

Ride 507 Report – 17 July 2016

Bastille Day Ride!

Hares: Old Worn Stump and Wan King

Location: The heavy vehicle car park at the junction of Bukit Batok Road and Jurong Road

The start point was a familiar one – the heavy vehicle car park at the junction of Bukit Batok Road and Jurong Road. Approximately 25 riders assembled at the former “Greasy Spoon” to get the brief from the Hares, and at 10am sharp the ride was underway.

The group made its way into a trail at the edge of the car park, only to discover that it was a false trail – one of many T-checks that we would come across that day. We then headed down the road a few hundred metres to enter from the usual entrance into some maze-like trails that ultimately brought us to the welcome paths of Jalan Lan Sam.

The Hares left no trail off their route, maximizing every gully and crest of this verdant “sanctuary” for mountain bikers. The most demanding part was back-to-back steep hill ascents, during which riders had to do a U-turn and tackle another hill as soon as they had descended the first one. Some of us made it up intact, while others made it up until their wheels were spinning in the scrub and they were literally stopped in their tracks.

The temperature climbed to a merciless 32° C and for more than half the ride there was little overhead cover from the sun. Hash Brew ended the day with his arms a crimson shade of red – a testimony to the scorching Singapore sun.

Just when we thought that the route was leading us elsewhere, we were led to the tall locked fence at the end of Jalan Lan Sam where we climbed over the rocks to have another round. The Hares did a stellar job of using all of the available terrain, without once getting the group lost or onto a wrong trail. Their achievement brought a deserved round of cheers and applause at the end of the ride. Could this be shortlisted for Ride of the Year? Only time will tell, but don't discount Old Worn Stump and Wan King from the running: their 23km route came in exactly at two hours and was a textbook example of a perfect Bike Hash ride.

Returnees Phil, Stu and Christian were summoned into the circle to say a few words and drink a down-down. Dirty, Muddy Happy was our crash of the day – was she wearing her arm and leg guards when she finally needed them? The proud owner of a new bike, she drank her down-down with gusto and brought a smile to the crowd.

Not to be outdone, another Japanese woman was called in by Wan King for getting “special Japanese service” during the ride. Kiyoko was struggling to hoist her bike onto the road after emerging from the rocky area at the end of a small canal. A kind local fisherman was there to bring her and her bike to safety. Did he reach out to bring up the next guys in the queue? No, he meandered back to resume fishing with his buddies. Could this be reverse

gender discrimination? In any case, he was a kind soul for helping out at least one Bike Hash member for those brief moments.

The circle thus concluded, some continued on to share a meal at the nearby food court of Block 177, while others drove off with mud-speckled bikes on their racks or backseats. My last image from yesterday was seeing Coo Chi Coo wearing his tiny 'Speedo' swimsuit and taking a scoop shower near the back of his car. I later learned that the Japanese call such a suit a "boomerang". It is fitting that in this case the boomerang was worn by an Aussie! I then promptly mounted my bike and rode home, trying to block that particular image of Coo Chi Coo from my head!

With all of the problems that the world has borne witness to in the past months, let us be thankful for the wonderful camaraderie and positive energy that is synonymous with the Singapore Bike Hash! Let it be a role model for the rest of the world.

Until the next ride, On On!

Scribed by:
Knobby Boy Scout

