

# Ride 502 Report – 10 April 2016

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## **The Flat as a Pancake Ride!**

**Hares: Recipricunt, Back Entrance, Old Worn Stump and My Precious**

**Location: Lorong Lada Hitam**

Set to begin from the end of Lorong Lada Hitam – located off Mandai Road – this ride promised great terrain that meanders through some infamous Army training grounds. Would we face the camouflage-painted faces of Singapore’s gun-toting NS boys that day? Only time would tell. For those of us that cycled to the start point, such as Ditch and me, it felt like we had already done a bike Hash before it even started!

The weather was hot and unforgiving all morning, making the challenging terrain even tougher. As I followed the trail that led from a fire road to a narrow trail leading off into the jungle, some local riders said, “Your group is going down there” (pointing over the hill into the abyss below). I thought to myself, “Ah, only SBH Hares will have us going into uncharted waters off the grid...” as our sane cycling counterparts meandered happily along the fire roads above.

Ride 502 made ample use of the fire roads and occasional single-track through the Mandai area - making this one of the most rewarding locales in Singapore to offer terrain still untouched by development. As long as there are no skirmishes with the NS boys, the area promises many future rides in store to cater to all levels.

Most of the morning was on ‘rideable’ terrain – with only some sporadic technical bits and the occasional log or fallen tree that required us to dismount and walk. It was at one such off-the-trail bits in the jungle that Sue approached behind me as I sat on a log catching my breath. “Your colour’s off,” she said – gauging my dizziness from the heat all too well! For those of us who melt in Singapore’s hot weather, “The Flat as a Pancake Ride!” is a classic example of false advertising... no doubt we will come back for more abuse in the future, though.

Not only was the hot sun merciless, but the 25-27km distance and some mishaps with spotting the markings made it all in all a tough but satisfying ride... one that might scare off some virgins, you might say.

As the group finally made its way to the start point 2+ hours after starting off, we appeared to have lost some Members along the way. Michael from Germany earned a deserved note for coming back in

a taxi, while Ted and a few others nearly cycled into the circle as it was finishing. For that he got a proper down down...

There were few crashes of the day, but I did spot Ted doing the Highland Fling off of his bike when manoeuvring at a T-check.

No Good called in her other half, Coo Chi Coo, for another bout of forgetfulness. This time it wasn't his bike seat – as it is his tendency to forget it half the time. He'd broken his finger a week or so earlier and needed to bandage it for the ride. He actually managed to bandage up the wrong finger! Coo Chi Coo, what will we do with you? Haha... Keep telling your great jokes and all is forgiven.

Meanwhile, Hare and Webmaster *par excellence* Back Entrance announced a sudden change of plans: Pepperoni Pizza was now 'off the menu' and replaced by Blooie's Road House. Why, you ask? Because Back Entrance was having visions of a veggie wrap dancing in his head! Give him a note...

Kudos to the Hares for an ambitious, adventurous romp through the backwoods of Mandai and Kranji – Give them a note! We will donate some chalk and paper to your next outing and will be sure to bring more liquids and smelling salts to boot. Otherwise, we may be laying the casualties at Kranji Cemetery if you push us as hard as you did on this day!

Until the next ride, on on!