



#ISSUE85

#OCT2022



#rider #farozmarzoki

#redbull #hardline

#family #ride #singapore



#RIDER #FAROZMARZOKI

#COVER #SAZALIHUSIN

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# TRAIL STORIES

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PHOTOS SAZALI HUSIN

WORDS AURELIUS SATLOW

# A Cup of Coffee with Faroz Marzoki





Hello Faroz, thank you a lot for taking the time for a chat with us!

Most welcome and thank you for reaching out to me! It is a great honour to be one of the contributors to MTB Mag Asia.

First, the basics, what's your full name, how old are you and, where do you live and what do you do for a living?

I am Faroz Marzoki, 35 this year, residing in the North-western part of Singapore. I am currently working for a government agency which oversees the communications system in the railroad environment.

On Instagram I saw you're involved into race organization. So, how are you involved in the Singaporean MTB scene? And what projects have you realized in the last few years?

My involvement with the federation as the vice-president for mountain bike of the Singapore Cycling Federation is on a voluntary basis. Ever since the day I took up the role as VP, I focus on strategising, implementing the grassroots development, talent scout and being the representing voice of the MTB scene in Singapore. The execution of events are still done by the full time staff. The main objective has







been to push for the inclusivity of the mountain bike community from various riding disciplines. I have always emphasized involving women and children in events as this encourages more people to take up mountain biking as a sport.

Let's go back into your own past a bit: How and why did you start mountain biking?

I started proper mountain biking back in 2005 and got myself familiar with cross-country riding. Then I ventured other disciplines such as dirt-jumping, trials-riding and did a bit of downhill racing.

What was the moment when you decided to dedicate yourself more to this sport?

It was in 2018 when my wife was expecting our first child, I decided to retire from racing. With that, I had more time with my growing family and started working closely with key local mountain biking personnel on the things we could do to improve the local mountain bike scene and expand our outreach.

What are your personal favourite riding spots, tracks or bike parks in Singapore, and could you tell us little more how these places are?

Number 1 spot must be Ketam Bike Park which is located offshore of Singapore, in Pulau



Ubin. It is in the eastern part of Singapore, and you will need to take a 15 min bumboat ride across the straits to get to the island.

Secondly, is Kent Ridge Bike Park which has 2 main tracks – downhill and cross-country. With the recent popularity of Enduro racing (All-mountain riding), Kent Ridge has everything, from elevation and to flowy descends, it has you covered for a day's worth of riding.

And of course, not forgetting the most popular among all locals, is the Bukit Timah Mountain Bike Trail. It is my go-to during the weekends for fast in fast out kind of day. It is a singletrack which has a good balance of technical features and flowy sections.

Do you have sponsors?

Yes, I do. My long-term sponsors are Funn MTB Component, Granite Design and Speed Singapore. Funn MTB Component have me covered with all the contact points and Granite Design accessories with handy portable tools and add-ons. Speed Singapore have looked after my customized premium jersey needs from Speed Jersey.

There are also a few local bike shops and distributors which support me on equipment and soft goods. Special shout out to Crankworkz for the Deviate frames, DVO suspension, TRP







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the in between such  
as All-mountain Style  
protective stickers,  
Dharco clothing, Fast  
House gloves, Etnies  
shoes, Giro and Met  
helmets.

Not forgetting, Rigorer  
Singapore for the protective  
wear and finally, Sunday  
Shades Co. for the eyewear  
for both on and off-saddle days.

A foreigner who doesn't know  
Singapore might think that there  
can't be a lot of cool places for  
MTB since Singapore is not that  
huge! Do you think there are enough  
places to ride MTB in Singapore or  
should there be more?

To be honest, there are plenty of  
singletracks in Singapore. You may  
connect with any locals here, we are  
more than willing to show you our gems,  
one trail at a time.

How did the Singaporean MTB scene  
change in the last 10 years? Is the number  
of riders growing and are they becoming  
better and need more difficulty tracks?

There was a steady growth over the years  
but when Covid-19 happened, there was a  
boom and suddenly everyone was a mountain  
biker. Some got better over the years, but many  
got their bikes to be better instead (Good for



the industry). Majority of the bikes you see in Singapore are custom-built and don't be surprised if you see many Vital MTB "Bike of the Day" here.

The singletracks here are fine, the black diamond and the double black diamonds are manageable. The trails mostly here are blue square grades. If you are coming to Singapore, a trail bike with 130-140mm travel will suffice.

Are you married or something and do you have kids? If yes, is it difficult for you to handle both: your family and your hobby?

I am married with 2 happy bubbly beautiful daughters. It is not difficult, but it is down to time management and managing expectations. Back then, I get to ride up to 3 times a week but as of right now, getting to ride with friends or even alone, once a week, is considered a privilege.

What projects are you currently working on and what are your plans for the future?

The high key period of the mountain bike national championships was just over, so as of right now, I am free to do what I want. And likely, I will just continue with what I do best, which is to spread the brand awareness and







educate the local mountain bike community. This, I believe, is a form of showing my appreciation to my sponsors and giving back to the community.

What do you think about the future development of the MTB scene in Singapore?

The future development of mountain biking in Singapore is promising as recently, there is a growth in mountain bike coaching programmes. With this avenue, riders of all ages and abilities can reach out to the coaches to help them get better in the sport and be more involved in events.

With this building block, individuals can naturally be more acquainted to riding clubs which are affiliated to the federation and hopefully one day, represent the country on the international stage.

What exactly would have to be done to grow Mountain Biking bigger in Singapore?

I am a strong believer of sharing positive vibes. It is very contagious, and it allows people to connect without feeling awkward. Progressively, the network will grow, and this will encourage one another to elevate their riding skills and be stoked about it.



Which young  
good talented  
Singaporean riders  
do you know?

There are many to  
name and to be fair,  
I would like not to  
name anyone here as  
you know, youngsters  
nowadays like to brag on  
social media although it is  
not significant. Hah.

Thank you very much for the  
talk Faroz! Would you like  
to say any last words to the  
riders of the world out there?

Get out there, have fun and  
celebrate on the smallest  
achievement. It is a process, enjoy  
it, don't be stressed over what  
you can't ride. Dismounting and  
pushing the bike is also part and  
parcel of mountain biking. Whenever  
you face setbacks, tell yourself it is  
just character building.











JACKSON GOLDSTONE



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**PHOTOS** NATHAN HUGHES, SAMANTHA SASKIA DUGON, DAN GRIFFITHS

**WORDS** REDBULL

**Canadian becomes youngest-ever winner of world's toughest downhill race.**

**Rising Canadian downhill star Jackson Goldstone became the youngest-ever winner of Red Bull Hardline as the 18-year-old dominated the world's toughest downhill course to win the race in Wales by more than six seconds over local riders Joe Smith and Taylor Vernon.**





VINCETTUPIN



Red Bull  
HARDLINE

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Goldstone might only be 18, but the teenager already has an impressive haul of accolades. The 2021 Junior World Champion and 2022 Junior World Cup overall winner also showed he's already more than a match for the world's most demanding downhill course during a brilliant finals run. After qualifying in third place behind three-time event winner Bernard Kerr and Adam Brayton, he left the start hut with only those two riders left to go. Ahead on the timing from the first split, his lead simply grew as he flew down the track. A slight dab in the technical section at the mid-way point was the only fault of note in an amazing run and he was completely unfazed by any of the course's monster features. Crossing the line with a margin of more than six seconds over Joe Smith's previously best time, it would take something special to beat Goldstone's time of 2m 20.525s.



Slips from both Brayton and Kerr left Goldstone head and shoulders above the rest and he became the youngest-ever winner in the process of claiming his first win in the event. "I had a really good run and I linked everything I wanted to, with just one tiny mistake," said Goldstone. "I'm so stoked, but it's not the way I wanted to win. I'm really gutted for all the boys who went down."







Both Smith and Taylor Vernon put in solid, fault-free runs to secure second and third places respectively. Vernon qualified 13th but held on to the hot seat until the final six riders and the Welsh rider held on for third, recording his best performance at Red Bull Hardline. Smith meanwhile is another rider with history at Hardline. He'd already podiumed twice at the race and held it all together on race day to secure his hat-trick of podiums, pipping his countryman to second place by just four hundredths of a second.



Red Bull Hardline is renowned for being the hardest course on the planet. It pits riders against gaps and jumps that are more suited to motocross and the mountain is littered with gut-wrenching features from top to bottom. The 2022 course had some minor tweaks to previous editions. The long-standing Dirty Ferns jump section had gone through a makeover with the hip jump through the trees replaced a huge on-off and the two biggest gap jumps on the entire course. Both measured roughly 27m (90ft). Hardline's most successful competitor Bernard Kerr was the first rider to attempt the new doubles in practice, but crashed spectacularly on landing. Thankfully he was able to continue and his feedback saw the take-off's angle changed slightly, ensuring riders could tackle the new features safely on race day.







VINCENTTUPIN



In this year's edition however it wasn't the 30m gaps or 70kph speed tucks that were causing the riders issues during their race runs, but rather some stereotypically damp Welsh woodland at the top of the course. Second rider on course David McMillan set the scene with a slip entering the wooded section, and it would become a reoccurring theme as the race progressed. The highest profile casualty was pre-race favourite Kerr, whose quest for a fourth Red Bull Hardline win was over before he'd had a chance to show what he can do on the bigger feature, while the likes of Brayton, Craig Evans and Charlie Hatton also fell within the first 30 seconds.





JACKSON GOLDSTONE





GEE ATHERTON



Making a surprise return to racing at Red Bull Hardline was 2018 winner Gee Atherton, just one year after suffering life-threatening injuries in a catastrophic crash whilst filming nearby. The two-time World Champion and 2018 Hardline winner announced his intention to compete less than two weeks before finals day and the veteran was impressive from the off, using his signature riding style as he threaded his way through the course's technical features. Adding another win to his 2018 title was always going to be a hard ask, but crossing the line was impressive enough for a 37-year-old still recovering from his myriad injuries and a fifth place finish showed that he's still a force to be reckoned with.



Also turning heads on the course was New Zealand-based rider Jess Blewitt, who made Red Bull Hardline history by becoming the first-ever female athlete to take on the iconic course. An attendee of the all-female Red Bull Formation freeride event in 2021 and a current top-10 World Cup racer, Blewitt isn't adverse to riding some of the hardest terrain around and proved she was more than up to the task on the Dan Atherton-designed course. Blewitt won the BF Goodrich Rider of the Week award for her riding during the event and although she didn't make race day after breaking her collarbone in practice, she's shown the way for other female riders.







BERNARD KERR



### Red Bull Hardline 2022 results

1. Jackson Goldstone (CAN) 2m 20.525s
2. Joe Smith (GBR) 2m 27.043s
3. Taylor Vernon (GBR) 2m 27.084s
4. Ronan Dunne (IRL) 2m 27.273s
5. Gee Atherton (GBR) 2m 28.356s
6. Sam Gale (GBR) 2m 28.902s
7. Jim Monro (GBR) 2m 28.930s
8. Harry Molloy (GBR) 2m 31.714s
9. Thibault Laly (FRA) 2m 31.767s
10. Florent Payet (FRA) 2m 37.436s





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150mm	31.6mm	440mm	573g	07561

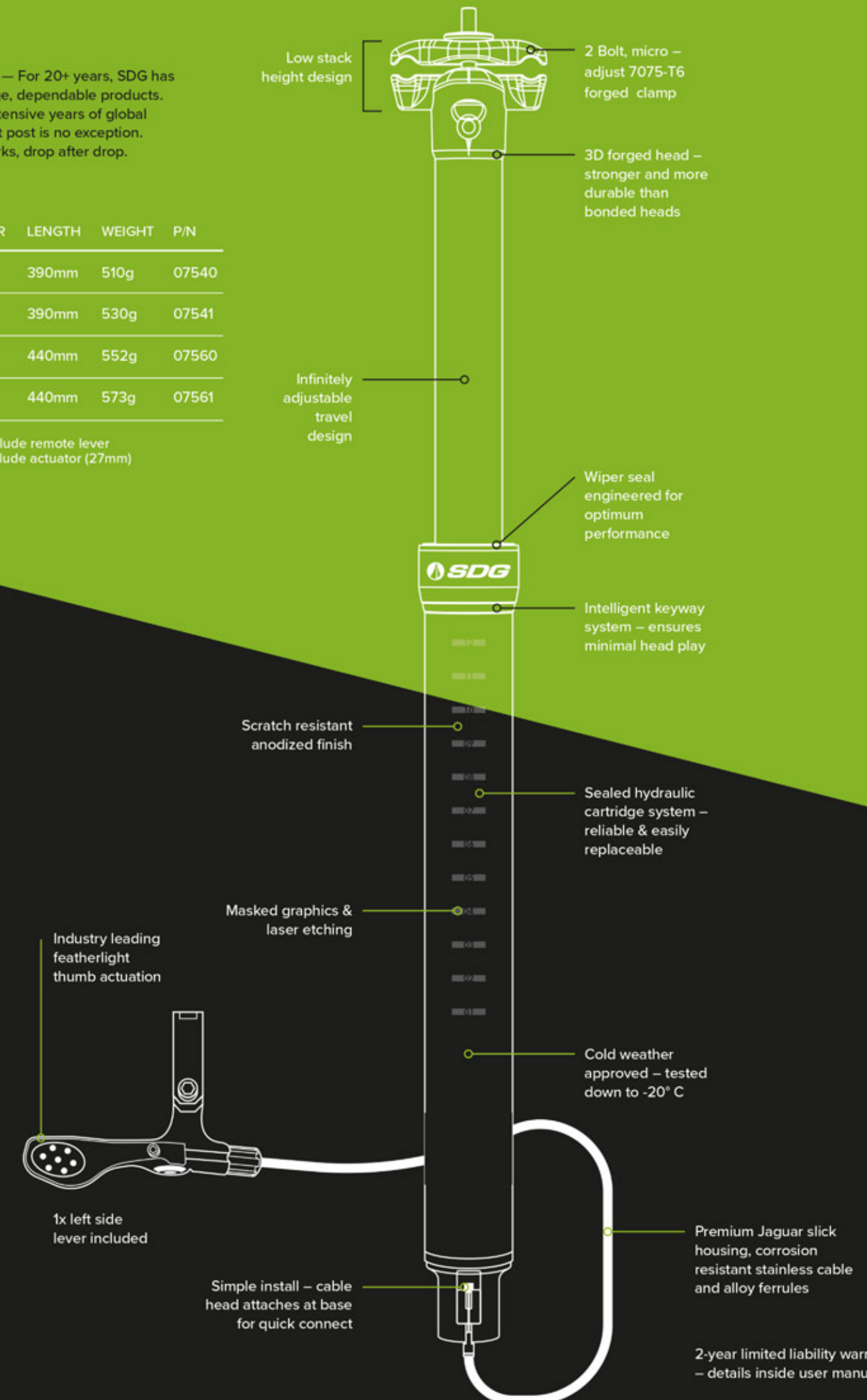
\* Weight does not include remote lever  
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# Riding MTB in Singapore



PHOTOS FABIAN CHEN, AUDREY & WAYNE LIMPEREIRA

WORDS AURELIUS SATLOW





I  
k n o w  
already that  
your name is  
Audrey Lim. Could  
you introduce us to  
your family. Who  
is part of it?

H i  
guys! I'm Audrey  
from Singapore and I'm  
a relationship manager with a  
bank and a mother of 2 boys. My  
husband Wayne and I have been riding  
for a long time, and mountain biking was a  
natural progression for me after hanging up  
my MX boots (for now..). However, we took a  
"break" when I got pregnant with my first son,  
and really just got out of the scene to focus on  
building a family. Fast forward 7 years and 2  
sons later to the pandemic in 2020, and it was  
just me and Wayne first in the family to get  
back into mountain biking, but slowly we  
got Liam and then finally Nathaniel into  
it as well. They're both really athletic  
kids and love outdoor activities  
so the push to get them  
going was easy.

How  
did you (and  
your husband)  
come into touch  
with MTB? Can  
you tell us your  
story behind  
that?

I was  
very active in the  
Moto Cross scene and it  
was very natural for me to take  
to mountain biking, especially downhill  
mountain biking since I was a thrill seeker!  
It's really funny because we kinda met through  
mountain biking, since we were both riding  
downhill at the time and hung out in the same  
cycling circles. We rode and went to a couple of  
races together and everything just fell into place!  
While I crossed over in 2010 to cycling, Wayne has  
been riding since his younger days in school but only  
got into mountain biking proper in 2004 when he got  
back from his studies. He was very involved in the  
local scene, and joined to be a commissarie and  
was even the VP of mountain biking in Singapore  
briefly, just before the Youth Olympic Games.  
However, he had to give up the role and  
stopped mountain biking due to work  
commitments relocating him to  
New York for a while.



Do  
you or your  
family also do  
other sports? What  
role does MTB play  
you and what do you  
like most when  
doing MTB?

We  
try to expose  
our kids to a variety  
of sports and not sort of  
herd them into a single sport  
or a sport that only we love.  
Wayne and the kids play golf and  
football a couple of times a week,  
while for myself it's my weekly  
net ball sessions and my MX  
riding, which I really hope to  
get back into once again  
once I sort my bike  
out.







I  
would be  
curious how you  
came to decide to  
let your kids ride  
MTB? Who taught  
or trained them  
to ride?

Well,  
we wanted to do  
something together as a  
family, as most of their sports are  
with a team of people or I don't play! We  
also wanted them to learn how to ride with  
the end game of course being able to hit the  
trails together as a family. Also living very near to  
east coast park makes it perfect for the kids to jump  
on their bikes and head to the beach in the evenings  
or on the weekends. To be honest, both of them just  
got off their push bikes and jumped straight into riding a  
bike without any problems. So they kinda figured it out  
on their own really! Once they were more sure-footed  
on their bikes, we signed them up for courses with the  
federation. Liam learnt mountain biking there while  
we signed Nathaniel up for BMX to hone his bike  
handling skills first, before moving onto a geared  
bike. On the trails however, it's mostly Wayne  
and myself trying to ease, encourage and  
push them along the way. Sometimes  
Wayne has to even tow them  
along with the tow  
rope!



We go to a couple of different trails in Singapore and all have a varying degree of difficulty to them. There's Kent Ridge Mountain Biking Trail, with a mini downhill loop and XC loop which can be quite technical. Then there is Bukit Timah Mountain Biking Trail, which is slightly more advanced, and also Chestnut Mountain Biking Trail, which is the easiest and the one that we bring the kids to the most.

Where do you usually go for riding, and do your kids ride at the same place?

We mostly ride Bukit Timah on Saturday with our cycling crew. It has a good mix of both technical climbs with some flowy sections and technical obstacles. The total distance is about 6.3km and takes us around the Bukit Timah Nature Reserve and quarry. It does link up to many other trails like the Chestnut, T15 and Mandai areas. So if you're looking to clock in more kilometers, bunching all these trails together will give you that. Singapore is a land-scarce island and while we don't have the privilege of having any mountains, our little Bukit Timah hill will do for us weekend warriors.

What do your kids think and say about MTB?

Both the kids love to ride their bikes, plus with the added thrills of going fast over muddy water to splash around, the answer is a big yes that they love it. Because Singapore is largely a city in a city, we don't live near any of the trails and the only way to get there is to drive there with all our bikes loaded up. So going to a mountain biking trail is more of an event rather than something that you open your doors to and just go ride. But we try to get out as much as we can!





Are there lots of parents in Singapore who motivate their kids to ride MTB? Would you say, that it is a very unusual sport to in Singapore?

Actually, you will be surprised at how many kids we see on the trails. While it doesn't take the spotlight of the main sports like football, golf, tennis etc., we do see more and more families riding in the trails together which is very encouraging. Also the pandemic has somewhat been responsible for more people buying bikes for themselves and their families as well. So it's always good to see families in the trails trying to get a good day riding out.







What is your and your kids favourite place to ride together? Do you also go to other places? And, do you think, that there are enough places and good enough places to ride and practice?

Currently, they're confined to the beginner trails and have been mostly riding round and round there. We took Liam to Bukit Timah once - despite a lot of people saying not to - and i have to say that the struggle to get him through the trail was more work for us than it was for him! Haha but he was a trooper and stuck through it albeit with a lot of sweat and tears. Haha.

Trails in Singapore are really limited and we just have to make do with what we have. We do have a pump track at Chestnut Trail and Gangsa Jump Park for those looking to catch some air time. There are also different schools that you could join for more specialized coaching that are done on the trails themselves.

The immediate future is to get them mountain biking more, and hopefully be able to come and keep up with our riding group. The ultimate plan would be to take them on a mountain biking trip to Whistler, but baby steps first, and with the family we know we will get there.

Do you have any specific future plans for kids' MTB riding?





#ISSUE85

#OCT2022

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