Hash 632
Rivière des Anguilles
Sun 14 Oct 2012



Hare & Hash Flash	Dodocop (pictured left)
Hashers	42 (approx)
Beer maiden	Marie-Claude
Hash Trash	Kay

First word

Claims by scientists that beer is better for rehydration after exercise were refuted by other scientists this week but evidence in Mauritius proves that the thought of a cool beer after a tough Hash in the sunshine definitely improves motivation on the trail.

Trail

The trail started as many do in Mauritius – in sugar cane fields. Hashers had to take care running between the rows of cane to avoid irrigation pipes and overhanging branches. Some fields had already been harvested and the leaves left behind were very slippery. However these were minor difficulties compared to what was to come! Climb every mountain, ford every stream! Thankfully for Hashers of a dizzy disposition there was a slightly less dangerous route.

The first obstacle was a broken section of wall which we clambered down. This was followed by a tunnel then a steep wall to climb up. "Don't look down!" hesitant Hashers were advised. A little further along the trail the Hare announced a choice of route – one for cissies and the other offering a more challenging experience. The faint hearted set off upright on a pleasant walk while hard core Hashers slithered down a slippery slope. It was the first of several such slopes where the advice from Jacqueline was "If in doubt, bum it out!" Bum walking was definitely the safest option for those with a tendency towards vertigo.



Various Hashers, Ryan in the tunnel, Hashers tackle the wall and Jacqueline "bums it out."





However every down has an up and Hashers were soon scrambling sideways up a very steep slope where the fine dry soil provided no grip for even the best trail shoes. With feet and legs becoming entangled in creepers and fallen branches the going was tough! But when the going gets tough ……. the tough get going and all Hashers rose magnificently to the challenge. A group of chivalrous knights in shining armour emerged to shout directions and encouragement from above and help haul hardy Hashers up the hill. Vincent and Didier in particular did a brilliant job. Didier advised everyone to grab hold of his stick and to pull themselves up on it! Vincent provided a strong pair of arms to rescue damsels in distress and Claude (above right). Once up the hill there was a high wall to scale but several gentlemen were on hand to help. Trust and teamwork ensured that all Hashers completed this part of the trail safely.





Kay scales the wall with the help of various Hashers, Jim bums it out and Hashers by the sea

After a short and reassuringly level section the trail descended steeply again and once more the fine bone dry soil offered no alternative but to bum it out. Just when Hashers were beginning to think that they were taking part in a training session for the MSF the trail levelled out again and emerged by the sea where huge waves were crashing on the big black boulders on the beach. It was an uplifting sight. Hopping from rock to rock to follow the flour was a pleasant change from the slippery slopes.




At the end of the beach the letter H announced that the on-on was not far away. There was a final climb up a grassy slope and then the trail ran alongside a high wall to sugar cane fields and the on-on. The final 3 runners – Vincent, Jacqueline and Kay did not notice the



flour leading them alongside the wall and clambered on top. The vertiginous drop on the other side was too much for Jacqueline and Kay but Vincent scooped them up in his arms, swept them off the wall and deposited them safely on the other side.

Unaware that they should not be in this area they continued along the path. The lush vegetation provided shade from the heat of the day and fruit hung in abundance from the trees. They came across a herd of delightful doe-eyed donkeys who greeted Jacqueline warmly, nuzzling her hands and trying to eat her jacket! The grassy path ran parallel to the coast and there were stunning views of the sea with white water bubbling up as if in a huge cauldron.

Entranced by this veritable Garden of Eden our 3 hardy Hashers forgot the flour and carried on walking. When they came to a fence with a locked gate they realised that they had not seen any flour for a long time. Passing a large pond they wondered if they had strayed inadvertently into Vanilla Park and that crocodiles might be lurking nearby ready to eat them for lunch. Fortunately they found a low part of the fence and managed to scramble over it. Instinct then took over and they followed a road which led them at last to the on-on and a welcome bottle of cool beer.

Hash circle
The GM congratulated the Hare on an amazing trail and expressed relief that everyone had returned safely.

Here's to the hare!
Dodocop relished the traditional Hare's down-down.

First timers
As usual all the virgins said that they would like to come back – only time will tell.



1. Pascale – a Mauritian from Beau Bassin, invited by Véronique
2. Popsicle – has Hashed in Zambia, invited by Alan and Sarah
3. Sue – from North Yorkshire, invited by Cedric (Cedric!!??!!)
4. Rod – also from North Yorkshire and also invited by Cedric

NB It seems that Mark is only an alias used by the RA and that his real name is Cedric!

Second timers
The GM announced that due to his dismal record of only 2 second timers since becoming GM he had had to resort to importing some from the UK – sister-in law, Gill, and brother-in-

law, Dave. However he need not have gone to such trouble as Alyson's son Nitai stepped into the circle to be initiated into the Hash family followed by 6-week old Jason who was





carried into the circle by his father, Jim. Baby Jason opted for a bottle of milk for his second timer's down-down while the others celebrated the loss of their Hash virginity with a beer. Here's to the second timers!

Scribe

Resplendent In a bright orange paréo as a clue to the answer to the previous Hash competition – what was commemorated by the monument we passed shortly after the on-on at Hash 631? – the Scribe revealed some of the responses she had received:



- An essay on the history of Mauritius from Sir Alan Grihault – far too detailed and with a vital element missing – the answer to the question.
- A shorter essay containing only one of the 2 correct answers from competition champion, Ryan.
- A much appreciated concise 4-word response from Marie-Andrée – the Dutch first landing – a simple correct answer at last!

Ryan and Marie-Andrée picked a prize from the Scribe's sumptuous sack of sweets and Sir Alan was awarded a lollipop as a booby prize. The Scribe announced that the monument also commemorated the introduction of sugar cane to Mauritius by the Dutch in December 1639. It was a great pity that Kees was not present to bask in the glory of his ancestors' worthy contribution to the development of this beautiful island and to explain the significance of the bright orange paréo (orange is the Dutch national colour). A late submission by Pierre-André after the Hash noted that the most important monument to the Dutch is the one found just beneath the new bridge. Unfortunately this monument is no longer visible from the road. Here ends the Hash history lesson.

RA

The RA began with a reprimand for the GM who had cast aspersions on the integrity of the RA in the Hash Circle the previous week. Contrary to what was reported in the Hash Trash the RA had informed the GM of his absence from Hash 631 at precisely 6 p.m. the previous evening and not at 2 a.m. on the day of the Hash. "Why spoil a good story with the truth?" retorted the GM and the RA responded by imposing a down-down.

The next person to be admonished by the RA was his mother, Sue, who had revealed the real name of the RA to be Cedric.
Here's to the sinners!

Down-downs

- Alan – was observed looking for the start of the trail at 10 a.m.; at the box for 20 people he was seen looking for the flour again before the requisite number had arrived at the box, to get a head start on his fellow Hashers; and for not breaking the circle to mark the direction for the Hashers behind him.
  Here's to the cheat!
- Popsicle – for his dirty legs which made it look like he was wearing socks and for shortcutting. He drank his down-down during the song as a cunning means of receiving another one but in true blue style he drank the second down-down from his shoe!
  Here's to the sockless!



From left to right: Alan, Popsicle, Ravin, Nadine, Steve, Didier

- Romeo Ravin – had helped faint hearted Hashers over some of the obstacles on the trail. It was noted that Virile Vincent had also been very helpful to Jacqueline and Kay but he was spared a down-down.
  Here's to the gentleman Good Samaritan!
- The GM – had approached the RA on the trail hand in hand with his new girlfriend, the nimble and nubile nymphet, Nadine, who had literally fallen head over heels for him.
  Here's to the Lothario!
- Didier – had advised Hashers to "grab my stick" to haul themselves up the hill
  Here's to the stick-giver!

Fun and games

Hashers were assembled at one end of a rectangular pool and wondered if this was part of the aforementioned Vanilla Park and that swimming races with the crocodiles were to be today's entertainment. However no such daring deeds were expected. Instead a charades competition took place between 2 teams:

1. North Yorkshire – represented by the RA's mum, Sue, and Rod
2. The North East – represented by Kay's sister, Gill, and her brother-in-law, Dave.

The men had to act out the titles of various films – King Kong, Willy Wonka, Dirty Dancing, Dumb and Dumber. Rod revealed a hidden talent as a mime artiste and his actions for Dirty Dancing were recognised immediately by Sue while Dave's repeated gesticulations towards




his nether regions produced only giggles and a suggestion of Big Willy from Gill. North Yorkshire trounced the North East who were christened Dumb and Dumber and awarded a down-down.
Here's to Dumb and Dumber!



Hash hostage
Before Hashers had set off on the trail Ryan had pointed out that the GM, who had admonished him on numerous occasions for arriving late at the Hash, had himself arrived very late at the on-on in Rivière des Anguilles. As the cowbell had just returned to the Hash from Huguette's cousin, Marie-Noelle, via Jan (thank you to both ladies for this) Ryan proposed that the GM wear the cowbell for the duration of the Hash as a punishment for being late.
Hashers had agreed unanimously. After the Hash the GM awarded the cowbell to his favourite sister-in law called Gill (right).
NB the GM has 3 sisters-in-law and they are all called Gill!
Here's to the Hash hostage!

Next Hash
The trail master announced that the next Hash would be a special Hash and that **Hashers must register in advance** at http://www.mhash.com/next_hash.php **as food will be provided afterwards**. It will be a ladies' Hash and all Hashers are requested to dress in white. The Hash will start at Pérébère and details are now on the Hash website.

Competition
The name of a song from a very famous musical is hidden in this Hash Trash. What is the song and which musical is it from? Answers to kay.farrow1@gmail.com by midday on Saturday 27 October.

Photos
Thanks to this week's photographers – Gilbert, Jim and Steve.

Here's to the Hash! On-on……