

From: TAF
To: bmph3@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [bmph3] Re: Write up of Hashalong memorial trail
Date: Tue, 03 Aug 2004 16:32:41 -0000

A nice write-up, Mick Mac. I too have some endearing memories of Simon, in particular of the mad professor variety.

I remember late one night, probably sometime in '97, we were driving across Brussels in his car for some reason. It gradually became apparent to me that the poor man was color blind, myopic, and suffered from appalling tunnel vision.

As we calmly cruised through the fifth or so red light, him chatting affably all the while, I was hunched up in my seat begging to be let out of the car. For some reason (gee, I don't know why), Simon thought I was suffering from alcohol withdrawal symptoms, so he pulled up outside the nearest pub, bought me a couple of strong beers, and we continued merrily on our way!

I too shall miss him,

TAF
Austin H3, but always a Pisseur

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From: Mick Mac
To: bmph3@yahoogroups.com
Subject: [bmph3] Write up of Hashalong memorial trail
Date: Tue, 3 Aug 2004 16:56:54 +0200

The Hashalong memorial run from Boitsfort railway station car park on Monday 2nd August 2004

This trail was moved from its original starting point to be closer to the area where our good friend Simon Cassidy set most of his runs. The hares were Julie and Rumpel while Dr PP guided the walkers to the drink stop. At the start an explanation was given of the bewildering array of new marks used on the run and it was announced that there were short (chickens) and full (bulls) trails available. It was very nice to see a number of Saturday hashers (Tim, Bertie, Mariette, Judith, Paul alias A Foot Big and Nick) among the much larger than average turn out for the run which indicates the high esteem in which Simon was held.

The trail began in some gardens before going into the forest proper with a first check at Montagnes. We then stayed parallel to the railway line before turning left over the bridge near the international school and crossing Chaussée de la Hulpe to go into the streets of Watermael. While checking the wrong way as is usually the case I saw a familiar face, the man who services my car in Auderghem. I had spoken to him on the phone earlier in the day to book a service. He and his wife were playing with their two small children. After explaining why we were shouting and looking at the ground I waved good bye to the children.

The trail eventually found its way back into the forest and, following some long stretches, we found our way after 52 minutes to the drink stop at Nisard where Tim was the first to

arrive. There followed a short 15 minute stretch including a detour which went past Simon's house before returning to the station.

The trail was well set and kept us guessing.

The circle began with recognition of the hares, the virgins (Maria from Ireland and Giuseppe from Italy), the visitor (Nookie from Edmonton in Canada joined by the gloating Cyberflasher and Eurocrap happy at Edmonton's failure to land the next Interhash), Hash Hole (announcement of a half marathon in Brussels in September), Rumble (new shoes) joined by Sex Ed, Flasher (being unintelligible) and Finnula (the heinous crime of dropping crisps). All those linked to the military (Flasher, Backseat Box, Take a Leek, Just Jake, Mud Wrestler) were followed by latecomers Higgins and Hippity Hop.

The stories and memories of Simon followed.

* Quasimodo recalled how Simon's telephone number had at one time been mistaken for the service contact number for American Express resulting in hundreds of messages on his answer phone.

* Higgins remembered his positive attitude to everything.

* Julie told us about Simon wearing a very small sarong at breakfast on one occasion and running back along the trail with her at the Médoc marathon at the 30km mark to retrieve the missing Rumble.

* Flasher recalled how Simon's car would go 3 times past a meeting point before he eventually arrived and how determined he was to complete his marathons in Rotterdam and Beaujolais.

* Mick Mac recounted the story of Simon arriving at the start of a run at the Groenendaal lakes and, as was his wont, hanging out all the haberdash shirts and shorts on his car only to be told by a passing park ranger that he was not allowed to sell anything without a permit.

* Hash Hole recalled a recent trail in Woluwé where Simon had got fed up with trying to negotiate a difficult crossing across a stretch of water and simply jumped into the dirty water with great enthusiasm.

* Eurocrap and Henry remembered that Simon had been the main organiser of their triple half century celebrations the previous year.

* Rumble recalled the way Simon had never given up on getting away from Médoc even in the most difficult of circumstances where the last bus or train had gone by somehow finding the only remaining taxi available.

* Sex Ed paid an emotional tribute and Nils our ex hash beer now resident in Germany joined us by phone.

The circle closed after we had raised our glasses to Simon and Gispert whose anniversary had been at the weekend. A good crowd assembled at Ciccio Bello, one of Hashalong's favourite haunts.

A few more personal comments follow. I knew Simon from his arrival in Brussels in 1996. We found to our astonishment that we had both hashed in London in the mid 1980s at a time when London H3 was the only hash in London and attracted groups of over 100 on a regular basis but without ever meeting one another. From his arrival in Brussels he was referred to, particularly by the women, as Simon with the crinkly hair until he acquired the name of Hashalong as a variation on Hopalong Cassidy.

He ran regularly with both Brussels based hashes and I recall travelling with him in 1998 to the Interhash in Malaysia which Barry Richardson also attended. He was an affable man who never to my knowledge had anything bad to say about anyone. He wore his trademark sandals after runs and was partial to the occasional cigar.

While he was clearly gifted academically, he still had an endearing mad professor way of dealing with some practical matters. He will be very much missed and I hope that BMPH3 will be able to remember him each year on the quatorze juillet run, the day after the anniversary of his passing.

Mick Mac

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From: Dr.PP
To: BMPH3 <bmph3@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [bmph3] Fairwell to Hashalong
Date: Tue, 3 Aug 2004 12:17:13 +0100 (BST)

Thank you to everyone who showed up at the Hashalong Memorial Hash yesterday. It was great to see such a fantastic turn-out. That in itself proves to tell how much Hashalong was and will always be loved.

A special thank you to the people who contributed a story or said a few words. You were the voice of all our thoughts and feelings.

I know some people regretted not being able to attend this hash. Although they may not have been able to be there in person, they can be assured that they were with us in spirit.

In this difficult time, let us keep Simon's family in our minds, and in particular his son. The picture collage and sympathy cards will be sent to them in due course and I am sure they will be received as a worthy tribute to our friendship with Simon, portraying him as the determined, always good-humored and uplifted man we all knew him to be.

Hashalong will never be forgotten. We blink away the tears through which we can't help smiling at the memory of him, and say fairwell. A great hasher, a great friend, a great person... I am sure that each and every one of us feel privileged to have been in his circle of friends.

He will live on for ever in our memories... until we meet again and raise our glass together at the Final On-In.

Sleep tight, Hashalong.

Dr.PP

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From: Dr.PP
To: BMPH3 <bmph3@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [bmph3] More news
Date: Fri, 16 Jul 2004 17:27:54 +0100 (BST)

I found some news on this aviation site: <http://www.fcfvv.be/home.xhtml>

It roughly translates as:

"Collision in the French Alps (above the station of Serre-Chevalier)"

"This Tuesday 13 July, a collision occurred between two gliders operated by Belgian pilots. The pilot of the one-seater (Phillipe Evrard) was able to save himself with the help of his emergency parachute and was taken to hospital. For both pilots in the two-seater (Michel Van De Steene and Simon Cassidy), the accident proved to be fatal. An official investigation is being carried out. The administrators of the federation offer their sincere condolences to the families."

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From: Dr PP
To: BMPH3 <bmph3@yahoogroups.com>
Subject: [bmph3] Sad news - please read
Date: Fri, 16 Jul 2004 15:33:20 +0100 (BST)

Dear fellow hashers and friends,

The terrible news has just been brought to me that Hashalong, Simon Cassidy, great friend and longstanding member of both BMPH3 and Brussels H3 has been killed in a plane crash.

No details of the circumstances of the accident have been given out at this point, but I will keep you updated as soon as any more news comes our way.

Hashalong was a great friend to many of us, and will be greatly missed, both in our social life and on the hash. Please keep him and his family in your thoughts. May he rest in peace.

Dr.PP

