Draft - Roamin in the Darkness 300Km – 26/03/2027 @ 20:00
Held under the rules and regulation of Audax UK
Riders Briefing Information

Critical Information
This is an X-Rated event, you will be passing through some very remote areas during the wee hours of the morning where there will be no facilities available, please ensure that you carry enough supplies to get from Forfar (84km) to Aberfeldy (215km) or if you're fast Auchterarder (265km).

A rider travelling at the maximum speed of 25kmh will reach:

- Aberfeldy at 0428, the Co-Op and Asda open at 0700
- Auchterarder at 0626, the Co-Op opens at 0600

Water is available from Scottish Water taps at Pitlochty (150km) and Aberfeldy.
There is a honesty box shop selling Sweet Treats from a roadside shed at Soilzarie, cards are accepted.

Wintery weather is still possible in late March, and it will be cold, if not during the day then at night, please ensure you are carrying extra layers and something to shelter in such as a bivvy bag, you will need them if anything goes wrong.

Route Description
Setting out into the darkness from Muchty you cross Lindores to the Firth of Tay and take the road (and miles) tae Bonnie Dundee via the Tay Road Bridge, continuing eastwards towards the sea until you reach Angus at Monifeith where you strike in land for Friokheim and then the sanctuary of the 24hr Services at Forfar (McDonalds and Petrol Station). This will be your last chance to stock up for the wee hours as you head through a shuttered Alyth and into the remoteness of the muirs. A cake shed at Soilzaire may provide you with some energy for the Moulin, and a very early arrival into Pitlochry where a Scottish water tap is available at Fishers Hotel. The old A9 is your route now for the run up to Dalnacardoch and over to Strath Tummel by the Errochty Hairpins and Trinafour. Schiehallion looms over you as you climb Kinardochy to Glengoulandie and descend to Coshieville before riding through the Appin of Dull (twinned with Bland and Boring) to Aberfeldy where supplies are available from 7am though am ATM is available and a Scottish Water tap is in the Square for topping up your bottles at minimum.
The Griffin climb takes you up to the Bealach na Creige and on to Amulree for the descent of the Sma Glen and on to Auchterarder for the last slog by Dunning to Newburgh and back over to Muchty. This year Lochmill is not part of the AAA section so if you don't fancy the shortest route you can take the longer but easier route by Grange of Lindores.

Remoteness
The route crosses some remote countryside, particularly from Forfar to Auchterarder, where you will certainly find the Pitlochry Co-Op closed, and if you're fast the Aberfeldy one doesn't open until 0700 (control opens 0428). There is a well-stocked honesty box shop at Soilzaire on the road to

Kirkmichael, but not much else. Scottish Water have installed taps in Pitlochry at Fishers Hotel and Aberfeldy at “The Square” which should allow you to obtain water but please ensure you are able to carry enough food from Forfar for the night.

Sunrise, Sunset and Moon

Sunset on Friday is at 1841 in Muchty so it will be nighttime when I set you off.
Sunrise at Dalnacardoch is 0558 with a short Gloaming from 0520.
Moonrise will be after Midnight.

Auchtermuchty

Famous for its musical son, Jimmy Shand as well as a couple of long-distance walkers called “The Proclaimers”, it sits in the Upper Howe of Fife, the community centre on Distillery Street has been built in an old Whisky Bond. Parking is available around the village as well as up in Pitmedden forest at “The Clink”, Trains to/from Edinburgh, Dundee and Perth are available at near by Ladybank.

Tay Road Bridge

Once onto the Tay Road Bridge the combination of wind and traffic noise can render even those not blocking out the noise with music oblivious to their surroundings, so please be prepared to slow down and stop, I have been within a meter of a walker before they could hear me politely asking them to let me pass.

In addition to the above on this event you are descending the bridge, when doing this it is very easy to build up significant speed, at this time of night you will be crossing it will likely be quieter than on other events, being a Friday night and in the wee oors, those who are crossing the bridge are likely to be returning to/from Newport/Tayport after a night oot and may be suffering from impaired judgement.

Please take care, and ride at a speed that allows you to both see walkers/staggerers and to come to a halt before reaching them if need be.

The Tay Road Bridge closes to cyclists and pedestrians when their weather systems record a wind gust in excess of 100kmh and will remain closed for at least an hour after this. If such weather events are expected, the high muirs will also likely be uncomfortable to ride and the event will be weather postponed or rerouted.

The Bridge is also occasionally closed due to police incidents, these are usually resolved positively within an hour or so, in the event of this happening please obtain a receipt in Newport showing your time there and find somewhere sheltered to sit it out.

Start

The start will be from the Auchtermuchty Community Centre, we have the Café/Kitchen and Hall booked from 1930

Finish Procedure

The finish will be back at the community centre; we will open up at 0800 (25kmh), I have a 100km event on so you may find it busy between 0930 and 1000.
As this is a BRM event I will retain your brevet card, I plan to hang on to these until after the 600 to

minimize duplicate postage. Your ACP homologation number for this event will be listed on the Audax UK results service, and I can provide it on request.

Controls

E-Brevet is enabled for this event.
There are 3 controls where you'll need to collect a receipt or other proof of passage, these must show the Date, Time and Location, please check your receipts show these.
If this does not prove to be possible, find some way of proving to me you were in the appropriate location at an appropriate time of the appropriate day.

There are also 3 Info Controls on route.

The distances below are the nominal distance e.g. that on the brevet card not the RWGPS route

Friockhein - 64km

This is an information control.

Forfar Services – 80km

There is the McDonald's and Shell Petrol Station at Ha'penny burn next to the A90.
If going to McDonalds note that you must ride partly up the A90s 2-way slip road to access it.
DO NOT cross the A90 afterwards, the road underpasses the A90 from the circle just before McDonalds

Dalnacardoch – 175km

This is an information control.

Aberfeldy – 212km

The Co-Op opens at 7 and Premier shop from 8, otherwise it's an ATM receipt from the machine at the Premier.
There is a water fountain in the Square.

Auchterarder – 261km

Co-Op and other shops are available up the hill from the junction

Newburgh – 297km

This will be a Code Board control, this will be placed in the car park on the left as you arrive, there are a variety of shops further down the hill.

Auchtermuchty – Finish

The community centre will be open from 0800 where we will have some refreshments for you.

Other refuelling options

Dundee – Dundee's town centre 24hr facilities have dropped off a cliff recently, some bars will be open late, the 24Hr ASDA at Milton of Craigie would be a possibility, you could then use either A92 cycle track or Drumsturdy road to make your way to Friockheim.

Broughty Ferry – Formerly the richest square mile in Europe, it's now Dundee's party town, some bars are open till 1am, Both Tescos shuts at 11pm.

Dalrulzion (Between A93 and Kirkmichael) – There is a Cake Shed honesty box, we found it to be very well stocked with sweet treats in previous years, accepts cash (no change) and card (sum-up machine)

Pitlochry – There is a Scottish Water tap outside Fishers Hotel, if anything else is available, you're either out of time or racing to check into a hotel and well ahead of time.

Tummel Bridge – There is a shop at the Holiday Park which opens at 9am for Full Value riders

Dunning – There is a café at the golf course and there are pubs and a shop

Bridge of Earn – Co-Op on the main road, there is also a wee shop in Kintillo which you will pass.

E-Brevet Code: 27-939

GPS Route

The Route GPS can be obtained in what ever method is suitable for your device om Ride With GPS: https://ridewithgps.com/routes/56583215

I recommend that if your device is capable of rerouting you, that you disable this and set it in Breadcrumb mode, I have had riders get lost and miss controls due to the rerouting deciding a road isn't one, amusing when it happens in midsummer on the Howe of Fife, less so when it's in the Highlands and sends you onto an estate road to the middle of nowhere because it thinks the Anderson bridge over the Garry at Dalnamein isn't passable (it is on a bike).