

Ride 554 Report – 17 February 2019

Nichols & Dime Ride!

Hares: Geoff Nichols & Wan King

Give the Scribe a note for using Google Maps to reach the ride site. Everything was in order until I looked in vain for Track 22 that appears on the App but is now overrun jungle. Arriving 20 minutes late to the start point, Rough Sex and I found the trail and managed to complete the entire circuit within the large square perimeters of Jalan Lam Sam (soon to be transformed into Tenga Town). Think of it as Hong Kong's New Territories. Sadly, one of our prime cycling destinations will be utterly transformed in the process.

The Hares did a mammoth job of utilizing every available nook and cranny of the forested area to lay their trail. Jalan Lam Sam is an ideal place for beginning cyclists to find their footing, but speed demons can also savour the thrill of seeing how quickly they can make it through this maze of trails. As we rode the circuit on our own, there were a few points where we meandered for a bit while trying to pick up the scent of the trail, but eventually we were able to complete the entire loop.

At that point in time, under the intense midday sun, Rough Sex called it a day and waited around Jalan Lam Sam while I carried on. The trail was still marked clearly at this point, as I pedalled along Sungei Tengah. The Hares found a narrow lane alongside a canal along which I cycled past a group of men who were letting their caged songbirds enjoy a bit of nature. They alerted me about the bird cages overhead, which is good since I'm tall and had my helmet hit the bottom of a birdcage it would have been bad for me and worse still for the bird.

I carried on and eventually found that the narrow lane was crammed with potted plants and gardening equipment. I had to carry my bike over some obstacles, such as a table on its side, that seemed to block off the small lane from public use. I backtracked and found that the Hares had cleverly laid trail into Pioneer Landscape Farm. When I emerged into the landscape farm, though, no one I asked had seen any cyclists come through. I lost about 15 minutes as I pedalled in vain looking for the out trail. Eventually I carried on the main road (Jalan Lekar) until I reached Old Choa Chu Kang Road. For two hours, I had not seen a single Hasher in sight, until I spotted Old Worn Stump cycling furiously in the distance. Close behind him was the Hare, Wan King, who was apparently sweeping. I asked him where the trail went from there. He directed me towards Home, as I had lost too much time searching for trail and couldn't do the final leg that went to NTU and through the cemetery. No complaints, though, for as I reached home my odometer read 28km. Those who had done the full circuit, such as Too Easy and Goes Both Ways, had clocked 34km on what had been a fun but long ride under the hot sun.

As we assembled for the Circle, a few riders came back in dribs and drabs. A large orange emergency truck approached us and two men emerged from the cab with large grins on their faces. As they lifted his prize Santa Cruz from the back, our own Coo Chi Coo sheepishly made his way towards us to the sound of a cheering crowd. It seems that our Aussie friend was desperately trying to reach home and took the easiest way back, which in this case was the PIE. Pulled over by the police, our hero returned not on his time-tested steed but by truck - both for the safety of himself and the public at large. It was at this point that the GM let out a belly laugh, with his head leaning back, as big as any that Ricky Gervais has ever given. Never mind all the hijinks, we love our elder statesman anyway!

The GM called himself into the Circle for Haring the Best Ride of the Week. His loyal sidekick, Geoff Nichols, came forward to bask in their achievement. Asked how the Ride was, the crowd gave the usual catcalls like, "Not long enough, not hot enough," and so on. In their favour, there were only a couple of hills thrown in for good measure. And the choir bellowed, *Here's to the Hares, they're true blue, they are bastards through and through. They are piss-pots, so they say, tried to go to Heaven but they went the other way! Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

There were no Guests or Virgins that day – perhaps they were 'too sensible' to turn up, as the GM put it. Bunny Tool was called in by the GM on suspicion of shortcutting a hill or two during the Ride. Bunny Tool had a public defender in the form of Cruelty to Virgins, who claimed that Bunny Tool did indeed do the full distance. The GM was not entirely sure if collusion had or hadn't taken place, but by that time there wasn't much for him to say except, "Give them a note!" *Why were they born so beautiful, why were they born at all? They're no f&*king use to anyone, they're no f&*king use all. They may be a joy to their mothers, but they're a pain in the ass to me. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

The Scribe was called in by the GM for coming late, and then called out by Fat Crashing Bastard for going to the wrong car park. When at a loss for words, you can always blame it on Google Maps for not updating their maps! *Why was he born so beautiful...?*

The GM called in Coo Chi Coo for a much-deserved note. This stalwart of the Singapore Bike Hash, a chap who has called Singapore home for over a half a century, was escorted by our friends in blue as he was cycling down the shoulder of the PIE. Fortunately, they felt that our lycra-clad Aussie friend was having a senior moment so they packed him into an emergency road vehicle rather than detain him or bring him to the station for questioning. Thankfully we could laugh over the whole proceedings as Coo Chi Coo drank his down-down. *Why was he born so beautiful...?*

It was at that point that Coo Chi Coo inquired, "Has anyone seen No Good?" Wan King replied that the last time he saw her that morning, No Good was pointing out a T-check to him inside Jalan Lam Sam. "I know," he replied, "I'm the Hare."

Back Entrance and Old Worn Stump were brought in on a Crash-of-the-Day charge, but before they were formally charged, Phone Sex and Bob Graf pulled up suddenly on their steeds, having cycled 38.8km. The two lads then got into a catfight about who put them off the paper trail, who led who up such and such a steep hill, and so on. At that point, the two

men were forced to accept a down-down while recounting their exploits. Eventually, the GM used the old Broadway 'hook' to pull an impassioned Bob Graf off the stage. Back Entrance and Old Worn Stump explained how they wound up on the ground, but all the while there was a chattering happening offstage. The GM had to bring back Bob Graf and Phone Sex for bantering during the Circle. Oh well, let's give the whole lot a note: *Why were they born so beautiful, why were they born at all? They're no f&*king use to anyone, they're no f&*king use all. They may be a joy to their mothers, but they're a pain in the asshøle to me. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

The GM then highlighted the upcoming Ride that he is scheduled to Hare. With two back-to-back Rides, Wan King is clearly aiming for King of the Hares [no pun intended] award for 2019. Do take note that our next Ride will be on Sunday, 10 March with the location TBA. Check the SBH website closer to 10 March for all of the necessary details.

At that point, the Circle was officially disbanded at we prepared to make our way to Mook's Thai Bistro for a happy ending lunch. It was noticed by all that we were still missing No Good, who had last been seen within the Jalan Lam Sam enclosed area. Chaos ensued as Coo Chi Coo mentioned that her phone was locked inside his vehicle and that she had the car keys. Only 15 minutes later did he discover that the car door was unlocked after all, but we still had no way of finding her as her phone was inside. A task force was dispatched – Bunny Tool on his bike, and Old Worn Stump in his car. While there were updates from them that a mysterious woman on a mountain bike was spotted in Bukit Batok, nothing was confirmed until No Good gave Coo Chi Coo a call using a stranger's phone. All's well that ends well, so they say, and we somehow made it through another day of fun, antics and melodrama.

The Singapore Bike Hash is henceforth requiring all of its members to bring a charged mobile phone with them on all of our Rides. Ensure that the phone is set to ring loudly so that you can hear it inside your bag. Another recommended item for you to order is RoadID, which you can read about here: www.roadid.com. You can order a personalized bracelet that includes your vital details and a contact person – an essential item for both road cyclists and mountain bikers.

Too Easy and Fat Crashing Bastard recommend the free App of the same name: ROAD iD. This app allows you to leave an electronic breadcrumb trail so that others who are on your access list can see your last known point on the map. Let's make road awareness and safety a top priority for 2019!

On a final note, kudos to Back Entrance for creating a stylish new website interface – it is as eye-catching as it is informative.

Until the next ride, on on!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout