

Route Card n°1: Swiss International Away Hash on 30th May 2009

Cometh the Hashing Hour, Cometh the Hashers,

The preparations of the Hash running (Rambos) and walking (Wimps) trails (2 trails) took four hours and forty five minutes to set starting at 0900 and made use of a mountain bike (see google map and Motionbased data below). The Runners/Rambos trail was just under 10kms and the Walkers/Wimps trail was just over 8kms.

At 1400, the Hashers assembled at The Lazy Falken car park and numbered a total of ten adults from Basel (3), Bern (2), Zurich (3) and Lisbon Hash House Harriers (1) chapters: aMnesia, Boomerang, Chico, DickAlone, La-tex, Meryl Strip, TailGate, Out of Africa and Mismatch (yers truly) plus one Aussie who is living locally and the only 'Hash Virgin' on the day. Swiss Hashers brought with them four youngsters, three No Names Ben, Christopher plus one and Rebound, plus 1- and 2-year old infants (Spit Fire and Casanova) in individual running prams. Total sixteen Hashers.



The running prams were soon attributed 'Hash Mobile 1' and 'Hash Mobile 2' status and loaded up with beers 'n snacks for the 'Beer Stop' and a clear alternative to giving them to unsuspecting Hashers to carry. Casanova has a claim to be the youngest Hasher at six-days old and was so named as many women wanted to hold him during the Hash Circle prior to his naming. Spit Fire was so named for she puked during Hashes after breast feeding beforehand. We are thankful to them for allowing us to adulterate the initial purpose of their 'Need for Speed' mobiles.

No 'maybes' turned up which shows the clear limitations of FaceBook replies.....Lesson Learnt first time round....One 'attending' and two 'maybe' expressed continued interest in H3 activities citing hospital convalescence and work priorities respectively.

Dominic Roth and Hash Virgin was given a walk-through to Hash signs though there was a small contention by TailGate on the term 'balls of flour' and not 'blobs of flour' as a variation on '(great) balls of fire' with reference to flour-covered tennis balls bounced on pavements to mark the trail.

After this intro, 'ON ON's were shouted out with gusto especially by the four youngsters from the outset all of whom elected to be Rambos. From the start, there were several False Trails which led the pack up a gentle gradient towards then along the Beatenbergstrasse. About eight hundred metres from the start and past an initial False trail, the Wimps and Rambos split up and went in different directions with the start of the first Rambo loop. The Rambos were soon beguiled, that is, at the first junction after the split from the Walkers and spent considerable time checking several trails including a steep shiggy trail heading towards Habkern. Only after a prolonged search for the correct direction with flour markings did the Rambo pack find a 'F' for 'false trail' written on the back of a tree. La-Tex considered this marking as 'sneaky' and looked down on it as a 'DOWN DOWN' misdemeanour. Lost in the Shiggy, the 'Hare of the Day' gave obvious hints to the Rambos on different directions bar one and, once the right direction was finally found, renewed 'ON ON's were sung out with renewed gusto.

The next obstacle besetting the Rambos was the Zurich ProVita fitness trail along ther Lombachcanal section of the Hash trail which was clearly avoided on occasion by all the Rambos

starting with the pull-up chin bars. A waiver was given to La-TeX as she couldn't reach the 'mountain man' height of these bars accentuated by her short height; other Rambos were due a DOWN DOWN for 'clear side stepping'. A ferocious ON ON carried through their bluff. To make up for his obstacle avoidance, Out of Africa domineered Hash Mobile 1 with great ease up 'n down shiggy between apparatuses with Casanova 'enjoying the moment' with a 'Wee !!!'...

La-TeX turned out to be of the 'right stuff' at the rings gymnastics apparatus and did an Olympic effort in swinging her legs 'n rear over her head with noted fluency. Other Rambos made either a half-hearted effort at swinging before her or just sped past this apparatus as well. However, she left behind her electrolyte fluid bottle which added about five hundred meters and was due a 'time wasting DOWN DOWN'. The rest of the trail along the Lombachcanal was uneventful with the Rambos showing more enthusiasm for the ProVita trail fitness exercises. This change in 'behaviour pattern' proved a 'saving grace' in their 'Rambo' status.

After about 4kms of running, the Rambos joined the Wimps by the gentle lapping water of Lake Thun and everyone enjoyed the views. La-TeX made a constructive suggestion for an alternate beer stop than initially planned so we stopped at the nearby Tipi Bar for a beer or several more.

After munching our way through most snacks washed down with beer and soft drinks, the Hash Pack set off again. The Rambos were soon hypnotised by the prospect of the 'B.S' sign so soon after the improvised beer stop (not BullShit but the initially planned Beer Stop) except it was a 'False Trail'. Hash Mobile 1 with 'Casanova' had to be 'craned' over a fence which amounted to 'short cutting DOWN DOWN' even with the connivance of the Rambo Hare sweeper. Further on, La-TeX and Ballerina checked a trail which turned out to be a false trail then cut cross-field killing alpine flowers and possibly one/several Edelweiss for which another 'shortcutting DOWN DOWN' was due. RIP to the herbal souls of these lost flowers which shall hereonafter and forever be remembered in Hash annals not to mention the wanton and willful destruction of natural resources so vital to bumble bees and others.

Soon after, the second Rambo loop was clearly identified and about the same length as the first loop. Walkers and Runners proceeded along different banks of the Canal connecting Lake Thun and Lake Brienz. On catching up with the Walkers, I found DickAlone, Tailgate and Virgin Dominic swigging beer cans happily on the trail and brought for the formal beer stop. So, I joined them with the risk of a DOWN DOWN on passing water. The Wimps arrived at the end of the Hash trail soon after the Rambos.

On arrival at the carpark of The Lazy Falken, Terry Lutz (GM/CEO/FO), provided hospitality with hot pizza and the vital nourishment of chips and peanuts but also fruits and sultanas. The beer and soft drinks for the kids flowed and when hunger was satiated and thirsts were quenched, the Religious Adviser (R.A.) role was attributed to Tailgate and a hasher since 1988. I didn't ask her age. DickAlone jumped to the task of BeerMeister/BeerPourer 'double-hatted' roles.

The Hash Circle convened. The R.A went looking for successive DOWN DOWNS. I was the first up for a DOWN DOWN as to the reason for triggering this happy Hash event in Interlaken. I can't remember what I said as a 'feeble excuse' except something to do with 'Hashing in beautiful scenery'. Hence, the 'jolly good reason' for a 'DOWN DOWN'. Casanova misbehaved by wandering onto a nearby pile of rubble and induced his infant sister to lick a mouthful of rubble. His parents were due a DOWN DOWN. Undaunted, Spit Fire made also several gurgling contributions to the Hash Circle.

I can't remember also the exact order of DOWN DOWNS but there were a fair share of 'any feeble excuse was a jolly good reason' DOWN DOWNS...I think an initial DOWN DOWN was to

congratulate the different Hash chapters (Basel, Bern and Zurich) for showing up at all ! A FRB (Front Running Bastard) DOWN DOWN was attributed to Chico, Boomerang's hubbie. Other DOWN DOWNS ensued. At one point in the proceedings, The Religious Adviser abandoned the Hash Circle to get her whistle. She blew hard on it before anyone else; and she did a good job in blowing it before anything else...and brought an increasingly raucous and disorderly Hash Circle back to a semblance of borderline Hash order - even at the risk of triggering a 'mountain rescue' in downtown Unterseen. The four youngsters drunk also a DOWN DOWN of water for some obscure and 'feeble reason' of 'youthful exhuberance'...



The highlight of the Hash Circle was also Naming Hash Virgin aka Dominic Roth. After some deliberation and suggestions such as 'What A(u) Pair !!', 'Struce Bruce ! What a Whooper!' (he's a big fella) and even 'Kiddie Fiddler' given his current child minder duties, the Hash Circle settled on 'Dijery Dom' given his Aussie origins and nothing to do with his rasta locks or associated habits....The youngsters voted twice and flouted a basic democratic tenet but their 'twin vote' was accepted due to their 'youthful exhuberance' and as they are not eligible to vote in normal circumstances....other Hash Handle names were dished out on the first rather than sixth hash but to be confirmed by then: 'The Maltese Falken' aka Terry Lutz at The Lazy Falken for the obvious connection to a classic film, and the fact that H. Bogart was lazy in real life as he didn't want a nine-to-five job. There was some debate on whether Bogart was a Terry Lutz look-alike besides some similar personality traits. 'Discretionary powers' were further invoked in naming 'The Brown Falcon' aka Thomas Trachsel, who was also busy at the bar, for his variation on the main theme of the day; and 'Two-Barbies Oily Rub-Down' aka Michael Dollan, who also spied on the Hash Circle from a vantage point. This is due to a two 'Barbie dolls' specific request for an 'oil rub down' in 'room service' at The Lazy Falken....

Towards the end of the Hash Circle, DickAlone and Tailgate led a vigorous rendition of 'Swing Low; Swing Chariot' which was just about accompanied by the 'Hash chorus' of limited synphony but with gesticulations galore...

Several pitchers 'went DOWN DOWN the hatch' and more and more had to be solicited from Thomas at the bar, who obliged. About half an hour later the Hash Circle was closed with the bar open a little longer as the beer ran out. Just in Time.

On the conclusion of the Hash Circle, Dominic Roth aka Dijery Dom became 'Hasher-in-Chief' in Interlaken and can be contacted at The Lazy Falken. He is residing at the hostel until October. (Read 'A revised proposed plan for H3 Interlaken-Unterseen' in 'Notes' along bottom menu bar).

After a little reprieve for the necessary 'S's, the Hash group assembled this time to launch a pacific raid at the local pizzeria with gusto. Soon the Hash Pack started manhandling tables to eat as a group and the Pizzas and curry were appreciated by all. Casanova munched through an entire pizza thus confirming his initial intent. The three youngsters then found a table football and pool table which soon became a centre of attraction for all. La-Tex proved very dextreous and did a Tom Cruise on the pool table in real time and against all odds. However, there was no colour of money on any table for her effort. Hard Lines.

We then proceeded our separate ways with aMnesia, Boomerang, Chico, Rebound and DickAlone

going home and the remainder going on to the Nissan Outdoor Games which was a social highlight of the week. Later on in the evening, we managed a final beer at the lobby of a nearby hotel as The Lazy Falken had closed early to join the main party at the Matten Resort. We wanted just another beer. The Hash stragglers decided against the late limelight at the Matten resort for the following day was equally filled with exertion and crashed out soon after.



The following day, after breakfast, the Hash group set off to Habkern by bus as planned. On arrival, the scenery afforded by this underrated Alpine village was striking by its stunning views of the Harder Kulm reverse hillside as well as beyond it and of the Jungfrau mountain range. The Habkern valley and the distant Schilthorn merged into a stunning panorama. The distant mountain skyline with the Eiger, Jungfrau and Munch also unfolded as the Hash group traversed towards Beatenberg. Alpine fields and flowers were everywhere and a five-tier barrage system made entirely of wood logs was quite special to see.

Casanova had several 'shreckhorn moments' during the hike but after a firm hand by Meryl Strip aka Mum as well as hauling him bravely up several hill gradients on her Kidcarrier, the two-year old finished with strident downhill steps and an 'ON ON'. Spit Fire looked far more at ease throughout the hike and enjoyed particularly being swung around onto Out of Africa aka Dad's back in his Kidcarrier rucksack...



After a two- hour hike up gradual Alpine gradients and into livestock farms including cattle calves and sheep yews, the rump Hash Pack sat down to a mountain side picnic. The weather was slightly overcast and afforded good cover for there was little forest to provide shade at this altitude against an otherwise intense Alpine sun. We came across a paragliding/sailing launch pad and, with no luck to see any launch, we proceeded downhill to Waldegg. A combination of family commitments, long return journeys and ominous dark clouds with a few raindrops led to the conclusion of the hike instead of at St. Beatus Höhlen. We sipped beer and coffee at a nearby hotel esplanade by the Waldegg bus stop and returned to Interlaken before 1600.

On return to The Lazy Falken, we were again in the middle of another Interlaken party this time with vintage cars and their owners strutting their mobile wares. Hash Mobile 1 and 2 had little competition with their state-of-the-art running pram disk brakes before clapped out and gas-guzzling cars living on fickle past reputation including car brakes....

What was of more interest to the remaining Hashers was the BBQ of Swiss wurst, steak and beer afforded by Terry and The Lazy Falken team. We tucked in for a second time in the same afternoon with the appetite buds wide opened by the Alpine air and everyone who participated enjoyed the food and beer on offer. Somewhere in between, Terry found also some time to prolong his 'moonshine moment' with some REM on the pavement mit shades following his all-night party at the Matten resort...



All too soon, we said goodbyes and looked forward to the '2010 Away Hash in Interlaken'.

ON ON to 2010

PS: 'Rough guide' to the above Hash run and walk:

<<http://maps.google.com/maps?q=http:%2F%2Ftrail.motionbased.com%2Ftrail%2Fkml%2Fepisode.kml%3FepisodePkValues%3D8397889&ie=UTF8&ll=46.680713,7.835741&spn=0.041102,0.10952&t=h&z=14>>

TrailMotion Based data:

<http://trail.motionbased.com/trail/episode/view.mb?episodePk.pkValue=8397889>

PPS See photos of the event in Photo Albums of this FB account.