

On On

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



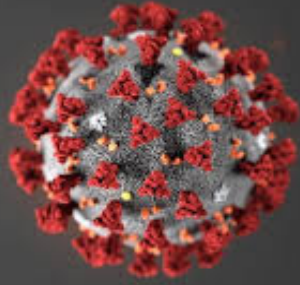
Issue 4

April 2020

Published at the end of the month

News

Hashing
through the
crisis



Bahrain

Inter-Gulf went ahead but with no pub crawl - all the bars being closed. There were only 11 hashers on the main run. *Hazukashii* was the only visitor to make it to Bahrain.

India

Madras H3 were one of the first hashes to test out a virtual run. *'Run 794 was as different as it could get thanks to the Social Distancing that all of us are following. A video conferencing call was set up and well over 50 participants joined in. It started a bit chaotically, but we soon got down to everyone taking a turn to speak up. Many of us had beer bottles/cans/mugs at hand, and it was just like any other Circle. We kept it to below 30 minutes.'*

Solomon Islands

The advantage of being in the middle of nowhere is the problems of the world don't always touch you. **Honiara H3** carried on as usual, including organizing a major fund raiser. *'80 people dressed up in 1980's costume recently to support the Honiara H3 fund-raiser in support of the Red Cross Special Development Centre. \$3,600 was raised to purchase equipment for the school's life skills program which helps students with cooking, gardening, sewing, crochet, traditional art and making lava lavas.'*

Cook Islands

However *Rarotonga H3* on the Cook Islands announced on their Facebook page that: *Due to seriousness of the COVID-19 crisis and the implementation of social distancing, our hash run will be cancelled for Monday 23rd March. While we are a small gathering and can practise social distancing, we want to send the message to our island that this is serious, and measures need to be met to keep us all safe.*

Following up on Kuwait

Two months ago we looked at hashing in Kuwait during the Iraq invasion. My good friend *Debby* gave further information, this referring to Kuwait at the time of President Bush's invasion of Iraq.

A couple of days after the troops moved across the border. There was a hash two days later, this out at the oil town of Ahmadi.

The boys were expected to carry their gas masks with them (*Debby: 'mine was the right size to carry the beers'*) but these were left in the car when the run started.

At some point the sirens went off, leading to a few anxious moments. The official story was an Iraqi missile had been fired at the oil installations. A more widely held belief was that an American missile had gone out of control after being launched.

Sweden

The Sweden government took a different - life as normal as possible - approach to the crisis and the Stockholm H3 followed suit. Here is a summary of their guidelines:

We're still r*nnning in small groups as there has been no official recommendations against it:

- Hares, please try to limit the amount of public transport needed to get to your runs (i.e. don't make them too far away from central Stockholm).
- Everyone, please bring your own drinks
- There will be no shared crisps or other.
- There will be no organized pub / restaurant gathering after the Underground runs.

USA

Mount Vernon H3 mismanagement announced 'a new concept in hashing in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We introduce *Asynchronous, Socially Distant Hashing*. Each weekend there will be a trail laid, so please come out any enjoy it, but do it by yourself, or with a few other trusted-to-be-clean hashers. Bring your own snacks and beer. Post pictures of yourself on trail on Facebook or the listserv, and get trail credit.'

Belgium

At time of writing, Belgium is still keeping open the

COVID 19 round-up

Asia

- Bangkok H3 Run on 21st March then announced on the 24th that they would 'suspend runs for the foreseeable future. *The first time Bangkok has ever missed a run.*
- Lion City H3, Singapore Run 1983, scheduled for 20th Match, was cancelled and no further runs took place. *Singapore hashes had not missed a run since the days of 'confrontation' (1963–1966) during which two runs were cancelled because of the curfew.*
- Beijing H3 The last hash, Run 1944, took place on February 2nd and was named the *Nothing to Fear Because we have Beers* run. *The first time Beijing have missed a run since the Tiananmen Square protests.*
- Dhaka The Mixed hash completed their last run on March 21st. There was no circle and the GM announced this would be the last run for the time being. The men's hash immediately followed that example. Virtual hashes started 10th April. *Dhaka was always proud they had never missed a run through typhoons, lock-downs and bombs.*
- China H3 (Taiwan) Seems to have been hashing as normal and on April 12th *C... Of the Litter* and *Homo Hobo* set a trail in the mountains of Wudu.

Australasia

- Hamersley H3 Last run was 23rd March, then virtual hashes.
- Hobart H3 The last run was at the Cascade Gardens on 23rd March.
- Sydney Posh H3 All hashes cancelled from 16th March.
- Auckland H3 Hashers are keeping in touch on a group email. The 50th anniversary is still planned for later in the year.

Europe

- Stockholm H3 Have continued to run through the crisis. *See news.*
- Copenhagen H3 Trail available from Saturday noon-ish. *See news.*
- Manneke Piss H3 Went over to solo runs around a marked trail.
- Bicester H3 All runs cancelled for 4 weeks with the next run tentatively pencilled in for April 20th.
- West London H3 Last run was number 1802 on 12th March. Virtual runs started 2nd April.

Africa

- Dar es Salaam H4 On March 23rd announced they would suspend the hash for foreseeable future. *Missed one of two runs during the mourning for President Julius Nyerere in 1999.*
- Cairo H3 March 19th saw the last regular run. They debated whether to walk, hash or virtual hash, the following week, finally settling on the latter.

North America

- EdmOntOn H3 Due to COVID-19 pandemic and recommendations from Alberta Health, the EdmOntOn HHH mismanagement has decided to suspend EH3 live hash runs until further notice. A weekly Zoom event is planned to hold a virtual run.
- White House H3 The last run on 15th March (Run Number 1921) meeting at Cleveland Park Metro.
- Trinidad & T H3 Trinidad of course had to take the decision to postpone Interhash. Regular hashes continued until March 14th when their Facebook page announced: *It is with great regret that we will have to postpone all Hashing indefinitely.*
- The Middle East
Dubai The March 15th Paddy Day Run was the last time the Desert H3 met. The Creek H3 managed a run on the 18th. Virtual hashing was started first by the men and followed shortly afterwards by the Desert H3. The initial hope that hashing could resume on April 4th proved impossible to meet.
- Doha Night Crawlers A monthly hash. The last run was on March 12th.

possibility of staging a Nash Hash later in the year. Manneke Piss H3 were still setting trails in flour or chalk 'most of the time', but were to be run by individual hashers at some point during the day. *'The trail will be available from around noon. Please run it in your own time making sure to keep your distance from any hashers or humans you find on trail, and don't hesitate to take pictures. Avoid public transport, and just run around in your own area if trail's too far to get to. Afterwards you can join us for a virtual circle. Don't forget to take your own beer!'*

Korea

'The Seoul Hash House Harriers doesn't quit' announced their website on the 18th April. *'There will be a trail this weekend, hared by none other than our esteemed EM Blank Space, who will be taking us to the classic on-on site of Dongjak Station, adjacent to the Seoul National Cemetery. 18/4'*

The joint hash website however claimed that all hashes were cancelled from March 30th and OB, with its strong military core, *'will not start up again until restrictions for US military are lifted and we currently have no projected date for that.'* YK and Southside had plans to begin again, as soon as the Korean Government eased up on the current level of enforced social distancing. This was pencilled in for 19th April.

Denmark

Copenhagen H3 were setting trails that, *'you can run at any day and any time. Do not run in groups - this is an attempt to get a bit of exercise and prevent cabin fever, not to act against the official recommendations.'*

USA

March 16th. Ken Machado was the first San Benito County resident to die after testing positive for the COVID-19 illness. He had returned to the US from



Hash Song

*From the minefields of Fujairah
To the sand dunes of Dubai
there's a buzz going round the Emirates the
Creek are up on high
The other hashes you can keep, so boring
their a farce
Creek, Creek Creek is the one we seek
stuff the rest right up you arse.*

*Sung at the end of every Creek Hash.
The memention of minefields in Fujairah dates
back to the Iran-Iraq war when the sea off Fu-
jairah (and possibly the beach) were mined.*

a month-long trip to Thailand to celebrate his 60th birthday. This remarkable man had been a former rodeo and bull riding competitor and was a long time member of the Hash House Harriers.

Ethiopia

Addis H3 Facebook page carried the sad news of the death of former RA Robert *Mugabe* Stalfoort 1956-2020. *On on Mugabe*

On a happier note, Addis have produced what is believed to be the world's first ever set of Hash House Harrier Trump Cards. *A review next month!*



Left: Social distancing and the privacy of an underground car park for a Stockholm H3 circle. Please note the hashers are following their governments advise. Above Hash humour from a China hash website.

Hashstats UAE (Dubai)

Each month we will acknowledge hashers who have recorded the most runs with some of the great hash kennels. This month's entry are for Dubai.

Creek H3

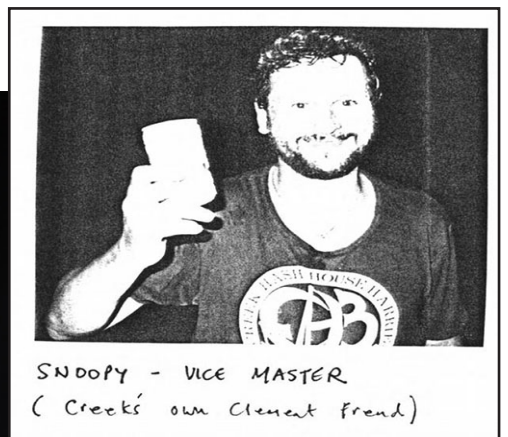
1.	Boweltrowel	1400
2.	AhPisto	1179
3.	C..tsucker	1132
4.	Snoopy	1013
5.	Silicontits	940
6.	Shagemall	916
7.	Seacock	830
8.	Tattoo	825
9.	Kissmehardon	798
10.	Bonzo	797
11.	Gussetgobbler	776
12.	Fellatio	733
13.	Fucknose	678
14.	Pissmark	657
15.	Chilliwilly	654
16.	Shitloaf	633
17.	Moron	622
18.	Wingnut	621
19.	Thickshagpile	589

Desert H3

Little Mo	1548
SAS	1462
Camel's Arse	1412
AhPisto	830
Pong Mo Thian	730 (Harriette)
Nancy boy	682
Kung Fu	675 (Harriette)
Old Shag	514
Groucho	481
Legs Akimbo	430 (Harriette)
Compressed Fart	398
Debby Harry	312
Tosser	293
Long Time Coming	219 (Harriette)
Shitloaf	202
Dingbat	200

This list only includes those currently hashing. Names in blue have recently left, or are due to leave shortly.

An all-male hash. This is an all-time list, names in bold are still hashing.



Above Long Time Coming (4th ranked Harriette). Right Hash legend Dingbat officially left Dubai but is a regularly returnee. Far right Snoopy, one of four hashers with over a thousand runs on the Creek

Hashers A to Z

Letter A

Animal

Gary Joyce

Jebel H3

Joint founder of the Jebel H3 in Oman and later a member of Dharan H3.

Anthrax

Paul Marshall

Broken Hill H3

Completed 21 years Hashing with Broken Hill H3.

Antonie, Valerie

KL Harriettes

One of the few Harriette's at the early InterHashes. She continued to hash for many years and was On-Sex at 1996 Nash Hash and severed on the 1998 Interhash committee.

Arfa- *uck

Nick Storr

Manila H3, Bicester H3

Nick discovered Hashing in Manila in the early 80's, was one of the principles hares when InterHash was held in the Philippines in 1990. He returned to the UK, becoming a regular with Bicester H3, although his work as a consultant gave him the opportunity to Hash around the world.

He was persuaded to write his memoirs, which were published under the title of 'Ten Times the Price of a Haircut' *'a typically spicy and irreverent view of the ex-pat life in the third world'* with a few references to Hashing. Long before he became a Hasher, Nick won a place in the Guinness Book of Records for visiting all the stations on the London Underground in a record time. Arfa-*uck died in June 2002, aged 57. *Thanks to Bicester H3 website.*

Arn-Arn

Wayne Dyas

Hobart H3

Completed 1500 runs with Hobart H3 in 2016.

Awful Evil

Tony Whitbread

Broken Hill H3

Completed 23 years Hashing with Broken Hill H3.

Armadillo Dundee

Barry Jarvis

Founder of the San Antonio H3 and GM of the 1991

Amercian Interhash. The Hash Founders website notes that Barry passed away in 2013. *On on Armadillo.*

Arnold, Frank

Fort Eustis H3

A British army officer who hashed with Ray Thornton at Longmoor. He went to Fort Eustis where he helped found the first Hash in the USA.

Artis, Warwick

Hong Kong H4

Hong Kong GM in 1972/7. Described in the year book as *'oversexed for an Australian'*.

Automatic Balls

Jürgen Schreiter

Frankfurt H3/Vineyard H3

After many years as a serious runner, AB stumbled across hashing on the internet in 1999. One run with Frankfurt H3 was enough to convince him that he had found a new life-style. He became a steward member of the Germany hash scene and was founder of the Vineyard Hash.

Letter B

Babylon

Geoff Cook

Hobart H3

Has clocked up 1500 runs with Hobart. This included one spell of 650 consecutive runs.

Bad Barstard

Bob Williams

Port Harcourt H3

One of the founders of Port Harcourt H3 back in 1986.

Bad Mouth

Mike Gilby

Cheshire/High Wycombe

Clocked up some 200 hashes with Cheshire H3 before moving south, where he and Gill Bossy Gilby founded High Wycombe H3 (March 1991). Bad Mouth was High Wycombe's GM when he died while on trail in April 2004. *On On Bad Mouth.*

Bad Penny

Emila Hopgood

Buenos Aires H3

Emilia *Bad Penny* Hopgood and John *Hopeless* Hopgood founded the current version of Buenos Aires H3 in April 1993,



Top Balloon Balls.
Right AB.



Badger
Mark Erwin
Prague H3

Badger worked for the American Embassy and was one of the key members of the early days of the Prague H3. He was one of the organizers of the 100th run and has been described as 'the ultimate Prague mega-Hasher'.

Bags
Bill Hetherington
Jamacia H3

Bags joined *Nut Case* in founding Jamaica H3, setting the first run from the Caymans Golf Course

Bald Eagle
Burma

A key member of the Yangon H3 in the 'bad old days'. Bald Eagle was out reconnoitring a trail when he had a 'confrontation' with one of his military intelligence 'minders'. Rumours are sketchy, but a hash dog might have been intimidated, and this might have led to some mild (mild?) pushing and shoving. The hash that week was postponed.

Baldrick2Dogs
Alan Holden
Various Arabian hashes

A veteran of the Arabian hash scene, having started running with Jeddah in 1989. He was joint founder

of the Kuwait Full Moon H3 in 1996 and was web-master of the regional hash website. By 2002 Baldrick2dogs was in Saudi, from where he helped with Cardiff InterHash website. He is known by numerous other canine variations of the Baldrick name

Balloon Balls
Stein Lundeby
Bahrain H3/Washington H3

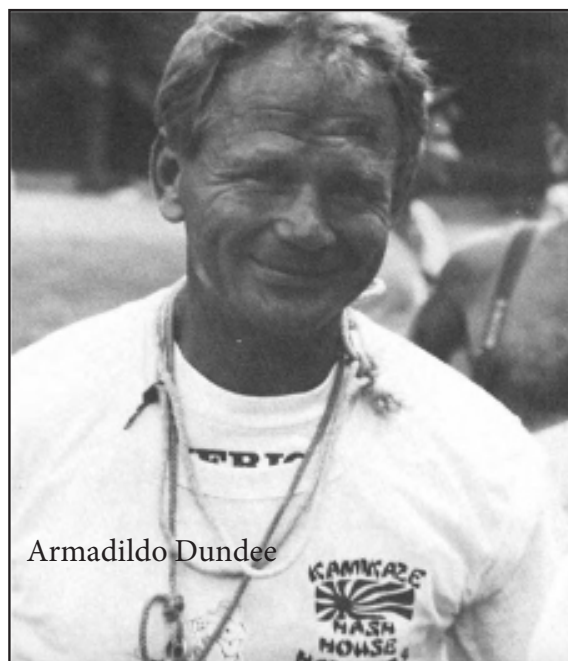
Balloon Balls is one of the great hashers, and a full would take most of this page. He started with Bahrain H3, where he was GM (1978-80). He played a major part in organizing the first Inter Gulf Hash and designed the famous Bahrain logo. Balloon Balls went on to found Kalahari H3 in Botswana. He then hashed in Java with Semarang H3 and Bandung H3. In 1990 he moved to the USA, and is still a member of the DCH3. Balloon Balls has started a hash dynasty, with his daughter and son-in-law founding Newcastle H3 and Bergen H3.

Ballpoint
Central Coast H3

One of the 'magnificent five' who attended every Australian Nash Hash. He is the author of an excellent history of this event. A member of Central Coast H3, where he has clocked up 1300 runs.

Bambie
Bill Barbee
San Jose H3

In February 1979 Bill *Bambie* Barbee joined Ian *Hung Young* in founding San Jose H3. The 1995 program listed him as having competed a record 249 runs (out of 313). Bambie was still on the committee when Costa Rica staged InterAmericas 2003.



Armadillo Dundee

Pre-Hash History

An early paper chase in Shanghai

There is of course no logical reason that Malaysia should have become the home of hashing. The driving forces - bored expats and the British love of sport - could be found in virtually ever corner of an Empire on which the sun never set.

This was true for the busy port city of Shanghai:

When foreigners arrived in old Shanghai, they found themselves with rather an excess of free time. Eventually, they moved on from wheelbarrow races on the Bund and organized a multitude of recreational activities – so many, in fact, that there is an entire directory of expat clubs and associations of the Concession Era!

Hawks Pott, F. L. (1928). A Short History of Shanghai. Shanghai: Kelly & Walsh Ltd.

All foreigners were expected to reside in the foreign quarter, and one of the most popular social activities was the Shanghai Paper Chase – basically a hash conducted on horseback. A ‘Paper Hunt Club’ is also mentioned and was probably a second group, although it might just be a different name for the same club.

We need to remember that at the time European influence in China was at its strongest. Although China was an independent nation, they were being ripped apart by civil war and usually had to do what they were told by their foreign ‘guests’.

There are two useful sources that describe this pre-hash paper-chase.

First is a newspaper report dated to May 1929 and headlined ‘Paper Chase Troubles – Chinese protests at Shanghai.’ This comes via a rather circular route – a report of an event in Shanghai being repeated (for some reason) in the Sarawak Gazette (a Malaya newspaper) and reproduced in a Cyprus hash publication in 1976.



This tells us that:

- Earlier in the year there were complaints from the Chinese authorities that the hunt had gone ahead even though *'a battle was about to take place.'* (Between Chinese Government troops and a local warlord.)
- Now the Chinese Commissioner for Foreign Affairs had written to the senior diplomat, Mr E Cunningham, the American Consul General, complaining that *'foreigners on horseback have no right to chase a paper trail out of the borders of the settlement'*.
- Mr Cunningham replied that the hunt had existed for 60 years, that permission was always obtained from local farmers and any damage was liberally compensated.
- The Chinese came back with the answer that *'the hunt frightens and disturbs the children and cattle' and 'a violent invasion of mounted foreigners, both male and female, was a form of foreign aggression.'*

At that point the correspondence ends.

The Historic Shanghai website (www.historic-shanghai.com) gives an excellent overview of the paper chase and even has a video of an event that took place in 1934.

The key points are:

- The British, *'feel the need to go hunting wherever they find themselves'* but were disappointed to find that Shanghai *'did not have the relevant animals for a proper hunt'*.
- The first documented event dates to December 1863, and was won by Augustus Brown on a pony called Mud.
- At first, they tried to hunt members wearing red cowls on their heads. When this did not work, they turned to a paper chase.
- *'Paper-hunting is a popular sport among cross-country riders, and well attended meets under the auspices of the Shanghai Paper Hunt Club are held at week-ends during the season.'*



They should have been hashers!!!!

In September 1937 **Stanley Wang** (educated at Cambridge) became the first Chinese man to be elected a steward of The Paper Chase.

Fritz Kaufmann was a German Jewish businessman who lived in Shanghai from 1931-1949. He won the Paper Hunt in 1939 – his trophy, among other possessions, was donated to the US Holocaust Memorial Museum.

- One member of the team would ride ahead marking the trail with coloured paper.
- The hunt took place in the countryside around Shanghai on small horses called “China Ponies”.
- Trails were established through local farm lands from November to March, when the lands lay fallow.
- At first, women could only be honorary members and were not allowed to hold office, so they created a Ladies Paper Hunt Club.
- Rules were modified to be more accepting of women in 1929.

Riders complained of hostility from the local Chinese farmers, who resented encroachment on their lands and occasionally threw rocks or sabotaged the trails.

This might have been due to some trails passing perilously close to ancestral grave mounds, forcing riders to swerve around or leap over them.

- The Club made payments to local officials to placate the disgruntled farmers, pay for damaged farmland, and rebuild bridges and trails in amounts ranging from \$18 in 1889 to \$5000 annually in the late 1920s.
- As late as 1940 the Club began its season with riders faced by demonstrating farmers carrying sticks to block their way.

Notes on a Pre-war Hasher

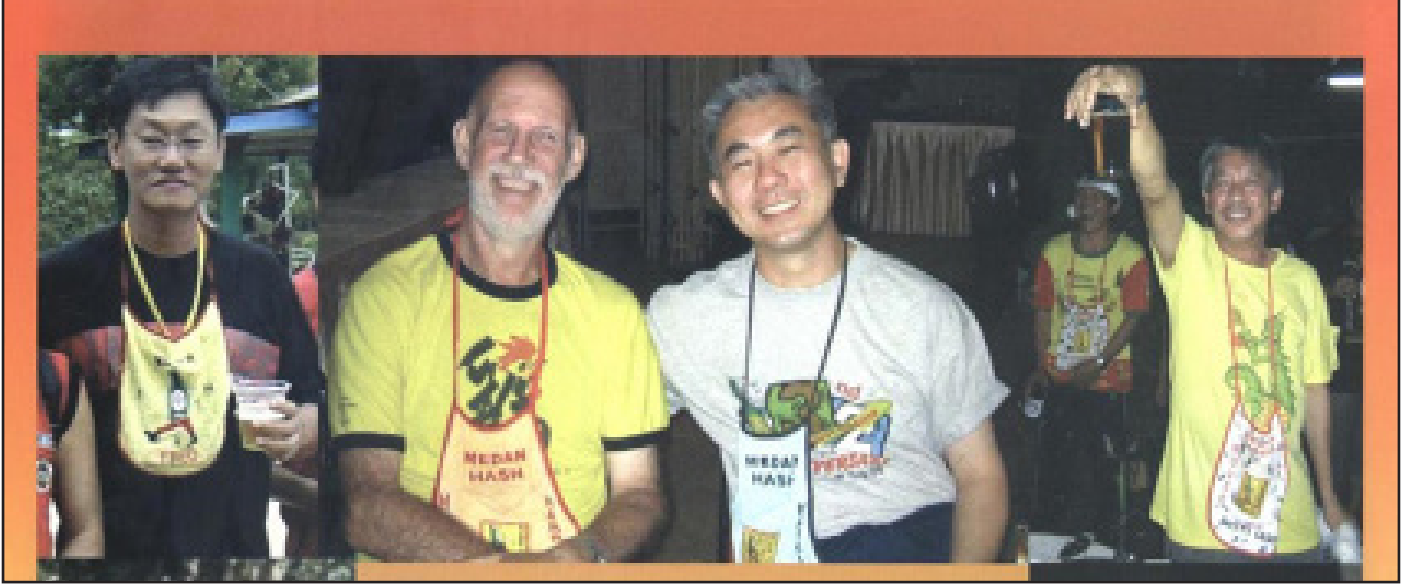
Frank Woodward is well documented as a pre-war hasher. He remained an important figure when the Hash reformed after the war, serving two years as Joint-Master. I found some additional information concerning him in the Bangkok 500th programme (January 1987).

Frank wrote a letter/ article for the 500th programme. Given the time it would have taken for mail to pass from England to Thailand in those pre-internet days, he probably started writing the document no later than November 1986. A few ‘new’ facts emerged.

- Frank was born in Guernsey.
- He shipped out for Malaysia in January 1939, arriving in February.
- He moved straight into lodging at The Club
- He was invited to the Hash over his very first breakfast.
- Having been a keen cross-country runner at school he agreed. He joined Mother Hash on run 6 or 7.
- He mentioned that after the war he often set runs with John Wyatt-Smith. He also describes Wyatt-Smith as a ‘post-war’ hasher. If accurate, this would contradict several accounts that list John as a pre-war.
- At the time of writing (1986) Frank described himself as a non-running member of Tamer Valley H3.

Hash Hearldary

wear you bib with pride



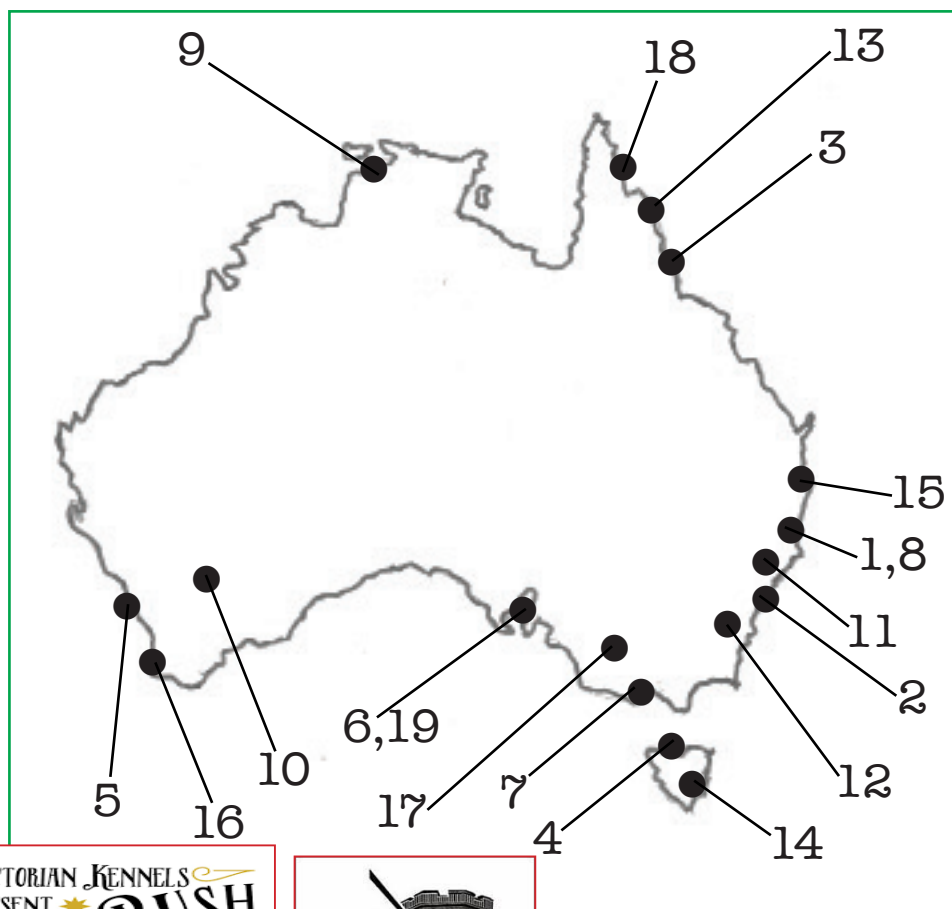
- The idea of wearing bibs in the circle is (as far as I am aware) unique to two hashes, Medan and Batavia in Jakarta. Batavia is of course a direct offspring of Medan, the lads determined to create a clone of their old hash in the Indonesian capital.
- How did the idea of bibs start? The most likely explanation is that bibs were originally placed on a coat rack when hashers arrived at a venue, and collected on returning from the run, this an easy way to check if anybody had been lost in the jungle/rice fields.
- That proved far too complex for the average hasher but the boys had got to like the idea of a bib.
- Bibs protected t-shirts from beer, although considering the amount of spillage, that could only have been a minor factor.
- It has been reported that a later design (?) included a holder for a beer can. (The author does not remember this being the case in Batavia).
- The most important point was that the name of hashers was printed on the bib, allowing the GM, who was overseeing a circle of 60 plus hashers, to pretend that he knew everybody by name.
- In due course bibs simply became a tradition.



Hash Maps

Aussie Nash Hash

- 1 1985 Gold Coast
- 2 1987 Central Coast
- 3 1989 Townsville
- 4 1991 Launceston
- 5 1993 Perth
- 6 1995 Adelaide
- 7 1997 Geelong
- 8 1999 Gold Coast
- 9 2001 Darwin
- 10 2003 Kalgoorlie
- 11 2005 Lake Macquarie
- 12 2007 Canberra
- 13 2009 Cairns
- 14 2011 Hobart
- 15 2013 Brisbane
- 16 2015 Busselton
- 17 2017 Ballarat
- 18 2019 Port Douglas
- 19 2021 Adelaide



The idea for an Aussie Nash Hash dates back to the staging of Interhash in Sydney in 1984. Even before the end of that weekend the event was proving such a success that there was talk of organizing a gathering of Australian hashers the following year. With so many senior hashers present the idea quickly gathered momentum, as did the expectation that the Gold Coast would host.

There was already a base to build upon, for Aussie hashers had been getting together for fun weekends since the seventies. Commemorative runs tending to be official, and therefore often all-male, while other weekend events were more likely to be open to families. Such gatherings had increased in number, and possibly changed in character, after the large Australian contingent returned from the Hong Kong Interhash (1978).

Gold Coast H3 staged the first Nash Hash over the Easter break, and they put on a good show. Two years later **Central Coast H3** faced a major crisis, the original site at Mount Penang being flooded just days before hashers were due to arrive. The publican of the nearby Settler's Arms Hotel put up a giant marquee and the second Nash Hash went ahead. In those days you could register at the site, so the organizing committee always faced a tense wait until numbers reached the break-even point.

Australian hashing was gaining momentum and Nash Hash numbers, and expectations, rose accordingly. By the time Nash Hash came to Adelaide in 1995 there were 471 hashers registered, including 20 or so overseas visitors. Adelaide had been slow adopting hashing but the three local kennels, **Adelaide H3**, **Adelaide Harriettes** and **Munno Para H3**, produced one of the best Nash Hashes of all time. There were some excellent trails and amazing entertainment. What most people will remember is a contestant in the down-down competition taking his drink naked, while a harriette set his pubic hair on fire.

With this act of magnificent artistic stupidity, Aussie Nash Hash became firmly established on the hash calendar!

Country Profiles

USA - the early years

The early years

1971- 1983

Hashing in the United States dates to November 1971 and the founding of **Fort Eustis H3**. The founding father was Lt. Col. Frank Arnold, a British liaison officer who had hashed with Ray Thornton at Longmoor. British officers were regularly posted to Fort Eustis to attend transport training courses, and when the army magazine *Soldier* reported on the local hash, another British officer, Richard *Mountain Rescue* McAllister, was one of those interviewed. He noted that hashing in Fort Eustis had its own style, and that this included being unusually competitive. The 'problem', as *Mountain Rescue* saw it, was that the hares were given only a minimal head start and the pack were always racing to catch up with them. *Mountain Rescue* also noted that women were already well established on the run, something unusual at the time.

Six months after the founding of Fort Eustis H3, *Tumbling* Bill Panton organized the inaugural run of **Washington H3**. Bill had joined Mother Hash way back in 1954, but then took a break from hashing until promotion left him desk bound and in need of exercise. He became a Mother Hash regular, serving as Joint Master in 1962 and again in 1970. A move from Malaysian Agriculture to the World Bank allowed him to become one of the earliest hash globe-trotters and he would found both Washington H3 and Bangkok H3.

Washington, with a large foreign community and a regular influx of US government workers returning from overseas postings, proved fertile hash ground. The pack grew in size and Washington hashers went on to found several other US kennels, including **Boston H3**, **Philadelphia H3** and **Houston H3**.

Other kennels springing up at this time could claim a direct link to Asia, with **La Jolla** (1978) tracing their roots to Mother Hash, **Honolulu** (1978) to Hong Kong, **Princeton** (1979) to Medan and **Dallas** (1978) to Singapore. **Rumson H3** is another kennel of this generation that have a direct link to Mother Hash, and over the years they have promoted themselves as the Hell's Angels of hashing. They run on Saturday mornings and specialize in muddy forest





trails. Women, bimbos to the lads, are only welcomed on special runs. A typical Rumson hasher, according to their official video, is *'severely depressed with lots of problems in their marriage and with drinking. That's the perfect hasher'*.

Another British hash legend, Ian Cummings, founded the first New York Hash in January 1978. However, this group was based in Westchester and Fairfield, a fair way out on the metro line, so did not have a major influence on the growth of hashing in the rest of the city.

Hashing had arrived in the US, but it was slow progress and by the end of the decade there were still only a dozen or so active kennels. In addition, some of the groups might not have understood what hashing was all about. *Chef* wrote that Pittsburgh H3 was five years old when they sent representatives to the second Inter-Americas in Atlanta and prior to that had never heard of a down-down!

One possible explanation for this tardy start is that American expatriates often seem to live in their own little world. Many of the military bases are self-contained towns, while the diplomatic body can sometimes appear less adventurous in exploring the host country than their British or Australian counterparts. As a result, many Americans living overseas never made contact with the local hash, and this slowed the growth of hashing at home.

The Yanks head for Costa Rica 1984- 1987

Getting to Australia for the 1984 Interhash would be too expensive for many US hashers, so a group led by Giles *Patchwork Quilt* Paget-Wilkes, organized an alternative event - the first Inter-Americas Hash. Staged in Costa Rica, 75 hashers from 16 kennels made the trip with local hashers bringing numbers up to the 200 mark.

Atlanta hosted a second Inter-Americas Hash the following year, after which the event adopted a biennial pattern that no longer clashed with Interhash. Numbers in Atlanta rose to 235, firmly establishing the event on the hash calendar.

A hash beauty competition has traditionally been a part of the celebration, with Miss San Francisco the first winner. It is extremely sexist of course. Take for example this quote from the post-hash programme, describing the 1991 winner, *She is no spring chicken but fills out a pair of demin shorts really well*. Yet the beauty contest is widely popular with no lack of contestants, many of who are more than willing to *get them out for the boys*. (While on the subject of beauty

contests, it is worth noting that *Got Milk*, a harriette from Fort Eustis H3, once entered the official Miss USA pageant as Ms Maryland).

The 1987 event in Philadelphia (billed as Americas Interhash) will always be remembered for the subway run. Starting at the Liberty Bell, the pack descended into the subway where they found themselves running down a dark railroad tunnel towards the headlights of a rather large train! The following account was given by one of the organisers.

Referring to the 'train incident' in Philadelphia, the sound of the train engine was NOT broadcast over loudspeakers. There was a real, live diesel locomotive sitting at the entrance (the exit for the hashers) to the tunnel with its engine running. The sound could be heard for quite some distance. The tunnel curved, so it was not until the hashers were relatively close that they could see the headlight shining down the tracks at them. The BIG SECRET is whether the engineer stopped the train to avoid hitting the hounds OR was there an pre-arrangement to have the train waiting there to scare the hell out of the pack. To this day there are only three or four Philly hashers who know the truth, and they have not and never will reveal the answer.

The Yanks get the idea

1987 -

By 1987, hashing was becoming big in the United States with nearly 500 listed kennels, many claiming packs of fifty or more. The Inter-Americas Hash had grown into one of the most popular gatherings on the circuit, and in 1998 Larry *Stray Dog* McDowell founded a Nash Hash as an additional event to the calendar. At the same time Americans returning from big international events, or hashers returning from overseas postings, slowly introduced a better idea of what real hashing was all about.

This did not stop American hashing from developing its own character, with weekend trips to the countryside, hot tubs, nakedness and outrageous names all part of the fun. And of course, 'The Red Dress Run' is an American invention that has been adopted by the rest of the world.

This much-copied and beloved celebration dates to August 1987, when Donna Rhinehart (a hash virgin) arrived at a Long Beach run wearing a red dress and unsuitable heels. She completed the trail, took down-downs in good spirit and ended up in the hot tub still wearing the red dress. This made such an impression on the boys that the following year

San Diego H3 organized a run in her honour, with everybody wearing red dresses. Donna, now known as *The Lady in Red*, attended the event and it was on her suggestion that Red Dress Runs took on a charitable role. This first Red Dress Hash attracted a fair amount of attention from the local press, helping to establish a hash tradition that would spread around the world. Indeed, the biggest Red Dress Runs now attract thousands of participants, including many non-hashers.

The Lady in Red was an impressive individual, a woman who had dabbled in the modelling and recording industries, raised three children and was a noted cook. In her own words, 'not bad for a "blond Polish girl."' The Lady in Red passed away in 2013.

The new passion for hashing in the USA was partly driven by the enthusiasm of returning service personnel who had discovered the joys of beer and paper while posted to South Korea, Taiwan, Japan and the Philippines. It should be noted that numerous kennels - including **Orange County H3, San Diego H3, Palm Beach H3, Tampa Bay H3, Over The Hump H3** and **Reno Bump n'Hump H3** - all trace their ancestry back to **Okinawa H3**.

Okinawa is a chain of Japanese islands that was placed under US Administration after the Second World War and many a US hasher has passed through here at some point in their military career. These include noted hash publishers Paul *Flying Booger* Woodford, Larry *Stray Dog* McDowell and Ed *Hazukashii* Howell.

There is still a large US base on the island and the military authorities wield considerable power, which has created the occasional problem for the hash. An army captain who hared a run that disturbed a General's game of golf was ordered to report to his commanding officer the next day. (Disturbing a General's game of golf is a military crime considered more serious than giving the enemy your tank.) The hare came into the General's office chaperoned by several other hashers including a Japanese Colonel, and the matter was tactfully dropped.

Then there was the Marine thrown out of the service for dubious behaviour, which the military tried to link to the hash. (There seems to have been some adulterous shagging on what may have been a recce for a future run.) For a few days it looked as if the military might have enough influence to close the hash down, but Okinawa H3 survived. A few weeks after the incident they posted a picture of their Red Dress Run with the caption, '*Look Mum, No Marines*'.

Once upon a time, the US military maintained gigantic military bases in the Philippines, where

the terms Angeles City-Hash-Clark Air Base-Beer-Americans-Bar Girls-Hash-Beer were intimately interwoven. For many years, Angeles H3 set a 50-mile relay around the Air Base and when the authorities withdrew permission for the event to be staged inside the wire, Rob *Malibog* Denny declared a 'Brits-Only' relay along the Angeles 'strip'. However, many patriotic red-blooded American hashers ignored their high command and ran with the hash 'therefore we admitted the Yanks back into the fold of the British Empire.'

Of the hundreds of US kennels founded during this period, a few deserve a special mention. There was the spread of hashing into New York proper, with the founding of **New York City H3** in 1984, while several new kennels sprung up in Washington D.C., including **White House H3** (1987) and the **Every Day is Wednesday H3**.

Florida, home to the US space program, Disneyworld, and an awful lot of people seeking the good life in their retirement, naturally attracted hashers. **Orlando H3** and **Mosquito County H3** both date to 1985, the latter having the legendary Giles *Patchwork Quilt* Pagett-Wilkes as founding father. Orlando has numerous claims to fame, including kidnapping the Atlanta down-down trophy. Their grand mistress *Slam Dunk* suffered a serious back injury on Run 4, forcing the On-On to be continued in the hospital emergency ward. These pioneer kennels were followed by **Miami H3**, **Tampa H3**, **Palm Beach H3** and **Daytona H3**.

Colorado is Rocky Mountain country and one of the most popular places to live in the States. **Denver H3** dates from 1982 and **Boulder H3** came along three years later. A lively and wild group, their early achievements included a run through a 100-metre irrigation tunnel where the shiggy was knee deep (Run 6) and rappelling down a rock face into the Coors Brewery Compound (Run 11).

California has a population approaching 38 million (if it was a country, it would rank 35th in the world) and eight Californian cities rank amongst the 50 biggest in the States. However, there is also great natural beauty and this combination of (1) lots of people and (2) good places to set trails, encouraged hashing. **La Jolla H3** was founded by Joe Curry in 1978 and is proud of being California's oldest hash. **Los Angeles H3** came along just before Christmas 1980, founded by Larry *Webfoot* Jones and Bernard Daniels (ex-Singapore). Thirty turned up for the first run, thanks partly to support from La Jolla. By 1982 there was enough enthusiasm to switch to weekly runs, and the same year the kennel set the standard

for tough events with a weekend trip to Death Valley. The adventurous side of this kennel is still apparent, their 1000th run leaving from a venue so steep that the bus had to be abandoned before it reached the start point.

On returning from Kuala Lumpur, *Pussy-Whipped* founded both **East Bay Devil H3** in 1979 and **San Francisco H3** in 1982. The latter is one of the great US hashes, recognized by their Golden Gate Bridge logo.

Hawaii lies 2,300 miles from the US mainland and consists of eight main islands, of which Oahu is home to about two-thirds of the population. Hashing came here early, with the founding of **Honolulu H3** in 1978. This is serious running country, so to help maintain standards Honolulu H3 punishes anybody turning up at the run wearing T-shirts with words such as 'marathon' or 'race'.

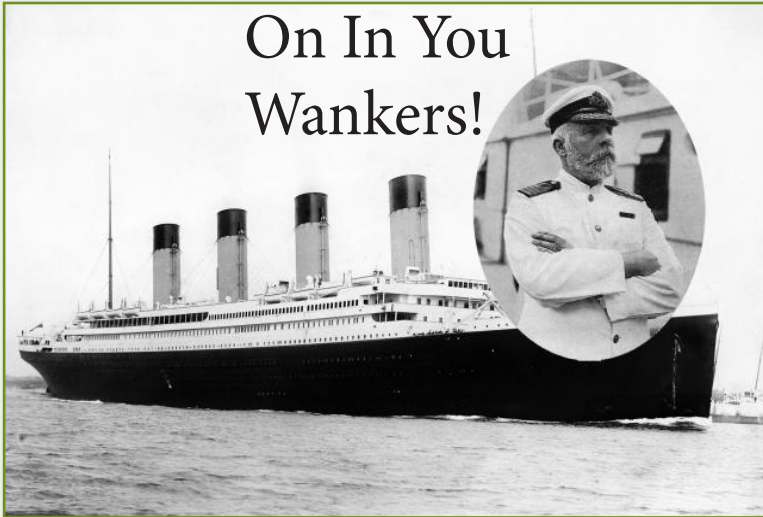
There was also a downside to hashing in the USA, and even before 9/11 the officious nature of the society was causing problems over the laying of flour. The first such incident was probably **Boston H3's** run at Beacon Hill, this way back in September 1988. In those more innocent days the main concern was a possible threat to pets, although newspapers reported that chalk marks left by **Fort Lauderdale H3** were linked to satanic and racist groups. In 1993 the Dallas Police investigated hares laying a trail through a children's playground. **Fort Worth H3** had a problem in 1996, and marks left by Phoenix H3 caused two square miles of the city to be closed off in September 1997. **Tornado Alley H3** attracted similar attention in December 1999.

The police also regularly drove past the circle to see what was going on, and they might have something to say about drinking in public. Similarly, respect for (fear of) draconian drinking laws encouraged some kennels limit membership to those over 21.

By 2000 hashing was well estbalsihed throughout the USA.



On In You Wankers!



The world's first Interhash

My grandfather left school when he was 11
Looked for a job, and there was only one
He became a trainee apprentice accountant
At Ebenezer and Son

He worked 26 hours a day
It brought the lad to his knees
A bowl of cold gravel for supper
and nothing left over to pay his hash fees!

That very Monday in the circle
After another spiffing good hash
The GM read out a letter from New York
Where they were planning a bit of a bash

'I think we should go', said GM
'It will be the world's first ever Inter-hash
We can sail on Titanic on Wednesday
Those of us who can come up with the cash.'

That was obviously a problem for Granddad
But GM said here's what we'll do
We'll have you appointed ships' trail master
And take you across with the crew

They were half way across the Atlantic
grandpa was in crows nest, reading last week's Hash Trash
When there came a terrible shudder!
The ship had taken a bit of a bash!

The captain called the pack into his cabin
Said 'I think we could all do with a drink.
The news is a bit on the bleak side
Bloody ship looks likely to sink!'
To be continued next month

Dear Hashers

At the moment I am stranded in Bangladesh with no flights out.

I have therefore been unable to order an author's copy of

On On A History of the Hash House Harriers

to make a final proofread.

I have decided to delay the big release date happier times.

However, may I invite any hasher, bored by the lack of hashing, to request back copies of the On On Magazine?

send email address to stockholmbob@gmail.com

Robert 'Shakesprick' Pateman

