

Ride 369

Ride Report

Christmas Ride

Was it the legacy of the last 2 years of wet, rained-out Christmas rides or the rain from the last week that caused Machine to decide NOT to lay paper for this years' Christmas ride? Or was he simply feeling the effects of the previous night and thought, stuff it, I'll blame the weather, blame the French and blame the short time given to him to get back for the awards and lunch. In any event the day was turned from a hash to a lead ride, where the hares were pushed to keep together an eager mob that wanted to push their weekend warrior status before heading off on various end-of-year trips, in what will undoubtedly be one of the last large hashes for the year.

Moving from the previous popular venue at TI Joe's mansion to the (only slightly) larger British Club, this year's Christmas ride was well attended by a large crowd, with the venue well selected and organised by Mrs Hash Brew (Brilliantly done!).

The hash met at the top carpark, with No Good and Peng eagerly collecting the members' subs for 2008. If you haven't paid, you can get the form from the Singapore bike hash website and give the form and money (\$60.00) to Hash Cash – No Good at any of the next hashes. Three new members were signed up for 2009: Dean Elder, David Lucas, Michael Owen.

After a delayed start (Coo Chi Coo didn't have the bike built, tuned, cleaned and ready) the hash headed down from the carpark at great speed towards Bukit Timah Nature reserve MTB track, following a fit yet frantic TI Joe. Well worn over the years, the Bukit Timah trail still managed to slow the pack with the challenging single track and slow trails. After splitting the pack at the Cashew Road park to allow the slower riders a short-cut home, the hash quickly moved up towards the Woodcutters' BMX track and back along the side of the BKE to Rifle Range road. The Hash was ably lead by TI Joe, with Ah-Beng and G-String holding the middle of the pack, and Machine keeping the back together and within grasp of the front riders.

The path was wet and muddy from the previous day, leaving all a little weary as they trudged through slippery tracks and over endless roots, until the heat and humidity left everyone tired and in need of the waiting food and refreshments.

Back at the carpark the hash cleaned up, showered (very nice facilities at the B-Club, maybe we should go there more often) and retired to the roof top garden for the circle. The hash gave a down-down to the hares, the new virgin rider Allexia Yousou, from Thailand, and to some quick charges (Coo Chi Coo's soon to be infamous quote of the day: "you old guys all look the same"), after which the eager pack was then presented with this years' awards. Coo Chi Coo pointed out the opportunity presented by the low voter turnout, with some rides getting high votes, simply from the hares alone! A quick summary of this years' results:

Best Hash of the year: Ride 364 Coo Chi Coo's Birthday ride (Coo Chi Coo, No-Good, VDH, Patrick)

Best Overseas hash of the year: Ride 365 Bali Ride, (Wendy Lee)

Best On-On: Ride 351, Christmas Ride 2007, (TI Joe)

Best New Hasher: Alexander Korn (Little Dick Head)

Other commendations:

Hash Brew: Roger Corbett

Hash Cash: No-Good

Hash Flash and Webmaster: Copycat

Organiser for Christmas On-On: Mrs Hash Brew (Fiona Corbett)

The next ride was announced with a couple of volunteers : Pole Dancer and Michael Davison, still to decide where to set the hash on the 28th December. Some of next years' rides still need help with haring and all members are asked to get involved in setting at least one ride for the year. Remember, the hash only exists because of the effort from everyone – so be part of it.

The hash took part in the sumptuous On-On of great Indian food and copious amounts of beer and wine. I'm sure it ended well, just can't remember it!

Another great Christmas Ride and On-On, and another end to a great year of hashing.