In the Spotlight – **United Kingdom (v3 with updates)**
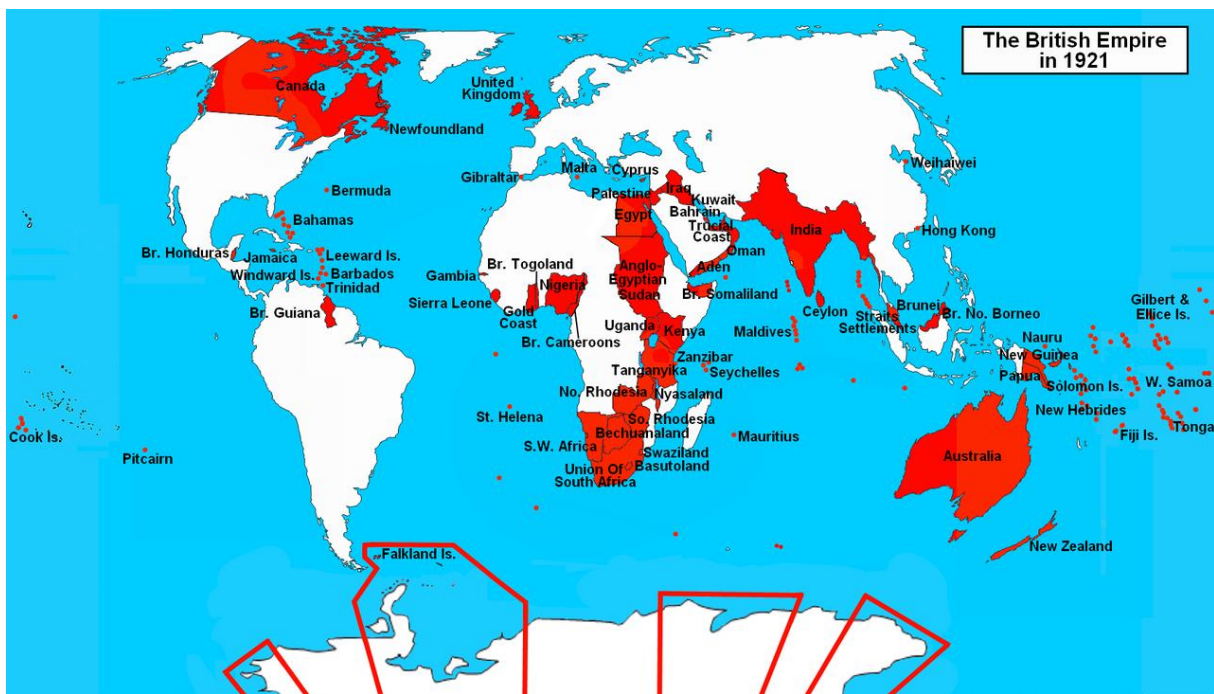By Ed "Hazukashii" Howell
9 Dec 2024

An often-misunderstood concept is . . . what is the difference between the England, Great Britain, and the United Kingdom? Most common slobs, like me, mistakenly use these terms interchangeably. Here is the basic rundown . . .

England – a country of approx. 50,000 square miles. London is the capital city of both England and the United Kingdom.

Great Britain – a geographic term for the island that consists of England, Scotland, and Wales.

United Kingdom – is actually the short version of *The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*. This nation consists of the smaller countries of England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. There are several islands (e.g. Isle of Man, Jersey, Guernsey, etc.) adjacent to Great Britain that are protected by, but independent of, the UK. Although, all these islands, to include Great Britain, Ireland, the Channel Islands, etc. are all consider in the larger sense as the British Isles.

Still confused? Beyond the sovereign nation of the United Kingdom, there is also the much larger **British Empire**, which at its peak in 1921 (see map below), covered approx. one quarter of the landmass of the planet. Although, at various times before and after, other now independent countries also fell under the cloak of the British Empire, including parts of the United States, according to historic-uk.com.

Historical Fact: What is one of the most common holidays throughout the world?

Ans: Once you get past the obvious ones, like NEW YEAR'S EVE/DAY, and various religious holidays like Christmas, the next is quite likely 'Independence (from the United Kingdom) Day.'

This sport that we are so enamored with, the paperchase, has its roots in old England. We can trace it back to the kid's game of hunt the fox, or hunt the hare, which later evolved over time to Fox and Hounds or Hare and Hounds. It would become an adult sport when the Thames Rowing Club looked for alternative sporting activities to stay fit, which became *harrier* clubs . . . but we're not going to go into that right now (it'll be in the book).

British expats living and working abroad in SE Asia would take this sport along with them, as the British Empire expanded. There were several such harrier clubs in Johor Bahru, Kuala Lumpur, Malacca, and elsewhere, running paperchase trails in a sociable carefree manner. Since all these areas were part of the British Empire of the day, technically all these clubs were British, but again, we'll get into that in another forum.

ENGLAND

Looking back to Mother England, the first Hash House Harrier club to form was the **Longmoor H3**, founded by Richard 'Mountain Rescue' McAllister on 12 May 1969. After a couple years leading the Longmoor H3, he was subsequently transferred to Germany, and in Jun 1971 founded the Lübbecke H3, the first hash club in Germany (and all of Central Europe). Mountain Rescue would go on to found the Dharan H3 in East Nepal in 1983, and the Buller & Aldershot H3 also in the UK in 1985.

Longmoor H3 circa 1969

In conversation with Mountain Rescue, he described how things got started . . .

The [Longmoor] Hash was run on a Monday evening and the first meet started on 12 May 1969. On this first, there were four ex-GTR members (three instructors and one older student) who had all run with Kluang [H3]. The North Hants Hash celebrated the fifty years anniversary by running over the training areas at Longmoor. Mind you, I didn't recognise any of the area 50 years on!

Immediately before returning to UK from [Malaysia], I was Adjutant in HQ Gurkha Transport Regiment. The original pack was 12 strong but increased once the word circulated . . . Inevitably the time came for me to be posted and so I handed over to Ralph. When he was posted, I believe he handed over to some medics who were based at their school in Keogh Barracks, not far from Aldershot. I have a feeling they changed the name to Aldershot and

District H3 but there are no surviving records to prove this (not even in their museum!). I have hunted for any surviving reports and records but nothing has come to light. Hash subs were two shillings which covered the beers for each event. Can't remember what the beers were called but came in a predominantly blue and gold can. It wasn't too bad...

Eventually the trails were laid in sawdust as paper strewn around the countryside was a no no. At one stage I tried spraying lime wash from a garden spray but that proved to be useless.

That is not the end of the story for the Longmoor H3 though, as one of the early hashers there would also be the founder of the first hash club in North America. Maj Frank Arnold had been hashing in Longmoor and learning from Mountain Rescue, so when his eventual reassignment took him to the USA, he took hashing with him to Virginia. Working with the US Army, he introduced them to hashing running the first trail on 8 Nov 1971. Frank captured the events in the hash trash for the Fort Eustis H3.

While Mountain Rescue took up station with occupation forces in Germany, another military man arrived back in England. I was able to track Ray Thornton back to Father Hash in Singapore, where he started hashing in 1962. He also hashed in Kuching, and eventually was transferred to Cyprus, where he founded the first hash in Europe, the Dhekelia H3, on 30 January 1967. After several years on Cyprus, his next move was back to Mother England, in Plymouth, where he founded the **Commando Forces H3** on 1 Mar 1971.

For many years it was believed this was the first hash in the UK, but Mountain Rescue has claimed that title as far as we currently know. As with many primarily military based hash clubs, including many of the ones I personally have run with throughout the world, trails can become sporadically attended based on the operational tempo of the units assigned to. Commando Forces H3 also was limited by this, and soon folded after Thornton's departure in the early months of 1974.

On the heels of the Commando Forces H3, another club was formed months later when Mike Read arrived from the Lagos H3 in Nigeria. Eager to extend his hashing lifestyle, Mike founded **Westcombe Park H3** on 19 Dec 1971, and is still active, making it the now longest running hash club in the UK. I was unable to find many specifics on this hash club, so reached out to my friend, and longtime member of the WPH3, Peter 'Trigamist' Lloyd to see what he knew. Trigamist stated he had only started running with them in the early 1990s but knew the following details. When Mike Read started this men's only club, he advertised it around to some of the local sports facilities, and . . .

The majority of those who turned up were from Westcombe Park Rugby Club, and the fact it was advertised as a fun run, they turned up in fancy dress. Since then, the hash has been organised through the Rugby club, and the GM and Hash cash were on the first run and kept the hash going since and are still regular participants.

The format of our runs is that the hare lays the trail, often from his home, we start with a show of membership cards then a bottle of brandy is passed around the circle. Every regular hasher has a membership card, and can be challenged to show anytime, anywhere, and if he hasn't got his card then he must buy the challenger(s) a beer (often more).

The trail is laid without checks, where at any junction in the paths the trail could go anywhere. The hare does not run the trail as he will set up a halfway sip (or 2) making up any concoction for the very alcoholic drinks, and then meets us at the end of the trail . . . In the circle, there is no RA as such, but after a show of cards, a bowl is passed around the circle and everyone is in turn subjected to the other hashers describing any misdemeanors he has done, and the GM decides as to how much the fine will be. Originally the fines went to subsidise the annual Xmas Dinner, but nowadays it helps pay for the beer. The fines are usually £1 or £2. We also pay £10 run fee, which pays for the hares' costs for supplying the meals, a bottle of Brandy, plus the halfway sips.

One other unusual tradition they have is that every member is required to wear a different hat each month. Like many hash clubs, the membership of Westcombe Park H3 is dwindling to near single digit numbers and getting older.

As previously mentioned, the Commando Forces H3 folded in 1974 with the departure of Ray Thornton, who subsequently was reassigned to Oxfordshire. Wasting no time, he quickly founded yet another hash club, the **Bicester H3** on 1 April 1974. Learning from his previous experience with the CFH3, he invited various local civilians from the area, which has kept this club active to this day. While the Westcombe Park H3 is the longest running hash in the UK, Bicester H3 is the longest running weekly hash, and has racked up the numbers to show for it, having recently completed their 2600th trail.

Despite the inclusion of civilians, early on the Bicester hash was dominated by military officers, both British, and US Air Force officers from bases in Upper Heyford and Croughton. Those US bases would close in 1993 thus ending that participation. One of those USAF officers was Burger King who would subsequently be reassigned to Hawaii, where he soon became active in the Aloha H3, and brought us a few new songs. If you would like more info on Bicester H3, over many years, Prof & Amnesia compiled an extensive review of the [history of the Bicester H3](#).

A 1979 late summer hash.
Standing: Iain Belton, Juicy Lucy, Derek Vale, James Binnie, Pete Collier, Nigel Banks, Sue Rollo, Martyn Tivendale, Dave House, Milly Molly Mandy, Errol Cato, Terry Austin, Harry O'Hare, Fanie, Dave Mitchenson, Jon Birchley, Gordon Williams, Alan Punkett, John White, James Lawrence-Archer. Front Sitting: Bonnie the dog, Reggie Von Zugbach, Dave Marks, Peter Roycroft, Ken Pass.

The **Surrey H3** was founded by Jim Raper on 14 Apr 1975. Jim had had been running with the Singapore H3 since 1971 and had moved back to Surrey in late 1974. He placed an ad in The Times in January 1975 on the forming of a new hash club, which was turned down due to a misunderstanding of what hashing was. However, a second effort with an explanation was finally approved, and as the snow started melting, a new hash was born. Jim would set that first trail, and a colossal pack of 3 local hounds attended to conduct chase, all three of which were virgins. Fortunately, Westcombe Park H3 came over with a dozen more to fill out the ranks and help break-in this new club.

Initially running on Monday evenings, due to poor turnouts and traffic, the pack voted for a more congenial Sunday morning run and have done so ever since. They also voted to fill out their pack with harriettes, and peace within the homes of Surrey was restored. One interesting story from the early days of this hash comes from their founder . . .

On a noteworthy run, in 1977, the pack was in full cry near Epsom and a tall and elderly gentleman raised his grey head at the sound of "on on" and enquired, "are you the Hash House Harriers? I am [Cecil] C M Lee, one of the founders."

The pack was so astounded that they . . .

. . . swept him into a nearby pub where, between drinks, he was plied with questions on the founding of the hash. He was an Accountant, now retired, with Peat Marwick and was astonished, perhaps dismayed, to hear the on ons of Kuala Lumpur . . . echoing across the Surrey Hills.

The Surrey H3 is still very active, and have completed well over 2500 trails. They can be found running every Sunday morning at 1100.

The British capital finally got a hash club on 7 Apr 1976, when Ian McGregor founded the **London H3**. Ian had been hashing in Hong Kong before the advent of circles and singing, and it would not be until 1984, that down downs became a part of the London H3. The LH3 had other unique issues in their early days, as described by 'Wet Blanket' in a 1985 hash article, when he states . . .

It is fair to say that LH3 in its early years showed certain idiosyncrasies that marked it out from other Hashes. This largely sprang from [Ian] McGregor having announced the inaugural run only in the Bulletin of the Inter-Varsity-Club – a worthy organization (of which I was and remain a member) but, it must be admitted, not particularly in tune with some aspects of 'traditional' hashing! . . . The result of this initial entanglement with the IVC was that the great majority of runners in the Hash's early days were IVC members and as such not particularly concerned

with Hashing 'traditions' or with making much of an attempt to attract a wider membership. Culture clashes occurred when unsuspecting IVC joggers were confronted by the occasional visiting ex-pat, talking of such arcane mysteries as down-downs and beer wagons.

It appears that by 1980, London H3 had gained a stronger footing with seasoned hashers. More recently, the London hash ran on Monday evenings in the summer, and Sat/Sun in the winter. Looking at their website, they now run consistently on Saturday, meeting at noon, for a 1230 run start.
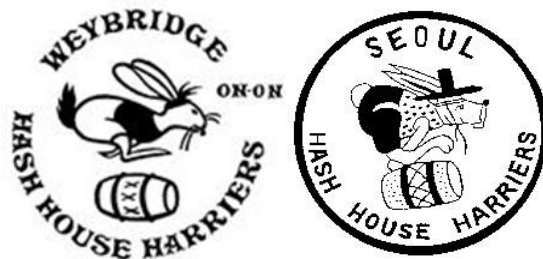
The history gets a little cross-eyed at this point, as the next two clubs listed in the HHH Genealogy for the UK are the Donnington H3 (near Telford) and the Aldershot H3 (near London). Both are listed as being founded by Ray Thornton, one week apart. The Donnington H3 has some history behind it, but Aldershot seems to be lacking. Since these two towns are 170 miles apart, it is doubtful that he founded two hashes so close together in time, and distant proximity. There is history in 1985 the Buller & Aldershot H3 was founded by Mountain Rescue. Bottom line, as the current curator of the HHH Genealogy, and having an understanding of how Bill Panton gathered his club listings throughout the years . . . unless someone can come up with some specifics of an Aldershot H3 being founded in 1976, let the history state that on 21 June 1976, Ray Thornton founded the **Donnington H3.** As noted below, if Donnington H3 could not keep the weekly hare roster filled, it is very doubtful that Ray was juggling two hash clubs so far apart, so Aldershot H3 likely was not around in 1976 and should be removed from the genealogy.

Further justification can be found on the current Donnington H3 website, which states . . .

DH3 didn't run during the winter of 76, due to the difficulty of finding & running trails on dark evenings, but in the summer of 1977, it re-started successfully, and a decision was made that in future the run would be on Sunday mornings during the winter and revert to Mondays in the summer. Eventually, as local people heard about Donnington Hash, the numbers started to rise every year, . . . Donnington Hash is now predominantly civilian having broken away from the military establishment approximately 10 years after its inception and, whilst people have come & gone over the years, we are still a strong Hash and are continuing to thrive and attract new members.

Next up is the **Weybridge H3,** also on the western side of London, but close enough to be considered a suburb. There is also an interesting twist to the founding and naming of this hash club. Their first run occurred on 25 Jul 1976 and was organized by the founder, Chris Fletcher. Chris had been running with the Seoul H3 and copied the logo from them. Plagiarism is the sincerest form of flattery after all.

How the Weybridge H3 got its name . . . The following explanation comes from the [Weybridge H3 website](#). They had completed their first trail, and since many were new to the sport, the known history of that time was explained to the pack. There was enough interest that another hash was scheduled a week or two later, and they decided to call themselves the Surrey H3.

For the first few months, they ran trails on Sunday afternoons at 1400, but due to conflicts with other family activities, and the shear fact that most pubs in the area were closing at 1400, the decision was made to move their start time to 1100. Their first trail starting at 1100 was in Oct of the same year. They met up at Plough Coldharbour, but they thought no hare had been designated, until . . .

. . . suddenly the Hare, Keith Strainge, broke out of some bushes and panted up to us; "It's mayhem out there! I started laying some paper (we used computer punchings in those days, very non pc!) then came across another load of trail markings, my trail is mixed up with it, it crosses it all over the place, total disaster!"

Just then we hear a shout; "OnOn" and "Toot Toot" (a hunting horn!) and lo and behold a bunch of tough, athletic looking runners appear running and calling down OUR trail. One, maybe it was Ron (the On) Walters, had a tee shirt with "Surrey Hash" hand painted on, Oh dear what's going on? Are they going to "bash us up"? Well, they ground to a halt because they were doing the reverse of our "out trail" which went to the landslip car park where they had started! After a short "discussion" ("we are the Surrey Hash!" "NO WE are!" etc.etc.), we decided try and follow our respective trails, their marks and paper were slightly different from ours, and we meet up afterwards at the Plough to "sort things out".

Following our trail was just about possible, and they seemed to get around theirs and so we met up at the pub around 1 o'clock. I remember Ron Walters who seemed to be sort of in charge and Lionel Tye and Neil Thompson, who muttered conspiratorially in a corner. It transpired that they were on run 82, we on 11. They had an "On Sec" (Jim Raper who was rich to boot!), we operated by word of mouth. They had "Joint Masters" and a bucket for shandy, we had bugger all! OK, we agreed; you are the Surrey Hash we will call ourselves something else . . . We got together and debated our name... Addlestone Hash House Harriers? NO too common, says Tony Shore; let's be WEYBRIDGE HHH! That's more acceptable (and POSH!)! And so it was to be.

The Weybridge H3 is still very active, now running [weekly on Tuesday](#) evenings.

The next club listed in the HHH Genealogy is the **Chattenden H3** in Kent. Founded in Sep 1976, the founder is listed as John E. Kitching, who had been previously hashing in Brunei. I have been unable to find any additional details on this club, other than it has one offspring (listed below), the Wilton H3.

The year 1977 would come and go without a new hash club forming in the UK. The next hash to form was the **Berkshire H3** founded by Bill Holmes in March 1978, with the first trail being set from Bracknell Sports Centre. According to Bomber, "the original name of the club was the Bracknell Hash House Harriers, trails were 'live' and pack numbers typically 5-8." He would go on to explain that club gained in popularity, and "by run 22 . . . trails were being set more traditionally using chalk or flour over a wider area of Berkshire. This is when the club was renamed Berkshire Hash House Harriers."
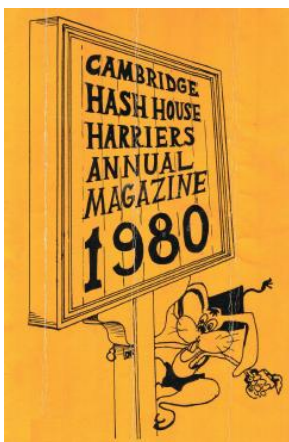

The Berkshire H3 now runs on Sunday mornings at 1100, and they have completed over 2400 trails, and still getting large packs of over 50 hashers.

The **Brighton H7** (a.k.a. Brighton & Hove, Horsham & Hawards Heath H3, or BH7) was founded by Robin 'Robo' Salter on 5 Jun 1978 and had previously hashed in Pakistan with the Islamabad H3. He was assisted by Pete Eastwood, Pete Beard, Phil Mutton, and Nick Cheney. It was originally called the **Vale of Sussex H3** named after the ordnance survey map covering the run area. "The first run was from the Devils Dyke pub on the south downs, and Peter 'Local Knowledge' Eastwood is the only survivor still attending regularly with almost 1800 hashes to his name", according to John 'Bouncer' Biggins.

The **Cambridge H3** was founded by Howard Taylor on 1 Oct 1978. Howard had joined the Bangkok H3 in 1977 and brought this new fun with him back to Cambridge. He

started out by placing an advertisement in the personal column of the Cambridge Evening News (pictured to the right). Much like the Surrey H3's attempt back in early 1975, the ad was initially rejected due to a perceived reference to drugs.

After a bit of explanation, the ad to the right appeared, and history was made. Scanning through their 1980 annual, they reflected on the first run . . . (note the date error of the ever-elusive 31st Sep).

Founder Howard laid the trail on our first ever run that took place on 31st September 1978 from 'The Hoops' at barton. The siren of the ambulance was heard during the run, and many of

those who came to the jeer thought that some of the podgier members present had suffered heart attacks. However, the total of thirteen present did not prove unlucky for some and all made it back with enough strength left to down a few beers. Many remarked that it tasted better; all of them came again.
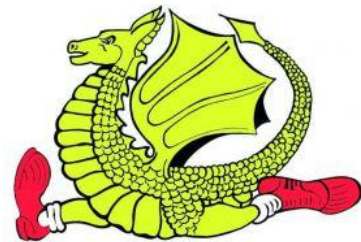
The pack being content with the location, one year later they returned to 'The Hoops' for their first anniversary run.

The full Cambridge Hash one year on (circa 1979)

The **Wessex H3** was founded by Ram Seeger on 7 Jan 1979. He was assisted by Penny Seeger, Derek Harker, and Brian James. The HHH Genealogy lists his previous hash club as Singapore H3, but he was never a member. Penny Fairclough (Seeger), a family member (not sure if this is a sister, cousin, or other) described the early days . . .

How the Wessex branch really started - Brian James (Jammy) was very curious and doubtful about the whole thing per his phone calls prior to the 1st run. He noticed a mysterious ad in the Bournemouth Echo and phoned to find out who this rival Harriers group were! It was Ram Seegar who started the whole idea but it was me (Penny) - who hates running - who had to publicise it and get it going. We had thick snow on the day of the first run at the High Corner Inn with the road into the New Forest 1/4 of its width visible. After a very few months, Ram went away and made me promise to keep the hash going and that was when we got people to write up the runs and the authors hid their personalities behind nick names, and so it goes on - fantastic! -

The Wessex H3 is also where the world's oldest active hasher, Chesney 'EL PICADOR' Allen, is a member. He was born on 30 May 1932, and that makes him over 92 years old. He hashes every week with the Wessex H3 and stays with the main pack by walking fast and using sticks.

The picture below is from their 100th run back in 1980. John Kerley commented that . . .

   The Photo is mainly Wessex members, it was flourishing and highly competitive both the drinking and running side, many good runners used it as their Sunday workout. I can see about 30 sub 3hr marathoners. The night before was a huge piss up, a couple bands from the members, most people cashed out on the floor. Ram was SBS [Small Boat Service, Royal Navy] as were the core members who I think had served with each other in Oman and other theatres. A tough bunch, but full of fun. I did number 5 and continued for 5 years or so and occasionally hash with Wessex when I am in the country now.

Featured in the Times Heralds Poole series in December 1980 were the Wessex Hash Harriers pictured here celebrating their 100th run with visitors from all over England joined them in their centenary run. Nearly 150 runners followed an eight-mile trail

The **Wilton H3** was founded by John E. Kiching on 12 Jun 1979. He had previously hashed with the Chattenden H3 listed above. I reached out to several hashers, but unfortunately, both of these hash clubs from the 1970s have gone dormant. It appears the Wilton H3 made it at least to their 2000th trail in 2017, according to their most recent logo.

There were no new clubs formed in 1980, but growth was about to flourish. On average, 8-9 new clubs started each year throughout the 80s, and 10 per year throughout the 90s. Since 2000, the rate of growth has nearly stagnated with less than 3 new clubs forming per year on average. That roughly coincides with the rest of the world, as hashing hit its heyday in the late 90s. Hashing has been in decline ever since, both in number of active clubs as well as number of runners in the pack.

The following 12 hash clubs have no date of conception in the HHH Genealogy: **Bordon H3**, **Dark Side H3**, **Drop Zone H3**, **Epsom H3**, **Ex-Athens H3**, **Exminster Friday H3**, **Final United Checking Knackered in Tyneside H3**, **Lantwit Major H3**, **London Bike H3**, **Offa's Dyke H3**, **Shepshed H3**, **Dundee H3**. None of these clubs are believed to be active. If anyone has founding details for any of these hash clubs, please contact me directly at GoToTheHash@gmail.com

That covers England, let's take a look at the rest of the United Kingdom.

SCOTLAND

I published this HHH history of Scotland on 13 Sep 2021, but added here and updated.

The abridged version of Scottish history, according to Scotland.Org, estimates that the highlands were first settled around 10,000 BC. Some of the oldest tools ever discovered were in Scotland, around 3000 BC. In 124 AD, the Romans arrived and scribbled the first recorded history of the region, while building Hadrian's Wall and battling the Caledonians. The Romans also built the 60 Kms of Antonine Wall, but were never really able to defeat the Caledonians, and subsequently withdrew from Britain completely. Around 800 AD, the Vikings started migrating to the region to trade with the Picts, who were in the process of establishing the Kingdom of Alba. Macbeth (the real one, not the fictional one written by Shakespeare) rules Alba for 17 years.

In 1297, William Wallace leads a hearty band of Scots, defeating the English army in the Battle of Stirling Bridge, thus establishing Scotland's independence. In 1306, Robert the Bruce becomes King of Scotland. Then in 1320, The Declaration of Arbroath is sent to the Pope, proclaiming Scotland's sovereignty, a document potentially used as a framework for the Declaration of Independence that the colonist in the New Country drafted over 450 years later. Several hundred years pass by until around 1750, when Scottish philosophers usher in the Age of Enlightenment that would shape the rest of the world. A couple hundred more years pass, there are a couple world wars, and fishing was a major component of the economy. Then in the late 1960s, they discover oil, and petroleum products becomes the center of the economy for the next 50 years. It was during the oil boom, that hashing made its way to the shores of Scotland, and this is where Scottish history gets really interesting.

The HHH genealogy shows the first hash club established in Scotland was when a few Dutchmen formed the **Aberdeen Haggis H3** on 8 Aug 1977 (another equally official document reports this date as sometime in 1980). Nonetheless, this is the first hash club in Scotland, but it met its bitter doom after only 4 runs.

It would not be until 8 Feb 1981, when a much more resilient, and still active **Edinburgh H3** was founded by Lt. Col. Willie Coupar who had arrived from the Surrey H3, and was assisted by Alan Thompson, Susan Thompson, Sara Vye, and Ken McGukin. The first trail had a modest pack of 2 hashers, but by the second run, the pack had swelled to an amazing 7. Over the years, the Edinburgh H3 has in fact significantly grown, and has successfully hosted the 2nd Commonwealth Hash in 1986, and the UK Nash Hashes in 1989 and 2009. The Edinburgh H3 still runs weekly on Sunday mornings.

Edinburgh Hash

The first hash in Edinburgh took place on the 8th of February 1981. It started from the car park outside Holyrood House, the trail then led the enthusiastic pack of 'TWO' round Arthur's Seat. An advert in the local paperthen increased the fantastic number to 'SEVEN' and the hash has never looked back, meeting every Sunday morning it has now covered some considerable territory. Our thanks to our creator and instigator Lt. Col. Willie Couper who no longer runs with the hash, but watches over our weird and wonderful antics with perennial trepidation!

EDINBURGH HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

The **Aberdeen H3** was founded on 23 Jan 1983, by former Cairo H3 hasher Mark 'Tortoise' Thompson, assisted by Phil 'Tonto' Townsend, Ronnie Robb, Dave Robb, Russel 'The Mith' Smith, and Colin 'Ol Red Eyes' Maclean. The 1st hash Trash lists Tortoise and 'Ol Red Eyes as the hares, for a pack of 27 hashers. According to their website . . .

"Aberdeen was labeled the shiggy capital of hashing in the UK for some time, with many AH3 Hashers being nicknamed MSA (mudslinging arseholes) by older, much wizened hashers."

The first ever inter Scottish Hash was organized by Shit F'brains (an Aberdeen hasher) on 30 Jan 1994. Over the years the name has been twisted and changed, through Inter Jock, or Inter Joke due to a print mix up, and is now fondly known as Jock Hash. The Aberdeen H3 can be found running every week, on Sunday mornings.

The **Cairneyhill H3** was founded on 20 Nov 1983 by Donald MacKay and was assisted by Steve Maclaren. According to their first hash trash, the story goes like this . . .

How Did It Come to Cairneyhill – There is a rumour that Hash Running was brought to Cairneyhill by three shepherds following a star, who when told it would be impossible to find three wise men and a virgin in Cairneyhill, moved on to pastures new. The reality of the matter is much less interesting - a lunatic from the oil state of Grampian (Stephen MacLaren) came a visiting his poor relation in the wild west of Fife. In conversation this lunatic extolled the virtues of hash running to his brother-in-law Donald MacKay (who wishes to remain anonymous). He, being equally soft in the head thought that the deprived, nay even depraved masses in Cairneyhill and area may wish to join in the masochistic ritual. Thus, was born the Cairneyhill Hash. And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them, and they were SORE. And the angel said unto them "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good tiding of great joy, which shall be unto all hashers.

The first Hash Run was really an experiment, the guinea pigs and the smoking beagles enjoyed it too and the people enjoyed it and sayeth – Give us more – for we shall go out amongst the sinners and heathens and tell them of this wonderous happening that they too may join us in celebration. Forsooth it must be so, for if the Hash is to flourish those early disciples must go forth and multiply, spreading before them the true message so that more may join us in the great crusade.

By 1984, the Edinburgh H3 had grown to over 100 hashers, and began restricting new members, so **The New Town H3** was established by Charlie 'Bad News' Hall assisted by Graham 'Postman Pat' Maxwell, Dave 'Bronco' Lane, and David 'Willie Willie Willie' Taylor as a [break away] on 4 Jul 1984. Actually, this date was run number 13 for the TNTH3, as the first 12 hash trails were considered "unofficial" due to the nature of its founding as a break away club. The first hash trash printed for trail number 14 began with . . .

Welcome to the New Town Hash House Harriers (TNTH3). This illustrious Hash has been established to provide a run/excuse for a bevvy for:
a. Those not able to join the Edinburgh Hash (shouldn't it be called the Lothians, Fife, Borders and Central Region Hash – Ed?);
b. Those not willing or able to "waste" an entire Sunday running and/or getting pissed.;
c. Those fit w'anchors who actually enjoy running and;
d. To provide an ego trip for the traditionally democratically elected committee.

The New Town H3 runs every Wednesday evening, in Edinburgh.

The next hash club formed was the **Elgin H3** on 13 Aug 1984, by Eve Braidwood after running with the Edinburgh H3, and was assisted by Phil 'Slimey Limey' Dacre. According to their website, they are the most Northerly Hash in the UK, meeting weekly.

> *. . . Its motto, 'Hashus Elginatum non marbilensii' is entirely in keeping with the generally accepted belief that if you have half a mind (less marbles) to go hashing, then that's all it takes! We only take images and only leave footprints.*

The Elgin H3 has been mainly supported by the RAF stations at Lossiemouth and Kinloss, as well as the Macallan Distillery. Their 100th hash was celebrated on the 21st - 22nd of Jun 1986 and was attended by 135 hashers. The Elgin H3 runs on Monday evenings in the summer, Sunday mornings in the winter, and also hosts occasional bike trails.

The **Hamilton H3**, running trails in a suburb of Glasgow, was founded on 11 Nov 1984 by Ken Buchanan, who had been hashing in Kuala Lumpur with Mother Hash beginning in 1973. Returning to Scotland, he longed to hash again, and after going back to Malaysia for the Mother Hash 2000th run celebration, he started to scheme a plan to start another hash in Scotland. The local paper announced his plans, and in the article, Ken stated that the 2000th celebration was "a great mingling with Hash House Harriers from all over the world. That is the beauty of hash. Members can visit clubs when they are on holiday, join the run and take part in social events." The Edinburgh H3 was contacted and promised to show up in force to support the new hash club. The Hamilton H3 runs weekly on Monday evenings.

Ironically, Glasgow would also get the next hash club, when Roger 'Big Mac' McIlroy arrived from the Hague H3 in the Netherlands. Assisted by Mark Simpson, they teamed up to start the **Glasgow H3** on 26 Aug 1985. According to their website . . .

> *The Glasgow Hash started with the setting up of Britoil in Glasgow and the associated arrival of Oilfield Trash from around the world. Along with the trash came a number of associated rituals, probably the most famous of which is of drinking too much and then trying to get off with the local talent. So the first run was planned and a case of beer bought just in case anyone got thirsty . . . as momentum built the "Inaugural Run" actually Run 5 was set up, complete with Founder Member T Shirts, Hash Sheets, Down Downs, by which time Maw and Paw Broon, Carolyn Grant were well on the scene and the Glasgow Hash had come out of the Britoil closet and was well on the way to becoming the Glasgow Institution it is now.*

The Glasgow H3 successfully hosted the UK Nash Hash in 1999, and can be found hashing weekly, on Monday evenings. Additional details, including links to the websites of active hash clubs, can be found in the HHH Genealogy.

In my research of Scotland on my first visit, I had contacted the TNT H3 via the FB page, and 'The Brewer' provided me with terminal guidance to make my way to the hash . . . which would start less than 90 minutes after my plane landed. So, the rapid departure from the airport was most beneficial, and gave me enough time to check into my hotel and change into my running kit on the way to the hash. I arrived with only a couple moments to spare, and we were off on a mad 6-mile dash through Leith. The pack of about 25 hashers were very welcoming and we enjoyed a short circle, along with a couple beers on the street seating outside a pub.

If you know anything about hashing, you know that the origins of Hare & Hounds dates back to the late 18th / early 19th century as a childhood game at rugby school or other institutions of higher learning. Such a club is still maintaining the tradition in Scotland. The **Portlethen Academy H3** was founded on 28 Aug 2019 by Sarah 'Fireflaps' Newman-Holden, (an active Aberdeen hasher, and former GM). The trails are prelaid in flour on Monday morning for an afternoon running, and the pack is normally about 18-20 young hashers. The Portlethen Academy H3 has completed well over 100 runs. Honors to Fireflaps for creating and keeping this connection to the origins of hashing.

WALES

The **Cardiff H3** was the first hash club to form in Wales, when Colwyn Jones organized the first run on 21 Oct 1984. He had been running with the Edinburgh H3 and brought those skills along with him. Colwyn set the first trail along with Aileen Deignan, from the Staff S&S Club in Heath, with a pack of 20 hashers making chase. Little else could be found on the beginnings of this hash club. The Cardiff H3 is still very active, with alternating Sunday runs opposite the Mountin' Sheep H3. Cardiff was also the host of Interhash 2004.

There have been several other hash clubs founded in Wales over the years (**Vale of Glamorgan H3** – 5 Apr 1993, **South Monmouth & East Gwent H3** – 23 May 1993, **Mountin' Sheep H3** – 23 Jan 1994, **Swally H3** – 29 Feb 1996, **Second Millennium H3** – 30 Jun 1996, **Cymru Runs & Boozes H3** – 18 Jan 2003 . . . and two clubs with no founding date: **Lantwit Major H3** and **Offa's Dyke H3**). All these clubs have faltered, and other than the Cardiff H3, the only other club in Wales that is still active is the Swansea Jack H3.

The **Swansea Jack H3** was founded by Steve 'Leeky Willie' Williams on 10 Jun 2000. Leeky described the early days as . . .

On returning to UK in 1998 and finally returning to my native Swansea in 1999 I decided one day to see if there was a Hash in Swansea and to my disappointment there was not. Early in 2000 after talking to Sheepshagger (ex UK H3 on sec) in Wales he suggested I get in contact with a fellow Swansea man John "Barrel" Ford who had returned from Working/Hashing abroad. Not sure exactly what month it was we first met (that's Barrel, Noddy, Rarebit and myself) in early 2000 but we all agreed in The Woodman Inn Blackpill that we would give it a go in the Summer and the weekend of 10th June 2000 was agreed to be the big day.

The SJH3 can be found running around Swansea, weekly on Sun afternoons.

NORTHERN IRELAND

There appears to be only one hash club ever to form in Northern Ireland. The **Belfast H3** was founded by Henry "Dr Purple Helmet' McKee in March 1987. I was able to work the grapevine, and eventually was in contact with Dr Purple Helmet. He stated that in the beginning, he was contacted by Mr Bean and Lost Deposit, two hasher friends, and agreed to get things set up, and hashed on a monthly basis. He also stated . . .

We have organised weekend trips to the republic of Ireland and organised some of the Irish Nash Hashes. Belfast H3 had its fair share of very drunken weekends but had the added excitement of running through a war zone on occasions. Fortunately, we seemed to be able to run faster than anyone chasing us, but with the passage of time that may no longer be the case. There is still a core membership in Belfast, but it only runs on request now but still maintains close links to Dublin H3 and the other Irish Hashes.

They had a solid following for many years, but then DPH moved to New Zealand three years ago, and now hashing is become random in Belfast. Ironically, the Belfast H3 hosted Irish Nash Hash in 2023 that was organized by Matthew 'Cockatool' Lemmon.

BRITISH OVERSEAS TERRITORIES (BOT)

Since the British Empire's peak in 1921, numerous countries have gained their independence as already touched on above. The seemingly most significant being the Sunset on the Empire when the UK conditionally turned over Hong Kong to China in 1997.

Highlighting every country that was once in the British Empire is not necessary at this time, you'll see it all in the book. Although a quick summary of current British Overseas Territories is in order.

Akrotiri and Dhekelia, Cyprus (this comes from an article I published on 20 Feb 2020).

Cyprus is a fairly large island in the Eastern Mediterranean, with Turkey to the north and Egypt to the south. Based on its precarious location, Cyprus has a long history of conquest, being part of the ruling empires of the Persians, the Greeks, the Egyptians, the Romans, and the Ottomans, just to name a few. Cyprus gained its independence in 1960 (capital city being Nicosia), under a three-way agreement of Great Britain, Greece, and Turkey. In order to have a successful three way, you need to hit it and quit it. But this three-way endured and has resulted in decades of strife. By way of a series of hostile actions, initiated by a coup d'état by the Greek Cypriots and followed by an invasion by Turkey in 1974, Cyprus has been divided into a northern Turkish Cypriot sector, and a southern Greek Cypriot sector. Although in recent years the island has enjoyed a relative amount of calm, the border is still monitored by numerous outposts on both sides.

In the heart of the worst of the troubled times, due to an extensive military presence, the first of many hash clubs appeared. On 30 Jan 1967, Ray Thornton assisted by Jim Pell, John Symons, and N. Gris Davis-Scourfield, founded the **Dhekelia H3**. Not only was the Dhekelia H3 the first hash on Cyprus, it was also the first hash in Europe. Ironically, up until this week, they claimed to be the "longest running" hash in Europe, still mentioning the footnote of the Bordighera H3 in Italy. I provided the details to them that the Bordighera H3 has been decidedly discovered to have been a hoax based on Amnesia's research, and they are in fact the true and original first hash in Europe. Another interesting point about the Dhekelia H3, since they were founded in the 60s before the advent of the Jakarta Circle in the70s, they do not conduct a circle. Just a great trail, drink some beer, laugh joke and socialize, and occasionally followed by a dinner.
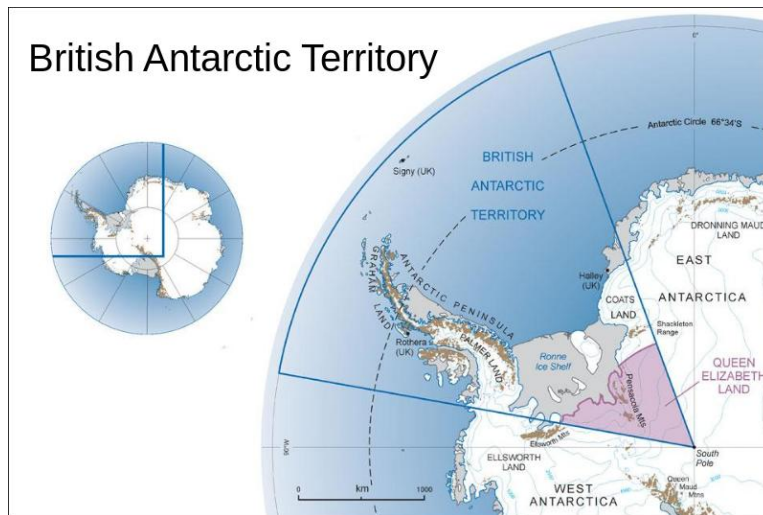
The hash genealogy, so brilliantly collected by "Tumblin' Bill" Panton, lists numerous other hash clubs that were formed and faltered over the past half century, including bike hashes, full moon hashes, and clubs in various other cities. Thankfully, there are still currently 8 active hash clubs on Cyprus including the Dhekelia H3; they are the Episkopi H3 (Nov 1967), the Polygon H3 (1981), the Larnaka H3 (Apr 1987), the Amathus H3 (Jun 1987), the Nicosia Horrible H3 (1989), the Kition H3 (1999), and the Happy Valley H3 (2006). Cyprus was also the site of INTERHASH 1996, hosted in Limassol.

Bermuda

The **Bermuda H3** was founded by Henry 'Hooray' Liddell on 23 Mar 1986. Hooray had come over from the London H3 where he had been the GM. Upon arrival, he placed an ad in the Royal Gazette and 4 other hashers were located on the island. Roughly hashing every fortnight, they reached their 200th run in 1994. By that point, Sue 'Garbo the Hash Whore' Hill had run 181 of the 200 trails, with Ian 'Mr Angry' Saunders at just 91, so Garbo was the heart and soul of the club. This club is believed to have faded out in the late 90s.

British Antarctic Territory – Hashing history in Antarctica available here.

British Indian Ocean Territory

There have been rumors that a hash club may have formed on Diego Garcia in 1980, but no substantive information has been found. Although Diego Garcia is a BOT, there is also a record of a second **Diego Garcia H3** being founded by M 'Target' Flanagan on 1 Apr 1998, having gone over from the Philadelphia H3. Many years ago, I met Jake 'Little Dinghy' McWhirter of the US Navy, who founded the second iteration of the Diego Garcia H3 on 24 Dec 2001. He was assisted by Paul 'Roo Dog' Richards, Mike 'Little Sister' Moore, Ed 'Floater' Zurey, Dave 'Gerbil Herder' Gunderson. The DGH3 has had many instances of dormancy, as any predominantly military hash club would have.

Yet another incarnation of the Diego Garcia H3 was active recently, as Cameron 'Saloon Door' Ryan, spent a year there and revived the club. This was his review . . .

As noted, this is a UK facility, and the British just liked us too much (mainly because we were the only social group that actively encouraged positive British/American activities where everyone was equal). It's a small island so we had to start getting creative with trails. Then one of the contractors helped us with a map of the island's access roads and how they were spaced out in the jungle. That helped us take trails to the next Shiggy level. We eventually ended up doing trails every other Saturday and started regularly getting 50 hashers. I made sure that the hash went to the British bar as the après a lot so they could make money. I made sure the bus drivers got gifts now and then so they would tolerate our shenanigans, and that British and Americans got equal attention. After I left the island, and even though I spent a month doing a pass down to the next GM about the mechanics of maintaining certain relationships, it fell apart within two months. This was the story of the Diego Garcia H3 from Dec 2020 to Nov 2021.

Caribbean Islands – Hashing history of the Caribbean Islands available [here](#).

- **Anguilla** – There is no record of a hash club existing on Anguilla.

- **British Virgin Islands** – There is no record of a hash club existing on the BVI.

- **Cayman Islands**

The **Cayman Islands H3** was founded by Raymond Legge on 17 Apr 1978, and he was assisted by Roger 'Jurassic Jogger' Davies. This is a mixed club, and they are active, running on Monday evenings weekly. They are also an organizer of the annual Cross Island Relay held in March. This near 24-mile race will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2025.

- **Montserrat** – There is no record of a hash club existing on Montserrat.

- **Turks and Caicos Islands** – There is no record of a hash club existing on T&C. Although many trails have been run there on numerous Caribbean hash cruises.

Falkland Islands

One distant, but still member of the British Empire (although disputed by Argentina), is near the southern tip of South America, the Falkland Islands. Hashing first reached this remote outpost in Sep 1983 when John Kitching founded the **Port Stanley H3**. He had been hashing with the Herford H3 in Germany. I have found no further info on this club other than a listing in the HHH Genealogy.

The second club was the **Falkland Islands H3** founded on 16 Sep 1985 by Terence 'Bunter' Kavanagh who had been a member of the Cambridge H3. Bunter left a paper trail and told of the difficulties of setting runs in the frozen and windy tundra of this distant outpost.

His first attempt was using sawdust, but realized the dollops were blowing away as fast as they hit the ground. He jokingly considers using beer cans, but feared the pack would be pissed not long after the start. In the end, long strips of paper held down by rock were sufficient trail markings, along with round pieces of cardboard used for checks. Only 6 hashers turned up for the first run, two of them being Bunter and his co-hare. Bunter also relayed the following missive on getting things started . . .

The traditional Monday night slot has been chosen for our weekly run as wo do have a need to get rid of weekend excess of alcohol and also it is the only time that is free for me. From our humble beginnings interest has quickened with two very pissed off ex-members of the Colombo Hash making contact. They had intended to start a hash here two months ago and never go it off the ground and were due to start next week . . . wouldn't that have pissed me off having come all this way down here to find that a hash existed already? Shades of Scott and Amundsen's race to the South Pole? Well, not exactly the South Pole but for sure it is further south than any hasher has run before.

Was he correct? Hard to tell for sure between them and the Port Stanley H3. A quick review my own historical records show that . . . The first validated hash trail to be set on Antarctica took place on 15 Jan 1990, when the Casey Hash House Harriers and Harriettes (CH4) took on the cold for the fun of hash. The CH4 was founded by Ian 'Wheelbarrow' Potrzeba, who was a member of the Townsville H3 in Australia at the time.

A third hash club, the second coming of the Falkland Islands H3 was founded 9 Oct 1989 by 'Red Leader' and assisted by 'Tin Man.' No further details available.

Gibraltar – The HHH Genealogy has a very scant listing for a hash club having been here in Feb 2008, but no other information is available.

Pitcairn Island - There is no record of a hash club existing on the Pitcairn Island.

Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha

The **Ascension Island H3** was founded by Eunice Miles in Sep of 1981, she had gone over from the Cheltenham & Cotswold H3. She was assisted by Larry Miles and Dave Miller, and up until recently this club was still active. The last noted activity was back in 2022, and having completed over 1900 trails.

South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands - There is no record of a hash club existing on either of these locations.

Worldwide, the United Kingdom has had the 4th most hash clubs, with a total of 305 founded, and 140 are still active. Only the USA, Malaysia, and Australia have had more clubs, and more currently active. It is often difficult to keep track of what clubs are still active, but these are the current numbers of clubs that have existed . . . and Australia has 144 active clubs, so get cracking UK.

Number of clubs founded, by decade:

- 1960s = 1 Hash Club
- 1970s = 17 new (18 total)
- 1980s = 84 new (102 total)
- 1990s = 121 new (223 total)
- 2000s = 59 new (282 total)
- 2010s = 9 new (291 total)
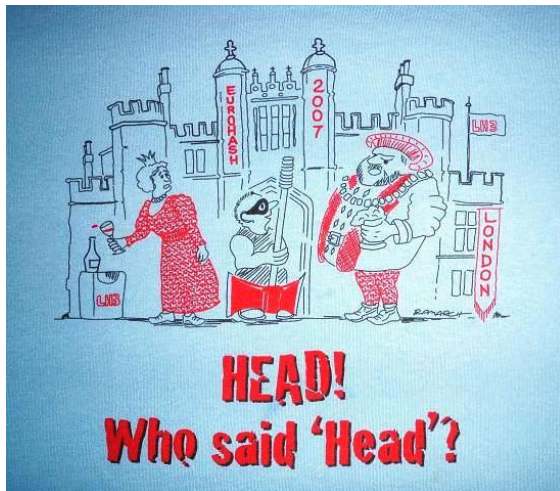- 2020s = 2 new (293 total)

The following 12 hash clubs have no date of conception in the HHH Genealogy: **Bordon H3, Dark Side H3, Drop Zone H3, Epsom H3, Ex-Athens H3, Exminster Friday H3, Final United Checking Knackered in Tyneside H3, Lantwit Major H3, London Bike H3, Offa's Dyke H3, Shepshed H3, Dundee H3**. None of these clubs are believed to be active. If anyone has founding details for any of these hash clubs, please contact me directly at GoToTheHash@gmail.com
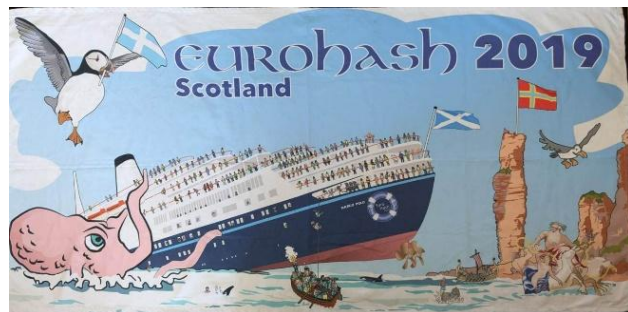
INTERHASH

The history of INTERHASH dates back to 1978. This major worldwide event is hosted on a biennial basis, but rarely strays too far from SE Asia, although it has been hosted in Europe twice, first in Cyprus in 1996. The United Kingdom hosted it once in Cardiff in 2004 and had over 4500 participants.

EUROHASH

There are 6 major continental based hash events, normally held biennially (EUROHASH, PAN AFRICA HASH, PAN ASIA HASH, PAN SOUTH AMERICA HASH, INTERAMERICAS' HASH). EUROHASH has been held in the UK twice, the first was in London in 2007, and a second time in Scotland in 2019.

NASH HASH

A Nash Hash is held for clubs within an individual country to gather, on an annual or biannual basis, and the UK Nash Hash is one of the biggest. This event moves around, and has been hosted by the following hash clubs:

1981 – Surrey	2003 – Severn Valley
1983 – Cambridge	2005 – Norfolk
1985 – Wessex	2007 – Milton Keynes
1987 – Royal Berkshire	2009 – Perth
1989 – Edinburgh	2011 – Wessex
1991 – Yorkshire	2013 – Hardy's
1993 – Cheltenham and Cotswold	2015 – Oxford
1995 – North Hants	2017 – Norfolk
1997 – Teign Valley	2019 – Kelso
1999 – Glasgow	2021 – Postponed - Covid-19
2001 – Worthy Winchester	2023 – Yorkshire

The next UK Nash Hash is scheduled to be held in Twickenham, London, 22-25 Aug 2025.

For many more articles like this on the history of hashing, check out In The Spotlight.