

Randonnee...outcome of the 2nd meeting

The AGM, in January, had an agenda point to discuss the future of the Randonnee, with regards to falling entry levels and general appeal. Many things were suggested and there was not enough time to do it justice on the night.



A meeting was held at the end of February and everyone went away with the task of helping create a new '2012 Olympic Special'. These are the results of the 2nd meeting:

Decisions and Suggestions	
Route more interesting?	Everyone knows Salisbury Plain by now but it is difficult to link up lanes elsewhere without significant road mileage – which is boring. Too many national magazines have published road books that have taken a bit of the novelty away from the concept of a Randonnee.
Night section?	Night sections off the Plain need a lot of PR, night sections anywhere need a lot of officials. Staying up late for officials who then need to drive home and return early next day.
24 hour event?	Run from 11.00 Saturday morning to 11.00 Sunday – too much driving time for officials and competitors and not enough sleeping time. Score card marking would have to be done in shorter sections to give Time Keepers any chance of keeping up.
Increase entry numbers	Attendance at 4x4 shows did not generate any new interest. Adverts in magazines would be costly and little guarantee of response. Could cut entry fee in half by not providing food, t/shirt, trophies but would that really increase appeal?
No extras, low entry fee, advertised event	So if you reduce the event to a basic navigational exercise – do you have enough officials to do the work? Event secretary needs to attend for entire event – can we reduce the duties of the job? Signing on has to be done on the day, pre-entry has to be done to check event is viable. Lot of officials want to drive route and do the 'fun stuff' but no hands went up to volunteer a hand with the paperwork. Could not think of a way to cut down paperwork or to split it between others. Making it a one day event would cut down on official's time but would probably reduce the appeal generally.

Notes: This was a very positive meeting despite the outcome being the decision to put off the event for a couple of years and then try again to make it more viable. It was attended by past winners, Time Keepers and Officials – so it was discussed from every angle.

Chris, Denis, Jane, Matt, Mike, Neil, Rob, Tony E, Tony S, Tony W