

Ride 463 Report – 16 March 2014

The Shamrock n Roll Ride! (St. Patrick's Day Ride)!

Hares: Ditch & Patrick Escalle

Location: Ang Mo Kio Electronics Park Rd

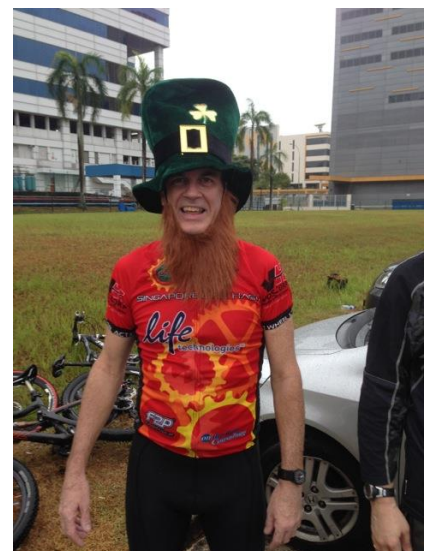
Hot on the heels of the Taffy's Day Ride (Best Ride of the Year 2014 - don't forget to vote), being only two weeks later, we had The St. Patrick's Day ride where anyone with the name Patrick was likely to be pulled in. I knew this run site from a Monday Hash we did a few weeks before, which turned out to be a very long run. I decided to ride there to get a warm up (consummate athlete) and the weather was quite nice at that point in time, which was not to be the case riding home. As the pack slowly gathered, the sky became more overcast. Not to worry, it hasn't rained in months. Just as the Hares finished uttering a few garbled bejabers and begorahs instructions, the rain began. Not hard but it was the first time in two months that any water had fallen on Singapore and today was the day. This immediately prompted people to put the water proof covers over their backpacks in case a few drops of water splashed on them.

On On was across the open field, which like most of Singapore is like an egg carton of potholes with some grass thrown over the top. We then had to manhandle our bikes over the railings onto the road and off we went. Very similar to the start of the running Hash I thought; was this going to be a sign of things to come. Well yes it was, sort of. Trail took us along drains, across open areas with some quite good sections, all the time I'm thinking we have to be going across to Yio Chu Kang. The rain was getting heavier by now and paper and chalk markings were coming under a bit of pressure. Sure enough, where I expected us to be heading across the road, chaos broke out with riders heading in all directions spotting all sorts of paper or not. Heading up the road towards Yio Chu Kang, there were no markings at all, but the Hare indicated to keep carrying on. Even at the lights, there was nothing and the Hare extolled us to cross over where, at last, a piece of toilet paper could be seen.

We entered onto trails strewn with bottles and rubble and began heading into the jungle/trail/road area. These were good and varied and made for some good riding and checks for the day, although the first rains of the year did not abate and meant we needed much forward guidance (to use a Fed term) from the Hares to get us around as planned. We moved from jungle trails to disused road sections and back through the jungle again, with the inclusion of a long T-check along the side of a drain. The rain continued to come down.

Eventually we were headed back to Yio Chu Kang Road but were then sent back again to find a new trail that took us through a good off road trail which then brought us out to the main road again and directly back home. The ride was 16km.

As we hung around for the circle to begin, it had to be explained to one of our froggy brethren that the circle was an integral part of the event and that this was not put on by NTUC as some community spirit thing. He duly stayed and discovered the reason we brought beer to the ride. Being St. Paddy's day required some dressing up and the GM and partner did not disappoint, with



Wendy sporting a muff on her face which was having hormonal effects on Coo Chi Coo. He was later on downed for this, though many people thought that neutering would be a more apt punishment. Spa Barbie was awarded crash of the day, which was captured on video by Back Entrance. All the poofers with raincoats for the backpacks were also on downed. One of the final charges was for Wendy who, inspite of the fact that she is always hassling people to buy Hash shirts, does not wear a Hash shirt herself. The reason she wears a flowery, sleeveless, sequined version (not available to the rest of us) is because she is allergic to Hash shirts!



The On On was at the adjacent hawker stalls, fine local tucker.

Verdict: Some great trail, slightly on the short side. Rain was refreshing but riding home through a mega thunderstorm was not fun. Great day.

On On

Scribed by,
Wan King

