And now for a bit more of History's Mysteries . . .

Many hashers are completely unaware of the history of how women became involved in the world of the Hash House Harriers. We are all well aware that Mother Hash is and has always been a Men Only club. There are dozens of Men Only clubs scattered around the world. If you ask the average female hasher, she will say the hash world is so misogynistic, full of men's only clubs. They would be wrong. Here is some insight into how it all began for the ladies.



November 2026 marks the 60th anniversary of the very first all **Hen / Harriet / Harriette** hash club. The first recorded women's only version of HHH took place when the Brunei Hens were founded on 21 Nov 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.



Intermixed with all the Men Only and Women Only hash clubs, currently, the predominant form of hashing club is mixed, meaning for both men and women. In discussion with a previous GM of the Ipoh Harriets, Boon Lee Lim, she explained to me that the Ipoh Harriets claim the historic title of the first mixed HHH club. They also claim to have coined the term Harriets.

Now, 60 years later, there are numerous variations of mixed and Harriette only HHH clubs all over the world.

After conducting extensive research through the archives, the following are the first 10 recorded Women's Hash clubs w/ date founded:

Club Name	Date Founded
Brunei Hens	21 Nov 1966
Ipoh Harriets	29 Aug 1968
Kota Kinabalu Bunnies	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 Harriets	17 Oct 1973
Kuala Lumpur Harriettes	18 Jun 1974
Port Moresby Harriettes	30 Sep 1974 *
* Note: if the actual date details are unknown, e.g. the day or month, the default is the last day of the month or last month of the year, respectively.	

When a Men's Only hash club allows women to join, it is usually called an OPEN RUN. Having run with nearly 500 hash clubs around the world, I do not ever recall women being required to act or perform any silly antics on an open run. ON THE OTHER HAND, I have run with many Harriette hash clubs and they often require many silly and/or limiting actions by the men. 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. The Harriettes of Oahu (HO Hash) in Hawaii, and the No Strings Attached H3 in Florida, do not normally allow men, but when they do, they must wear pink. The Tokyo Ladies H3 originally only allowed women to hold committee positions (they have since changed that, but the GM is always a Harriette). Also, the Kuala Lumpur Harriettes and Bangkok Harriettes, a woman is always the GM, but they are just a mixed hash club beyond that.

The Galapagos Boobies H3 in Ecuador, has the silliest requirement for men on a Harriettes club I have ever heard of. Founded by Jill 'Front Bun Flasher' Pether on 1 June 2014, Jill had previously hashed with the Batu Hijau H3 in Sumbawa, Indonesia and the Kiribati H3 before that. After visiting the Galapagos Islands back in 2021, I was able to track down Jill, and she told me that . . . "the GBH3 was set up as a women's group with men accepted. They had to carry eggs on their first run, symbolic of our eggs." Pretty crazy, huh? She has since moved on to Australia, but still has fond memories of her time in the Galapagos. Unfortunately, the Boobies have been inactive for several years now. Note: Yes, I know some clubs make virgins carry things, like a banana on trail, but it is not limited to one sex or the other.

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 example would be the Bangkok Monday H3. Originally a Men Only hash, the Bangkok Monday H3 became a mixed hash on 15 May 1984 (run #56) when through much persistence, Wichanee 'Imelda' Charuthas became the first female 'new boot'.

Another instance was, according to the club website, the very first run of the Colombo H3 in Sri Lanka had 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 60 years now. 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.

Glamour states “There are so many things I enjoy about the Hash such as Halloween runs, 7and7 runs, Head dress runs, Pajama runs and so on.” She has also traveled to hash events in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu, Bali, Tawau, and Labuan, and has “at least 60-70 hash t-shirts in her collection. Sixty years is a long time to be a member of one hash club. She said, “Many of the ladies that participated were expats, so contact has been lost with most of them.” Although, she does keep in touch with two dear friends in the UK, who hashed with the Hen’s in the 1990s, and both have returned from time to time to visit her. Contributing to the hash, she has held positions as Grand Mistress, Egg Collector, and various other Committee positions. She still attends the Ladies Hash nearly every Tuesday, and has participated in over 1450 trails. Now at 93 years of age (and due to an old knee injury), she cannot run any longer, but is still a regular attendee to walk around and see her friends on the hash.

So, let’s all give a cheer for the harriettes . . . They’re alright, they’re alright . . . you know the rest.

By Ed “Hazukashii” Howell