

Heritage Run

Run No : 387

Date : 20 Jan 2011

Hare : Raj

Runsite : Farrer Park

It was Raj's virgin run.

The runsite was historic Farrer Park. In the name of progress, the football fields were gone a long time ago. But the memory of Thirsdae's celebrity member Quah Kim Song aka False Alarm playing many a football match there lingers on.

When I arrived at the runsite at 5.40pm, I saw 4 Indians, ie Raj, May Day, NaiNai and a friend busy preparing for the run. The friend was shaking up Volka lime; strong stuff, I said to myself.

Before the run Raj distributed leaflets on history of Farrer Park to the runners. At 6.00pm, Raj flagged off the run along Rutland Road. The trail passed by Farrer Park Tennis Centre, along Dorset Road and then Kampong Java Road. It then went pass iconic Kendang Kerbau Women and Children Hospital, where many Singapore citizens were born.

Across busy Bukit Timah Road, the trail led the hashers to Mackenzie Road. The T-check up Mount Emily Road was a piece of cake. The runners went onto Wilkie Road and then Selegie Road. Along Selegie Road, the Thaipusan procession was in full swing.

Here, Oyster and Wait-a-While were seen turning left instead of right, taking the short-cut home. Wrong Size and I turned right onto Selegie Road, jostling with the crowd watching the Procession. From Princep Street we went across Fort Canning Road, up historic Fort Canning Park. Here we met the pair of perpetual love-birds, Sayeting and Hole-in-One, strolling along hand in hand like newly-weds. The trail then came down to Hill Street pass another historic monument, the old Central Fire Station which has been transformed into a museum.

We went onto Victoria Street, criss-crossing roads and lanes, and back onto Selegie Road. Down the road there ran Slimy, looking moody and blue without Force Entry. There the devotees bearing the chariot kawadis were cheered on by family members and supporters with chanting and drum beating. Owing to the publishing of the guidelines on processions, the mood was quite subdue compared to previous years.

The trail led onto Bukit Timah Road, pass Racecourse Road, across Farrer Park field onto home.

After the usual round of icing and down-down, the pack adjourned to the Banana Leaf Indian Restaurant for a sumptuous dinner. During dinner, the mood was jolly, the spirit was merry; even usually quiet Not Enough was performing an Indian Dance with Itchy Balls. Everyone present had a great time! Eat your heart out, absentees.

Through the years, I have not taken the trouble to go down to Little India to witness the Thaipusan Procession. Now, thanks to Raj, I for the first time experienced close encounter with the Festival. And it is a run as well as an event to remember.

Although it was basically a road/street run, credit to Raj for leading us through the historical sites/landmarks. Not bad for a virgin run; not bad at all!