

A retrospective by David (Spreadsheet) Evans

Delivered to a spellbound group of Hasher at the Lewes Arms, Lewes on 6 Dec 2010

Friends, Hashers, Comrades of the Mud. Welcome.

Tonight marks the 1694th Hash and the BH7 is in it's 32nd year.

Tonight marks my 22nd year of Hashing but also my 65th birthday.

First, I'd like to thank you all for 22 years of friendship and camaraderie.

As you might have expected I have produced a SPREADSHEET with some notable pieces of information and data and I'd like to share this with you.

I have broken the data down into 4 differing categories:-

1. WEATHER
2. RUNNERS
3. My FIRST RUN and the subject of SETTING
4. COMPETITION

Let us start with the **WEATHER**.

"Whose shout" (Peter Beard) has often said to me, with an air of confidence about matters metrological that only Michael Fish can match, *"It rarely if ever rains on a Monday night"*.

I consulted my records on the matter and I can with equal confidence state that there is only a 10% chance of rain on a Monday night. Those scientists in our midst will of course challenge me to produce my data. Well this is based on 14 records from October 1988 to April 1989.

My second category is **RUNNERS**.

When I joined the Hash on the 17 October 1988, I was issued with a Hash Book.

In those far off days we had no web site and we kept in touch by word of mouth from week to week. Some Hashers even had telephones. I kept a record of some 14 names in the back of my Hash Book. I can tell you that 36% of those named are still running and all are here tonight.

Peter Beard; Peter Eastwood; Les Plumb, Bob Luck and Dr Terri Pountney.

My third category is **MY FIRST RUN and SETTING**

My First run was from the Fruiterers Arms, Sun Street, Lewes no more than 150 yards from here and I ran it on the 17 Oct 1988.

The pub is a deceased pub, it is dead, it has ceased to be, it is an EX PUB.

My **first set** was from the Laughing Fish, Isfield. I set it with the assistance of Dr Tim or Dr Luurve (as Bouncer called him). Tim and I took 2 days to set the run which was enriched by a lunch at the pub in the company of our respective wives (by that I mean 2 wives i.e. one each).

My final category is **COMPETITION**.

Hashing is seen by some as a once a week activity, by others an interlude between races. Most of us have a wish to know where we are in the running field, some ooze competitiveness and thirst for competition whilst others thirst for a pint of Harveys.

I made my first competitive outing in 1989 at the **Chichester Half Marathon**.

We had 6 Hashers in the event.

The first Hasher in was a bloke by the name of Nigel Adams with a time of 1:23:23.

Questions have been asked, particularly by the Treasurer (Julia), about Mr Adams who she assures me never paid a sub. He ran under the banner of the HASH with the AA Licence we had at the time.

Second was Chris Dauncey 1:24:24

Third Tony Fallowfield, then Terry Smith and Sarah Noakes

My time was 1:48:53.

I look up to them, they are fast runners; I am a slow runner. I know my place –or should that be pace?

A month later I entered the **Rother Valley Half** in the expectation of posting a faster time with the added experience of Chichester under my belt. Such confidence was to be my undoing as I came in 908th in a field of 982 runners.

BUT I must add a little more detail:-

Bob Luck was our first Hasher in with a superb time of 1:21:29; Mike Cockcroft with 1:27:56 and Rik Taub with 1:28:52. My time was 2:05:21.

I look up to them, they are fast runners; I am a slow runner. I know my place.

Thank you for listening to an old man reminiscing.

I now have one last thing to say of a forward thinking nature.

The 1,000th run took place on the 18 August 1997.

The 2,000th run will be on the 10 October 2016. Please put this in your diaries now.

So I thank you all for your friendship, your fun and all the frolics we have had over the last number of years and I look forward to many more to come.

Cheers to you all.