

Run No.: 18
Hares: Tom & May

Date : Saturday 12th January 2002

Our first run of 2002 proved to be a pleasant experience for the select group of hashers who assembled in the hinterland just south of Hua Hin. The weather was perfect for running; bright sunshine with a pleasant cooling breeze blowing in from the gulf. The start point was about 4 kilometers west of Petkasem road near the railway fly-over. The road from the fly-over was potholed and in a very poor state but the drive was worth it when we arrived at the start in pleasant farmland adjacent to a fishpond.

Regulars Tom, May, Bill and Bob welcomed back Winfried, who had missed the December run sojourning in Bangkok and Renate who had spent the Christmas holidays enjoying the balmy December weather in Germany. Renate, who was running for the first time, was brandishing a bamboo sword with which to see off any dog stupid enough to wander into her vicinity. She was also sporting brand-new training shoes and risking a down-down christening.

The run started at 4:30 PM with Bob and Bill in the lead following the paper trail. However, after only a short distance a check showed that they were running in the wrong direction and they had to retrace their steps and follow the pack now led by Winfried. The trail continued through the countryside and we jogged along well-worn tracks surrounded by pineapple fields and groves of bushes. We had time to admire mature mango trees and local farmers cutting what we thought were aloe plants. Throughout the run we were only a short distance from forested hills decorated with the occasional temple building.

May, our "mystery hare" had set a fine course with many back-checks that kept our small group in close proximity. Bob set the pace and led for most of the run but his Rambo-running meant that he ran much further than anyone else. The leaders would forge ahead only to encounter a back-check and have to retrace their steps. This meant that Renate, much to her own surprise, was the leader of the pack on a number of occasions.

The trail took us through farmland with a few farmhouses scattered here and there. Dogs appeared on a few occasions but they kept their distance and contented themselves with barking their displeasure at our appearance. Perhaps, Renate's sword and the broom that Winfried had some how acquired, were sufficient disincentives to the canines! At one farmhouse a number of dogs ignored us completely and continued their siesta as our group ran past. Only one or two raised a sleepy eyelid to follow our progress. So Renate did not have the opportunity to practice her swordplay.

After a number of mostly unpredictable detours the start point loomed into view and the On-Home call was made. Bob once more took the lead and led the field home in fifty-two minutes closely followed by Bill. The whole group was home within a few minutes. Hot but in good spirits.

In the absence of Grand Master Doug (hopefully back for the next run), Tom led the Down-Down. May was congratulated for setting such a good course which kept us all together throughout the run. Returnees' Winfried and Renate were welcomed back and Renate was able to convince the Grand Master that her shoes were actually used and did not deserve the customary christening. Everyone agreed that it had been a great run in great conditions. As dusk fell, the group cooled down with drinks and sampled May's delicious orange sponge

cake. We watched the sun setting and decided where to enjoy our Down-Down meal. May's suggestion was warmly welcomed and after showering and changing the group reassembled at the of the Maharaja Indian Restaurant. A splendid meal was consumed and then we moved on to the Friendly bar for further liquid refreshments and a game of pool.

Our next run will be on the first Saturday, February 2nd instead of the second Saturday. Contact May for details.