

Ride 464 Report – 06 April 2014

C'est le Bike Ride!

Hares: Patrick Escalle, Damien Villeneuve

Location: Sembawang Park carpark, Tuah Road

Another beautiful day in paradise, sun is shining and its bike Hash day. This time the ride is in the Ulu at Sembawang and it's inaugural AGM day. Arrive early, the first car at the site no less. I step outside the car and the first thing that hits you is a wall of intense heat. It is like the dry season is back and boy is it hot. Our Hare for the day is the professional bash Hare Patrick Escalle, straight back after setting the previous St. Patrick's Day ride. Is there's no limit to this man's energy?

The pack is assembled but first, the AGM. Tim as master of ceremonies gives a quick overview, the On Cash deftly avoided a question as to how much we had in the bank (oodles, enough for a deposit on a new car) and the accounts were approved, the incumbent committee was re-elected unopposed (who would be so stupid as to want to be on the committee!?) and there being no other business the meeting ended after about 5 minutes. For the uninitiated, for a normal Hash this amount of time is considered border line long for an AGM but still within acceptable bounds. For a dysfunctional and really screwed up Hash (no names mentioned - Lion City) you set aside a weekend and make a song and dance about it.

The formalities over, Patrick tells us about the ride. This meant nothing to the pack as it was spoken with an effeminate froggie accent but we got the gist of it. Something to do with papier de toilette and blanc de terre the Hares explained; that clear, we were duly set off over the curb at the end of the car park. From here we worked our way through some open fields and then onto Admiralty Road East to a check. I went right here and On On was called by Jesus as he spotted a disused tissue. The real trail went left and up Canada Road thence to Sembawang Road. Crossing Sembawang Road we then ploughed through a field to come back onto the road again and then go off left, passing what looked like some off road stunt mounds. The pack was holding together well at this point. This marked the beginning of the off trail and some very cunningly planned riding in a very tight area. The first section took us through various jungly trails, which was fun, which then took us down to Yishun Industrial Park A and then into open track riding on gravelly tracks with adhoc regrouping stops. The first of these stops entailed everyone watching Phone Sex fix his tubeless tyre while all the gunk stuck to him. The pack had split into two groups by now, with the second group some way behind, so it doesn't seem fare that the moment the second pack arrives, everyone moves off. The heat was getting to be quite intense by now, so moving at least gave a cool breeze.

More long road stretches, big loops and another stop until we eventually were directed by No Good to a trail that took us down to the canal. From here was what seemed an interminable slog along the side of the canal for several kilometres. Somewhat disconcerting was seeing Ditch wading across the canal with his bike on his shoulder. What did he know that we didn't? I suspect the heat was getting the better of him at this point. The trail eventually brought us out on Canberra Link, across the bridge and then back down the other side of the canal. A final check, which the FRBs of Wendy, Philip, Lars and Jascha went through, but did not make any effort to show the way (should have been on downed for this) was broken again and then we headed home down Sembawang Road to the car park.

All were thoroughly drained by the heat and Hash Brew's softies were more than welcome. For once I had the car and wallowed in a nice warm shower. The circle was called and the Hares called in. Great ride was the verdict. At this point the circle was interrupted as a grumpy FCB arrived, huffing and puffing and threatening to blow everyone's house down. He'd crashed again, allegedly. There had been a few other spills during the day with Spa Barbie making the list again along with Phone Sex. There were other charges too numerous to remember and some returnees were also on downed. All swore blind they would return.

Le On On was announced as being at the Chinese restaurant down the road at which a big crowd enjoyed themselves. FCB was smiling by then.

Verdict: Very good ride with great use of the area that we do not use much. Great food, best On On of the year; only fitting if the French are involved.

Scribed by,
Wan King

