

BFR Report – Portuguese Festival – 12 June 2011

This ride should have been called "Hoje temos festa" (today we feast) as we rode out to the Luso Africa Portuguese club in Primrose. But more about the food later, let's first get there.

44 wheels and about 25 riders turned up at the Dros at the civilised hour of 08h30. Stormin Norman had the Road Captain honour, supported by a bunch of woeste Marshalls. And being a ride through the city of Booyens, Germiston and Primrose we needed guys and girls with guts. First to smell the food (Lead) would be Wicus and as we started off the last one to the Prego rolls (Sweep) would be Johann Olivier. The ride along the M1 through Johannesburg was pleasant with only one driver on his cell phone who tried to wipe another one out.

We were met at the Portuguese club close to Wemmerpan by a whole bunch of riders on speed bikes, 3-wheelers, mini bikes, kiddie bikes, etc. The missus said that if we put training wheels on the kiddie bike it would be a good starting point for her. We rested 20 minutes and then re-formed a huge pack with Hog-Pta riding at the back. From there Johan Sweep Olivier was escorting the photographer truck and Barry took over Sweep.

We rode a little bit of the M2 East before we (the guy riding in front) got lost and took us through a Squatter camp into Germiston. At least the hordes of onlookers seemed to have a lot of fun watching us riding past. We soon arrived at the Luso Africa grounds where the smell of good Portuguese cuisine was filling the air – or for the not so pretentious it was Pregos, Calinha, Espetada, Risoles, Filhos (Portuguese doughnuts) with plenty to drink. I even saw somebody forcing a cup of coffee down. All the food on offer was tasted by a few Hog-Pta members sitting at our table and the verdict was good.

Put me up for next year's ride so long – I wouldn't miss this ride for anything. Oh yes, and thanks to the Marshals – they did a superb job under very difficult traffic situations.