AS IT WAS ON RUN 3787 AT BUKIT TINGGI (20/6/2016)HARE: CHANG CHAN WAH (GOLOU)

The unflushed toilet of a traffic jam downtown, made it difficult getting out and caused many to arrive late. This is, as Ninja pointed out, largely due to it being Ramadam with a large portion of the workforce skiving off early. Even at 4.30pm the old Rawang road was very slow moving. However, once on the Karak highway it was relatively smooth sailing.

Arriving at Bukit Tinggi, parking was the next issue with one member (was it Mathew?), moving his car 3 times. That done it was time to catch up with the local news. CY Lau made sure I received one of his stickers from last week, and On Sec updated me on a few of the runs I'd missed while being with Barry in Africa. Daniel went around all the stalls and shops but didn't buy anything, while others purchased fruit and other goodies.

The weather was great for running with it being overcast but with clear air and cool, so at one minute to 6pm On Sec called the members together to announce that it would be a long run so make sure to take some water. Torches were also re-checked as word got round that Zuric was the mastermind behind the run.

On Sec led the charge up the road with JM EC in hot pursuit and struggling to keep up. It was then the usual right turn under the highway, then up the long gentle rise to the first check. Taufu Soo and Young Yap jogged down the hill the other side which is really the only viable option to call On On. The trail then followed the tarmac through the small kampong and passed the new housing development on the right. By this time On Sec was quite a distance ahead with most of the usual front runners also up at the second check which was broken to the right although by the time I got there, a shorter more direct route straight up had been created. From there it was up, up and more up: a relentless slog but one which did give stunning views of the local scenery.

As we neared the top, the mosquitoes became fierce spurring runners on further to the third check. At this point I asked a few members such as Fong Wan if they knew a short cut, but all said 'No', so I backtracked, followed by Tan from Tan & Tan. I heard the run followed a steepish decent the other side and yet another hill with what some described as a dangerous decent down to the river. It was then about 500m along the river to the road and then home. I also heard that several members know this area and managed to find a much easier trail parallel to the river.

The front runner on paper was Ah Meng at 7.35 which cheered Golou no end as it would be declared a good run. The cooling watermelon was ready and Ramly was ready with the softies and beer. The usual crowd of front runners came in with Sotong a bit unhappy that paper hadn't been joined so he fell back in the pack. The rest of the members came in in small groups until everyone was out by about 8.15pm.

The circle started at about 8.45 I think with the On Sec opening the Guinness bar just before. Mathew also brought in a couple of cases of Makoli, with them disappearing even before all the plastic wrapping had been removed. A crowd soon formed with Dexon luckily being in the right place at the right time. First up was Butler Chew Leng Chai who got a good song for his efforts and then the hares. Ninja was on hand to sing a rather long song before they downed the amber nectar. There were two crowds with one sitting on a low wall enjoying the goings on. Luckily we could just

about hear On Sec with his new louder voice and the crowd nearer the beer wagon had no trouble.

On Cash Russell stepped up for bomoh duties as Billy was still stuck in traffic so we look forward to his beer donations next week. Russell called up parking offenders, shoppers and a whole bunch of miscreants.

Then Mathew came on the box with a couple of songs in Korean: the first had one word to it, and the second had 2 or 3 words. Both became instant hits. At this point the circle was going on a bit long and there were mutterings about food and hunger, and thankfully the circle was closed soon after and we traipsed up to the restaurant for a delicious spread of pig curry, veggies, a fish (Catfish?), chicken and tofu and an absolutely delicious noodle dish in rice wine. Nice food. Thanks Golou for a good run, free on on and an excellent evening; much appreciated.

Next week's hare, Billy No Hair, was stuck in traffic today so he asked On Cash to stand in as Bomoh with the following charges:

Two look a likes, Bull Ong and Bandaraya, took the first down down as stand ins for the missing professional Bomoh.

Today's virgin hare received his Mother waistcoat for setting a good run which it should have been as this is the 7th time mastermind Zuric Bee has set a run here.

Lim Kim Hai was given water to drink because the last time we were here he had too much beer and left his Mother Hash mug behind.

Daniel Ngiam for window shopping after walking around all the shops and then not buying anything.

Ninja for taking 3 attempts to find a suitable parking place for his car. Tony Maido for showing off after the run by doing push ups by the beer truck. On Sec for choosing to go on a long hike at the weekend and suffering cramps.

Andy Low for driving too close to the Bomoh before reaching the run site.