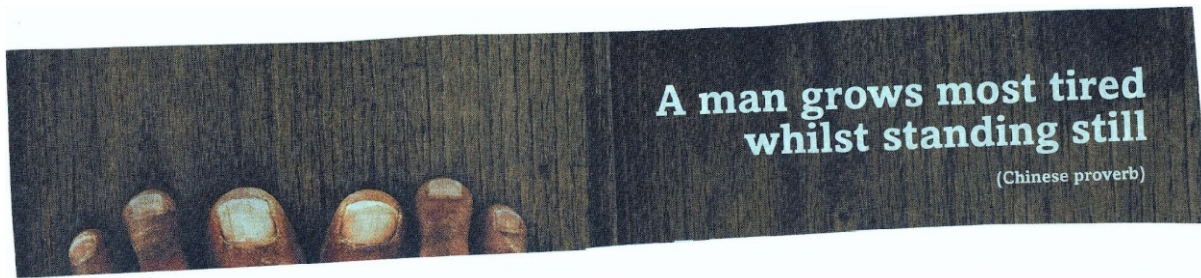


A retrospective by David (Spreadsheet) Evans

8 December 2025



Do add OBE when you next address me.

Yes - Over Bloody Eighty.

My last retrospective to Hashers was at the Lewes Arms, on 6 Dec 2010 my 65th birthday.

I will speak for 8.3 minutes.

When speaking it is wise to avoid Sex, Religion and Politics. But who cares!

Don't get too excited – I shall skip the first category. I'm getting a bit sketchy on that.

I shall take as my text:-

Psalm 147:10 which reads, "He ie God, does not delight in the strength of the horse; nor does He take pleasure in the legs of a man."

Clearly, he, God that is, has not spent an evening with the Brighton Hash House Harriers. So let's consider what he is missing.

We Hashers take pleasure in the shapeliness of a calf or the glimpse of a finely turned ankle or the straining sinews of a muscular leg as we follow the Hare. I'll not extend references to the more erogenous zones of the inner thigh lest you get over stimulated. Leave that for later.

Other observations on Trail. I'm always intrigued at the overheard statistical exchanges I hear as I pootle along amongst the pack on a Monday eve. Most recently we have Pondweeds achievement of 300 marathons, with a similar record by Keeps it Up. Both will describe each Marathon in detail if you dare ask.

After 37 years of Hashing, I'd like to share a few stats of my own.

Tonight is the 2,443rd Hash for "The BH7" and its 47th year.

Tonight is my 37th year of Hashing and my 80th birthday.

In 2010 I shared some stats with you which need just a little tweaking to update.

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"*. *Note he was not out last Monday at the Railway Tavern, Burgess Hill where rainfall was exceptional.*

Despite the minutia of information delivered on a weekly basis in Bouncer's re-Hash report there is no consistent record of weather conditions. This has frustrated any evidence based statistical analysis and can I ask Bouncer to please note.

However to give credit to Bouncer's reports I do forward these weekly to the Rights of Way Officer at ESCC where she finds the content most useful to act on obstructions or failing infrastructure.

Communication.

How things have changed since I joined the Hash in October '88.

We each had a small blue Hash Book.

We kept in touch by word of mouth. Some Hashers even had telephones. I kept a record of names in my Hash Book. Three names in the book are here tonight.

Peter Eastwood (1,827) Peter Beard (1,354) Don (1,606)

The web site and its recent reincarnation is something I'd like to pay tribute to those on the Tech Team who must be applauded for the developments. One can spend hours looking at Hash Stats, routes run, pubs closed and much more. Cliffbanger has added links to a photo gallery for BH7 and at least 6 other Chapters of local Hashes. Finally the sign in board. What an advance.

Now to MY FIRST RUN and SETTING

If you were not at my 65th Birthday Hash celebration I will repeat some details and for those of you who missed it, treat this as a re-Hash.

My First run was on the 17 Oct 1988 from the Fruiterers Arms, Sun Street, Lewes no more than 176 yards.

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, enriched by a lunch at the pub in the company of our respective wives (by that I mean 2 wives i.e. one each).

Finally COMPETITION.

My first competitive outing was in 1989 at the **Chichester Half Marathon**.

10 Hashers entered the event.

Our first Hasher was Bob Luck in a time of 1:20:55 (yes under 6 minute per mile).

The second, an interloping hasher was a bloke by the name of Nigel Adams with a time of 1:23:23.

I asked Julia, our former Treasurer who this was and she responded, with a degree of vehemence, that he never paid a sub. and ran under the banner of the HASH with the AA Licence we had at the time which secured a discounted entry fee. What a cheapskate but clearly he was quick.

Third was Chris Dauncey 1:24:24

Followed by Tony Fallowfield (1:24:30), Rik (1:26:19) and Pete Beard (1:29:55) Terry Smith and Sarah Noakes and Joe English

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 the detail:-

First Hasher was Bob Luck 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.

In later years I took comfort in the Age-Related categories. Fewer runners meant a better chance of a better placing.

I shared a result of coming 2nd at one such event. My confidant was Sasha. She quickly retorted “Dave - how many were in your age group?”. Bubbles can so easily be burst.

Hash stats records me with 860 runs. For comparison my fellow Octogenarian, Rik has run over 1,300 - well 1,301 to be precise.

It continues to be a joy to run with long term friends from the Hash as well as meeting up with the new and younger cohort of Hashers.

Thank you all for your friendship and I raise a toast

Here's to the Hash and ON ON

