

Ride 504 Report – 15 May 2016

Who Gives a Dam Ride!

Hares: Wet Beaver & FSB

Location: Gillman Village

The weather was favourable as SBH members congregated at our meeting point – a large shelter at Gillman Village Block 10. It was an ideal choice for a gathering spot, with on-site toilet facilities and a handful of restaurants nearby. There would be no running to nature's call behind some bushes on this lovely morning...

After a lengthy briefing by the Hares – something akin to a town hall meeting – the cyclists made a dash for the 'entry point' to the day's ride, which was through a narrow passage leading into the woods. It was here where a routine started that would continue for the next hour: our entourage would ride for 10 meters and then dismount to walk over some muddy mess or manoeuvre through some foliage, at which point we mounted our 'steeds' only to dismount a few meters later. We seemingly explored every nook and cranny of Gillman Village, being careful to avoid the 'slippery when wet' parts as Wet Beaver had advised at the pre-ride briefing. After one hour had passed, my speedometer display showed that I had travelled only 4.8 km... but that was all to change when we emerged from the jungle back to where we first started – the car park at Gillman Village.

Let us not forget, though, that the Hares' meandering Hash trail led us to unexpected places, such as what Wet Beaver and I thought was an historic, hidden relic of World War II in the form of a massive military bunker. Only at the Circle was our image shattered by Coo Chi Coo, who in dramatic fashion informed us that it was the remains of a Chinese temple and not anything linked to World War II. "Listen to your elders"! he exclaimed to Wet Beaver as he scolded her for giving historical misinformation.

Upon exiting Gillman Village, we made our way into Kent Ridge Park and descended the steep pavement of Vigilante Drive. There we were met by Wet Beaver, who directed us into a scenic path that meandered through the edge of the park nearest to South Buona Vista Road. About 10 minutes later, we exited the woods and found ourselves on the pavement huffing up the curvy slopes of South Buona Vista. Moments later, a handful of riders came flying down the hill after spotting a T-check further up.

Now reunited into a few sizable groups, we headed down South Buona Vista towards the direction of Pasir Panjang MRT and Labrador MRT. It was here where we ascended an escalator, with a Hasher next to me exclaiming, "This is the first Bike Hash where I've had to take an escalator!" Indeed, the SBH knows how to travel in style...

Our merry band of cyclists then sauntered through a grassy patch alongside Labrador Park MRT and a narrow shelf behind a fence before arriving at a parking lot from which there was one navigable exit... which eventually brought us to Bukit Chermin Boardwalk (roughly 1km in distance). Here our cyclists were surprisingly on their best behaviour and didn't run over any walkers along the way. Emerging back at Labrador Park MRT, it was an easy cycle back to Alexander Road and Gillman Village, where the Circle got underway a few minutes later.

Down downs were given to the Hares for their valiant efforts, while other "notes" were given to a handful of deserving candidates.

The GM called in our Virgin of the day, Daniela K., who is perhaps the only German in existence who doesn't drink beer. "I'm boring, I don't drink alcohol and I'm a vegetarian", she apologized. Never mind... with her sense of humour and her cycling shorts already sporting a hole in them from the ride; she has already warmed the hearts of the Circle.

Coo Chi Coo was summoned in for Crash of the Day... for being guilty of tumbling into a canal when he was cycling on a wet bridge. Apparently he didn't heed the Hares' warning before the start of the ride. He took his punishment like a man and drank his down-down in true Aussie style...

Dirty Muddy Happy was called into the Circle for being a two-timer... no, it's not what you think – she did an extra bike leg of XTerra Lankawi last week by mistake. So for having a blonde moment, let's give her a note: *She's all right, she's all right...*

Returnees Bob and Sasha were invited into the Circle, but one of them had already bugged off. In any case, we look forward to seeing both of them at the next ride! Be sure to stay back for the Circle next time, guys... Phone Sex and Goes Both Ways were ordered into the Circle at the request of Wet Beaver. Their crime, you ask? In their haste to blow through the course, they and their posse of FCB's missed the markings and managed to bypass half of the ride. No wonder they were showered and coiffed when the rest of us returned from our 14km outing!

Fat Crashing Bastard, without a shred of sarcasm for once, called in one of our esteemed elders for an emotional send-off. Back Entrance, who is planning a move back to his adopted residence in Germany, joined us for what we hope will not be his last time in the Circle. After 18 years in Singapore, Back Entrance and his better half will be seeking new frontiers and unexplored single-track in Europe. For his kind-hearted and gentle nature, his superb organization and his achievements in giving SBH a distinct online presence, let's give Back Entrance a special note and wish him all the best in the future. We will certainly miss his ever-watching GoPro cameras and his ability to find the positive in any situation. We wish you a quick return to these shores and you will definitely have 'guest of honour' privileges at any of the future Hashes (this might mean a few complimentary rounds of beer at the on-on, I reckon).

Let us also wish long-time member Bob Graf all the best as he is currently training hard for the Cape to Cape MTB Ride in Western Australia, scheduled to take place this October. Give that man a protein shake and some compression wear...

As the Circle wound down, Fat Stuck Bastard was still out on the trail sweeping paper and Coo Chi Coo was inconsolable that we would not be going to the Naked Café. Life is hard, my friend...

With that, the group convened to The Red Baron, a stylish and chill eatery that serves a wide range of craft beer and choice food. We stumbled out some time later, full of food and grog and ready for an afternoon slumber.

Until the next ride, On On!

Scribed by:
Knobby Boy Scout

