

# Ride 562 Report – 21 July 2019

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## **American Independence Day Ride!**

### **Hares: Ditch, Wet Beaver, Knobby Boy Scout, My Precious Ass**

As with most Hash-related activities, the Hares were rarely free to recce at the same time. Most of our recces were comprised of a different line-up each time. The 'brains' behind today's 24km circuit was our representative from Texas, Ditch, but the day before the Ride the Hares were informed that Ditch had injured his back to the point where he couldn't lace his own shoes. Fellow Americans Wet Beaver and Knobby Boy Scout were joined by our secret weapon from New Zealand, My Precious Ass, to deliver a Ride for the fifteen loyal Hashers who turned up to celebrate a belated American Independence Day.

Sadly missing were many of our brethren from Europe and elsewhere. Where were they, you ask? No doubt the French were sipping a Spritz by the Seine. The Brits were sampling a Pimms at the pub, while the Dutch were no doubt enjoying their Heineken and Grolsch. These Europeans were fully enjoying their month-long residence in the Old Country while the rest of us were laying trail and plotting a course that was roughly half on pavement and half on trail. Given Singapore's ongoing development, this is what all Rides in Singapore will become in the future: some intermittent off-road bits connected by pavement and sidewalks.

Ride 562 started from an authentic British pub nearly hidden in the Hillview area. Founded and managed by a Brit, The Jolly Roger is a Hash-friendly venue that offers tasty food and a range of beers. It proved to be the ideal start point and end point for the Ride. Our cohort of 15 veteran Hashers were briefed by the Hares before departing at around 10am. We made our way towards Bukit Gombak and went in a clockwise direction towards Choa Chu Kang. Highlights of the route included a long off-road T-check that ran parallel to an inlet of water by the Warren Golf Club. Fat Crashing Bastard ended up riding most of the T-check as Wet Beaver valiantly rode after him, calling out his name to bring him back. We carried on through a patch of woods to reach some fire roads in an old military area. With our favourite terrain of Jalan Lam Sam now being developed into a massive housing project called Tengah Town, this network of fire roads may be the next best thing.

We carried on by way of pavement, park connectors and the grassy patch alongside some freeways to reach Choa Chu Kang Park. Nestled inside the Park is some decent single-track that was over all too soon, being barely one kilometre long. The riders followed the well-marked trail before reaching the Green Corridor, where we rode for a few kilometres before emerging at the Hillview area and close to Home. With a few paved hills thrown in, Ride 562 offered something for everyone and was ideal for every riding ability as it was not technical in nature.

By 12:15pm, everyone had reached The Jolly Roger. Too Easy was on her back at this point, taking a much-deserved rest after completing a 12km race early that morning at Jungle Cross. In her usual style, Too Easy had crushed the competition at the OCBC Cycle National MTB Championships and went on to cycle up some 20% gradients that we threw at her that morning on the Hash.

Copy Cat assumed the GM mantle that day as he summoned the Hares into the Circle for their charge. With shouts of “Great Ride!” and even some shout-outs for “Ride of the Year,” the Hares were given a note for their laudable efforts: *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...*

Fat Crashing Bastard lived up to his name and was called in on a Crash of the Day charge. He was spotted by Copy Cat and others to be falling - almost in slow motion. Time stood still as FCB fell towards the ground. *Here’s to the Snail, he’s true blue, he’s a bastard through and through, he’s a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

Ditch was called in for being an invisible Hare. He was most diligent in terms of masterminding the route, selecting the On On site, and organizing the Co-Hares. Days before the Ride, Ditch announced that his back was too sore for him to even mount his steed. His sore back didn’t stop him from enjoying a few rounds of Tiger at the On-On, though! Let’s give our American friend a note: *Here’s to the Disappearing Hare, he’s true blue, he’s a bastard through and through, he’s a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

Copy Cat then called in No Good for riding the “World’s Longest Shortcut” that morning. She managed to ride 8.5km, including the distance back to the Jolly Roger. Her better half, Coo Chi Coo, was called in for putting the wrong wheels on their bikes that morning. 26” and 27.5” are not the same size, mate... Never mind, we still love them anyway. *Here’s to the Mix-Ups, 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...*

Knobby Boy Scout called in Brooks, who has ridden with SBH on a few previous occasions. This silver-haired stalwart managed to keep up with the pack despite riding a 1983 steel Trek bike that has V-brakes and no suspension whatsoever. It looks like a bike that might be found locked to a fence with a \$5 lock (in which case, the lock would have the same value as the bike). Surprisingly, his rusted antique has a flashy Garmin computer attached to it. This man is either a glutton for punishment or there’s a story as to why he is riding such a ‘vintage’ bike. It turns out there is a story, after all. *Here’s to the Hard Man, he’s true blue, he’s a bastard through and through, he’s a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

Copy Cat and the cohort saw a Hash naming in the offing, so Brooks sat down on the cooler, was anointed with some sacred “Tiger” droplets and was reborn as “Hard On.” *Here’s to*

*Hard On, he's true blue, he's a bastard through and through, he's a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

No Good called in Too Easy on a charge of doing the world's hardest warm-up that morning. While most of us were dressing, reading the paper and enjoying a cup of coffee, No Good was cycling a hard 12km on her way to receiving her laurels as Singapore National Champion. Well done and keep representing SBH on the podium, Too Easy! And the choir bellowed: *She's all right, she's all right, she's got a teeny weeny willie but she's all right, drink it down, down, down, down, down...* (editor's note: there was some hesitation amongst as we didn't know whether to use the male or female variation of this tune).

Wet Beaver called in Phone Sex for coming out of nowhere on the Ride. As she was minding the Riders and keeping everyone on course, Phone Sex emerged out of nowhere. Did he stop for a coffee break along the way? Or merely lost in transit? The world may never know. *Here's to Phone Sex, he's true blue, he's a bastard through and through, he's a piss-pot so they say, tried to go to Heaven but he went the other way. Drink it down, down, down, down, down...*

Puffy hobbled into the Circle to accept a down-down for injuring his foot while walking his dog. Despite risking life and limb on the trail, leave it to a dog walk to bring our Dutch friend to the hospital.

Just before the Circle was going to sing a song in honour of Puffy's gaffe, there was some unexpected drama as an elderly man drove his car into the parking lot and scraped one of our bikes with a loud sound. Whorenet went to investigate the bikes, and for a moment it looked like he would use his Spanish brawn to settle matters. Fortunately, after a brief exchange with the driver and no visible damage to our bikes, another crisis on the Hash was averted.

And on that note, the entire cohort stayed on at Jolly Roger to tuck into some savoury food and lovely beverages, sharing good conversation and memories of Ride 562.

Be sure to join us for 563 in what promises to be a Ride of the Year contender in Malaysia. Be sure to get an early start to cross the Causeway because this Ride starts at 9am sharp! Arrive early to ensure that you can hear the briefing and start with the pack. See you there and safe cycling!

Until the next ride, on on!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout

