

On On

Issue 28
Mid-Year Special
2022

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



News

England

After numerous lockdowns, countless lateral flow tests and a few garden parties at No.10, London H3 finally got to Ludlow!

Sorry to hear hash veteran John Jackson is in hospital. *'Spending a few days/weeks/months in hospital is NOT what I had in mind! Bloody leg ulcers!!!'*

My home town of Crawley finally has a hash - the **Crawley Run And Pub Hash House Harriers** (that is C.R.A.P. H3). Hash runs are held every 1st Sunday of every month, at 11.00 am unless stated otherwise. CRAP H3 is mis-managed by a small team that includes:

Martyn *Sticky Balls* Clarke-Jones

Clare *I Need One (Needy)* Clarke-Jones

Jack *Ginger Nuts* Watling

Dave *Chaos* Hubbard

Milton Keynes H3 cancelled a hash due to the heat-wave: *'In view of the projected heatwave on Monday, the hash will not run this week. Existing members please check the website or contact me, for social details. On On.'*

Going back to June we find another flour scare. From the Bishop Stortford Independent: *'The mystery of the town's streets being sprinkled with white powder was solved on Thursday when a running/social club member fessed up. Sawbridgeworth's Facebook group was filled with queries about the chalky white substance, with some fearing it could be toxic for dogs and others worrying houses were being marked for burglaries. But Colin Lodge explained he had been marking out*

a running route for the Herts Hash House Harriers, a group which meets at a pub, run or walk the trail, then enjoy a beer'.

USA

Houston H3 are setting a 3-day hash over Labor Day Weekend:

Friday: Happy Hour, *Geek* and *Lorna* Soundbooth

Saturday: Pub Crawl, McP 50th B-day

Sunday: Reboot Reunion! Hared by *Dickhead* & *McP*

2022

The next big events

September 2-5

Inter Americas Hash – Colombia

October 7-9

Pan Asia Hash - Indonesia

11-13th November

Indo China Mekong

Cambodia

For details of all hash events check out

www.gotothehash.net



Left: The once loved Johansson's.

Above: The latest in hash fashion!



Memorabilia

Ken Gulledge placed the following on Facebook: -
I was gifted Spinal Tap and Hasher Humper's hash quilt by their family. I could not be more honored. Now I understand why T-Shirts are the best hash give-away at big hash events. Take a look at all these cool events! Also when you are old and gray and cannot go anymore it would be nice to wrap up in your greatest memories with a shit eating grin on your face!
 (See picture above)

New Zealand

There is new, new moon hash in New Zealand. **The Belenheim Full Moon Hash** with run number one being set by Hares: *Dr PH* and *Keen Knickers* on Saturday 27th August.

Philippines

Johansson's (Barrio Baretto) - a legendary hash bar in Angeles City - has open again. As one fan wrote on Facebook: *'Great hash venue, just hoping that the place will once again become the hash home of SBH3. Good food, especially the English breakfasts! Always loved the place. Not a go go bar & the place always had a good range of reasonably priced drinks. Hope it's still going to be the same!'*

Spain

Mijas H3 have responded to the heat wave by adding swimming pool stops (with cold drinks supply!) to their hashes.

Note from Shakesprick:

I have been enjoying a break for the summer but the Mid-Year Special is now out.

This special issue features the history of hashing from the very beginnings to the Mother Hash 1500th Run in 1973. This special issue reprints favourites articles from previous issues.

It also contains an index of articles that have appeared in the first 27 issues of On On Magazine.

The next regular issue will come out at the end of September.

Please forward to hash friends.

On on
Shakesprick



From Addis H3:

Our 40th Anniversary vest has finally reached our founder, Bill Petts 'Tumbling' in the UK. He's very pleased with it and has written a poem of thanks.

The Fortieth Anniversary
Forty years seem a lifetime – so long
We had no idea it would survive
And you're all still shouting On On

So the AAH3's still alive!

*We first planted the seed on Entoto
All ten of us young, keen and strong
We had no thought what we had started
And now we are all long, long gone
My running has stopped, more's the pity
Even my walking is slow
But I did run until into my sixties
And I've still got some get up and go
You no longer hear the loud horn sound?
You rely on the paper, you said
But the kids pick it up when you're not looking
So you run round in circles instead?
Celebrate the fortieth with more Down Downs
As Hashers you all deserve merit
Let me know when you reach the fiftieth
And I'll be with you all in spirit
So in rain and shine keep on Hashing
With a smile and a naughty hash song
Carry the Hash Torch into the future
To the On In and your final On On
Bill Petts (Tumbling) Addis Hasher 1981-85*



Hong Kong

News from *Hopeless*:

Hong Kong saw the demise of The Jumbo restaurant, towed away from Aberdeen Harbour. The Aberdeen was the venue for three AGM runs! (Ed: The restaurant made world headlines when it capsized and sunk to the bottom of the South China Sea while being towed away.)

SKH3 ran from the famous Shaffi's curry restaurant in Kam Tin, with outgoing GM *Liberace* passing the helmet and baton to the charismatic *BJ*.

This was followed by **Ladies LH4** AGM where no GM was appointed, LH4 choosing to become an autonomous collective of a shared role/committee.

Mexico

Mexico City numbers continue to grow and their runs have become more adventurous with hashers recently stumbling up the hills of Santa Fe La Loma. Next up is a Coyoacán hash to celebrate *Shakesprick's* 40th year of hashing.

Brazil

Next year's PANSOAM weekend event is provisionally scheduled for mid-June.

Brazil Nuts H3 intends to hash every 3rd Saturday of the month in Sao Paulo city or the close environment, 'however I think we will have some extra trails to coincide with visitors in the coming months'. Cheers and OnOn, MaBouche



Pete the Pilot

Sad news that London hash steward and Beer Master *Pete the Pilot* has passed away.

Peter discovered hashing while visiting his brother Colin *Bonkers Cracknell* in Sudan over Christmas 1983 and he came out to a couple of Khartoum Hashes.

On returning home he saw an advertisement for **London H3** in the Evening Standard and was running with them (he ran in those days) the following week.

He had found his ecological niche and never stopped until illness started to interfere with his hashing. He also helped organise (?) **South London H3**, (**SLASH**), and ran with **Westcombe Park** and the **Currently Unnamed North Thames H3**.

He was Beer Master for several big events, but he probably regarded being Beer Master for the Inter-hash in Cardiff as his finest achievement. He didn't approve of the bar arrangements, or beer on offer, at the Millennium Stadium and insisted on having best bitter, served from hand pumps.

Ed: I once enjoyed a tour of the Imperial War Museum with Peter as guide. He told this story. Pete lived in Dartford and he was always the last man standing in the pub after a hash, and on at least one occasion he fell asleep on the train, went past his stop, and woke up at Dover. He caught the last train back, fell asleep once again, and ended up back in London.

Liberace

Lanna Bush H3 mourn the sad passing of Liberace who passed away 10th June 2022 (aged 77). He was hare of Lanna's longest run to date (39km) on 7th February 2015 at his ranch at Mae Malai.

One of Chiang Mai's original hashers - sympathies to his family and to the hashes of Chiang Mai. R.I.P and On On



We will be publishing a full profile of Pete the Pilot in the September issue.

Dodgy Condom

Missed this at the time but another hasher fell to COVID:

Back in April 2020, Peter Lloyd broke the news that Dodgy Condom, a hasher with **Vindebona H3**, who also lived part time in Falmouth, Cornwall, had died from the virus. He was taken ill whilst visiting his mother and died in hospital in Southport.

Very sad news.

The Paper Chase at Rugby

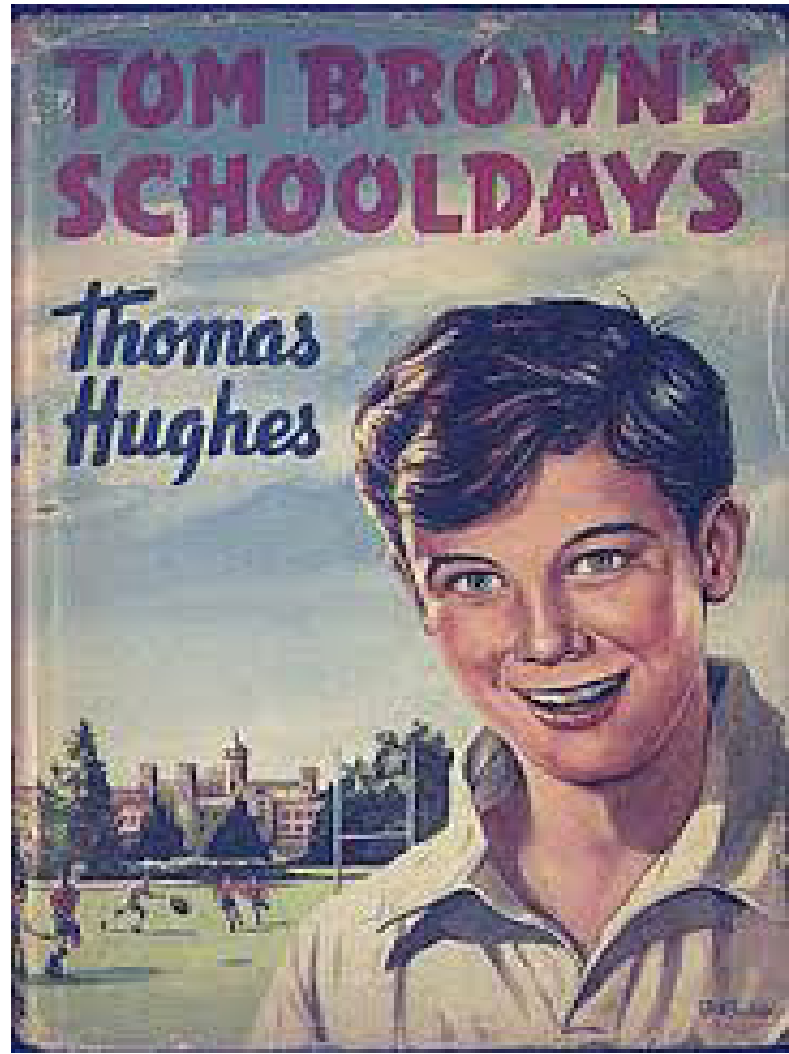
In 1857 Tom Hughes published his novel **Tom Brown's School Days**, written as fiction but firmly based on the author's own experiences at Rugby School.

This was an age of British military power, imperial ambition, and industrial wealth. A time when education was becoming more valued, with the upper classes sending their sons to be flogged and bullied at one of the great public schools, of which Repton, Harrow, Eton, and Rugby were ranked amongst the finest.

Many of these young boys had been brought up on country estates, where hunting with horses and hounds was a popular pastime. There was no opportunity to ride at school, so the boys channelled their energy into sport, playing rough-and-tumble football games and replicating the fun of the hunt by organizing paper chases.

Two boys, known as the hares, would set off with sacks of paper to lay a cross country trail and after they had been given a sporting head start – six minutes was the tradition at Rugby – the pack would set off in pursuit.

The annual '**Big Side Hare and Hounds**' is beautifully described in Tom Brown's School Days. This was a nine-mile romp through the local countryside, with the hares winning praise for setting a trail that was easy to follow. There were



checks (although those finding the new trail would call '*Forward*' rather than '*On On*'). There was even beer at the end, with any boy finishing the run within fifteen minutes of the hares being treated to bread, cheese, and ale at the local inn!

Tom Brown and his buddy, Harry East, were the youngest boys running that afternoon and as the light faded they wandered off the trail and became lost in the dark. (And haven't we all been there!).

Not at all put off by the experience, they declared that '*Hare and Hounds is the most delightful of games.*'

'Hear, Hear and On On!

Shanghai horse back hare & hounds

There is of course no logical reason that Malaysia should have become the home of hashing. The driving forces - bored ex-pats and the British love of sport and beer- 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 very 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 several sources that describe the pre-hash paper chases.

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

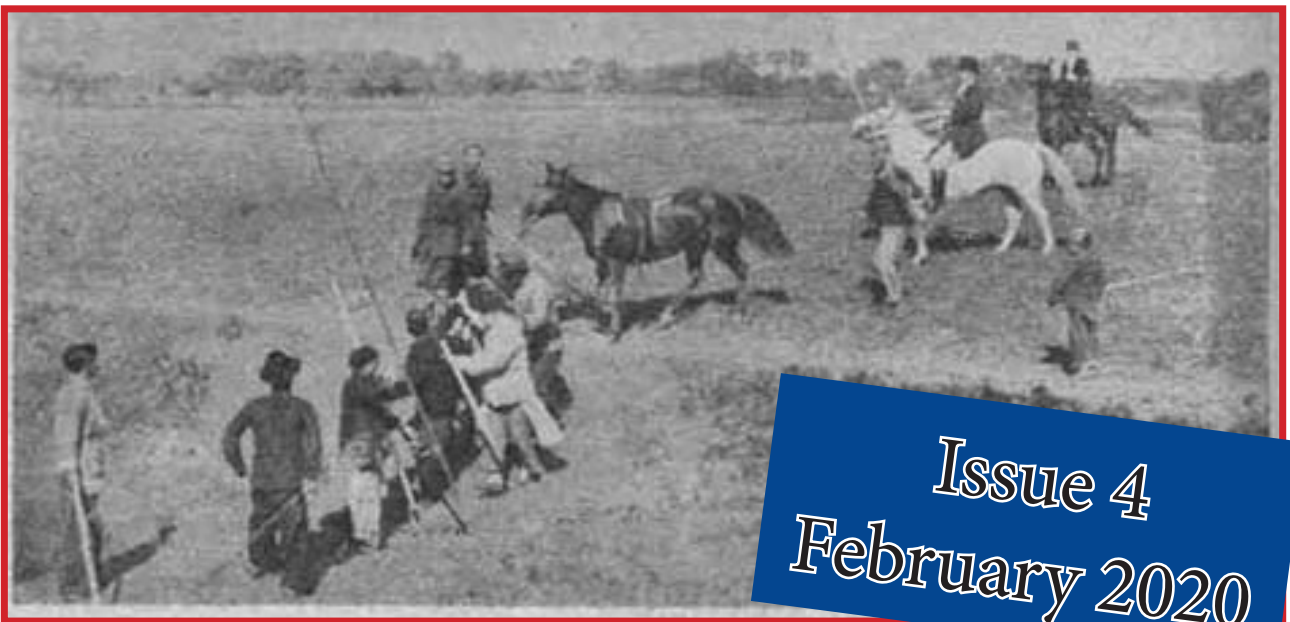
- The Chinese came back with the answer that *‘the hunt frightens and disturbs the children and cattle’* and *‘a violent invasion of mounted foreigners, both male and female, was a form of foreign aggression.’*

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 down members of their own group (hares) who were identified from 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.’*



Issue 4
February 2020

Hash History

G - The founder of the hash

- Alberto Esteban Ignacio Gispert, hash name G, was born on the 31st July 1903. His parents were Arthuro and Remedeos Gispert y de Puiguriguer. The family were of Catalan Spanish origins.
- The family moved to England (80 Breakspear Road, Brockley) sometime in late 1891 or 1892. Alberto, the youngest of seven children, was born here.
- The household language was Spanish.
- Alberto was sent to the local Roman Catholic school, St Joseph's Academy in Blackheath.
- Gispert joined H. S. Baker & Co and qualified as a chartered accountant in 1928. Once qualified he applied for an overseas posting with Evatt & Co (later to become PriceWaterhouseCoopers).
- He was originally posted to Singapore. When *Torch* Bennett arrived in Singapore in 1934 Gispert was sent to meet the ship. An old hand on the ship recognized Gispert and informed *Torch* that he would be in good hands.
- Gispert was then posted to Malacca as branch manager. (Ed: possibly via a posting in KL?)
- Gispert became a central figure in the Malacca social scene, running with the Springett Harriers and helping to organize the annual sports day.
- He was posted back to Kuala Lumpur where his partner, Eve, gave birth to a son, Simon.
- The couple were married some time afterward but the relationship did not last.
- G was instrumental in forming a KL paper chase club based on the Malacca format. This group - to become known as Mother Hash - was up and running around 1938.





- G was described by Cecil Lee as: *"no pretensions to athletic prowess, being short, rather rotund, and a bon viveur, great sense of fun, and humour, but underneath noble instincts ... he epitomises great fun , good fellowship, with solid qualities."*
- In 1938 G became Captain Gispert, OC of the Selangor Battalion of the Federated Malay States Volunteers.
- 1941 saw G promoted to manager of Evatt & Co in KL.
- In late 1941 he took leave in Australia.
- When the Japanese attacked Malaysia Gispert talked his way onto a ship heading for Singapore. Here he was appointed as a 2nd Lieutenant in the Argyll & Sutherland Highlanders.
- Lee and Bennett had retreated with the army from KL to Singapore. The three friends had a last reunion when they all dived into the same trench during an air attack.
- Around 4 am, on February 11th, 1942, G was in charge of a small mortar team protecting battalion HQ. A considerable force of Japanese was close by and was sending night patrols into the rubber plantations.
- One of these came within 10 yards of Stewart's battalion HQ and killed Gispert and his squad of three soldiers.
- His body was never recovered.

As a hasher, I love everybody and wish all of mankind well. The exception of course is Nobby Land, may his offspring be cursed to the 69th generation and be forever forced to drink warm beer!

What did Nobby do to warrant such wrath?

HE TOOK GISPERT TO COURT!

And for no better reason than Gispert had run off with his wife!

Could the lad not take a joke? Was he a bonder and a cad?

However, the version posted on numerous websites, and printed in dozens of year-books, might not be quite accurate. The traditional story goes:

'In July, (1937) "G" became a father. His son, Simon, arrived during his U.K. home leave. The marriage came later. His bride-to-be was then still awaiting the finalisation of divorce proceedings from a certain Mr. Nobby Land, another old Malaya hand. Putting Nobby's wife in the family way cost "G" a placatory payment of 200 pounds.'

However, this much-repeated account is unattributed. We are not sure who wrote it, or where they acquired their information.

In 1971 Colin Snow, whose hash career included being on the committee of both Mother Hash and Bangkok, traced down Torch Bennett, who was then living in South Africa. Torch gave a very different account. He agreed on the 200 pounds but suggests this was paid to a third unnamed person. 'G always said she was a very expensive wife'.

In this account, the wedding didn't last, since the lady decided a Mr. Nobby Land would be a more suitable partner.

He recalls Torch being with G when Nobby entered the club. *'Being a diplomat Torch warned G, whereupon G summonsed three large anchors with the remark, 'Nobby and I may not be on speaking terms, but that does not affect our drinking terms.'*

What to make of it? Take your pick from the three possibilities -

1.

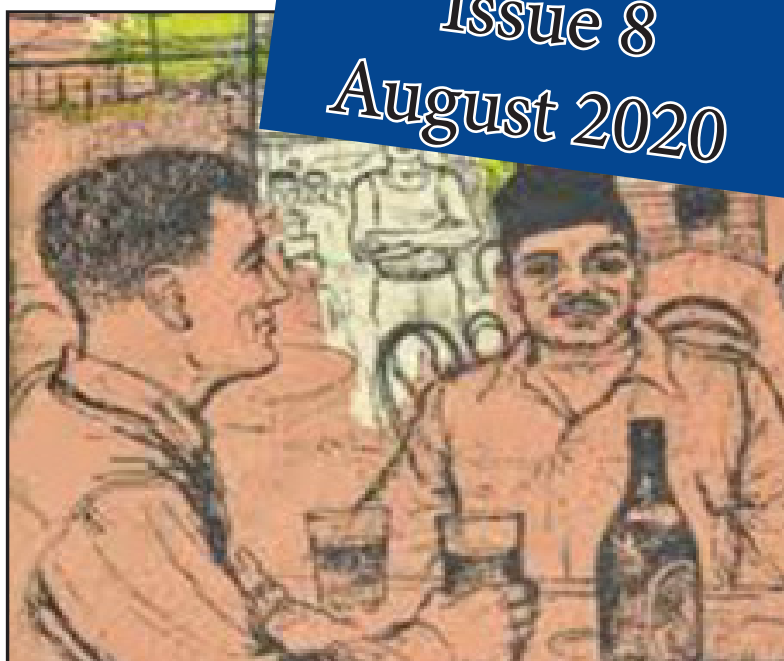
G enticed his wife away from a third unnamed person and shortly afterward she moved on to Nobby Lands.

2.

G enticed her from Nobby Lands.

3

G won the lady from Nobby Lands but she changed her mind and went back to her first husband.



The Royal Selangor Club

Malaysia's first cricket club started way back in 1884 when the Selangor Club was first established. The cricket link continues to this day, with the ICC U-19 World Cup Qualifiers held here in 2015.

KL, being in a valley, was especially prone to flooding and club was badly hit by floods in 1911, 1917, December 1925, and December 1926. Twenty years later the Japanese occupied the city and all the club records were lost.

However, what almost destroyed the club was a massive fire in 1970. This was believed to have started in the kitchen.

Several hashers took rooms in the Selangor Club Annex which was fondly called the Hash House. As KL expanded, the Annex was demolished to make room for the Jalan Kuching highway. It is believed that only one photograph of the building exists.



Issue 26
March 2022



In the Spotlight – 1938

By Ed “Hazukashii” Howell

First published 14th March 2022

Still to this day, no one has found any documentation that specifically defines when the Hash House Harriers ran their first trail in Kuala Lumpur. Conventional wisdom had placed the date as sometime between September and December 1938. About six months ago, my friend Colin “Hema” Snow sent me some interesting news from his personal interactions and a letter from Torch Bennett, that outlined his estimation of the founding date to be mid-summer 1939. Unfortunately, Torch was not on the first run, having taken leave in late November of 1938 and not returning to Kuala Lumpur until late July 1939. Torch also made it clear that “G” had not yet arrived in Kuala Lumpur as of the date of his departure. Although verbal recollections by other early hashers had generally pointed towards a start date of late 1938, Torch was adamant that he was right. (Ed: This date presumes that Torch joined some time during first half dozen hashes).

While reviewing more documents on the matter, another letter has shed more light on the situation. First, a little background. When Tim “Magic” Hughes was researching the history of the HHH back in the 1980s, he contacted many old hashers to get their story, and in 1987 came in contact with Frank Woodward. Frank was one of the few early hashers before the war, and is identified on the “List of Office Bearers” of Mother Hash, as a Joint Master in both 1948 and 1949. He would continue on, working and hashing in KL until his departure in 1953. Magic had recently published his “Harrier International World Hash Handbook 86/87” and started mailing out periodical HHH News on a subscription basis under the title “Harrier International.” As an introduction, Magic sent Frank copies of his work and asked for some of his recollections on his time with the HHH in KL.

Frank Woodward replied in a letter, stating . . . “I left Guernsey . . . in January 1939 and arrived in Kuala Lumpur about mid-February, 1939. I had been booked into the Selangor Club Chambers by my boss. At my first breakfast, I was invited to join the Hash House Harriers and as I had been a cross-country runner at school, I was delighted to accept.” Frank makes the most specific statement on record, for the actual founding date with “I took part in the sixth or seventh run of the club since it was founded.” Having run his first trail in February 1939, that would narrow down the date of the first run to sometime in December 1938, or possibly the first week of January 1939. Since there were a couple significant holidays in that timeframe, mid to early December 1938 is the most likely date of the first hash trail. It could not be sooner, as Torch had departed KL in late November 1938, and “G” was not there yet and the HHH had not started.

There was at least one account of the earlier Kuala Lumpur Harriers (that ran in the city from the early 1920s to the mid-1930s) in the Malay Mail (newspaper) in 1932. The oldest actual Hash House Harriers document we currently have, to the best of my knowledge, that specifies an actual event date is the notice for the upcoming 100th Run, which occurred on Friday 15 Aug 1941, just 17 weeks before hashing was suspended due to the onset of WWII.

Frank’s letter also includes other insights into the early days of the HHH. He goes on to say . . .

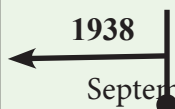
“In those good old days, most of us Hash House members had Malay car drivers . . . and the procedure on the weekly run days was for the two ‘hares’ to go in a car with their haversacks full of torn-up paper and the boot of their car loaded up with a large galvanized tin bath packed with ice, bottled beer and ginger beer, to a pre-arranged starting point and then set off to lay the paper trails. The beer and ginger beer were provided by the ‘hares’ each week at their own expense. The club never had any funds as such and administration was minimal.”

1938

September October November December January February March April May June July

Mother Hash celebrated their 70th anniversary on 7th December 2008 and at the time they claimed this was the **actual** anniversary date. However, it is uncertain how they decided upon this date. There is also a rumour that they realised this was incorrect, but only *after* the T-shirts had been printed, so nothing was said.

1939



1938

September October November December January February March April May June July

We have a firm date for the **100th run** - 15th August 1941. Counting back from there would take us to 15th September 1939. However, we would have expected them to have missed a few runs - Christmas etc. - suggesting a first run somewhere between 15th September 1939 and late July 1938.

1939



1938

1939

September October November December January February March April May June July

In a letter on the history of the hash Cecil Lee gives the start date as 'about 1937/38'. This ties in with the 100 Run count back. However, Lee later gave an interview with *Fuch* in which he offered a more precise, but different estimate of 'late 1938'.

1938

1939

September October November December January February March April May June July

Frank Woodward completed his first hash in February 1939, believing it was Mother's 6th or 7th hash. We are not sure which end of February he started hashing.

1938

1939

September October November December January February March April May June July

Torch Bennett left KL for leave in November 1938. There was no hash at the time and G had not yet arrived in town. *Torch* returned in July 1939 to find the hash was up and running (Red). He seems to have believed that he had only missed a few runs (5 or-6?) which suggests a mid-summer starting for the hash. (Black)

Most likely range of dates for the first hash

Issue 27
April 2022

Frank continued to explain that prior to the war, that trails were generally A to B, and that once the pack had assembled and set off running, the hare's driver would lead all the other cars to the finish point. He also states "After numerous false trails had been investigated the 'hounds' eventually arrived at the finish point where the 'hares' would have already started on the beer and ginger beer. Shandies were found to be much more refreshing than beer by itself." Which, to me, is another indictment on the false narrative some hashers believe, that hashing has always been about excessive alcohol.

Another revelation was that after the rebirth starting in 1946, trails were much more commonly A to A. Frank stated "After the war not many members of the H.H.H had car drivers, especially the newcomers who had come to Malaya for the first time . . . starting and finishing points of the runs [were] at the same place; otherwise the routine was exactly as before."

In closing, Frank finished with "I am so glad to hear that the Hash House Harriers clubs are spreading round the world, a fact of which I was quite unaware until very recently." Both Frank's and Torch's letters are recollections of events that took place more than 40 years prior, so we have to take them at face value. Just like Frank states, new information continues to be presented to us on the history of the HHH, and more research will continue to expand our knowledge of the origins of this fascinating sport. More research will need to be done on Frank, but as of the time of his letter (circa 1987), he listed himself as a non-running member of the Tamar Valley H3, in Devonshire, UK.

THE FOUNDING FATHERS

Gispert 'G'

Alberto Esteban Ignacio Gispert is traditionally accepted as being the father of Hashing, although he was in fact one of a small group who should really share that honour.

He appears to have played a major role in developing the non-competitive side of hashing. G was the only hasher to lose his life during the war.

Cecil Lee

Cecil Lee was an accountant 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 probably involved in selecting the 'Hash House' name. Having survived the horrors of working on the Siam- Burma railway, Lee was one of first of the old group to return to KL

and he played a major role in getting Mother Hash restarted. He had a second spell as Joint Master from 1946-47 and held the post for a third time from 1950-51. Except for a three-year period, Lee stayed in Malaysia until 1961 when he retired to Surrey. He was out walking one afternoon when, to his amazement, he heard cries of 'On-On' and the Surrey Hash ran past. Once Lee and hashing had rediscovered each other he gave several interviews that have made a vital contribution to our knowledge of early hash history.

Horse Thompson

Fredrick A. *Horse* Thompson was a veteran of the early paper chases in Malaya and in 1938 joined his old colleague Gispert, in KL. He missed the first few hash runs as he was on leave but on his return took over as secretary and is credited with bringing an element of organisation to the club. 'Horse' himself was not the most enthusiastic of runners, but was a skilled short cutter. After a nasty war, including being shot while trying to escape from the Japanese, he returned to KL around 1946 and had a spell as Joint Master before retiring to the Philippines to run a sugar plantation. He made widely acclaimed guest appearances at InterHash in Sydney (1984) and Pattaya (1986).

Torch Bennett

Another of the KL accountants. He had known Gispert for some time and they run together with the Malacca Springett Harriers around 1935. Bennett is credited with doing much of the organization before the war and around 1946 put in the famous war-damage claim for mugs and a tin bath. He left KL in the fifties and is believed to have settled in Durban.

And a honourable mention for
Galvin, Eric

Galvin worked for the Malay Mail and was the regular source of paper for the trail. As the hash developed he was able to help promote the group by publishing details of their next run. Eric continued hashing after the war and was Joint Master 1946-47.

Issue 1
January 20220

OTHER PRE-WAR HASHERS OF NOTE

H. M. Doig

H.M. Doig worked in the same accountancy firm as Cecil Lee. He was noted for being slightly older than the average Hasher at the time. Doig was killed in an air crash just before the start of the Second World War.

Arthur Westrop

Noted for being older and of a higher social rank than the average hasher. Had won the Military Cross during World War 1.

Frank Woodward

Frank arrived in KL some time around February 1939 and joined Mother on run six or seven. He had a bad war, spending time in KL's Pudu jail and in camps in Thailand. He returned to KL after the war and was Joint Master in 1949.

M.C. Hay

M.C. Hay is believed to have been present on Run Number One with Mother Hash and served as Joint Master along with Torch in 1941. By then he was head of the tin department and a senior member of the civil service. He was one of the party who fled Singapore in 1942 with Lieutenant-General Gordon Bennett. Hay returned to Malaya after the war and helped to restart the Hash. He retired to Burpham, Sussex, where he has a grave and a memorial in the local church yard.

Llew Davidson

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.



Pre-war hasher M.C. Hay retired to Burpham in Sussex, a beautiful little community with a population of 145. Hashers (attending a Chichester H3 run that started in the village) 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.

One Hash Trash has survived from the 117 pre-war hashes, that for the 100th run. This was reprinted in a Bangkok Yearbook, both as a difficult to read copy of the original and a transcript.

Unfortunately, the trash did not give a report on the previous week's run, which might have provided considerable information. It could, for example, have thrown up names of previously unrecorded pre-war hashers.

It did confirm the names of three already well-documented hashers, Ross and Hay, who were noted as being the Joint Masters, and Bennett who joined Hay as hare for the big occasion.

Of the limited information provided by the documents, the most important is the date of Friday, 15th August 1941.

This gives an excellent starting point for tracing back the history of hashing. If we count back 100 weeks we get to the first hash taking place on either Friday 15th September 1939 or Monday 11th.

However, there is a general agreement that the hash started almost a year earlier, most likely around September 1938.

The 100th Run
Hash House Harriers
Joint Master -

M.C Hay
R. Bennett

The ONE HUNDREDTH MEET will be held about 200 yards beyond the BANGOSUR POLICE STATION on FRIDAY 15TH AUGUST 1941 at the usual time.

Start at Car B 1963

HARES

E.A. ROSS
M.C. HAY

From, information received we understand the run will not be too long (perhaps we will not have to cope with any precipices (perhaps) BUT and it should be obvious by now that there is a catch somewhere, hounds are advised to keep one eye out for **possible aliens?**

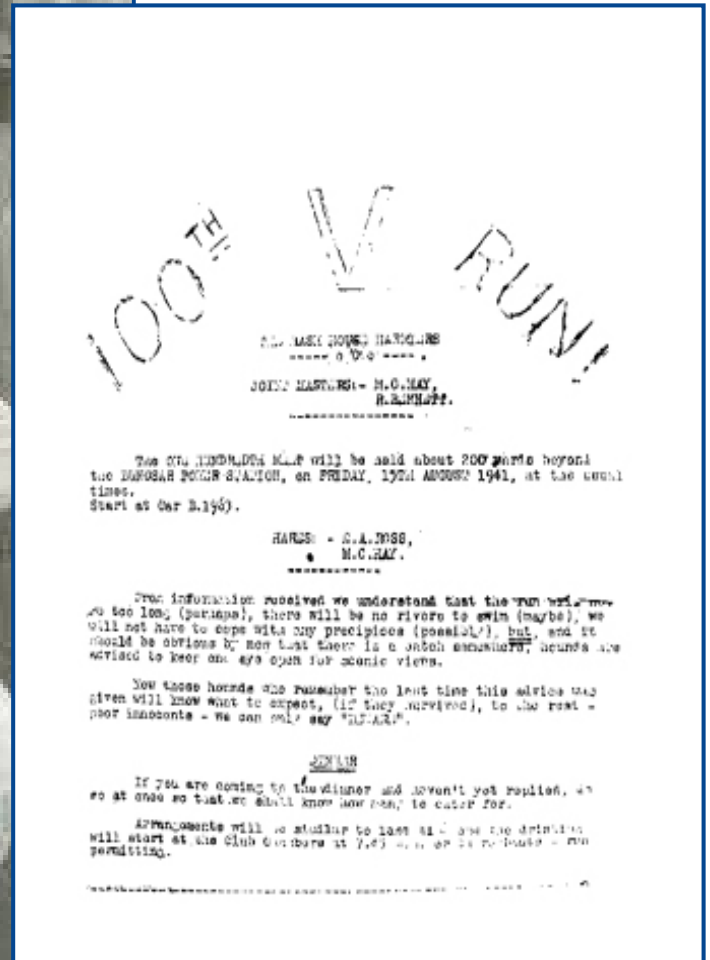
Now some hounds who remember the last time this advice was given will know what to expect (**if they attend**). To the rest - poor innocents - we can only say 'BEWARE'.

DINNER

If you are coming to the dinner and have not yet notified, do so at once so we shall know how many to cater for.

Arrangements will be the same as last time and the dinner will start at the Club Chambers at 7.15 p.m. or thereabouts - run permitting.

The text in red was unclear.

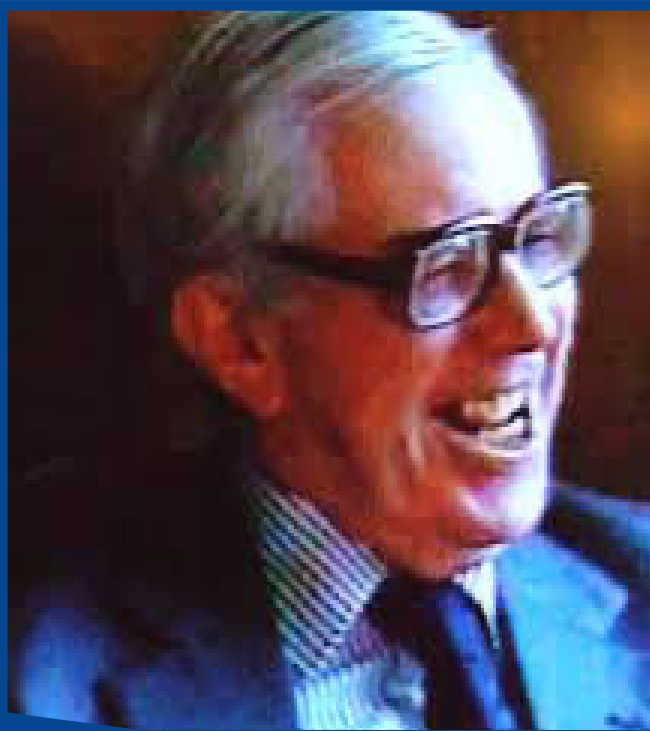


What can we learn from the 100th hash sheet?

- The 100th Run took place on 15th August 1941, which was a Friday. This is clear evidence that, at least at this stage, the hash was meeting on a Friday rather than a Monday.
- Dinner on this occasion was back at The Chambers (as to be expected). It was interesting that reservations were expected. We are left wondering if that was a regular requirement – suggesting a reasonable size pack – or just for the 100th.
- The sarcastic reference to what the run *would not be*:
 - too long
 - involve a river swim
 - take the pack along tracks with dangerous drops

is a very good indication of exactly what a typical pre-war hash run *would have consist of!*

Issue 8
August 2020



Issues 8 & 9
August &
September 2020

Cecil Lee

Lee was born in 1911. He became an accountant with Harrison and Crosfield and was posted to KL in 1934. He never lived in 'The Club', as his company kept their own house for bachelors.

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. This included two further spells as Joint-Master. Lee hashed regularly until 1957 and occasionally after that. He spent a spell in Borneo late in his career, before retiring to Surrey.

He re-discovered hashing when the Surrey H3 pack raced by him shouting 'on on'. Once he had rediscovered hashing he gave various interviews that have laid the base of our knowledge of pre-war hashing.

In 1986 Magic sent thirteen written questions to Cecil Lee. The written replies form one of the most detailed first-hand accounts of pre-war Mother Hash. The full interview can be read in the Bangkok 500th Run Program, which is available online in the Hash Foundation archives. Here is a summary of some of the key points.

Question 1

Lee was asked to give his views on the growth of hashing.

He was amazed at the new popularity and gave credit to the name: *'I think the alliterative name of this happy-go-lucky idea of G has helped for it to catch on'.*

He also gave credit to the jogging craze that had started by the time he left Malaysia. He identifies Brian Gray (B. Sc, Ph.d), Douglas Gold (World Bank) and members of the American diplomatic corps as pioneer joggers in KL.

Question 2

Concerned the rumour that G was an Australian

'He was English to the core probably with a French ancestry'. An interesting point is Lee's vagueness about G's exotic background, which was Spanish, not French. This might suggest that in 1930's colonial society a foreign background was a slightly embarrassing subject that G did not wish to talk about.

Questions 3 and 4

Concerned women and hashing

Lee mentioned that the previous group in KL had been mixed. In passing, he makes the

What can we learn from this?

- He points out the importance of the Hash name. Had they simply been the KL Harriers the special identity of the club would have been lost in the jogging boom of the 1960's!
- He provided names of the KL jogging crowd. At least one of those named, Douglas Gold, was a noted hasher. (He is someone we will cover in a later issue, when we look at the hash links with the Sussex village of Burpham.)
- G seems to have down played his exotic background, perhaps not surprising in such a colonial setting.
- There is some interesting background information about Arthur Westrop and Davidson. Lee notes that he and Davidson were prisoners together in the war, reminding us of how little this part of hash history has been explored.
- The mention of the relatively unknown John Haskins is interesting. Magic makes a brief note of him with the fact that he won the DFC. This suggest that he might be Squadron Leader John Haskins, who flew Hampden bombers with 49 Squadron.
- Lee draws our attention to the important role his brother, Curly Lee, played in hashing after the war
- Lee's comments about G does not alter the belief that the formation of the hash should be credited to a small group of founders. Although G might well have organized the first run, the growth and success of the group deserves wider credit.
- The mention of Dr Dick Boydell draws attention to an overlooked pioneer of the hash.



interesting observation that the early paper chase group had probably collapsed because of the Great Depression (Lee uses the word slump). He also adds that, according to Arthur Westrop, the mixed group fostered several marriages. This identifies Westrop as a veteran of the community, whose arrival in KL pre-dated Lee and Gispert by several years.

Question 5

Was a simple question of what beer did he prefer

A good Yorkshire ale such as Smiths

Question 6

Inquired if Lee was still in contact with Torch and Horse.

This reply featured briefly in the written answer but in more detail in two letters, produces some very interesting background information.

It seems that up until this point *Horse* was making an annual trip to visit London. On these occasions he, Lee, Philip Wickens (alas! gone) and John Haskins (MCS) would all meet up. Lee wondered if Horse was still okay, for apparently he had not looked too well on his last trip, and there had been no news of him at Christmas. (Presumably, the two were in the habit of exchanging cards?) Lee was also in touch with Frank Woodward, this thanks to Magic.

Lee also regularly visited LR Davidson, who was farming in Shropshire. There was some suggestion that his friend was not doing so well, Lee noting that the farm was 'only rented'. He points out that he and Davidson had been POWs together and that '*we visited every year and have a good time.*' Davidson's wife had been a medical missionary with the Chinese in Malaysia.

Questions 8 and 9

Concerned the organization and date of the first run.

Lee denied being the organizer of the first run. '*Certainly G organized the first run. He had to urge me to that part.*' He notes there were no documents of the first run, so the date has been lost. Lee made no attempt to suggest a possible date.

Question 10 concerned the influence of Malacca and the Springett Harriers.

Lee had no information to offer beyond recognizing that G's experiences in Malacca had been an influence on him founding a hash in KL.

Question 11 concerned a later group, the Ruck-Sack Club which seems to have been an English-based hiking club.

While answering this question Lee brought attention to Dr. Dick Boydell, 'a noted toxicologist'. Lee says that Boydell's entry in *Whose Who* listed the Hash House Harriers (along with the Atheneum and the Ruck-sack) as his clubs. He noted that Boydell might be the only person in that large and prestigious volume to mention membership of the Hash.

Question 12

Asked why the club had been nicknamed 'The Dog'

Lee suggested, 'it was something to do with a lady who picnicked next to the club with a dog'. He then directed readers to Chris Allen's *Tales of the South China Seas* for more details.

Q13 asked if he had any message for InterHash in Thailand

'I have pretty well exhausted my messages.' However, he then noted the international nature of hashing which 'may even contribute to the *détente* with the Soviet.' He also commented that 'G would laugh if he knew what had happened'. Lee then rambled a bit, noting his travels were now limited because of his wife's illness, but suggested he would like to see Thailand again. He then gave a few memories of his time as a prisoner of war, '*I once collected water from a lake in the Royal Palace.*'

On On

Issue 6

June 2020

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The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



On On

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On On

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Christmas 2021

November -December 2021

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



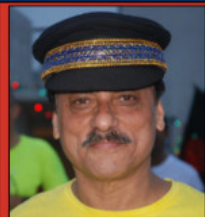
On On

Issue 19

Summer Special

July/August 2021

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



On On

Issue 25

March 2022

Published at the end of the month

The History Magazine of the Hash House Harriers



The next issue of On On Magazine comes out at the end of September.

Please help by circulating the magazine to fellow hashers.

You can subscribe on the Dubai Desert hash website:

www.deserthash.org/on-on-the-history-of-the-hash-house-harriers

Several hashes place the magazine on their web page or give a link. Please think about doing this.

Please send hash articles and photos.

Thanks for all your support.

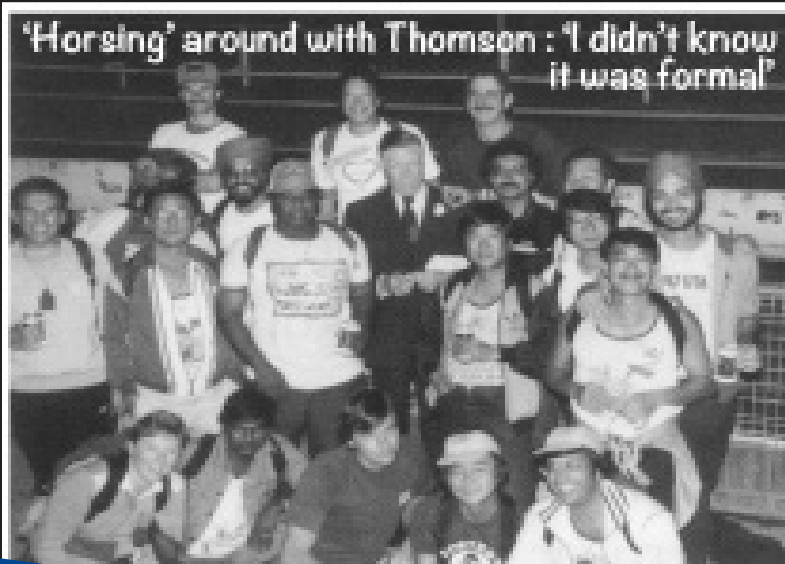
Shakesprick

Hash History

Frederick Horse Thomson

1932	<i>Horse</i> - also known as Tommy - was an experienced paper chaser, starting around 1932 in Johore Bahru, where he claims “hashing” actually got started. He also run with Malacca (150 kms south of KL) as part of the Springgit Harriers and another club in Taiping (250 kms north of KL).
1930's	<i>Horse</i> worked as a manager in Malayan Telecommunications, which in the 1920s & 30s oversaw the telephone and telegraph services.
1938	His nickname originated in his boyhood school days and was due to him having what could best be described as a face with equine (long) features.
1938	Around 1938 Gispert and Frederick <i>Horse</i> Thompson were both working in KL where they were members of the small group that discussed the idea of setting a paper chase.
1939	<i>Horse</i> is believed to have been on the first hash.
1939-1941	He took over as Joint Master, a position he was to hold for three years.
1941-1942	Little is known of his war service and he seems to have been posted to the RAF in Hong Kong. (Ed: Possibly due to his background in communications?)
1942-1945	He spent the war years as a P.O.W. He managed to escape with a small group but they were recaptured. <i>Horse</i> was shot in the neck during the encounter. He recuperated from his injuries, but it left his head with a slight lean. (Ed: <i>This story requires confirmation</i>)
1946	After the war, <i>Horse</i> returned to Malaya.
1948	After the hash stumbled into a bunch of bandits. <i>Horse</i> stopped running at this point: “ <i>Having survived the war and subsequent P.O.W. life, I didn't want my impending retirement stopped by bandits.</i> ”
1951	In 1951 he was Joint Master for the fourth and final time. ED: <i>The timing conflicts with the comment above. Perhaps Horse was now restricting himself to the circle or did he return to hashing once the danger had passed?</i>
1958	He retired in March 1958 and moved to the Philippines to run a sugar plantation. Interestingly, he was said to have been fluent in Hokkien. Hokkein is the Chinese dialect which is native to Taiwan, and also spoken by the majority of Chinese in the Philippines,
1984	<i>Horse</i> made a guest appearance at the Sydney InterHash. Ed: A little section of video film of this exists in which <i>Horse</i> explains how the hash has spread 'like an amoeba splitting in half without any need for sex.'
1986	He made a second guest appearance at Interhash Pattaya.

'Horsing' around with Thomson: 'I didn't know it was formal'



In 1984, a sizeable contingent from Seletar arrived in Sydney for the InterHash. Despite the distractions of King's Cross (walking distance from our hotel), we all made it to the runs and On Ons. One of the 'high' points of this event was meeting one of the founding members of the original hash, a Mr. Frederick 'Horse' Thomson, who was sponsored there by the organisers.

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February 2022

HORSES FOR COURSES"



1941

December 4th

The Japanese attack force sail from Samah Harbour on Hainan Island. Additional ships join the convoy from Saigon.

Horse has already left Malaysia to join the RAF and is stationed in Hong Kong.

December 7th -8th

Japan launches attacks on Pearl Harbor, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Thailand, and Malaya.

December 8th

The invasion of Malaysia begins with a bombardment at around 00:30 local time on 8th December The Japanese carrier planes flying toward Pearl Harbor are still 50 minutes away from their destination.

Gispert is trying to return from leave in Australia. He reaches Singapore where, unable to travel to Malaysia, he joins the Argyll and Southern Highlanders

December 8th

The United Kingdom and the United States declare war on Japan.

December 10th

Two British warships, HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales, are sunk by a Japanese air attack.

11th December

The hash set their 117th run. It will be the last hash for five years.

December 17th

Penang is abandoned to the Japanese.

Cecil Lee spends time on the KL airfield working alongside anti-aircraft gunners who have retreated from Penang.



1942

January 7th

Indian troops are defeated at the Battle of Slim River leaving the road open to KL.

January 11th

Japanese troops enter KL. All of northern Malaysia is now in Japanese hands.

January 14th

As Japanese troops approach the state of Johore they clash with Australasian troops for the first time.

January 20th

The final Commonwealth defensive line in Johore (Batu Pahat–Kluang–Mersing) is attacked along its full length.

January 27th

The Commanding Officer, Lieutenant-General Arthur Ernest Percival, orders a retreat across the Johore Straits to the island of Singapore. The British force and their allies cross the causeway and destroy it.

There is a lull as the Japanese rest and resupply after their lightning campaign.

February 8th

Around 8.30 pm Japanese troops move across the straits. The bulk of allied forces are stationed to the west of the island but the 22nd Australian Brigade holds the invaders for an hour.

December - January

At some point John Wyatt-Smith is in a group that escape by boat to Sumatra and from there to Java. They eventually reach South Africa having survived a torpedo attack.

Lee is in the force that has retreated to Johore where he meets the Argyll Highlanders. He describes them as '*much depleted and battered*' but still '*an effective fighting force*'.

At some point, Bennett and Lee hear that Gispert is nearby and they go searching for him. The three meet in a trench while taking shelter from a Japanese air raid.

Lee later writes that he was expecting a battle for the causeway but there is no contact with the Japanese and first the Australians, then the Argylls, and finally the volunteers make their way across.

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February 9th

There is heavy air fighting after which the few surviving RAF planes are flown to Sumatra.

February 10th

Fighting moves inland along a defensive position known as the Jurong Line.

February 11th

Japanese troops are worried about their depleted supplies and feel vulnerable to a counter-attack.

February 12th/13th

The allies attempt to form a final defensive perimeter around Singapore city.

February 13th

The causeway is repaired allowing Japanese tanks to move across.

February 14th

Japanese troops break through and reach Alexandria Barracks Hospital.

10th/11th February

Gispert is with a mortar crew helping to defend his HQ. A Japanese patrol creep through the rubber plantation and takes them by surprise. This quote is from the regimental history: *"About 0400 hrs a considerable force of Japanese from track junction 751150 moved up the track for 200 yards to within ten yards of Battalion H.Q. and halted. They surprised and silently caught Captain Gispert, the mortar officer, and three men and killed them."*



February 15th

The allied commanders stage a 9.30 am meeting to decide between counter-attack or surrender. That afternoon Lieutenant-General Percival ignores orders from London and capitulates. About 80,000 British, Indian and Australian troops in Singapore became prisoners of war, joining 50,000 taken by the Japanese in the earlier Malayan campaign.

General Gordon Bennett hands over command of his mixed force to his number two and escapes in a small boat - an action he will later be heavily criticised for. M.C. Hay - present on hash run number one - is believed to have escaped with him.



The basic facts and some of the unanswered questions:

Gispert is the only hasher to have died in the war and his death is well documented.

Hay and *Wyatt-Smith* are known to have escaped capture. *Ross* is also believed to have escaped from Singapore but we have no details.

Horse, *Frank Woodward*, and *Lee* were all taken prisoners. We know very little about their time as prisoners. A few comments from *Lee* are printed in *Tales of the South China Seas*.

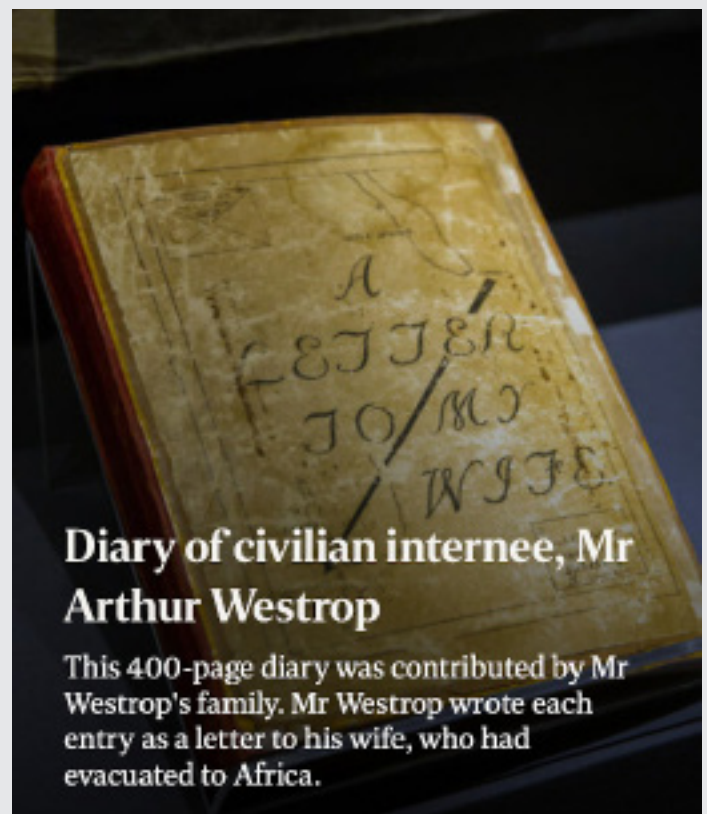
Was the Selangor club used by the Japanese during the war?
We do know that all the records were lost which suggests the Japanese entered the club at some point..

There is no indication of what happened to *John Barratt*, *Morris Edgar*, *Eric Galvin*, *Don Kennedy* or *Phillip Wickens*.

The Private Papers of A. R. Westrop

Arthur was a veteran of earlier paper chases and noted for being older and of a higher social rank than the average pack member. He had won the Military Cross during World War 1 and was apparently a keen runner but didn't touch alcohol. He was too old to join the army and was interned as a civilian, spending time in Changi Prison and then being transferred to Sime Road camp. His wife was in Rhodesia and Westrop was released in 1944 (suggesting some kind of prisoner release?)

He later moved to Malawi (then Nyasaland) where he died in 1965.



Diary of civilian internee, Mr Arthur Westrop

This 400-page diary was contributed by Mr Westrop's family. Mr Westrop wrote each entry as a letter to his wife, who had evacuated to Africa.

Imperial War Museum London

Six exercise books containing 'letters' and other writings to and for his wife while he was interned in the Sime Road camp in Singapore during May 1944 – May 1945 (with typed transcriptions, 185pp), having been amongst the first party of internees to arrive there from Changi prison, describing his new accommodation in the North Area (Kita) in some detail, describing also the rich and varied wildlife in and around the camp ("a naturalist's paradise"), inspection visits by General Masatoshi Saito, Commander of Malaya POW camps, other events and daily routines in the camp, food and health issues, mail, books accessible to the internees and cultural activities, the death and funeral of 'prominent' internee and former Acting Colonial Secretary Hugh Fraser, air raid precaution measures in and around the camp by the Japanese using internee labour, the introduction of 'private gardens' for internees to grow their own food crops, frequent references to the Jewish internee population, an extensive account of Christmas in the camp (December 1944), the regular sermons delivered by the Bishop of Singapore, Leonard Wilson, also a Sime Road camp internee, vivid descriptions of Allied air raids from late 1944 onwards, also an interesting description of an 'opinion poll' he conducted amongst the internees on the "drawbacks and advantages of internment".

Changi Chapel and Museum

'Civilian internee Arthur Westrop, who kept a diary in the form of lengthy letters to his wife in Rhodesia - present-day Zimbabwe - from December 1942 and hid it beneath floorboards from his captors. One entry reads, "I myself feel that 'If I should die today,' I have had a very fair share of this life's pleasures, joy and sadness too, but I should hate to pass on until I have had a chance of seeing what the children are making of their lives, Alastair in particular."

When he was finally released in 1944, Westrop's diary ran to 400 pages.

The diary, a gift from Westrop's family, is one of 82 new artefacts and objects that will be on display at the storied Changi Chapel and Museum (CCM) when it reopens next Wednesday (19 May), three years after it shuttered its doors for a major revamp.

Many of the old hands returned to Malaysia after the war and the new Hash committee had a familiar look to it, with Bennett resuming his role as On-Sec and Lee and Galvin the Joint-Masters. One of Bennett's first jobs was to lodge a claim for war damages, this consisting of a set of mugs and a tin bath.

The Malayan economy was in tatters and it would be some time before cars reappeared, so the early runs were staged close to the city centre. Run Number 1 took place in August 1946 with a trot around the racecourse, the venue of the second hash is uncertain, but the third was out at the railway workshops.

Britain's humiliation in the war encouraged the call for independence and on June 16, 1948, MRLA guerrillas killed three British rubber plantation workers. The government responded by declaring a State of Emergency and the Hash once again had to register.

The lads struggled through this difficult period, battling against the curfew and official disapproval, and some runs saw the pack reduced to single figures. Wyatt-Smith was often the hare, as his work for the forestry commission gave him knowledge of which areas were safe to run.

The old hands started to fade away during the fifties. *Horse* Thomson was the last of the founders to serve on the committee when he was elected Joint Master in 1951. Wickens, in 1954, and Davidson in 1956, were the last of the pre-war Hashers to do so. By 1958 the pre-war runners were probably down to Lew Davidson, Wyatt Smith and Cecil Lee, with the

THE HASH RESTARTS MOTHER HASH 1946 -1960

P.O. Wickens

Joined Mother Hash sometime late in 1939. He is credited with being one of those who kept things going after WW2 and was Joint Master from 1951 to 1952 and again in 1954.

Kennedy, F.D. (Don)

An Irish Accountant who completed a few pre-war runs then drifted away. He started to run again after the war and took over as On-Sec from Torch in 1949. It was Kennedy who drew up the rules when the hash had to register as a club and he also introduced the idea of subscriptions.

William Adams

Bill Adams was On-sec of Mother Hash in 1953 and Joint Master in 1955. When not hashing he was noted for taking long jungle hikes.

Andrew Tarry

Andrew Tarry was one of the hares involved in the famous KL Bandit incident. He was Joint Master of Mother Hash in 1952 and 1953 while his wife, Veronica, founded the KL Harriettes. On returning to England Andrew founded Chichester H3. Andrew passed away some time in the mid nineties. In his younger days he captained his University Boxing team.

Longley, W.B.

Brian Longley served as Joint Master of Mother Hash in 1950, 1952, 1954 and 1955.

group struggling to recruit new members.

D.E. Scourse was one noticeable addition to the Hash. He arrived in KL in 1957 and, as he worked with Lee, an introduction to hashing was inevitable. Scourse took over as On-Sec and launched a successful recruitment drive that might well have saved the Hash from extinction.

It helped that Scourse was extremely active in the community and he was at an amateur theatre rehearsal one night when he noted that a young Ian Cumming had a talent for drinking beer. One thing led to another, and a week later Cumming attended his first run. He would become a hash legend, the man who brought hashing to Singapore and New York. As for *Short Cut* Scourse, he was still short cutting in England 30 years later, a hash career that included some 2,500 plus runs. C.R. Verity also regularly appears on the list of committee members during this period, and he helped Ian Cumming get hashing started in Singapore, which is the next but one chapter in our story.

THE YEARS OF STEADY GROWTH

Bill Panton

‘Tumbling’ Bill Panton is one of Hashdom’s true legends. He first hashed in 1954 but did not become a hash regular until 1958. He was Mother Hash 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 globetrotters and he was founder of both Washington and Bangkok hashes. Having retired to KL in 1993 he started work on the hash genealogy.

D.E. Scourse

D.E. Scourse took over as On-Sec in 1959 and was joint Master in 1960. He is credited with launching a successful recruitment drive that might have saved the hash from extinction.

C.R. Verity

Chris Verity made a major contribution to Mother Hash, serving as secretary from 1956-57 and as Joint Master in 1958. He later helped to get hashing started in Singapore.

John Duncan

John Duncan started hashing with Mother Hash in January 1961 and was still setting trails in 2004, which is the longest spell of non-stop hashing ever recorded. His research helped lay the foundation of our understanding of hash history. It was Duncan who, in Hong Kong in 1978, agreed to bring the next InterHash to KL, thus establishing the biannual nature of the event.



“Time for a Tiger”. Hashers enjoying the cool of the evening with a Tiger, circa 1960’s

JOHN WYATT-SMITH

Pioneer of rainforest regeneration in South East Asia where he was an authority on timber

John Wyatt-Smith was an early exponent of rainforest regeneration in South-East Asia where, after the Second World War, he spent almost 20 years working among the trees of Malaya, on which he also published prolifically. Then from 1961 he spent five years in Nigeria, before becoming Chief Forestry Advisor to the UK Overseas Development Administration, a post in which he had a roving brief.

He was born of British consular parents in Swatow, China, in 1917, but had been educated in Switzerland where he contracted tuberculosis. He went to boarding school in England and then to the University of Cambridge where he won a 'blue' at cross-country running. He was then sent to Malaya to join the forest department. (The need for timber was presumably considered an urgent matter.)



pendence. Wyatt-Smith Forest Research Institute refined and adapted accepted tropical practical sampling.

When, in 1953, he joined Malaya in the Forest Department (as did Singapore years later), he did not search staff of these important contributions. He was the author of a Manual of M (1963), a publication elsewhere in the Trop.

Wyatt-Smith left to become the UN's Forest Organisation's forest in Nigeria. At the Professor of Forestry from 1963 to 1966.

Then for nine years served as forestry adviser Overseas Development a post in which he throughout the world accepted another U consultant to the Forestry of the Philippines ended, he carried out assignment for the

Issue 10
October 2020

Hash legendJohn Wyatt-Smith

- The Times obituary gives an amazingly detailed summary of his life and it is surprisingly hash friendly, considering several of his hash exploits as worthy of mention. Here are the key points from the obituary, which was published on Tuesday, November 12th, 2002.
- John was born in 1917 in Swatow, China, the son of British consular parents.
- His mother caught TB and moved to Switzerland to help her recovery and this is where John went to school.
- He later continued his education at Brighton College and then moved to Wadham College, Oxford to study botany.
- He won a 'blue' at cross-country running. (Actually, it was a half blue, as cross-country was not considered one of the major sports that would have merited a full university colour. He did not make the track team that would have won him a full blue).
- The war in Europe had started when he was sent to Malaya to join the forest department. (The need for timber was presumably considered an urgent matter.)
- It is not 100% certain that he hashed at this point and some accounts have him down as a post-war hasher. However, it is hard to think he would not have run given his college background, but he might have preferred rugby, or was possibly posted 'up country'.
- While most hashers joined the volunteers, John's fitness and knowledge of the forest brought him a posting to the Dalforce. This was largely made up of Malay Chinese under the command of Colonel John Daltry and the plan was for them to operate behind enemy lines.
- After the Japanese invasion the group retreated southwards and crossed to Sumatra. Here they boarded a British freighter to Java and then transferred to the Wu Chang, a river steamer that was heading for South Africa.
- They were attacked on route but, perhaps because of the river ships' shallow bottom, two torpedoes passed underneath her without exploding.
- From South Africa, John was posted to Nigeria to work in forestry and then to another special unit being trained to invade Malaya.
- After the war he rejoined the Malay Forest Department and discovered that a great deal of forest had been occupied by squatters. This was an event that heightened his concerns for forest conservation.

- John now returned to Oxford for further studies.
- By 1959 John had helped to establish 39 reserves in Malaysia and had published 'A Checklist of Timber Trees of Malaya.'
- In 1963 he left Malaysia to join the UN Forest and Agriculture Programme, which meant a return to Nigeria.
- From 1968 to 1977 John was with the forest division of the British Overseas Development Administration. This included two years in the Philippines and two years in Nepal, where it is recorded that he

started to hash again. (Whether as a visitor, or a regular, is uncertain).

- In 1981 John was awarded a CBE (for his forestry work, not for hashing).

- He finally retired to Oxford with his wife Peggy and their two daughters.

- The Times noted that he was still playing 7a-side rugby in his sixties and that *'he continued to run with the Hash House Harriers, of which he had been a founder member in Kuala Lumpur in 1939.'*

The Cheras Bandit Incident

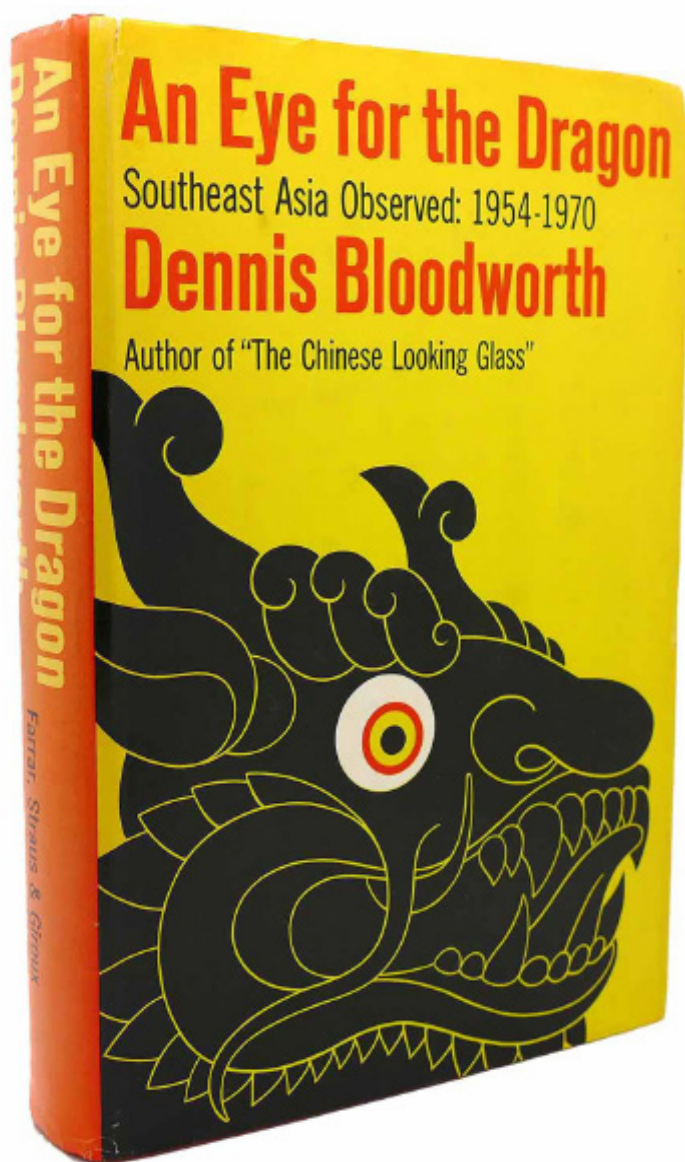
In **An Eye of the Dragon**, Dennis Bloodworth describes how British soldiers had laid an ambush across a jungle path when, *'suddenly we heard quick light steps coming up the track – hang it if fifteen chaps in running vests and shorts from the local Harriers club didn't come trotting past as if they were on Hampstead Heath.'*

One of the great Hash legends, the Bandit Incident at Cheras, occurred during this period. In September 1951 live hares were running through a patch of rubber trees and secondary jungle when they came across a gang of sleeping bandits. A couple of the faster (or possibly more scared) lads sprinted to Cheras Police Station and ambushes were set along the tracks leading out of the area.

The following morning three arrests were made (bandits, not hashers) and one of the prisoners was found to have a reward on his head. There is some dispute as to whether the reward was used for a hash party, or whether the heroes invested in a new car for themselves.

This incident was reported in 'The Times' of London, with the hash being referred to as the 'local harriers'. Hermes Goult, another hasher working for the Malay Mail, is presumed to have been the correspondent who filed the report.

One of the hares that day was Andrew Tarry, a man who would deserve a place in any Hash Hall of Fame. Andrew was Joint Master of Mother Hash in 1952 and 1953, while his wife, Veronica, founded the KL Harriettes. On returning to England they founded **Chichester H3**, and ran with them for many years, with Andrew setting more than his share of trails until illness finally slowed him down.



Hash History

The original hash song

While *Swing Low* is considered *the* hash song it seems that the pre-war hashers favoured a rather obscene version of 'A frog who would a wooing go'.

When and where *Swing Low* took over as the hash anthem is uncertain, but Singapore in the 1960s, where there was a strong rugby link, seems a likely answer.



A Frog he Would-a-Wooing Go

A frog he would a-wooing go,
Heigh ho! says Rowley,
A frog he would a-wooing go,
Whether his mother would let him or no.
With a rowley, powley*, gammon, and spinach,
Heigh ho! says Anthony Rowley.

So off he set with his opera hat,
Heigh ho! says Rowley,
So off he set with his opera hat,
And on the road he met with a rat,
With a rowley, powley, gammon, and spinach,
Heigh ho! says Anthony Rowley.

Pray, Mr. Rat will you go with me?
Heigh ho! says Rowley,
Pray, Mr. Rat will you go with me,
Kind Mrs. Mousey for to see...
With a rowley, powley, gammon, and spinach,
Heigh ho! says Anthony Rowley.

They came to the door of Mousey's hall,
Heigh ho! says Rowley,
They gave a loud knock, and they gave a loud call.
With a rowley, powley, gammon, and spinach,
Heigh ho! says Anthony Rowley.

Hash History

The thoughts of John Duncan

Issue 12
December 2020

Key points	John's thoughts	Authors' comments
The role of pre-Mother Hash paperchases	He mentions Johor Baru as an important pre-hash paperchase and notes that this group had stopped around 1934. He also mentions hashes on horse back both in Shanghai (featured in the April issue) and Kuching.	John sees Johor Baru, where Horse Thomson ran, and the Springett Harriers of Malacca, where G and Bennett took part, as the inspirations for Mother Hash. However, the fact that Johor Baru stopped around 1934 makes the claim for equality suspect. The Kuching paperchase would be a great subject for future research.
Three times Mother Hash nearly collapsed	John lists three times when the hash struggled and might have gone extinct. (1) Immediately after the war - 1945 (2) After independence - 1957 (3) The 2nd half of 1965	While the first two are easily explained by political events the reason for the 1965 decline is less obvious. One possibility is a departure of expats as the country moved into independence.
The Hash founders	He mentions Thomson, Lee, Bennett and Gispert as the four founders, but also gives credit to the contribution of Philip Wickens	Giving Wickens a near equal role is interesting. However, later in the article John suggests that might have been for the part Wickens played in keeping the hash going after the war.
Some background on Gispert	He describes Gispert as going from Singapore to Malacca and then onto KL rather than the KL-Malacca -KL career path that is more commonly mentioned.	
A Friday or Monday hash?	He states Friday as hash night as Monday was parade night for the Selangor Volunteers.	Unfortunately this is more a passing comment than a definite answer to one of the big hash questions

John Duncan was not an original pre-war hasher, but only *Tumbling* Bill Panton rivals the contribution he made to hashing in the 1960's.

John's article on the history of the hash has appeared in numerous publications and I have taken this version from the 1980 Interhash Memorial Magazine (but I believe the article dates back much earlier than that).

This is an important document because, although Duncan was not there to see many of these events for himself, he was a diligent historian who had the opportunity to speak with many of the pre-war hashers. Second hand information yes, but very close to the original source. What can we learn from John?

The fate of the hash
founders

He mentions several of the founders and gives updates on them after they left KL. Lee retired in 1961 and went to live in Surrey.

Thomson moved to Ipoh and then owned a sugar plantation in the Philippines.

Bennett retired in the late 1950's and moved to Durban in South Africa.

Wickens moved to Singapore around 1958.

He also mentions Paul Barnard and Jack Bridewell as important post-war hashers.

There is some information here that is probably unavailable elsewhere. He mentions Barnard and Bridewell mainly to point out that the hash still attracted many accountants.

The Chedas bandit
incident

John identifies the location as '*where the Lady Temple Hospital stood during his time*'. Presumably this is now the Poliklinik Cahaya Cheras, which is about a 50 minute drive from central KL.

He describes the evening as '*darkening and rainy*' and notes that the bandits were sleeping when the hares found them but were awake by the time the main pack arrived.

He notes that the reward was divided between the **non-government** employees on the hash.

His comments add a few extra details to a well documented incident.

The growth of hashing

At the time of KL's 1500th run in 1973 John estimated there were around 35 hashes in the world.

He offers what is probably an accurate assessment of the early growth of hashing



Happy Birthday
Dildo Dan
the most arrested hasher
in hashingdom.

The 'discovery' of a hash in Italy just after the war was the hash equivalent of Howard Carter locating the tomb of Tutankhamen.

Then *Amnesia* blew the whole story apart with one of the best hash articles ever written.

So **Bordighera H3**, hash or hoax?

Shakes offers a summary of the argument.

Amnesia's original article can be read in issue 26.

For many years it was believed that the Italian Riviera town of Bordighera was home to the second oldest hash group in the world. The founder was said to have been Gus Mackay (various spellings) who had learned about hashing in KL while visiting his brother, Rupert. It was reported that Gus had spent time in an Italian prison-of-war camp and then retired to the Italian coast, where he founded **Bordighera H3** in April 1947.

The group was supposed to have been briefly revived during the construction of a major Arts and Science centre. This project was supposedly supported by Giovanni Paradiso, the grandson of deposed King Emmanuel Vittorio III. Apparently, the young Prince had met Gus Mackay in a prison-of-war camp and this fragile link inspired the kennel to take the grand title of Royal Bordighera H3. It was also reported that Gus Mackay's widow, Anna-Marie Mackay, had been alive at that point and had been made Honorary Hash Mistress of the reformed kennel.

The existence of a Bordighera H3 at such an early date was first uncovered by hash historian Tim *Magic* Hughes, who found references to the group amongst the vast amount of hash papers gathered in his personal library. He met with Robert *Bwana* Walker (ex-Mombasa) who had recently moved to Milan and asked him to investigate further. Bwana passed the task on to another Milan hasher, Fabio *Fabulous* D'Ambrosio, who travelled to Bordighera, where he interviewed some of the older residents of the town.

There were, at this point, three bodies of evidence supporting the existence of Bordighera H3.

- The core of the story could be found in a photocopy of a letter from Sir J J Ffitch-Heyes dated 12/3/90. This source mentioned Rupert and Gus Mackay, summarising their war careers and their interest in hashing. It also noted that Gus had met Giovanni Paradiso while both had been POWs. It did not link Paradiso with the Bordighera Hash.
- Bordighera 'news-sheets' first mentioned by Magic and later shown to Bwana.
- The eyewitness accounts gathered by Fabio D'Ambrosio from residents of Bordighera who claimed to have known of, or to have at least heard of, the hash.

Based on this evidence, *Magic* encouraged the revival of the kennel. The easiest option was to integrate the deceased chapter into **Milan H3**, which became the **Royal Milan and Bordighera H3**, with the understanding that at least one run a year would be staged on the Riviera.

Finale Ligure, an hour to the north, became the venue as one of the Milan hashers owned a house that hashers could use as a base. There was also a feeling that Finale Ligure offered better possibilities for running than Bordighera. For many years the annual '*Ghost on the Coast Run*' was a popular event on the European hash circuit, offering tough hilly runs and – at some point - an appearance of the ghost of Gus Mackay, dressed in white pith helmet and kilt!

However, when *Amnesia* (**Bicester H3**) took a closer look at the Bordighera story he started to question the authenticity. Problem number one was that an extensive search through official records failed to find any trace of either Gus or Rupert Mackay. This was surprising considering their military

background. Nor did anybody by the name of Sir J J Ffitch-Heyes or Giovanni Paradiso appear to have ever existed. As the evidence was scrutinized, further problems started to arise.

The original 'news-sheet' *Bwana* was shown by *Magic* could not be located, which was strange as Tim was noted for saving everything hash related. *Amnesia* also made a very persuasive argument that the letter from Sir J J Ffitch-Heyes was a hoax.

Sadly Fablo left no written record of his interviews in the village. We have no idea who he spoke to, or what they said. We do not know, for example, if they claimed to have seen the Hash for themselves, or were simply repeating stories heard from a third party. There was certainly the possibility that they had given answers that would please their visitor, or had confused a bunch of joggers with the Hash group that Fablo was describing. *Amnesia's* conclusions were, 'the original Bordighera hash of 1947 may have existed but there is no evince to substantiate that existence.'

It is not impossible that new evidence might yet turn up. A deeper hunt through Malaysian achieves and newspapers could confirm the existence of the Mackay brothers. Magic's library is now packed away in boxes in an empty house in KL, and when it is eventually unpacked, re-catalogued and shelved the missing news sheets could turn up accidentally tucked into another document. Until that happens most hash scholars will continue to consider the Royal Bordighera H3 story a hoax.

Issue 26
March 2022



In 1962 Ian Cumming was posted to Singapore, where he contacted another former Mother Hasher, Chris Verity. The two men discussed setting up a hash and sought advice, and possibly permission, from Mother Hash.

The reply from Hon. Sec. John Vincent was basically, *'I dunno. Do what the hell you like. Nothing to do with us'*. This marvellous display of common sense set the tone for the independent and laid-back nature of Hashing today. Letters of invitation to Ian's house for *'run, sausage and mash and discussion on forming a club'* went out, and thus **Singapore H3** was born.

The kennel has met every Monday since, except on two occasions when the island was under curfew. (And of course, more recently, when it was closed down during COVID-19).

In the early years, when traffic was lighter, it was quite usual to drive across the bridge and hash in Johor Bahru (which is in Malaysia). Numbers stayed around twenty for a short time, then rose steadily to peak at 210 members in the late seventies. In the early days, there was no circle, but Singapore became a noted singing hash, with John O'Rourke, Peter Flanagan, and Harry Howell helping to set the tone. It was certainly a wild group, and going to the first Interhash they drank the train dry of beer and had to send runners off at every station for fresh supplies.

Tommy Voice, a former Mother Hasher, was the Chief of Police in Johor Bahru and would join Singapore runs with a squad of young policemen to cut a path for him.

Hash legend John O'Rourke

This account was written by Graeme (Bully) Bull and dates to 22nd October 2015

John was born on the 8th of April 1926 and passed away on 28th Aug 2015 at age 89. John joined Singapore Hash House Harriers in 1963.

John in many ways ran the Hash like a Regimental Sergeant Major, particularly when he was Grand Master from 1973 until 1992. When I joined the Hash in August 1972, Albert Withnall was the Grand Master but when Albert left Singapore for Nigeria, John took over as Grand Master and was at the helm for 19 years. I often wondered who this guy was, running the Hash in a very autocratic manner, but when we look at John's army background, it becomes evident.

John had flown Spitfires at some stage of his military career.



Issue 14
February 2021

From the Singapore Yearbook

Joined 1963; became Grandmaster in a bloodless coup, 1975; Chief ideologue Prime Minister and Minister of Defence until 1992, when he abdicated to become Senior Minister. Holder of the Idi Amin Order of the Scrotum, and bars, many times over. Unique dress sense. Australian. Accused of crony-ism during his ironist rule, he said 'you're dead right, mate.' Only man to reach 22,000 feet in the Himalayas without the aid of knees. Addicted to flying, his wharf singlet, knee bandages and 'Old Man Donald's farm. His wife is a saint.

John ran on the Hash in an outfit which consisted of a black singlet and black shorts and with a bow-legged gait. On more than one occasion, John applied the unwritten rule that no women or dogs were allowed on the Monday Men's Hash. In fact on the odd occasion, the run did not start until the "unmentionables" left the run site.

Now I was amazed to find out during my research that John was awarded the MBE for bravery for saving many lives in Port Phillip Bay, Victoria, Australia, during an army exercise. When a sudden storm swept many of the participants out to sea through

the "Rip" (the dangerous mouth of Port Phillip Bay), John managed to save many of the contingent, for which he received recognition.

Referring further to John's army career, he was part of the Australian Occupation contingent to Japan after the 2nd World War. His bad knees for which he had replacements, (2 on 1 knee and 1 on the other) were attributed to the number of parachute jumps he made with the old style parachutes which were certainly not a soft landing.

There are also rumours that John acted as a spy at some stage of his army career, but no further detail or confirmation is available. However, during Konfrontasi, for some reason, he was able to gain access into Malaysia when it was restricted for others.

Back in Singapore, many of you will know that John was a flying instructor at the Singapore Flying Club, Seletar. Some of you on the Hash may have in fact received flying training from John.

He was also an avid trekker even with his wobbly legs, and undertook 6 or 7 treks to the Himalayas, together with mainly members of Singapore HHH.

John certainly lived life to the fullest, working in the fertiliser trading business and even owning a farm or farms in Australia.

At one time, the Grand Master, Gerry Gurney of the "Runch" in London referred to myself as a clone of O'Rourke. Of course this was over many drinks, arguments, and debates. All I can say is that this is one of the largest compliments I have ever received.

May John rest in peace and On On to Hash Heaven



Hash History

The Singapore contribution to hashing

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 was 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 goes 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.

Ties and H3

Singapore has another important claim to fame. They decided that such a distinguished group of gentleman deserved a club tie, but it proved too difficult to fit 'Hash House Harriers' onto a narrow band of cloth. The lads therefore came up with the H3 abbreviation that we all use today.

Trash

While Singapore did not invent the **hash trash** they developed it into a hash-art form.

John Gastrell was the mastermind of the Tuesday lunches, where the boys wrote these legendary circulars (Hash Trash). Some of these were posted to former members, now running with other kennels, and in these days before the Internet, the Singapore trash helped to spread the idea of how a real hash should be conducted.

Swing Low

When was *Swing Low* adopted by the hash? We have just learned that Mother Hash used *A Frog he would a Wooing, Hey ho! said Rowley*, as their theme song. They might also have sung *Swing Low* but this would suggest it came later. This is only a guess, but Ian Cumming was both a noted singer and rugby player and it might be a good bet that *Swing Low* was first adopted by the Singapore hash.



*Issue 25
February 2022*

1970

The worst day in
the history of the
club - the great fire
of 1970.

Indonesian opposition to the creation of a greater Malaysia saw fighting flare up all across Borneo. This was a relatively minor conflict, marked by small-scale skirmishes across hilly and forested border areas. However, the fighting dragged on from 1963 to 1966, during which time numerous Commonwealth troops were rotated in and out of the region. Several came with hash experience from Singapore or KL and the conflict was to fuel something of a 'Big Bang Event' in the spread of hashing.

Kuching, the capital of the Malaysia state of Sarawak, became an important base for military operations, and **Kuching H3** date to 1963, making it the fourth oldest Hash in the world. Harry Howell, ex-Singapore, is considered the founding father, and their first run attracted a pack of thirteen, twelve of whom were expatriates. Their first hash trash still exists. Dated 21st May, it mentions the hashes in Singapore and KL and points out that *'we are not catering for would be Roger Bannisters - far more for the panting Douggie Clark's of the world'*.

Kuching is still a great centre of hashing, having staged Borneo Nash Hash in 1987 and 2001, Pan Asia in 1995 and 2005, and InterHash in 2010.

Another noted kennel from this period was **Kota Kinabalu H3** (originally **Jesselton H3**) and they have come a long way from their first run in 1964 when just thirteen (all expatriates) turned up. Today, Kota Kinabalu is another great centre of hashing, with runs taking place most days of the week.

While Kuching and Kota Kinabalu have thrived, other kennels struggled as the military contingent moved on. **Miri H3** was the 5th hash in the world when they were founded in 1963, but they folded in 1966, not to be re-established until May, 1973. **Sibu H3** on Sarawak also faded out.

As the insurgence died down, hashing could resume in Brunei. The first few runs attracted around twenty hashers, with the live hares expected to buy the beer all evening if they were caught.

It was great days, with Brunei having an 'end of the world feel' and the jungle starting as soon as you left your front door. Jungle runs were the norm, and over the years the pack saw leopards, cobras, gibbons, and the marks left by a bear.

Setting a good hash in such testing conditions required careful planning, with several recces and the chopping down of undergrowth to create paths. Many hashers carried compasses, but that did not stop one hare from getting so lost setting a live trail that he hid in the undergrowth, attached himself to the back of the pack, and followed the lads back to the cars.

HASH MISSIONARIES

Ian Cumming

Was introduced to hashing with Mother Hash and took Hashing onto Singapore (1962 - the second hash group in the world) and then to New York.

Douggie Clark

The name turns up on several of the early hashes around Malaya and he was considered a shining example of what a real hasher should act like, as in this quote: *'we are not catering for would be Roger Bannisters - far more for the panting Douggie Clark's of this world'*.

Harry God Knows Howell

Started Hashing with Mother Hash in 1958, when his employer transferred him from Penang to Kuala Lumpur. Later posted to Singapore where he was one of a handful of former KL Hashmen who met in Ian Cumming's house to discuss starting a hash club in Singapore. His next posting was Kuching, where he started the Kuching Hash - the 4th hash kennel in the world.

Later hashed with Sydney.

Pip Berwick

A member of the British military contingent in Singapore from where he was rushed to Brunei when the insurrection broke out. Once things settled he helped to found the Brunei Hash (the 3rd hash group in the world) but only managed 3 runs before being posted back to Singapore.

Was guest of honour for the Brunei 1900th run in 1999.

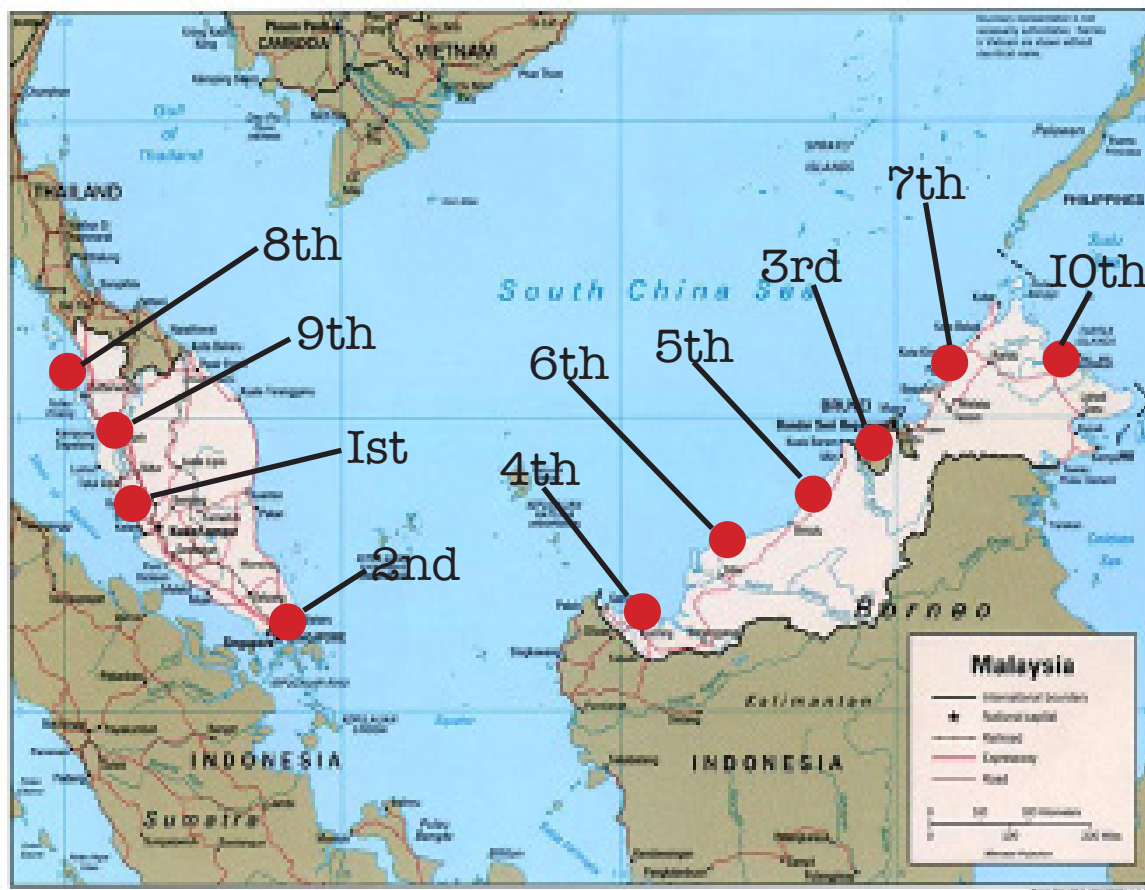
Oliver, M.S.

Oliver was an early post-war hasher, having his first run with Mother Hash in 1947. He went on to become Joint Master in 1949 and again in 1956. In 1965 he was co-founder of Ipoh H3 (the 9th kennel in the world).

Hash Map

Issue 1
January 2020

The first hash kennels in the world



1. Hash House Harriers (Mother Hash)

Date: 30 November 1938 (disputed)

Founder: Albert Gispert and others

2. Hash House Harriers Singapore

Date: 19 February 1962

Founder: Ian Cumming

3. Brunei Hash House Harriers

Date: 18 February 1963

Founder: Colin Berwick

4. Kuching Hash House Harriers

Date: 21 May 1963

Founder: Harry *God Knows* Howell

5. Miri Hash House Harriers

Date: 31 December 1963

(Resumed 27 May 1973)

Founder: Ian Ansh

6. Sibul Hash House Harriers

Date: 1 June 1964

(Resumed 8 October 1995)

Founder: ?

7. Kota Kinabalu Hash House Harriers

(Originally Jesselton H3)

Date: 22 June 1964

Founder: George Will

8. Penang Hash House Harriers

Date: 10 May 1965

Founder: Robin Rawlings

9. Ipoh Hash House Harriers

Date: 9 October 1965

Founder: David *Mad Dog* Denning

10. Sandakan Hash House Harriers

Date: October, 1965

Founder: Jonathon Gray

Hash History

Hashing comes to Europe

One of the most influential figures in spreading hashing to Europe was Ray *The Brig* Thornton, who had been introduced to hashing in Singapore in 1962. Thornton's military career took him to many of the world's trouble spots and while in Borneo he helped found **Kuching H3**. Thornton was then posted to Dhekelia on Cyprus, where he approached his senior officer, Gris Davies Scourfield, with the idea of starting up the first hash in Europe. The commander of the base not only gave his permission, but joined in with enthusiasm.

Scourfield was a remarkable man. He had been captured by the Germans in 1940 and made numerous escape bids, including slipping out of Colditz by hiding in a handcart. Staying in the army after the war, he fought in numerous colonial conflicts and was awarded the Military Cross, MBE, and CBE. After co-founding **Dhekelia H3** (January 1967) Scourfield was transferred across the island to another British base at Episkopi, where he founded **Episkopi H3** (November 1967).

Hashing on Cyprus was open to '*officers and equivalent status civilians*', a social discrimination that becomes a little more acceptable when you see pictures of what the lads were getting up to in the circle. A British officer couldn't have squaddies seeing him standing with his shorts down by his ankles and a toilet seat around his neck!

The local countryside was impressive and the runs short, with the boys intending to be back at the bar within 45 minutes. The atmosphere at a military hash (of a later date) is beautifully described by Trevor Evans in *Sunjet Magazine*, hashers ranging from the baby-faced young lieutenant '*whose ambition is to complete the trail in ten seconds flat and shatter the 'jolly old pain- barrier'*' to an '*over-weight brigadier in knee-length shorts, convinced it is dashed good for morale to be seen 'getting on with the chaps'*'.

In 1971, Ray Thornton returned to England where he founded the **Commando Forces H3** at Plymouth. He believed this to be the first hash on British soil, but had actually been beaten to this honour by Richard *Mountain Rescue* McAllister. *Mountain Rescue* had been introduced to hashing in Brunei in 1964, after which his CV included founding the extremely influential **Kluang H3** in southern Malaysia, staging the first hash on British soil (**Longmoor H3**, September 1968) and taking hashing to mainland Europe with the founding of **Lubbecke H3**.

Richard is uncertain of the exact date of this first German hash, but it was sometime in the summer of 1971. A photograph exists of run number one, and shows fourteen male runners posing outside the Officers' Mess. Thirty years later *Mountain Rescue* was still traveling the world and when at home hashed with **North Hants and Deepcut H3**.

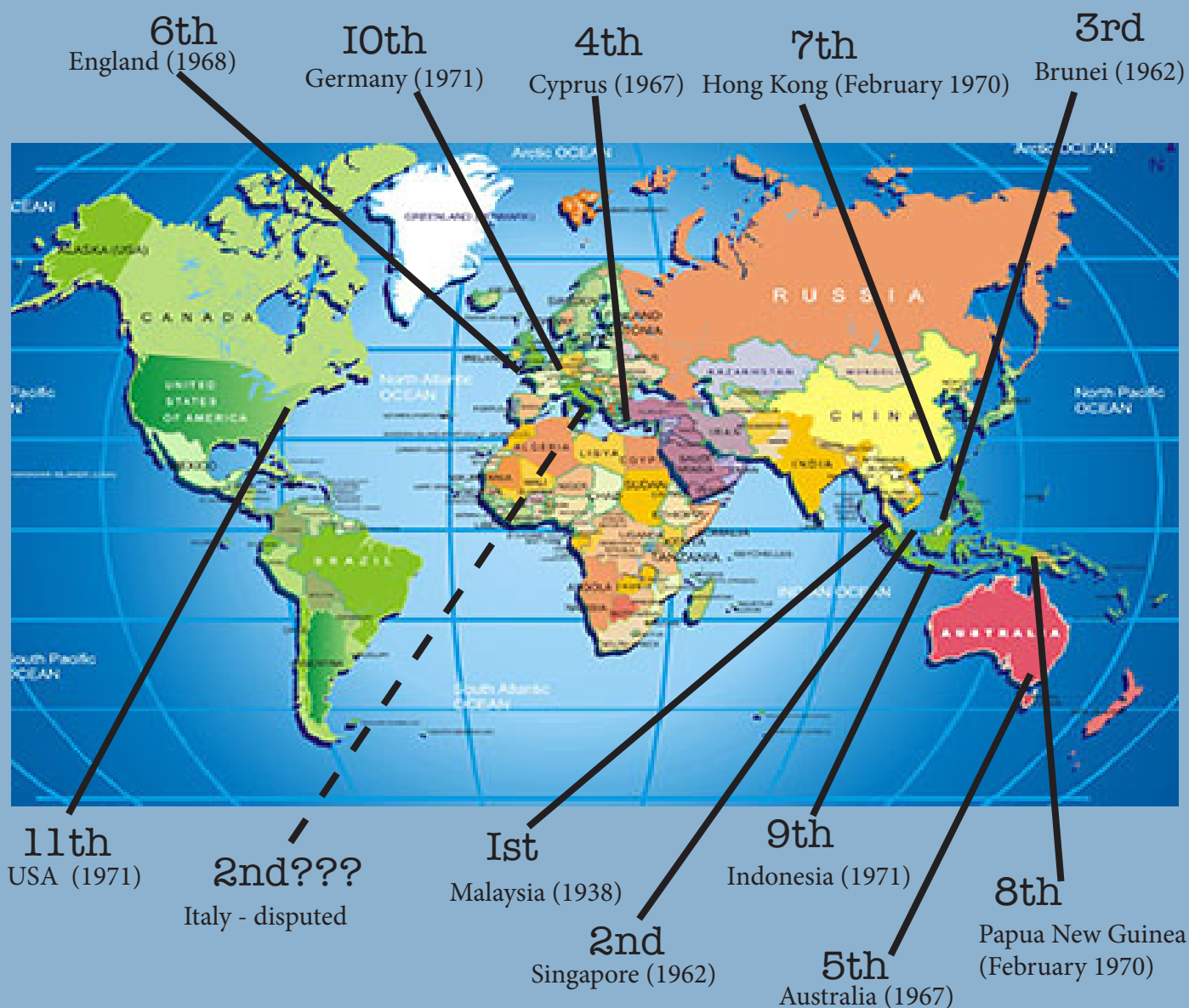
While the military did wonderful work in bringing hashing to Europe, army personnel tended to move on relatively quickly and several of the early kennels only lasted as long as their founders were around. In many cases it was hashes formed by returning civilians that were to create a more lasting

Early European
Hashes
Dhekelia H3
1967
Episkopi H3
1967
Commando Forces
1971
Lubbecke H3.
1971
Westcombe H3
1971
Bicester H3
1975
Surrey
1975
*Other British
hashes*
Helsinki H3
1977
Copenhagen H3
1980
Brussels H3



Hash Map

The first countries to adopt hashing



Issue 2
February 2020

Hash History

The Hash goes global

legacy. The first of these was **Westcombe H3**, which dates to December 1971. Mike Read (believed to be formerly of Lagos) was the founding father and the group was closely linked to the local rugby club. Westcombe still exist, but only run monthly. (Note: It is worth remembering that Read could not have learnt about hashing in Africa at this early date).

Thornton's next posting was Bicester where – of course – he founded another hash. **Bicester H3** started as a military hash with a sharp 5.00 pm start, allowing the boys to get out of the pub in time for dinner in the mess. Hashing was seen as an official army sport, so everything except the beer was provided via the base.

Unlike some of the earlier military kennels, Bicester opened their doors to civilians and prospered, becoming the oldest continually running weekly hash in the UK. The military link continued for many years, with the St George Barracks a regular venue for anniversary runs. In those days hashers tended to be younger and fitter, so many took the opportunity to try out the assault course.

Surrey H3 (April 1975) was next up, founded by the remarkable Jim Raper. While Bicester H3 had been founded before Surrey, for the first couple of years they closed down during the winter. Surrey played on this technicality to dispute Bicester's claim of being the oldest *continually* running hash in the country. This became a feature of the early Nash Hashes, with the two groups shouting at each other panto style:

'We're the oldest hash.'

'Oh, no you're not!'

'Oh, yes we are!'

The fun we hashers have!

While British servicemen brought hashing to a few places where 'The empire' still had bases, the spread of kennels across the rest of the continent was a slow process. Few European countries had much need for outside expertise so the missionary work was dependent on:

1. Experienced hashers being posted to big international organisations such as the EU, UN or NATO
2. A nation's own expatriates returning home with the hash bug.

Finland led the way with **Helsinki H3** being founded by Ulf *Dirty Old Man* Burmeister and Osmo Jalovaara in 1977. Unmentionables generally joined the lads after a run, which led to the first mixed saunas. The all-male policy, plus a tendency towards long competitive trails, eventually led to the founding of the **Helsinki Harriers and Harriettes**.

Copenhagen H3, 'The Viking Wankers', followed in March 1980. Founders were Kaj *Der Tulip Eater* Petersen (who died on trail in 2018), Poul-Erik Dam and Steffen Harpoth.

A year later, a new Copenhagen Hash was started, this group unaware that a Copenhagen kennel already existed.

The established hash turned up at the advertised run site to wish the new group luck and the two groups immediately amalgamated.

Belgium, with its NATO and European Union offices, was next up, with Stephen Lunn (ex Washington) founding **Brussels H3** in December 1980. The Mons based **SHAPE H3** (Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe) followed in 1982. Despite the obviously military links this was a family hash.

There was a strong feeling that Brussels was too serious – good runners and no circles – so **Manneke Pis H3** was founded in 1990 as the capital's second hash. The founder was *One-Way Dick* (ex Dhaka) while *Core Blimey*, a Dutchman who had hashed in Asia, was a key figure in the early days. They met on Sundays and attempted to be more 'Hash like'. Despite the distinction of Manneke as a 'Hashers' hash, and Brussels as a 'Runners' hash, there has always been a considerable overlap of membership between the two kennels.

Vienna – home to both OPEC and the United Nations – was another early breakthrough point, with **Vindobona H3** (Vindobona is the old Roman name for the city) being founded by Hans Saxinger (ex Hong Kong) and Lan Yarbrough (US Embassy via Tunisia) in April 1982.

Vienna hashers show remarkable loyalty. *Glo-Balls* joined on Run 12 and at the time of writing had well over 1500 runs to his credit. *Cardinal Munk* and *The Blessed Saint Norman* are both veterans of 1300 plus runs, with Saint Norman being given the honouree title 'GM Retired and Retarded'.

The same enthusiasm that was spreading hashing around mainland Europe was also driving the growth of new kennels in the UK. While there was some internal fertilization, with **Cheshire H3** being founded via **Brighton H3** and **Isle Of Wight H3** via **Hunch of Venison**, most of the new kennels were conceived by re-turning expatriates. **London H3**, **Scarborough**, **Barnes**, **North Hants**, **Bristol** and **Chelmsford** all descend from Hong Kong, while **Tamar H3** trace their roots to Singapore H3.

Chichester H3 lies deep in the wealthy Sussex retirement zone and was founded by Andrew Tarry of Cheras Bandit fame and his wife Veronica.

Hashing here could get rather refined. When asked what he thought of the run, the author (making his first visit to the group) replied in hash fashion that it was '*a load of shitte with too much mud, hills and stinging nettles*'. This was met by a deadly silence, until somebody raised their hand and said, '*well I thought it was rather good*' and everybody clapped politely.

Issue 7
July 2020

The one and only Jim Raper

The founder of one of England's oldest surviving hashes.

Possibly the only GM to be featured on Police Five.

Probably the only hasher to sneak into England while there was an arrest warrant for him. He attended his mother's funeral, stayed on to hash and then fled the country again!

In 1953, a 26-year-old Jim Raper 'turned his back on England's dark satanic mills' and relocated to Singapore. Using contacts from school, and a natural gift for wheeling and dealing, he made his name in local business circles. He also acquired a taste for Anchor beer and beautiful Chinese girls.

He regularly featured in Singapore papers, particularly as a controversial director of 'Salvage Engineers Ltd'.

In 1962, Ian Cumming, ex-Mother Hasher, established Singapore H3. Jim was quick to join and became an enthusiastic hasher.

Around late 1974, Jim returned to England. He purchased a historic manor house and there was also a flat in a posh area of London and a yacht on the Mediterranean.

He missed hashing, so founded **Surrey H3**. Jim placed an ad in the personal columns of The Times and set the first trial. Four turned up, but there were also a dozen visitors from **Westcombe H3**. Jim was made On-Sec, Scribe and Joint Master.

A Singapore clone proved impossible. Monday nights had to give way to weekend runs and the girls would not be kept away. Surrey H3 prospered and during these early days Jim was the driving force behind the kennel, paying most of the expenses out of his own pocket or, quoting from the Surrey Hash Trash, 'possibly somebody else's'.

Hash History
The hash comes to Europe



Our understanding of the Our history of hashing in Africa and the Middle East is about to change! The first African hash is believed to be **Durban H3**, founded in 1971. However, South Africa was moving towards political isolation so hashing did not spread out from here. Indeed it was 1979 before hashing became more firmly established on the African continent, with the founding of **Nairobi H3**. By the time **Dar es Salaam H4** and **Benghazi H3** were founded in 1982 (?) they were believed to be the 12th and 13th African hashes.

The hash strongholds of Southeast Asia did not tend to be oil-producing nations, so ex-pats with hash experience took time to reach the Arabic world. **Bahrain H3** is believed to be the pioneer and the kennel dates to 1972.

However, I have stumbled across evidence of an earlier hash in Libya – an extinct chapter of the **Benghazi H3** that pushes African hashing back to at least 1969. It would also pre-date the first hash in the Arabic world by some three years.

The evidence for this lay forgotten in the pages of the Pan-Asia Program of 1987. In an article entitled *'The Trials and Tribulations of Hashing in Libya'* Taff (by then of **Seletar H3**) described how he was arrested while setting a trail for the Benghazi hash in 1972. The hash was well established by then, with 20 members, *'all men, mostly Brits.'*

- Taff explained that the kennel was started by a British military contingent working for King Idris. In the words of Taff, *'the British Army left but the hash stayed'*.
- The king was removed in a coup d'état led by Muammar Gaddafi on 1 September 1969.
- That means the hash dates before this, with an early 1969, or 1968 date more than likely. An even earlier date is not impossible, and in that case there would be the possibility that Benghazi could pre-date **Sydney H3** as the first hash outside the Malaysian - Singapore - Borneo triangle.
- The British and US military were well established in the old Libya, and Taff's account is clear and believable.
- In addition, this fits neatly into a period when the British military (many of all had picked up the hash bug while stationed in Borneo) were the great pioneers of hashing (think **Bicester H3**, **Fort Eustis H3**, etc).

The Trials and Tribulations of Hashing in Libya

The year is 1972 and the place is Benghazi, Libya. It was my turn to be the hare for the Benghazi H.H.H. which boasted some 20 members, all men, and mainly Brits. The Benghazi Hash was formed in the days when the British Army was resident in Libya as the guests of King Idris. However Colonel Gaddafi changed all that with his revolutionary coup



King Idris - his military policy led to the founding of a hash!

Issue 5
May 2020

Hash History

The bumpies discover hashing

By Hazukashii

The first recorded women's version of HHH are the **Brunei Hens** who were founded on 21st November 1966, by Robert Tiepel (no mention whether he ran with them or not). The **Ipoh Harriettes** are next, and were founded on 29 Aug 1968, by Loke Kai Heng. In a recent discussion with the current GM of the Ipoh Harriets, Boon Lee Lim "Jenny001", explained that the Ipoh Harriets claim the title of the first mixed HHH club.

Now, over 50 years later, there are numerous variations of mixed and Harriette only HHH clubs all over the world. Examples (from my own experience) include the **Mission Harriettes** in California, USA where men were required to remain behind two women at all times on trail. Another example is the **Tokyo Ladies HHH**, where only women were allowed to hold committee positions. The **Harriettes of Oahu** (HO Hash) and the **No Strings Attached H3** in Florida, do not normally allow men, but when they do, they must wear pink. Also, the **Kuala Lumpur Harriettes** and **Bangkok Harriettes**, where a woman is always the GM, but they are just a mixed hash club beyond that.

The first 10 recorded Women's Hash clubs are:

Brunei Hens	21 Nov 1966
Ipoh Harriettes	29 Aug 1968
Kota Kinabalu Harriettes	10 May 1970
Ladies of Hong Kong H3	15 Jun 1971
Sandakan Harriettes	31 Dec 1971
Kuching Harriettes	20 Jun 1972
Penang Harriettes	21 Nov 1972
Singapore Harriettes	17 Oct 1973
Kuala Lumpur Harriettes	18 Jun 1974
Port Moresby Harriettes	30 Sep 1974

There were potentially some mixed clubs that formed during the 60s and 70s, but the records are unclear as to when they transitioned from Men Only to Mixed. There are also isolated incidents of some women being allowed to run with Men Only clubs during this period, to include one *Judy Prosser* (an Aussie consulate member) that was a regular on the **Jakarta Men's Hash** in the early 70s. Another instance was, according to the club website, the very first run of the **Colombo H3** in Sri Lanka had



Uncle Gerry and Mrs. G took a look through their Singapore T-Shirts and found this celebration of the Harriet's 50th run.

Their guess is that it dates to October 1974. Uncle Gerry suggests: 'I think there is a fair chance it the earliest Harriet T-Shirt issued unless you have received something from Ipoh'.



40 runners on that first trail, including two women (*Handwarmer* and *Iron Lady*). At one point in 1984, *Handwarmer* injured her knee and could not run for a bit. The wife of another hasher was allowed to join the Monday hash, and enjoyed it so much she started bringing more women along. Well, this went on for a couple weeks and before you know it, the old boy's network started to revolt and declared that the Colombo H3 would become a Male Only club. In a show of uncommon grace, they did allow the original ladies to continue on as honorary gentlemen.

The change in membership to male only caused a stir in the hashing community, and the forming of the **Colombo Harriettes** on 20 Jun 1984. According to the hash genealogy, this club was founded by Mike *Climb Every Mountain Hill*, as a mixed hash club. Originally it ran on Wednesday, but has since shifted to Saturday to allow for travel to more areas around the island.

The title of oldest active Harriette is bestowed upon Rajendar *Glamour* Kaur, born 9 May 1933, has been an avid hasher for well over 50 years. Her first hash was on the **Brunei Men's H3** in 1966, during a short period when women were allowed to participate. Once the number of ladies had grown, they were encouraged to start their own club (and leave the men to their own fun), and the **Hen House Harriers**, the first ladies hash ever, were founded on

21 Nov 1966. Glamour participated on their first trail and was the first hen to achieve 100 runs, and the second to achieve 200. Unfortunately, at one point in the 70s she moved to another town to operate a branch of the family business. Sadly missing out on the weekly fun, Glamour asked for the Hens to move their hash day to Tuesday when her shop was closed. They agreed, and Glamour was able to rejoin the ladies hash, and it has remained on Tuesday ever since.



The Day That changed hashing forever

Issue 22
Christmas 2021

In 1966 Mother Hash, emerging from several years of declining numbers, invited runners from Ipoh and Singapore to join them for their 1,000th run. There were just 24 visitors, all hosted by Mother Hash.

In 1973 Mother Hash celebrated its 1,500th run. Hashing had expanded considerably over the past seven years and attendance rose to 300 plus, with visitors outnumbering locals 3-1.

The success of the 1500th run inspired the idea of staging a regular and formal Interhash. It also allowed kennels to share ideas, which helped to define what 'real hashing' was all about.

Hash History

The first international gathering

The first T-shirt issued for a special event.
Possibly the 3rd hash t-shirt of all time.

M. H. H.
1500TH
RUN
K. L.

Mother Hash 1500th Run
Saturday June 23rd 1973

Hares Peter Bromley
Geoff Edwards , Andrew Tarry

- Ipoh arrived in KL after staging a 200 kilometres relay run from their hometown.
- The start of the hash was signalled by firecrackers.
- Three hundred hashers, the biggest hash pack ever assembled, set off on a long run through open countryside.
- The front runners were back in an hour and the checks worked well, with all hashers home within 20 minutes of the leaders.
- There was plenty of Anchor beer and a shower had been set up. (*Ed: Not sure how that worked with 300 runners!*)
- There was a Boat Race, but no declared winner.
- Choirs then took over with '*their limitless repertoire of obscenities.*'
- After the circle, hashers moved on to the 'grottier parts of KL' (*Ed: Anybody out there with information on KL night-life at the time?*)
- The Rex, which had been closed to all non-hashers, was the first stop. (*Ed: The only Rex I can find is a cinema, but they might have had a bar?*)
- As the drinks kicked in the open drains of the city proved a problem, with at least two hashers falling into them.

- The pack moved on to the Kowloon Bar and finally a hardcore of about 50 hashers, mostly from Penang, reached the Fortuna. *Ed: Anybody with knowledge of these bars?*

Attending kennels - international

Washington
Hong Kong
Perth
Jakarta
Brunei
Singapore

Attending kennels - Malaysia

Penang
Johor Bahru
Lung
Muar
Ipoh
Seremban

Apologies received from

Durban
Brisbane
Taipei
Bahrain
Seoul
Pagan
Melbourne



376. Selangor Club, Kuala Lumpur, Selangor,
F. M. S.

Day 2

- There was no run, but the pack gathered at The Club for what the organisers had anticipated being a quiet curry lunch.

- The Seremban choir soon livened things up and the curry lunch turned into a food fight *'the linoleum floor well laced with curry, beer and shit from hash boots was like a skate rink.'* (Ed: Seremban is a town about 50 kilometres south of KL).

- Singapore and Hong Kong then gave their version of 'Old MacDonald' which *'set a standard of artistry that was difficult to match.'* (Ed: I suspect possible sarcasm here!)

- The Sunday lunch went on till 4pm.

- **There is no suggestion there was any discussion about organizing another international event.**

There does seem to be a feeling that ALL gatherings would ALWAYS be in KL. Given the 5-year time gap, it must be questionable as to how much the 1500th Run influenced the staging of the first official Inter-hash in Hong Kong.



Beer consummation:

Friday 130

Saturday 1048

Sunday 501

Total 1679

Why the 1500th is so important

We had our first commemorative t-shirts for an international event and possibly only the third hash t-shirt ever produced.

The Ipoh Relay started a hash tradition .

There were the
first hash banners

The 'Jakarta Circle' was demonstrated and that was to have a **major** influence on other hashing around the world.

The success of the event would inspire (eventually)
the idea of an official Interhash.

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INTERHASH GOA FLYER # 1

Red Dress Run: 10th Nov 2022

INTERHASH : 11th to 13th Nov 2022

Register Now

HHHello Hashers

We take pleasure in sharing our progress in organising the Interhash Goa 2022 with you.

VENUE & HASH HUB:

The Venue has been fixed at the grounds of Dona Sylvia - NOVOTEL. This is a very scenic venue on the beachfront. We have negotiated a highly discounted rate of USD 160.00/night for double occupancy including breakfast and taxes for the rooms there.

You may contact us at info@planetearthdmc.com

for further information and rooms.

Other Accommodation options will also be up on our website - as we are negotiating "cheap" prices for you.



PAYMENT GATEWAY:

The payment gateway is up and running. We have more than 100 regos in the past 4 days. We are pleased to inform you that the gateway is robust, and a lot of due-diligence processes have been followed. Please register at <https://goainterhash2022.com/registration/>

PRE & POST LUBES:

The prelube from Delhi/Jaipur/Agra has been finalised.

The post lube currently offers two options -

Option I : Great Drevidian Rail Jerk travelling to the monuments of Hampi/ Hyderabad.

Option II : Visit Chennai/Pondicherry/ Mahabalipuram on the East coast.

Details are available on our website <https://goainterhash2022.com/pre-post-lubes/>

Hashers who wish to do their own lubes/ runs during the Interhash season are most welcome.

We will offer all support. Please write us an email at contactus@goainterhash2022.com. We will put you on to the hare- team.

RUNS & HARES:

We have identified 15 run sites so far, with beautiful and scenic hashworthy running terrain. This would satisfy small, medium and long runners/ walkers.

Calling for Hashes and Hashers to volunteer to set runs and/or manage the circle for us.

Your participation in the success of the Interhash with good runs will be highly appreciated.

There is , of course, a run committee to facilitate the process.

FINALLY, THE BEER SUPPLY, ENTERTAINMENT AND FOOD IS FULLY ORGANISED

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The next issue of
On On Magazine
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