published and sent to all countries soon.



THE
AUDAX

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Affiliated with AUDAX CLUB PARISIEN

DECEMBER 1991



Wishing you at Christmas
and throughout the year as well
Far more joy and happiness
Than any words can ever tell!

Merry Christmas

Journal of Audax Club of Australia

Editor: Ruth Greening