

The Hailsham Venta 300 Saturday May 31st, 2025 at 06:00 (v25_5)

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Dear Rider

The Hailsham Venta 300

Thank you for entering the "The Hailsham Venta 300" ride, being held on Saturday May 31st, 2025, at 06:00am.

The Ride

This ride is based on many stages from the various El Supremo Perms that I took over organising several years ago.

Stage 1 (58k) Leaving Hailsham towards the North, you quickly join the A22 at the Hellingly / Boship Farm Roundabout. Since not a 3am start I've decided that after 4k you turn off toward Ringmer and pass the North of Lewes before travelling West along the bottom of the South Downs passing through Ditching, Hassocks, Hurstpierpoint, Albourne, Shermanbury, Partridge Green and Littleworth, before a short (2.7k) on the A272 to the commercial control at Buckbarn.

Stage 2 (41k) Leaving the control you continue West along the A272 before turning South towards Shipley, Thakeham and Storrington. After Storrington you are at the bottom of the South Down and follow a rolling road to Houghton and the long drag up to the Whiteways roundabout. A downhill stretch on the A29 before turning off back onto country lanes through Slindon, Eartham and Halnaker before joining the A285 for 3k before turning towards Chichester and the commercial control at the Sainsbury Superstore.

Stage 3 (66k) Leaving the control you pass through Chichester before joining the B2178 to Funtington and Aldsworth, after which you turn North to Horndean and Clanfield. Things start to get a little lumpy now while passing Old Winchester Hill towards West Meon before joining the A272 and head towards Winchester. At the junction with the A31 you head North to bypass Winchester, taking in Easton, Martyr Worthy, Abbots Worthy, Kings Worthy and Stoke Charity before arriving in Sutton Scotney to control at the Dever Stores or any other commercial outlets.

Stage 4 (48k) Retracing back to Stoke Charity, you continue through Micheldever and East Stratton. The route then avoids New Alresford by turning towards Northington then taking minor roads to Brighton and Hawkley. After Hawkley you soon have the very steep descent (with a sharp hairpin bend) towards Liss and the first INFO control of the ride. After a climb out of Liss you descend into Rogate and its Village Hall to Control and get a feed. **Note that the control is the small hall at the back of the building by the playing fields but will be sign posted. Do not use the main hall.**

Stage 5 (60k) You continue from the control and join the A272 and continue into Midhurst. I could have routed you over minor lanes to the north or south of the A272, but the ride would

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have become over distanced, and this is my preferred route whenever doing either the Hailsham Liss 200 or Pulborough Reading 200 Perms. After Midhurst you take country lanes through Selham, Coates, with its final INFO control, Coldwaltham and Greatham before joining the A283. You now stay on the A283 to Storrington, with a slight detour to avoid the Washington RAB, before joining the A283 again to Steyning and Bramber, before turning North to Edburton, Faking and Poynings before arriving at the commercial control at the Pyecombe Service Station.

Stage 6 (35k) The final stage starts with several climbs to get you over the South Downs. The initial climb is to get you over the A23, then the short sharp climb to Pyecombe Church and then the drag up Clayton Hill. **Note that before reaching the bottom of the descent you need to turn off onto Underhill Lane. If you miss this turn, then take the Right on the left Bend and the first right to re-join the route.** Passing the base of Ditching Beacon, you continue along Underhill Lane to Westmeston, before heading through Lewes, Ringmer and Laughton, before joining the A22 and the final commercial control at Hellingly /Boship Farm Roundabout Services.

On The Day Entries

Please note that these will NOT be accepted. Also please ensure you have a confirmed entry to this ride and DON'T turn up assuming so!!!!!!

The Start Control

The start will be from the 23hr car park at the Freedom Leisure Centre, Vicarage Lane, Hailsham, BN27 1BA. It is free but please ensure that you park at the bottom of the slope in a 23hr parking space. I'll be on hand at the start with a cuppa and bickies.

Please arrive with plenty of time before the planned start to get yourself and bike ready for the ride. Also PLEASE ensure you have collected your brevet card from myself. I'm usually found with Audax Control Signs on my car and if dry my Audax Teardrop flag.

Five minutes before departure I will hold a safety briefing after which you will be permitted to depart.

I will remain at the Start until 07:30 when those on the 200 depart.

There are no loos at the start so organise yourself before arriving.

You can scan the QR code for eBrevet, but this ride is a fixed start time of 06:00 so no early departures.

How to get there

The closest mainline railway station is at Polegate.

There is a Travelodge at the Start / Finish Control that maybe of interest to some.

<https://www.travelodge.co.uk/hotels/32/Hellingly-Eastbourne-hotel>

The Finish Control

The finish is at the Hellingly /Boship Farm Roundabout Services on the outskirts of Hailsham. However, I will also accept receipts from Hailsham.

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Food

Around 210km we will be set up in the Rogate Village Hall to provide you with food and drink (included in the entry fee) before your return to the finish. Food will be limited to Egg, Ham or Cheese sandwiches, Beans on Toast, with my wife's homemade cakes and rice pudding with peaches.

Controls

- **COMMERCIAL CONTROLS** at Buckbarn, Sainsbury Chichester, Sutton Scotney, Pyecombe and Hellingly. Please obtain a receipt.
- **INFO** control which will require you to answer the question on your brevet card at Liss and Coates.
- Rogate Village Hall where I'll be stamping cards OR you can scan the QR code for eBrevet

Safety

This event is run under Audax UK regulations, which can be found at Policy and Procedures section of <https://www.audax.uk/about-us/>

Remember that there are other road users, including horse riders and other cyclist on the minor country lanes. Please cycle with due care.

Remember that roads do have potholes, they may also need resurfacing and/or have been resurfaced. So, when you are riding the event, look at the roads in the same careful way as if out cycling on a non-Audax event.

This is an event for experienced cyclists. You are responsible for ensuring you are fit and competent to complete the course. The route is moderately hilly, and the distances involved can be challenging if you are not used to them, especially if weather conditions are not favourable. Pace yourself and ensure you eat and drink enough to keep your energy up. Carry emergency rations.

There is no mechanical support or rescue services on the ride. Please ensure your bike is in good working order before setting off and you carry any tools/spares to carry out roadside repairs if necessary.

The route is not waymarked. Route sheet and GPS file(s) are provided but you are responsible for your own navigation. Please familiarise yourself with the route before the ride.

Roads are not closed for the event. You will remain subject to all the usual UK laws regarding cycling on public highways and are responsible for your own conduct at all times.

Remember that conditions can be changeable. Dress appropriately and carry extra waterproof/warm layers for use if necessary.

Mudguards are not mandatory, but appreciated, since there are sections of the route that can get muddy.

Sunset is **21:08**, and it is recommended that your bike is equipped with suitable lighting unless you are fast rider who will finish in day light.

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If you feel unwell or tired at any time during the ride, please stop for a rest before deciding whether to carry on. Do not take any unnecessary risks.

If you are driving to the event, you are responsible for ensuring you are in a fit state to drive home afterwards – if you are tired, stop and rest for a while before setting off.

Packing / Accident

There is no rescue service provided

If you decide to pack, owing to an accident, illness, mechanical failure or any other reason PLEASE let me know by ringing or texting the number on your brevet card. This will stop me worrying.

If you have an accident but can continue riding, please inform me so it can be recorded in the accident log.

All accidents must be reported to the organiser.

PLEASE NOTE – FOR YOUR RIDE TO BE VALIDATED YOU MUST COLLECT PROOF OF PASSAGE FROM ALL CONTROLS AND COMPLETE THE INFORMATION CONTROL QUESTIONS.

Physical Brevetcard Validation

Please number each receipt obtained from the various controls, complete info questions and send, along with their SIGNED brevet card to the organiser, in the envelope that will be supplied at the start. Include a SAE if you wish it to be returned.

AFTER FRIDAY June 13th, 2025, RIDERS WHO HAVE NOT SENT ME THEIR CARDS AND PROOF OF PASSAGE WILL BE MARKED DNF.

eBrevet Validation

If you wish to use eBrevet validation, then please use the eBrevet app to record your arrival at the various controls, manned and info's. Also please ensure that you mark your start and finish. The code for this event is 25-254.

Please remember to upload your complete eBrevet once you have finished.

At the finish, riders should record their eBrevet control times and send, along with their SIGNED physical brevet card to the organiser, in the envelope that will be supplied at the start. Include a SAE if you wish it to be returned.

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Instruction for eBrevet App

If you want to use the eBrevet app, go to <https://www.audax.uk/about-audax/e-brevet/>, and follow the instructions there.

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You have already entered the event, so you just need to download the mobile phone app and set the eBrevet for this ride.

Your smart phone will need to have mobile data turned on or access to WIFI to use the e-brevet web service. The short getting started instructions are:

- Open the eBrevet app and from the '...' menu go to Settings and sign in with your Audax UK username & password
- In Settings enter the Brevet Code (See above), save
- Return to the '...' menu then click 'Download Brevet'.
- You will then be able to 'register' at each control location on the ride instead of completing the physical brevet card, including not needing to note the info control answers!
- At the start is by scanning the QR code, this is done within the e-brevet app which will need access to your smart phone's camera. The QR codes will be displayed at the check-in desk or on the window of my car!
- At the Rogate controls registration is also by scanning the QR code.
- When completed return to the '...' menu and tap Upload Ride, complete the short survey and tap OK to record your brevet. A confirmation email will be sent to you and the Organiser.

If on the ride the app does not recognise that you are physically at the control location, try closing and re-opening the eBrevet app to resync the GPS tracking.

Route Sheet / GPS Track

If you are using GPS for navigation, please read the route sheet beforehand for special instructions, hazard warnings and exact location of INFOs. Also ensure that your device can read the file(s) supplied before the day of the ride!

FYI the process I follow when putting together the route sheet / GPS tracks is as follows:

- For an initial ride's development, the route sheet is set to the turns-by-turns navigation required and approx. interval distances set from online mapping software.
- I use an EXCEL for the route sheet and its functions to calculate the cumulated distances based on intervals
- I generate the first draft of the GPS using mapping software, based on the initial route sheet.
- I ride the route (sometimes several times) and at each turn use the lap function of my GPS to obtain more accurate interval distances.
- The route sheet is updated with the GPS lap distances to provide more accurate interval distances.
- For long established rides these interval distances are AVERAGES of all values previously obtained to date.
- The cumulative distances noted in the route sheet are used to set the KM for each control / checkpoint and Info of the ride in the AUK system and also should appear on the printed Brevet card.
- It should be noted that I only measure the distances of the route. If I need to go off route for any reason, I pause my GPS and only resume it once back on the route at the same point. KM logs while cycling around car parks, back tracking since I've missed a turn etc are all ignored.

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- Hopefully, understanding how I'm measuring the route will help you find Infos better if you are not using the tried and trusted method of a Route Sheet.

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