

## **As it was on run 3779 ulu Tamu Hotsprings St.George's Day Run**

Whinge no. 1. The directions had me confused. I know my way to the Ulu Tamu hot springs but the directions has some tortuous route using Jalan Mahogany. When I looked at google earth I found that this was a short cut avoiding the traffic lights in Batang Kali. So I used my own route and saw some signs on the way.

Whinge no.2. When I was approaching the run site saw that a fence had been erected around the car park so I drove past the pondok straight on to go down the road leading to our normal car park but the fence continued to prevent that. Then had to reverse back to the pondok and pay RM3 to the guy for entry.

Whinge no. 3. I was first in and Ah Goh and Jake closely followed. When I checked with them to find that thy had not paid to get into the car park. Rip off the white man. Bloody cheating chinamen. But Jake said that the chinaman got better negotiating skills that the gweilo.

Managed to get a good parking space to cabut early be- cause I had a meeting planned for 8.30pm. We were down to three so could be a difficult run. But Chris Tan appeared earlier than usual and with TT and Ah Man missing we were down to four.

We found paper by the fence and also on the other side of the fence. As we were imprisoned by the fence we had to go out by the pondok and reverse back down the fence line.

We meandered around to cross the road where we had come from and go down the road and cross the river on a new bridge. We have run through there before but had to cross the river using the broken parts of the bridge. We passed through some farm and fish pond turned off the track for the first check in oil palm.

I checked around the oil palm and reached a cleared area but no sign of paper. Jake, Chris Tan and Ah Goh were check- ing in all directions. We checked back and asked the locals if they had nampak dua orang matsalleh. Yes they had but 'bukan balik' so we checked forward again. Ah

Goh checked with the man on the motor bike who said he had seen paper and when he went to show us it was a leaf. But Goh checked along the track to the end where it turned back and just down the slope was paper. So we collected the others to continue the tail.

Mistake no.1. We had taken 40 minutes to break the check. Time was 5.30pm. We should have been careful about completing the run. The paper was 309m from the check.

We intrepid hashers followed papers on some reasonable tracks to a circular check, number two, in rubber. Easily found on the laterite track. No time lost in checking. Some flat running and then up a slightly overgrown track to the third check near a fenced off area, from where you can see the road below. Direct access to the road was not easy but only 10 minutes delay.

We regrouped and were on the crusher run track that we followed on Julian's recent run there, but we were running in the opposite direction. Paper was on the road and then veered left into the bush and led to the fourth check in the same vicinity as on Julian's run. It was now 6.56pm. My vote was not to check in the rough, which would be a reverse of Julian's run as I remember terrain up to this check was rough and at 7pm it would be a long time to get back.

Mistake no.2, I allowed Jake 5 mins to look for paper and he found the trail.

We went down the steep valley into the dirty stream below and turned right following the water until we eventually came to a clearer river and the fifth check at 7.20pm with the choice of upstream or downstream. Chris and I were first to the check, he checked upstream, I checked downstream. Nothing found. Later, Jake and Ah Goh turned up and we decided to go upstream in search of paper or any track.

It was now dark and Ah Goh had a torch and Chris had his phone. Upstream was getting more difficult to traverse and so we tried downstream again. Chris found ONE piece of paper by a tributary so we searched a bit here, Again nothing and rough. We had three choices, sit tight and wait for the FROP's to catch up, sit tight and wait for the hare's to come, or back-track. Waiting for the FROP's was discounted as they should

have been hereby now. Waiting for the hares would be subject to the 10 o'clock rule and it was 8.30pm so back track was the only option.

We backtracked in the dark, up the dirty stream, up the rough hill and back on to the crusher run road. At least we were nearer to civilization. We hit the paper on the in trail but continued toward the Ulu Renning road as we did on Julian's previous run. At 9.40pm we saw lights approaching up the road. We were wondering whether to hide or not until the car went by. Discretion prevailed and we met John in the car.

Whinge no. 4. John had not brought any beers.

We had just left paper when John picked us up. On the road was 5.6km from where we were picked up. If we had followed paper back it was 7.4km and if we had found paper it was 2.3km.

We got back to the run site with the usual reprobates finishing off the beers, but at least they had saved us some. So we set about rehydrating and showering.

So another anecdote. I have the scratches to prove it. There's always next week,

Rob