

Ride 568 Report – 24 November 2019

The 30th Anniversary Ride!

Hares: T. I. Joe & Coq up, Goes Both Ways, Copy Cat and Olivier Relandeau

Ride 568 set forth from what is becoming a regular haunt for the Singapore Bike Hash: Soek Seng 1954 Bicycle Café located on Seletar Aerospace View. Things got off to a rocky start when Rough Sex and I were assembling our bikes as the pack rode out at 10am sharp. Time waits for no man and apparently neither does the Singapore Bike Hash. Rough Sex and I lost about ten minutes as we struggled to locate the out trail, but managed to find markings for the next 23km. The Hares did a thorough job in marking the trail well, although there were a few disconcerting moments when we would ride and see a T check coming from the opposite direction. This happened about three times throughout the ride and it was always a cause for concern. Did we somehow go off trail? Had we inadvertently bypassed an important juncture? Another confusing moment occurred when we cycled through a trail that emerged at Yio Chu Kang Road and found no further markings on the sidewalk. We had to search around in every direction for twenty minutes before finding paper that we had missed the first time around. We also cycled more than one loop twice, and lost more time in the process. For all of these reasons and more, we missed the Circle but joined the On-On held at Soek Seng 1954 Bicycle Café. In my defence, I rode with Rough Sex and kept her on course and safe throughout the 23km that we rode together that morning. She was smiling as she was sipping a cold beer at the café, so all was good.

The course was well-planned and featured about 30% tarmac, 30% fire roads and 30% shiggy that is better suited for a Running Hash. This means that it was largely unrideable due to stumps, sharp turns and uneven terrain. I have run some of these paths many times at the running hash, but I would describe them more as shiggy and less as single track.

The weather was unforgivingly hot that morning, reaching a high of 32 degrees Celsius. Given the heat and the distance, the Hares planned the Ride well as it was of a manageable distance. No need for any 30km odysseys in this extreme heat. Kudos to the Hares for marking the trail sufficiently well that we were able to follow trail for all but a few segments. Thumbs down to those who didn't mark the Circle checks, as we rode a few T checks in vain.

All in all, the Ride was fun but lacking in the usual Hash antics as we were separated from the pack from the outset. Rough Sex and I returned intact and smiling to join the others back on the On-On.

As we missed the Circle, I can only remark on some short video clips provided by No Good. Brick Shit House was called in for a note at the bequest of Fat Crashing Bastard, who compared him to a Formula One Driver for always have to pull over for a mechanical pit-

stop. Can this stalwart Kiwi be persuaded to upgrade his faulty Specialized® for a new full-suspension bike or even an old-school hard tail? No doubt that whatever he chooses to ride, he will need space for two water bottles as he is adverse to wearing a CamelBak®. I received under thirty seconds of video clips, so that is all I can remark on, other than to say that the Circle was led by our enthusiastic GM with his Gervaisian sense of humour.

As this is my final Ride Report for the Singapore Bike Hash, I now pass the reins to the next volunteer, good Samaritan, sucker, chump or what have you. Perhaps the Ride Report will morph in a shadow of its former self or inspire another writer in our midst to great heights. Who cares, my job is done, haha... Don't bother me. My resolution for 2020 is to make it to more Bike Hashes on time, train harder and get more writing published in various publications. Being of Scottish origin, I will again be riding my beloved Trek 8500 hardtail and will probably be on it when TI Joe is on his next two or three latest and greatest frames. Long live the 26" hard tail.

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to the entire SBH community.

Officially signing off on Ride Report Duty, and see you on the trails!!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout