

Ride 521 Report – 23 April 2017

Willy Wonka's Chocolate Factory Ride!

Hares: Old Worn Stump & Coq Up

Our lycra-clad pilgrims made their way for their Sunday ritual with dedication and reverence. Were they going to church, you ask? No, the devotees were en route to the heavy vehicle car park at Jurong Road. Regardless, about 20 of the faithful turned up to form a small circle around GM Bunny Tool to take part in the AGM. After reading the guidelines on laying trails, and a reminder to adhere closely to them, the GM asked if there was any other business. Treasurer Wan King then reported on our account balance (more than enough to buy any top-of-the-range bike, by the way, so be wary if you see Wan King on a new bike anytime soon). It seems like our Exco's speeches are not destined for the hallowed halls of The Hague or Parliament, but at least we admire their core values of being ecologically-minded and having a sense of humor. And with that, the AGM was over and Ride 521 was officially underway.

The cyclists made their way down Jurong Road and entered our beloved playground at Track 22, which is a verdant labyrinth of fire roads whose perimeter includes the PIE, KJE, Brickland Road and Bukit Batok Road. It was an ideal time to hold the ride there, for this lush green beltway will soon be developed into another housing and shopping hub within a few short years. On this day, however, its trails beckoned us and we obligingly answered her call.

Having rained heavily the day before, the course had intermittent muddy sections and a number of pools of water that we bravely cycled through. Would we ride through a puddle two inches or two feet deep? No one really knew until they literally took the plunge, but we had fun getting soaked and grimy, and when we turned up later at a nearby Hawker center the lunch crowd looked at us with inquisitive eyes as we ordered and sat down. Caked in mud and with some of us having dirt-speckled faces, we were a sight to behold.

The ride was successfully laid, and kudos to the Hares for making a heroic effort the day before when sheets of rain fall on the area. The group largely managed to stay together through much of the course, with Rough Sex, Deviant and Adrian getting waylaid when Rough Sex got a flat tire. Kudos to Adrian for being a real gentleman and helping these damsels-in-distress. Both of the women carry spare tubes - but no tools or pumps apparently - so if you see them smiling and waving at you and their bike is on the ground, chances are they need your help with a flat tire. Perhaps they will buy you a beer at the on-on for your efforts.

Meanwhile, I managed to lose my right pedal early into the ride, found it, only to lose it once or twice later. Fortunately, I recovered the missing pedal and it is now in the shop being serviced. Time will tell if the pedal can be salvaged and back on my bike by next Sunday... yes, it wouldn't be a proper Hash ride if I didn't undergo some mechanical difficulty or another.

The cohort made it back safe and sound to the heavy vehicle parking lot shortly after noon. The virgins and visitors were summoned into the circle, including Jeff, Benoit, Jacob and Oanh. Returnee Paul declared, "I'm like an Irishman who couldn't tell the difference between white and yellow." He later informed us that this means he didn't know whether

he was coming or going, since at first the group was left scratching our heads and couldn't make heads or tails of what he had meant. Paul and Oanh are easy to spot, as they have matching blue Specialized bikes. "This way there are no complaints that I got a better bike!" quipped Paul.

The GM called himself into the circle for being a Crash of the Day case. No one saw him fall, so either he is being a shifty politician or he was thirsty, only he knows for sure. Sorry that it's only a Tiger beer and not a Belgian beer, Bunny Tool! Pinball Wizard took a spill and was summoned in for a beer and a down-down. "Here's to the Crashes of the Day, they're true blue..."

The scribe was called in for losing his pedal on the ride and ribbed for his plan to take his bike to a 'proper' bike shop. And the chorus refrained, "Why was he born so beautiful, why was he born at all...?"

Wan King came into the circle with a charge regarding what he called an excessively long AGM earlier that morning. "Normally if the meeting is over 5 minutes, there's an inquiry," he remarked. Bunny Tool was taken to task for wasting our time and handed a Tiger Beer and a charge for his crime against humanity: "He ought to be nailed to the shithouse..."

The SBH Auditor, Phone Sex, was brought into the circle by Wan King on a charge of avoidance of official duties. As Auditor, Phone Sex is required to review and vet the official bank balance and ledger before the AGM. Yet Treasurer Wan King's emails and phone calls remained unanswered and our Auditor was non-contactable. The reason, it seems, is that said Auditor's email had been mysteriously hacked. "And a hacked email only happens when you visit dodgy porn sites," explained Wan King in a voice and manner akin to a seasoned prosecutor. Phone Sex took his charge like a man, as the jury chanted, "Here's to Phone Sex, he's true blue, he's a bastard through and through..."

It seems like being a member of Singapore Bike Hash has some perks, so if you don't have enough reasons to sign up yet, here is one more reason: Treknology is giving all SBH members a 15% discount on bike servicing. You can either proudly wear your bike Hash shirt to the shop, or the GM can email the shop on your behalf if you ask him nicely. Or you can take the Treknology "card" that was emailed to all Members to the shop. Either print it or show the picture of it on your phone.

GM Bunny Tool was dragged into the circle one last time, this time by Slow Leaker, who spotted an unforgivable fashion *faux pas*. He pointed out the GM's shoes – only 3 weeks old and already the foot and sole had separated and bounced with every step. That's on both shoes and not just one, mind you. It seems that any bargain that seems too good to be true, probably is. "Drink it down, down, down, down, down..."

While he didn't get a deserved down-down that morning, let's give a major shout out to our dedicated Hash Brew (now retired from the role), Recipricunt, who tirelessly kept us refreshed with mineral water, 100 Plus and Tiger Beer for 14 years (2003-2017). In something of a military ritual, Hash Brew handed over his 2 large Eskis to Old Worn Stump, who has generously agreed to take over the title. Recipricunt did an outstanding job and did double duty in both transporting the drinks and serving the down-downs for a generation of thirsty bike Hashers.

And with that, a dozen riders cycled the short distance to a Hawker center for some tasty food and drink, drawing stares and scaring small children with our muddy faces and legs. Thus concluded another great day of cycling and camaraderie; made possible by the Singapore Bike Hash.

See you at the next ride that is scheduled to take place on Sunday, May 7th. Avoid any Cinco de Mayo parties that take place on May 4th unless you want to ride hungover and with bloodshot eyes... save the partying until after the bike Hash if you can!

Until the next ride, on on!

Scribed by: Knobby Boy Scout

