

## IN MEMORY OF CYBERFLASHER

I am here to represent one important part of Louis' life - the hash. Brussels Manneke Piss H3 for those of you who don't know it's a running club that takes its beer seriously. Louis first came along with Petra in June 2000 and immediately warmed to this welcoming hash family that enjoyed a refreshing beer – or two – after a good run (or walk in Louis' case) every Sunday afternoon and also socialised in between. First appearances can be deceiving - we were all rather intrigued by him but quickly found out there was a lovely man who enjoyed the good things in life under all those piercings!

He came to love the fact that you could "hash" all over the world and he and Petra planned most of their travels around Interhashes, Eurohashes, pan Africa etc.. He had just come back from a great few days for Eurohash in Kraków a week before he died. He was also looking forward to organising the next "Trust Us" weekend with Petra in 2016 – the participants only find out where they are going on the day of departure. When we last spoke to him in July at Pyro & Dr No's birthday bash he managed not to divulge the destination despite his natural enthusiasm for it – especially the great food and drink we would get there!

Every Hasher gets their hash or nickname based on opportunity and misdemeanour and Louis was very quickly baptised Cyberflasher. Not because he was a computer geek but by "flashing through cyberspace" – this was how he had lured the lovely Petra into his lair – by sending a virtual flower over the internet.

Louis moved permanently to Brussels and got a job – but not on his first attempt. On the advice of some fellow hashers in preparing for an interview with an American company he removed his piercings – but didn't get the job! Motto of that story for Louis – be yourself (with piercings)!

Louis became a committed hasher and served on BMPH3 mismanagement for several years, mainly as webmaster but also contributed with his artistic flair to some Tshirt designs and

always had advice to give on special beers. His favourite, by the way was St Bernardus Abt 12 which we have appropriately placed with our flowers.

Louis came across as cool and laid-back dude until he started talking about one of his passions - food, beer, music, travel. As I have already said he was a "bon viveur". He and Petra had some particular favourite eating and watering holes near his home and he and Petra also enjoyed discovering new ones and passing on recommendations. He also enjoyed joining in the Boys Only Ribs Nights, especially at his local Le Chazal.

He was not only a computer geek but also a music one with a very eclectic taste and wide knowledge mixing and sound engineering were another of his true passions as other friends will attest. There the hash took advantage of him too - well he happily offered his services in exchange for beer! He DJed for various Christmas parties, involved other hashers in some of his recordings and ultimately was stage manager for the 2014 Beer Odyssey.

Louis is one of the people without whom Higgins would not have managed to get this 3 day extravaganza for 3000 hashers organised. He gave up much of his own time to work with Higgins, got the website started and liaised closely with the contractors to make sure everything would be just right - and it was! He of course also gave some good advice on special beers to be made available.

I worked with him closely as Entertainments Manager. After a crazy stressful Saturday night with chaotic communication between the sound deck and stage, Louis put his foot down on the last night when I dared ask if I could add a couple of things to the running order. "No changes Scoobs, stick to the programme, nothing else". So that was me told! It sure caused a few hashers to call me names but at least I was still friends with Louis!

Petra and Louis got married in 2003 and in true hash style made sure they had a hash wedding in Malaysia (home of the hash) in addition to the civilian ceremony in Germany. So well suited and supportive of each other, we thought they would live hashily ever after enjoying good meals and foreign trips. We are so sorry for Petra that this was not the case

and I am sure I speak for all your hashing friends around the world to say we are there for you at this difficult time – and don't be afraid to reach out.

Swing low dear Cyberflasher, the chariot has come to take you home, may you be at peace but save some great beers for us. We will miss you. ON ON.

*Speech written and given by Scoobidua on Friday 4 September 2015*

