

Run No.: 15
Hare: Tom & May

Saturday 20th October 2001
No. of Runners: 12

Our original run scheduled for the 8th had been put off due to absences and injuries. However, devoted hashers are not easily deterred so a delayed run was organized during a sober evening at the opening of the new Little Big Horn bar. May managed to cajole a number of unsuspecting imbibers to turn up on the following Saturday afternoon.

The start point of the somewhat impromptu run was an abandoned housing site about 1.5 Kilometers west of Petkasem road near the railway fly-over. Our four vehicles parked on the prepared concrete road of the invisible ghost town alongside the ubiquitous telegraph poles. Regulars Tom and May welcomed back Bill, returning from a trip to Europe and Josie who had been sojourning in Hong Kong and the Philippines for the past few months. Norwegian visitor, Carl Anderson, currently based in Egypt and a member of the Cairo Hash, arrived with girlfriend Jam from Bangkok. Carl wore brand-new training shoes (a hash no-no) and sported Lycra cycling shorts, which drew admiring glances from some of the female participants.

The Cha Am contingent led by Pimpa included David and Connie, Jum, Por and Ian. Jum and Por had been recruited at the last minute and were kitted-out with running shoes by David and Connie. Ian, a visitor from UK, and another late recruit, expressed surprise that anyone would be foolish enough to run in the tropics, but he was willing to give it a go. So, at 5:00 PM on an overcast but fortunately not too hot afternoon, a surprising total of 12 runners, representing a diversity of age and physical fitness, set off.

The countryside surrounding Hua Hin rarely disappoints and this location was no exception. Only a short distance from the main road we were jogging through delightful rural surroundings; fields and groves of bushes overlooked by hills surmounted by a golden Stupa. The “mystery hares” (Tom and May – who else?) had set a fine course with well-placed checks, which kept our diverse group in reasonable proximity. There were two gentle hills to surmount and the only hazards encountered on the run were a few rowdy dogs and some barbed-wire fences.

Carl led the way over a variety of terrain including bitumen surfaced road, dirt tracks and marshy ground which left all runners spattered with mud and provided a fitting christening for Carl’s trainers. Only one check proved a problem for David who plunged into thick shrubbery looking for the trail and did not hear the On-On call. He emerged to discover the group disappearing into the distance and had some serious catching-up to do.

May’s recently recovered sprained ankle (Ed. where did she lose it?) endured, but Josie’s shoes did not. They were disintegrating as she ran and she completed the run with paper-thin soles but, as usual, with plenty of soul! Carl led the field home in just over forty minutes and the whole group was home safely within fifty minutes. All the virgin runners performed splendidly and Ian sprinted home only just ahead of Por. Something to prove, perhaps Ian? Jam arrived looking as fresh as she had been at the start.

In the absence of Grand Master Doug, Tom led the Down-Down welcoming the virgins, with Pimpa, as usual, dominating the singing. Everyone agreed that it had been an enjoyable experience and, with varying degrees of enthusiasm, expressed their willingness to do it again next month. The group cooled down with drinks and replenished lost calories with May’s

delicious chocolate cake until dusk began to fall. Then it was off to a small restaurant next to the Sport Villa where more food and drink were consumed and carousing continued.

Our next run will be in Cha Am on November 10. Hares Pimpa and David. Contact May for details.