

After a year of threatening to join a MTB hash in Singapore, I finally did the deed on ride 399, Sunday 31st July. I must admit I was a little apprehensive – not about the riding but about the very strange hash rituals I had heard about. We set off in light rain following the two hares who had been unable to lay paper since it had absolutely pissed down all night. The first section was a lovely bit of muddy jungle with some log obstacles and twists and turns. It seemed like every few hundred meters the hares would take us down a nice long section only to have us turn back and go a different direction. After a few of these I realized it was intentional and not a case of the blind leading the blind. It was bloody great to ride some new trails and sections that varied in difficulty, although I did feel like we were going around and around in circles? Hmmm....Funny that.

Points I remember from the ride:

- Puddles that looked a couple of inches deep but swallowed wheels whole – who was the guy who fell right in the middle of one in the first 1km?
- A gravel downhill section where we were reminded “don’t forget to brake” – who was the guy who got the serious death wobbles mid-way down?
- I remember hearing a female virgin hash rider saying “technically I am not a virgin” and a fellow rider responding “but practically you are” – who was that girl?
- A lovely climb 200m from the ending point that sucked the air from our lungs.

Points I remember from the rituals:

- I didn’t have to dance naked around a totem pole.
- I did have to chug a lovely ice cold beer for technically being a hash virgin.
- New names were given out to a couple of members. For the wobbly downhill bloke – “Wobbles” (which was much better than the originally suggested “Mr Wobbles”), “White Bag” – for the new bloke who had a snow white CamelBak. Sabina very cleverly avoided being misnamed “Technical Virgin”, since it wasn’t her who made the comment. (Who did?)

Was it a fun ride? Yes. Was it easy enough but also challenging at times? I reckon so. Will I ride again? Bloody oath! A great bunch to ride with.

Thanks hares, thanks Wendy and thanks Barbarian. See you on August 22nd.

Lynda