

# Ride 440 Report – 04 November 2012

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## The Old Farts Ride.....!

**Hares: Graeme Douglas, Turtle Head, Pole Dancer, Back Entrance & Ned Wanoa in absentia.**

A very wet night before the ride promised to make this one a muddy affair, probably meaning that some riders would be cleaning their bikes for the first time in months! We all met at the car park near the old KTM railway station, which gave a clue as to where the ride might take us. 10am was fast approaching and no Hares in sight, everyone was wondering if we'd see them before the ride set off. A couple of chalk arrows gave a clue to the direction we'd be going in, but a briefing from the Hares is always good. So it was with a bit of relief that we saw two of the Hares appear, almost unrecognisable from the waist down, mud covering what must be their legs! "It's going to be a muddy ride" quipped one Hasher.... No shit Sherlock!!

Brief briefing over, about 35 riders set off along Spottiswoode Park road, through the HDB block and on to Kampong Bahru Road and again through an HDB block towards the railway line. A group of intrepid, but clearly short sighted Americans who apparently hadn't got a pair of glasses between them, couldn't find the big white chalk arrow pointing to the railway, so had to be chaperoned. A portent of things to come as it turned out..... Passing a group mending a puncture (we'd only biked 1km by this time) we entered the old railway line and headed towards Woodlands.

Not far along the line, one of the Americans was at the side of the track, bike upturned, checking tyre pressure with a well calibrated thumb while the lady of the group was wading into the waste high undergrowth. Shouldn't forget to go to the loo before setting off..... A few uneventful kilometres later saw the hapless Americans wading through ankle deep mud that the leading pack had managed to churn into the consistency of well-made custard. Proof that staying back pays came shortly afterwards. Reached a T-check to find the leading pack pounding back down the line, "If I mention Colbar, would it resonate with you" shouted one rider as he rode into the only other trail available. Meanwhile the puncture crew had arrived and noting the riders coming from the opposite direction, made no-brainer decision to follow them onto the correct trail.

The ride then headed across the AYE and into Science Park I to find the same American using his well calibrated thumbs to check the tyre pressure yet again (change the tube maybe)? A couple of riders were also attending to a puncture. Another T-check brought the pack together again and we headed towards the very windy descent on South Buona Vista Road. One unlucky rider got lost and headed off into Kent Ridge Park, only to turn up as the Circle was ending – weren't the arrows big enough? The trail then led across to West Coast Road and another T-check over a very long bridge. The lucky stragglers were spared yet again. From here the trail went into the National University of Singapore where the steep climb out of the University saw TI Joe fall victim to a puncture – more on this later. Yet another T-check over a bridge and then on towards the AYE.

Having crossed the AYE, the trail led through an HDB block looking like it was undergoing renovation, then into Dover Rise and on to the One North Park. The trail led a merry chase around the Park, eventually leading to the railway line again. We lost one rider at this point, he having decided to chicken it back to the car park. His excuse was that he'd broken a spoke (he should have spoke-n up earlier)! Heading down the line the trail veered off the railway towards Portsdown Avenue and then Queensway where it led to the Park Connector heading back into the city and then via Pearls Hill back to the car park. A group of stragglers decided continuing on the railway line was a better alternative and chickened out on the last stage of the ride, arriving at the car park at about the same time as the last of the leading pack who did the whole ride.

The Circle took a while to get going as there were still riders missing on the trail. Having downed two of the Hares that had managed to return, a charge was raised by Slocum. TI Joe, the man with the puncture halfway up the bastard University hill, had a spare tube with him but no backpack or pump. Out of the goodness of his heart, Slocum stopped and loaned a man that drives a Porsche Cayenne a pump and the tools to fix the puncture. Then Coo Chi Coo asked the Circle how you could tell if the ride was being set by at least two Hares. Jack Off correctly answered that the chalk arrows were different sizes. A charge was made against the Hares for chalking skinny and fat arrows! Last time it was for using coloured chalk, you can't win.....

By unanimous decision it had been decided that no one wanted pizzas in a car park, so the Circle ended with two of the Americans frantically telephoning to find the lady who was seen disappearing into the waste high undergrowth. Perhaps she lost her way out?

Verdict: A longish ride of nearly 30km, muddy at the start and a bit "roady" at the finish, but a good ride.

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Scribed by,  
Back Entrance

