

Ride 446 Report – 17 March 2013

Another Ride in Hyde's Park.....! (On St. Patrick's Day)

Hares: Ditch, Stiffy & Whorenet

I received a call from Coo Chi Coo asking me if I wanted him to do the ride report for my Ride 445. As it didn't seem appropriate to report on my own ride I readily agreed. But having read the three line memo that was the ride report it has galvanised me to getting back on track with the ride reports. So apologies to those who have not had a write up yet, (it will happen, brain is still functioning in parts) it is not because I don't love you, merely that I am going for ride of the year and the less people remember the better when it comes to voting for myself.

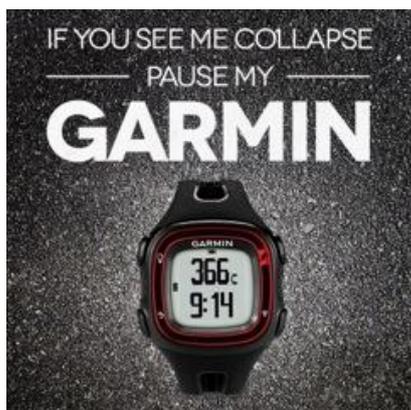
Lovely sunny morning. Decide to wash the shit off the bike from last weekend in the hope that the gears will change properly. Who needs high end technology? The venue is to be the commercial vehicle park at Dairy Farm Road so I begin pondering whether a good warm up would be to do a slight detour ride to the site via the pipeline trail from Turf City. As I was to find out later, it was fortunate that this sudden rush of blood to the head abated and I opted for the easier direct route, as that energy was going to be very much needed for what the hobbit sized Hare described as a short ride. I actually believed this as the hobbit had been out until 4am on a St. Paddy's Day binge. We were later to find out that he had lost his wife at Harry's Bar..... the one at Orchard Towers. Now that is an embarrassing admission, I mean where do you start looking and how do you maintain the pretence that you don't know your way around the place? As it turned out, it wasn't short but it was a cracking ride.

The temperature was already starting to be felt by the assembling group of riders which totalled about 30 people. The Hares told us it was on paper and chalk, no mention of precarious expressways to negotiate (unlike the last ride set by some twat with no mates) and the On On was at Blooie's, in The Rail Mall. The In trail..... *now here is an interesting thing, is it the In trail or the Out trail? After 19 years of Hashing I always think of the start as the In trail, we are going into the jungle, but I think that Hash aficionados will say this is the Out trail, as we are going out of the run site. Or is the Out trail when you come out of the jungle? So confusing, sort of shit that Sonny can post endlessly on Facebook about.....* was in the corner of the vehicle park down a slope. My immediate thought was that the disaster was about to begin.

But no, we began by entering the Bukit Timah Trail under the BKE heading towards Rifle Range Road and immediately hit a T-check. The likely route back deviated right up a hill that 99/100 I ride down. It's surprising how long and steep that hill is when you ride the other way. This took us onto Chestnut Avenue then down to gateway 5 (I think) which you can now ride around instead of lifting your bike over. How considerate those nice people at N Parks are or maybe someone found a saw. This then took us around, for me, slightly different trails to the ones that I usually use and all the while I was saying to myself, we're going up the big hill to Mandai. As it happened, the trail went down a steep hill to a T-check which meant a climb back for the FRBs, a common tactic by the Hares during the day. The common thought here was that we are going up the bloody steep hill to Mandai, but searches in that direction did not find paper. Nevertheless, having reached the base of that hill, you might as well do it, which led to finding paper again. Phew! The real trail apparently went an easier route. Wimps!

On down the Mandai trail then off right to another T-check, the trail being picked up on the N Parks trail which is becoming quite good now the rough tarmac is breaking up. There were some inconsiderate walkers here who just don't understand that they shouldn't be on our trail. Temporary confusion as we came out from this trail as there were no markings. Paper and chalk were very sparse in parts of this ride, but chalk marks were eventually found directing us across the road into the Mandai military zone. Here the ride really excelled with a range of trails and hills that really used the area to good effect. The army has put a lot of work into widening the roads inside these areas which the Hares used well with a great T-check at the bottom of a long fast downhill section. Coo Chi Coo continued on down at this point because he had another lunch time swingers party to attend and was never seen again. Stiffy and Jesus also sprung up at this point making appearances as the Hares. We eventually worked our way to the heavy vehicle (read Tanks) hill training area where I nearly went for wipe out (forget crash, this would have been really messy) of the day when speeding down the hill. A nasty big hole appeared before me which I managed to jump. The thought of what would have happened had my front wheel gone in does not bear thinking about.

The last bit of trail brought us out under the KJE, where I tested my helmet out on the concrete to see if it could take the full impact of a head-butt. It did. We then came out onto the park connector which took us back to Dairy Farm Road. Roughly 28km by Garmin, which reminds me:



The Circle started with Tim sporting a magnificent sparkly green bow tie in recognition of it being the day that all the Micks get completely blasted, a bit like every other day really. Two virgins, one an Austrian chap who has lived in Singapore for the last 18 years. Goodness knows what his English and accent must have sounded like when he first arrived. The other virgin was from somewhere, New York I think, also a long time in Singapore and it has only taken the pair of them this long to discover the Bike Hash. Both swore they loved it and would return again. Actually, one did sign up there and then.

Boring ride, no crash of the day, except Stiffy, who was awarded sit down of the day. I was hauled in with Wendy as she insisted on following me into the woods when I wanted a pee. Reality is (not that anyone give a f*&k) that I was checking.

Robert was called in for turning up to the circle, where had he been?

There being no other business, Circle was concluded and we headed for Blooie's, just at the point that the thunderstorm began. Blooies' does a Caesar salad with Cajun chicken which looks nothing like the picture and a Hawaiian burger comes out as a Mexican burger (one has a grass skirt, the other a sombrero). A side of chips is huge.

Verdict: Terrific ride with great use of the area put together by an American hobbit (with tenuous Irish links, even Obama claims Irish descent), a Spaniard and an Englishman. Happy St. Paddy's Day.

On On

Scribed by,
Wan King

