

On On

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



January 2020

Published towards the end of the month

News

Old Farts

Hazukashii of gotothefashwebsite has been working on locating **the oldest hashers still active**. His short list is:

1st 91 years old **Sir Noo-key**, Edmonton H3, DOB 811/28

2nd 90 years old **Hanoi Bill**, Sydney H3, DOB 4/5/29

3rd 89 years old **Ron Baum**, Brisbane H3, DOB 21/5/30

4th 86 year old **Runnit**, Taunton H3, DOB 20/2/33

News From Arabia

There have been some important changes in Middle East hashing. After years of declining numbers the two Muscat hashes - **Jebel H3** and **Muscat H3** - have amalgamated to form **Oman Hash House Harriers**. Across the border in the UAE the collapse of the **Mainland Hash** has left the **Island Hash** as the single kennel still operating in Abu Dubai.

News From Bangladesh



Three years after the 2016 Holey Bakery terrorist attack, expats are starting to become more visible on the street of Dhaka. The annual **Victory Day Run** (16th December) brought a crowd of 50 plus, of which a third were expats. A fine run was set through colourful areas of the city where foreigners would seldom find. *December 2019*

On On Barry Will

Barry Fegan Will, a long term resident of Hong Kong and Professor of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong, has died at the age of 74. Local newspapers described him as *a big, bluff, bearded*

character who drove a little Lotus and laughed a lot. He was Grandmaster of **Hong Kong H3** in 2001-02. *December 2019*

News From Scotland

I met up with a couple of **Edinburgh** hashers who reported that hashing is thriving in the city. **Glasgow** however seems to be struggling, with packs of under twenty. The suggestion was that Edinburgh hashers tend to live relatively close together, so getting to the run is easy, while Glasgow hashers are scattered across the city. *December 2019*



Tallinn H3

Tallinn in the Ice - staged by **Tallinn Hash House Harriers**, *'The small, but low quality hash!'* has sold out. The event seems set to replace the gap left by the demise of the Helsinki Hole in The Ice Run.

Harrier International

After seventeen years, **Harrier Magazine** is ceasing publication. In the words of their website *'a fond adieu to our many friends, contributors, readers and sponsors who have supported our efforts to provide a world HHH publication from 2002-2019.'*

On On - you did a great job lads! *January 2020*

News From Rutland

Horny Bastard informs me that **Rutland H3** (UK) are active each Sunday, offering long, muddy runs. Numbers however remain low with anything over a dozen considered pleasing.

On On Rover

Colin 'Rover' Burns, was killed while fleeing the bush fires in New South Wales. He was a hasher and volunteer fireman. *January 2020*

Great Hashers

The pre-war hashers

Barratt, John

An accountant in KL before the war and one of the handful of hashers on Run Number 1.

Bennett, Torch

Bennett worked as an accountant. He and Gispert ran together with the Malacca Springett Harriers around 1938. *Torch* is credited with doing much of the early organization. He left KL in the fifties and is believed to have settled in Durban.

Davidson, Llew

After working out on the rubber plantations, Davidson transferred to KL and joined the Hash. During the war he spent time in Changi Prison and was then forced to work on the Burma Railway. He returned to KL after the war and was Joint Master in 1948, 1951-52 and 1955-57. His last hash run was in 1960, after which he became a farmer in Shropshire. Llew died in 1980 at the age of 90.

Doig, H.M.

Doig worked in the same accountancy firm as Cecil Lee and was noted for being slightly older than the average hasher at the time. He was killed in an air crash just before the start of the war.

Edgar, Morris

Joined Mother Hash shortly after the first run. Little else is known about him.

Galvin, Eric

Worked for the Malay Mail. Eric continued hashing after the war and was Joint Master in 1946-47.



Kennedy, F.D. (Don)

An Irish accountant who completed a few pre-war runs. After the war he took over as On-Sec and drew up a list of club rules as part of the registration process. He also introduced the idea of subscriptions. His interview with Stu Lloyd for 'Hare of the Dog' was an important addition to our knowledge of pre-war hashing.

Hay, M C

M.C. Hay is believed to have been present on Run Number 1, and he acted as Joint Master (along with Bennett) in 1941. As head of the Tin Department he was a senior figure in the community. Hay was one of the party who fled Singapore with Lieutenant-General Gordon Bennett in 1942. Hay returned to Malaya after the war and helped to get hashing restarted. He retired to Burpham, Sussex.

Lee, Cecil

Lee was an accountant who was posted to KL in 1934. He was one of the most important figures in the founding of Mother Hash, serving as Joint Master from 1938-40, and was probably involved in selecting the 'Hash House' name. He survived the horrors of working on the Siam-Burma railway and played a major role in getting Mother Hash restarted after the war. Lee stayed in KL until 1961, when he retired to Surrey. While taking an afternoon stroll he heard the cries of 'On On' from the Surrey H3 pack and became reunited with hashing.

Ross, E.A.

A pre-war hasher, Ross escaped from Singapore during the war.

Thomson, Horse

Horse was a veteran of the early paper chases around Malaya. He transferred to KL in 1938, but missed the first few hash runs as he was on leave. He later took over as Secretary and is credited with bringing an element of organisation to the club. After a nasty war, including being shot while trying to escape from a prison camp, he returned to KL around 1946. He continued to hash and had a spell as Joint Master. Thomson retired to the Philippines to run a sugar plantation and made guest appearances at Interhash in Sydney (1984) and Pattaya (1986).

Westrop, Arthur

Westrop worked for Malayan Fertilizers. He was a veteran of earlier paper chases and noted for being older and of a higher social rank than the average hasher. He had won the Military Cross during World War 1 and was apparently a keen runner who didn't touch alcohol. Arthur died in Malawi in 1965.

Wickens, Phillip

Wickens joined Mother Hash sometime late in 1939. He is credited with helping to keep things going after the war and was Joint Master from 1951 to 1952 and again in 1954. He transferred to Singapore in 1958 but there is no record of him attempting to start a hash. He died in April 1981.

Woodrow, John

The Mother Hash website acknowledges him as a hash founder. He did not return to Malaya after the war.

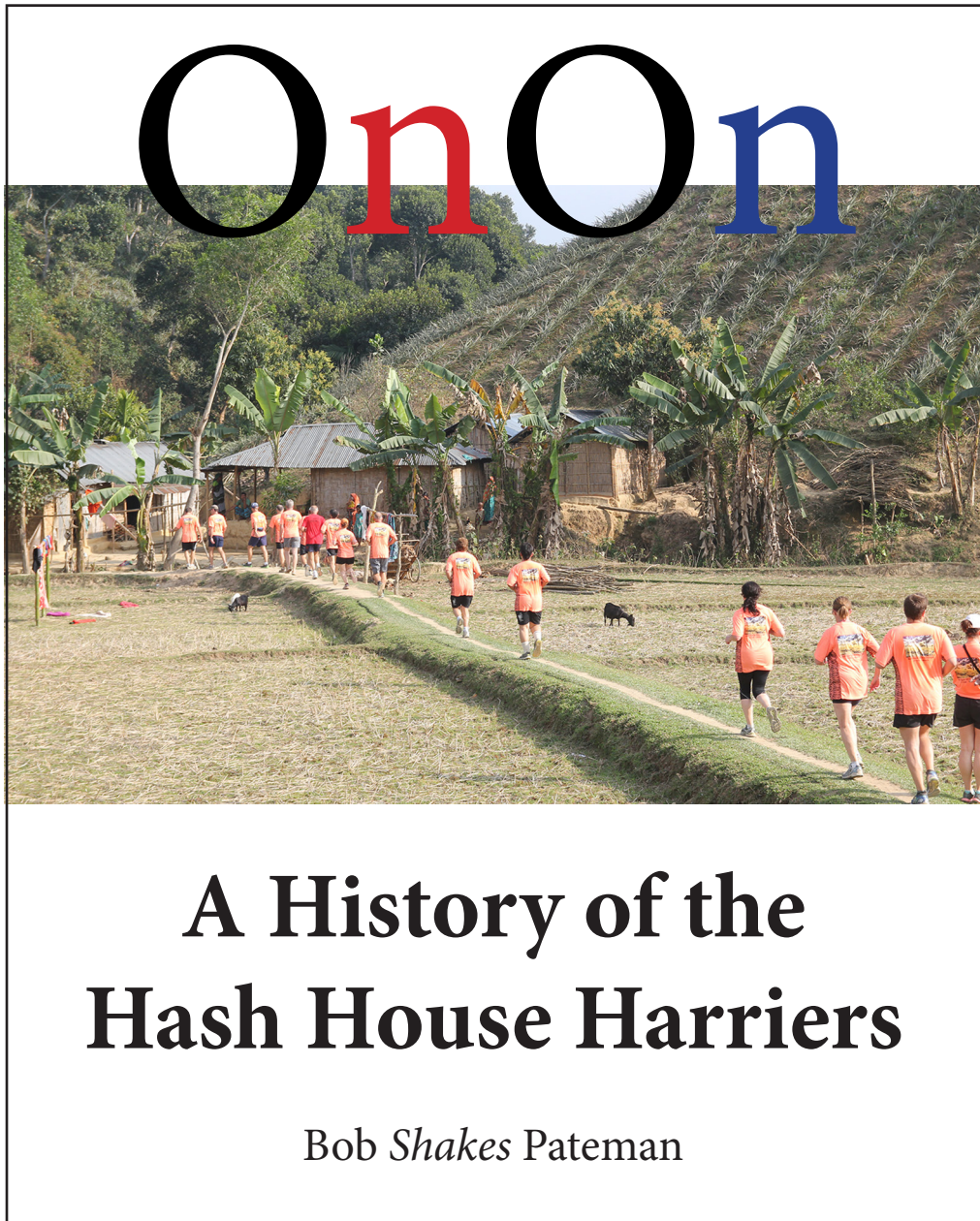
Woodward, Frank

Frank arrived in KL some time around February 1939, joining Mother Hash on run six or seven. He had a bad war, spending several years in prison camps. He returned to KL after the war and was Joint Master in 1949. Frank later retired to his native Guernsey.

Wyatt-Smith, John (CBE)

John came to Malaysia around 1939 to work in forestry. He was a noted FRB (Front Running Barstard) who had represented Oxford University at cross country running. He was also one of the first to bring along a hash dog, a bull terror. With the outbreak of war, John was recruited into a special combat group and escaped from Singapore in a small boat. He continued hashing after the war and was a visitor on one of the first Kathmandu runs.

Coming
soon
on
Amazon!



On On - A History of the Hash House Harriers

The book is already getting rave reviews:

‘The best book my son has written this week’

Shakesprick’s Mum

Shakesprick is a super bloke – a pint please Shakes – and the book is brilliant. I haven’t actually read it, but Shakes says its brilliant and

I believe him because he is a super bloke

A hasher Shakesprick met in a bar

If there had been more Hashers like Shakesprick, then we might have kept the Japanese out of Singapore in 1941.

Winston Churchill (I might have made this one up)

Hash Publications

Although there are very few books on hashing, there is a wealth of information hidden away (and sometimes forgotten) in year books and programmes.

Each month Shakesprick will be looking through a publication to see what can be rediscovered about our hash roots.

Number one is a look at:



Cairo Hash House Harriers 300th programme, September 1986

Jim *Headgear* Hatt, recently of Lagos, was GM and he gave a 2 page review of the 1986 hash year.

- There were record numbers on the runs, but also a large number of hashers leaving town.
- Leavers included hash founder Adrian Hromiak who departed Cairo after 6 years
- Ron Scanlan was also leaving '*after a long and illustrious CH3 career*'. He was a noted hare.
- Rob Bogaards and partner Jose Van Atten - who drove 100 kilometres from Faiyum Oasis for every run - were also departing. They were taking their hash dog, Bruno. Bruno was noted for only responding to commands given in Dutch

Interestingly while this was described as a normal turnover, the next hash book for the 350th Run would talk of numbers dropping due to the economic problems Egypt was going through.

- T-shirts were rare, with only two being issued during the year.
- There was still a raft race, but rising pollution levels would soon bring an end to this popular event. The hash (who took pride in always doing more drinking than rowing) would stage their first re-hydration run to fill the gap on the calendar. *We will feature re-hydration runs in a later issue.*
- Two names stand out on the committee. The RA was **Claude Morel** - that rare animal of being a

hasher from Belgium. Claude had a unique style. In heavily accented English he would give a prepared monologue (more stand up comedian than RA) of amazing enjoyability. Claude does not appear to have hashed after leaving Cairo - but we will feature him in a latter issue. *Please send any news of Claude to Shakes*

- Kaj *Der Tulip Eater* Peterson (shown in the year book wearing a Viking helmet) was also on the committee. Kaj had picked up the hash bug in Hong Kong and was founder of Copenhagen H3. *Der Tulip Eater* recently died while on trail in Cambodia.

Great Down Down

Brunei H3

Early 1970's

A keen hasher who worked as a criminal pathologist was brought into the circle to have a newspaper report read out to him.

Apparently he had attended the death of the owner of a local restaurant. The poor man had been found tied to a chair. His hands were behind his back, there was a noose around his neck and although there was a suicide note, it was pinned to his BACK.

The hash-pathologist had agreed with the police that it looked like suicide!

Hash Terms -Shiggy

It is possible, perhaps likely, that it was the Singapore boys who first used the term *Shiggy*. Technically shiggy is simply mud, or any other brown and/or messy substance, that sticks to your shoes, legs or hash apparel. However, in hash terms shiggy means a lot more, ranking only a little behind beer and comradeship as a central part of the hash philosophy.

Hashing, we have to remember, has its home in Southeast Asia, where there is a wet rice culture and a rainy season. An excellent run is considered one where everybody emerges from the bush covered in mud.

It was the heavy rains at the 1980 Interhash in KL that introduced the international hash community to the true nature of shiggy. The concept taken up with enthusiasm by **East Grinstead H3** and **Edinburgh H3**, for whom finding shiggy trails, and having shiggy fights (i.e. throwing mud at each other) became part of their own hash culture.

While a tradition for setting muddy runs go all the way back to the pre-war days, the term 'shiggy' is believed to date to a Singapore Hash that took place in June 1967. This was where an Aussie hasher, David Gibb, run through a pig shed thinking that the brown surface was solid, and not a tank of pig swill. The incident inspired *Gunga Dick* to write a song:

Once an Aussie hasher
Jumped into the shiggy pit

And thus the term 'shiggy' was born.

Please send comments, articles and questions to Shakes at
hawthornpublishing17@gmail.com
Facebook: A History of the Hash House Harriers

In fact could anybody fill in some gaps?

I am seeking names of Interhash Chairpersons/GM for 2010 (Kuching), 2016 (Bali) and 2014 Hainan).
Also, can anybody remember the beer drinking champions (men and women) for 2016 and 2018?

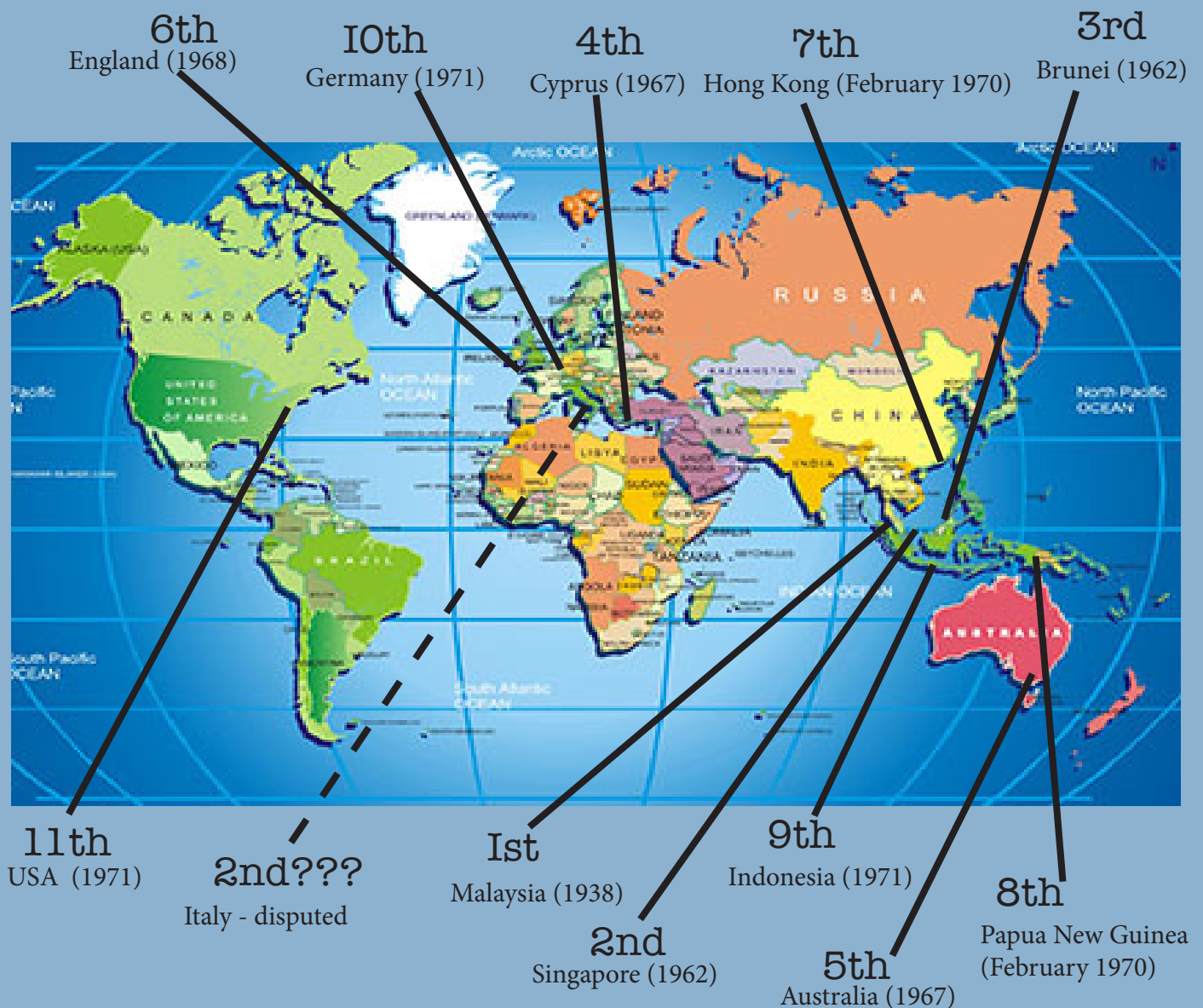
Hash Heritage

Pre-war hasher MC Hay retired to Burpham in Sussex, a beautiful little community with a population of 145. Hashers (attending a Chihester H3 run) are shown visiting his grave. The fine specimen of a hasher in the middle is *Malibog* (On On John!) famed as the former owner of the Bird of Paradise Bar in Angeles City, Phillipines.



Hash Map

The first countries to adopt hashing



Hash Joke

I saw a ballet teacher yesterday and asked her if she could teach me to do the splits.

She said how flexible are you?

I replied, well, I can't do Mondays, that's Hash night!

Port Nicholson Geriatric Hash House Harriers

Country Profiles

The **Stockholm Absolut H3** was founded by Bertil 'Nosslo' Olsson, Gosta 'Two Pricks' Karlsson and Jan 'Stamps' Ferguson-Karlsson in August 1986. (The Termite family had probably organized a couple of runs at an earlier date, but they left Sweden before the kennel could get established.)

In the summer of 1994 some of the Harriettes decided that the Absolut Hash was getting a bit too family-oriented and founded the **Underground Hash**. They run every Wednesday from a pub close to a subway station.

The **Full Moon Berserkers H3** was founded by hash legend John 'Malibog' Denny. Although claiming independence status, it is not unknown for a Berserkers Hash to be combined with a Wednesday or Saturday run.

There was certainly a close overlap between all three hashes, with most Wednesday hashers also running on Saturdays, although the reverse was not necessarily true. The 'typical' Stockholm hasher of this generation was a Swedish ex-pat returning home with hash experience, the second largest identifiable group being British residents.

It was a close group, with a core membership, including **Clever Dick, Marmite, Termite, Eye-full, -Standing Ovation, Mad Swede** and **Casaplunker** who had been hashing together from 'the early days'. There was a fair bit of non-hash socializing, with hashers entering many of the city's running events, including the Stockholm Marathon. At one time the hash also put together a korfbal team. In those days a hard core could be found at the Ox on Friday evenings.

Numbers on this hash could vary, but the trend was downwards and around 2003 a wet cold winter's evening could see the Underground pack down to three or four.

However there was a revival, and over the next few years a younger, fitter crowd of joggers and orienteers joined. (We are talking about a group included **Little Brother, Big Brother** and **Laid Bird**). However they were great hashers, and when **John Cleese** was chasing a very fast time in the Stockholm Marathon he still stopped outside the stadium to drink a down down from the hash beer station.

Even though this 'new crowd' are now also getting

older (!) hashing continues to thrive in Stockholm, with both Absolut and Underground disappointed if they get less than thirty to a run. The Absolut continue to meet every second Saturday and often run from the hare's home, which can push the Hash further into the suburbs. However the excellent public transport service means that most hashers still leave their cars at home and are free to consume a few beers.

There might be attentional runs for special events - such as National Day - and every May 1st sees a Hash Marathon of at least 42 colorimeters with 8 drink stops.

Stockholm hashers are also great travellers, turning up in national costume at the big events and staging their own away trips, usually involving a formal race, followed by a hash the following day.

Inverness H3 used to meet 'occasionally'. Inverness in this case is an outer suburb of Stockholm, possibly named Inverness because Scottish soldiers were stationed here several centuries ago. The Stockholm lads who formed the kennel just liked the name! A **Stockholm Bash** was founded by Termite in 2007 and goes by the name '*The Wheel Stockholm Bash*'.

Elsewhere hashes tend to come and go. **Kalmar H3** was the invention of *VD Viking* and dependant on visitors from Stockholm for a good turnout. It seems to be dormant at the moment.

Vasteras, a town about 100 kilometres west of Stockholm, was the venue for the occasional Stockholm run, the pack enjoying the hospitality and cooking of Jan '*Mad Swede*' Andersson and then staying over for the night. (*Note: Mad Swede was once chef to the Swedish Ambassador to the USA!*) Since Mad Swede moved here permanently, these occasional runs have developed into the **Westra Aros Gurka H3** with monthly runs. Numbers are dependent on getting a contingent coming up from Stockholm.

Blentarps is a completely independent kennel and was founded by Karin '*Hotlips*' Hoffmann after she returned from Malaysia.

Ludvika H3, in the wilderness of Dalarna, was founded in June 2000 by Jan '*Super Swede*' Karlström, who gathered together a small group of returning expats. Ludvika will celebrate 200 runs in 2020. The last published statistics showed 7 hashers over a hundred runs, led by Sten '*Iceman*' Bohlin with 148

The most significant hash event in recent times has been the re-forming of **Gotenburg H3** (descended from **Mölnäls H3**). The founding father and first GM was *Penisboy* who learnt hashing in his native Ethiopia. The kennel continues to offer monthly runs.

Sweden



Sweden

Sweden

