

HUA HIN HASH HOUSE HARRIERS (H2H3)

The H2H3 are a fun loving and sociable running group that meets every 2nd Saturday of the month at 5:00 p.m. for a jog or walk, following paper trails, through the beautiful countryside that surrounds our town. Runs last about forty-five minutes and are followed by a social gathering with a few drinks beside the trail before going on for a meal together. It's a great way to meet people whether you are a visitor or resident. Check us out and join us. Call May at 032-513855 or e-mail <may1may@hotmail.com>

Run No 14. Saturday 8th September 2001

A phone round earlier in the day had shown that our numbers were going to be seriously depleted for this month's run. Several regular runners were away on holiday and those who were still in town complained of sprained ankles, infected eyes and stomach upsets as well as a few other more vague excuses like having to run a business. It looked as if only two people would turn up so it was decided that rather than one person setting a trail and one going out and following it, we wouldn't do a normal Hash but take the opportunity to reconnoitre the area for a future run.

We met at an abandoned property development site four kilometres south of Hua Hin. Bitumen roads carving the landscape into a chequer-board of housing blocks overgrown with scrub and the ever present forest of concrete power poles but alas, not one house anywhere. A stark reminder of the sudden end of the property boom back in 1998.

As Tom and Keith were about to set off, Doug turned up unexpectedly, boosting the group to three. May stayed with the cars nursing a badly swollen ankle and Boo, who had forgotten her running shoes again, stayed to keep her company.

We set off at a gentle trot towards a golden pagoda sitting on top of a tree-covered hill overlooking a large temple in the valley. Heading into the valley, we followed a bitumen road and discovered a restaurant set in a landscaped garden. This must be one of Hua Hin's best-kept secrets but it appeared to be a going concern and would be well worth a visit one day.

The bitumen gave way to a dirt track winding gently up-hill through sparse bush. This became more rutted and washed away until finally being blocked by a huge gate. Through the gate we could see a small house nestled into the bowl at the head of the valley with a magnificent view down over farmland to Hua Hin with Cha Am visible in the distance. Some people have a good eye for picking a perfect spot to build their nest.

Skirting round this hideaway, we worked our way down hill through thickets of bamboo and bushes of 'wait-a-while' that caught at our shirts and plucked hats off heads. At the foot of the valley we jogged across some uncultivated fields then along a track beside pineapple plantations and back to the cars. We'd been 'running' for forty-three minutes.

The 'walking-wounded', May and Boo had a good spread of refreshments out ready and we had a pleasant half hour relaxing before going home. Although not a proper Hash run, it was good exercise and an enjoyable exploration over new ground and proved that the area could be used to set an excellent Hash in the future.

Next hash run will be on 13th October. Hopefully we will have the usual runners fully recovered minus our GM who is off to the desert for 5 weeks drilling for oil or water or bracing the desert storm. Good luck Doug! We will see you in 5 weeks.