

Ride 474 Report – 12 October 2014

Hi-Ho Silver! 25th Anniversary Ride aka Coo Chi Coo's Birthday Ride.

Hares: Coo Chi Coo & Ditch

Some car park opposite Haw Par Villa. Where's that? Name sounds familiar but for the life of me I don't know what or where it is other than it's at the bottom of South Buona Vista Road so it will be a nice roll down the hill to get there. On reaching Kent Ridge, Tinsel Tits is dawdling along so I carry on past picking up speed on the ascent. Looking round I notice he is not there, the reason being (as I was told later) he sees no point expending energy peddling downhill. Fair enough. As I reach Pasir Panjang Road (or is West Coast Road?) the Texan hobbit, Ditch, speeds across the lights adding the final touches to the forthcoming ride. As I near the ride site on the right I spot this cheap, tacky concrete creation which has the design flair of an infant's first go at water colours. Oh, that's Haw Par Villa!

Driving into the car park a queue was developing as everyone negotiated with the only physical "pay the lady on entry" car park in Singapore. This being a very special day, the 25th Anniversary of the Bike Hash, the occasion was to be marked by a special edition jersey, but we'll have to wait for the Xmas ride to get one! As Coo Chi Coo was already setting the run for his birthday ride, he was designated the task of rebranding the event for the 25th. Most of the Tuscany couples were back in tow and some long lost original Bike Hash founders were present, replete with their high tech bikes of yesteryear. Great to see Barbarian still moving and a special appearance by old time member Andrew Webster. CCC informed us that the ride would be on the usual markings and that the chalk might change colour as a warning. Pointing towards a corner of the car park he set us off and immediately confusion broke out at the front as riders went the wrong way and bottlenecked on the tree roots. The trail headed off down the path alongside the Harbour Drive where the pack took on oncoming Lorries before entering connectors and parkland, past techy looking buildings, out briefly onto Science Park Road and up the adjacent grassy slope where the first bit of excitement happened. Quietly minding its own business in the middle of the slope was a black spitting cobra (*Naja sumatrana*) when suddenly a hoard of clanky bike Hashers stumble upon it. The cry quickly went out that there was a snake in the vicinity and riders spread out fast. Now, usually, Wendy would be freaking out at the mere hint of a snake on the premises but this time she showed complete indifference as it reared up with hood puffed out: clearly unphased by erect spitting pythons.

Coming back out on Science Park Road we cut through trail to Zehnder Road where the Hare surprises us by finding a forest trail up a steep slope and the Hare stood by it to make sure everyone went up it. The reason became apparent as the trail looped back down a steep slope onto the same road twenty meters further on. However, we did have a good candidate for COD, caught on video, as a guest somehow turned his bike into the wall and fell all the way down the slope. Well worth a view on the web page and plenty of sympathy from fellow riders, ha ha! While the laggards finished the loop riders were disbursing in all directions as arrows pointed back from whence we came. Regrouped, the Hare led us back into the rear of the Science Park grounds, across South Buona Vista and onto a section of the Kent Ridge MTB trail exiting on the lower level of Vigilante Drive for a good uphill puff to the top. The trail beckoned riders to ride down steep steps which I attempted but I only succeeded in mashing my bollocks as I got stuck behind my too high saddle. Time for the auto adjusting seat upgrade me thinks. From the steps we did a tour of Kent Ridge Park taking in a check in a thorny piece of jungle, bringing us out onto Winchester Road. The Hares found some good trail to take us to the Alexandra Road flyover across the AYE and down onto the railway line. As the FRBs forgot it was a Hash (as usual) looking out for paper was not really a consideration, there being much debate later on whether there actually was a T-check or simply the FCBs ran out of steam. Either way Ditch got the blame as riders worked their way at full pelt back down the line towards Keppel, eventually hitting a T-check when all forward options were lost. Checking back the pack negotiated long grass stuff and then a back check taking us up and over a bridge and on into some long hill work around Telok Blangah and the park connectors, with some excellent use of checks and terrain. A notable moment being Phone Sex bottling out of a tiny hill. Coming back along Alexandra Road, the true professionals went up Royal Road, then off road behind the houses to Canterbury Road where they met most of the short cutting bastards, aka most of the pack, coming from the other direction. The Canterbury Road connector culminated a hike up the steps at the top followed by a ride to the entrance to the MTB trail off the top end of Vigilante Drive. The last section was a ride down the MTB trail which is much under rated and has some excellent technical sections. Exiting on South Buona Vista it was a straight jaunt home.

I started my Garmin a bit into the ride so I would estimate about 21km or so. Another CCC special, great use of terrain with cool weather being our friend on the day.

Tim called the circle to order with Hares, CCC and Ditch getting their deserved beers. Virgins were acknowledged and welcomed. All swore they would return to ride again, we'll see. Perennial guests including founding Bike Hasher Peter "Nintendo" Chew were on downed. In recognition of their founding role and what they have done for the club in the past, a special award was made to Graeme for being on the very first ride and to the other founders Evan "Barf Balls" Jones and Ken "Peeking" Ong. The other founding member, James "Screwdriver" Tay unfortunately passed away in July this year. Thanks guys! Barbarian and Bushy were brought in for not having an argument, how times change. Sperm was on downed for finding his brain (I know you're going to say that as he is Australian, that's an oxymoron) and Wendy for her new found familiarity with snakes. And there were many more that I struggle to recall.

With stomachs rumbling and everyone looking forward to the FOC slap up meal to come, it was generally agreed that this was the best 25th Anniversary Ride the club has had, at which point the GM called On On and everyone departed for food.

Great effort by all concerned; more goodies to come at Xmas apparently.

On On

Scribed by,
Wan King

