

THE INSIDE ANGLE

(The Journal of Gentlemen Drinkers with a Running Problem)



OCTOBER 2010
ISSUE

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JACK



Whilst fully appreciating the exploits of Jack was to say the least a customary phenomenon at every EH3 Chop; here is a timely reminder of some.

Flight Lieutenant Jacek (Jack) Blocki was one of only 65 pilots of Bomber Command to complete two Operational Tours during the Second World War. He was awarded the Virtuti Militari, Poland's highest military award, the equivalent of the Victoria Cross.

Jack escaped from Poland and the advancing German forces to the UK in 1939, enlisted in the Royal Air Force and trained to become a Bomber Command pilot. By 1941 aged 20, in the rank of sergeant, he was a senior pilot in 305 Polish Bomber Squadron flying Wellington Mk11's, well into his first tour of operations and was nicknamed 'Lucky Jack'. On his 11th operational mission to Saarbrücken in the German Ruhr, Jack's Wellington 'S' for Sugar was severely damaged by anti-aircraft fire including the loss of one of its two engines. With 33 holes in the fuselage, nonexistent wing flaps, only one engine and with wounded crew Jack brought 'S' for Sugar home to RAF Lindholme. In 1942 he completed his first Operational Tour, was promoted Flight Sergeant, awarded the Virtuti Militari and rested as a flying instructor. During his first 1,000 hours of flying he clocked up 600 at night.

Early 1943 Jack was commissioned in the rank of Pilot Officer, converted to the American B24 Liberator bomber and commenced his second Operational Tour with 1586 Special Duty Flight based at Brindisi, Italy. The role of 1586 was highly classified; it primarily involved the parachuting of agents and materiel into German occupied Europe, including Poland. Practically all operations were at night, requiring precision low level flying through the Alps to the Baltic in the North and Balkan Mountains in the South.

By April 1944 Jack had completed a further 300 operational flying hours and near the end of his second tour when he was selected to participate in 'Operation Butterfly'; the extraction of Polish government members from Poland. Jack, as second pilot and navigator, flew in a DC3 Dakota having had only one day's familiarisation with the aircraft, from Bari in Italy to grass landing strip near Krakow, Poland. The landing strip was 'no man's land' between the retreating Germans and advancing Soviets. On landing in the dark, Jack bundled the officials onboard grabbed a handful of Polish grass and with tracer illuminating the sky he assisted the Dakota captain with a particularly 'hairy' take off. This was the final operation of his second Operational Tour. On return to the UK Jack, now a Flight Lieutenant, along with the Dakota captain Flight Lieutenant Jim O'Donovan was summoned to Headquarters Bomber Command to meet their passengers. In the company of the British Foreign Minister they were introduced to the Polish Government in London. Jim O'Donovan was awarded the Virtuti Militari, Jack having been previously awarded the medal was offered any posting of his choice. Knowing he was to be rested having completed his second Operational Tour Jack asked for the Ferry Command Service based in Canada. He spent the remaining few months of WW2 ferrying aircraft from Canada to the UK.

During his first Operational Tour Jack met, fell in love with the only lady in his life Hilda. They married between Operational Tours and their son, Michael, was born in 1945.

In 1947 Jack was granted a permanent commission in the rank of Flight Lieutenant and appointed Flight Commander of eight Anson aircraft at RAF Topcliffe, followed by command of 23 Group VIP Communication Flight at RAF Swinderby. In the early 50's the RAF decided no aircrew over the age of 30 would fly in operational bomber squadrons, thereby at the age of 32 Jack decided to apply for ground specialisation and qualified as a high intensity Air Traffic Controller. Postings to Singapore and Malaya followed, returning to the UK in 1957. In 1968 and during the height of the Communist regime in Poland, Jack was informed of his elderly mother's terminal illness. Accompanied by Hilda, he set off for Poland in their 'Devonette' campervan with the Union Flag flying from the wing mirror!

1970 saw Jack at RAF Ouston and the beginning of his love of offshore sailing. Attending night school at South Shields Marine College he qualified as Yacht Master, albeit with little practical experience, and a seed was sown. Jack's final posting was to RAF Nicosia where in 1974 having obtained a loan against his impending service terminal gratuity he purchased a brand new 32 foot Bermudian sloop, named her Smoo-Cher after his boxer dog and planned to sail her from Plymouth to Larnaca. Having obtained his total annual leave of six weeks, Jack with Hilda as crew set off on the 22nd of February and having experienced Force 10 gales in the Bay of Biscay, stops at Gibraltar, Sicily and Greece they entered Larnaca Marina on the 10th of April.

In July 1974 Jack was stationed at RAF Nicosia with Hilda in married quarters when the Cyprus coup took place quickly followed by the Turkish invasion. Between strafing Turkish jets and Greek artillery Jack and Hilda took cover under their solid oak dining room table. Hilda was evacuated to the UK, Jack to RAF Akrotiri and with much concern; Smoo-Cher remained in Larnaca Marina. A lift was hitched on a helicopter and Smoo-Cher was sailed to the safety of Akrotiri Mole. Jack then wore the Blue Beret of the United Nations for a nine month unaccompanied tour whilst Hilda was in a Brize Norton married quarter. Hilda returned to Cyprus and on Christmas Eve 1976 Jack retired from the RAF, set about building their house in Erimi and sail the Mediterranean.

1976 also saw Jack join the Episkopi Hash House Harriers with which he completed a phenomenal one thousand five hundred and eighty five runs with one hundred and twenty two hares. We will never see the likes again.

Bomber Pilot, Ocean Yachtsman and Episkopi Hash House Harrier, Jack died on the 12th of September 2010, aged 88 years. Of the 125,000 who served with the Command during WW2 only 65 pilots completed two Operational Tours - Jack was one of them. He was awarded the Virtuti Militari. On completion of each of his Operational Tours both of his aircraft crews were lost whilst flying with other pilots. The Bomber Command Memorial was very dear to Jack. Those who attended his funeral donated £812 with a further £90 donated by Hashers directly to the website <http://www.justgiving.com/Episkopi-Hash-House-Harriers> In memory of Jack; those of us who have not donated may wish to consider doing so to this very worthy and long overdue memorial. Details are on the link.

ON ON

FORECAST OF OPEN RUNS AND OTHER EVENTS

SATURDAY 30TH OCTOBER

OPEN RUN IN THE 'WELL OF THE FRANKS'. FLYER WILL BE PROMULGATED SHORTLY (REGARDLESS OF RING-PULLS)

FRIDAY 10th OF DECEMBER

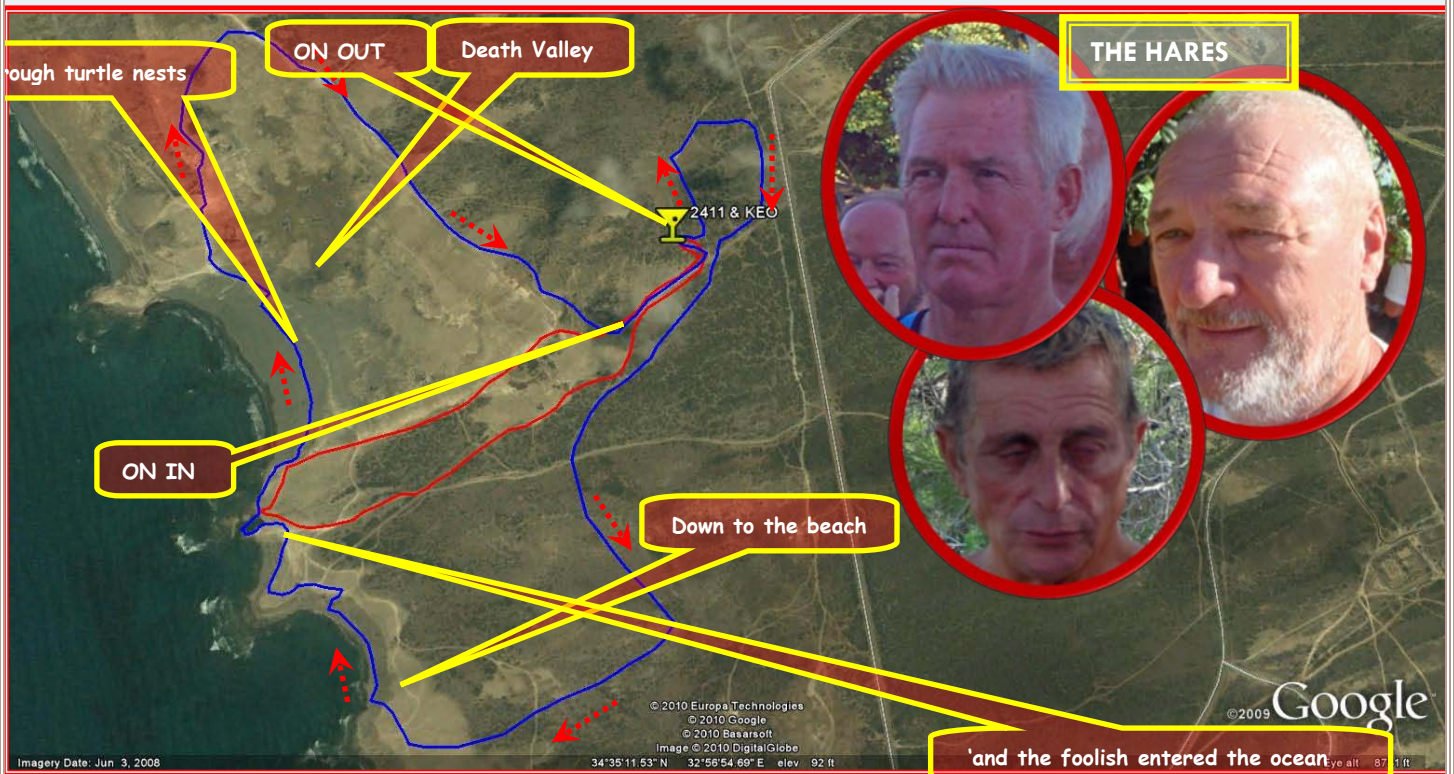
EH3 ANNUAL LADIES GUEST NIGHT WILL BE HELD IN THE HILL VIEW HOTEL, PISSOURI ON FRIDAY 10th OF DECEMBER. FULL DETAILS OF THIS PRESTIGIOUS "BLACK TIE DOO" WILL BE PROMULGATED BY FLYER, SHORTLY - ALBEIT THE AWOL RING-PULL HAS PASSED-THROUGH, FINAL COSTINGS ARE NOT QUITE COMPLETED.

THE RUN LIST

OCTOBER 2010

DATE	RUN NO.	HARES	LOCATION	TAVERNA
05/10/2010	2416	PAUL MARTIN KEVIN LUCKHURST LAURIE MITCHELL	RADIO SONDE	KB BAR
12/10/2010	2417	MIKE HILLYAR TREVOR KEMP ANDREW NOYES	SOTIRA/ KANTOU	STABLES, EPISKOPI
19/10/2010	2418	NICK SMITH MARK HUME NOBBY HALL	TRAFALGAR RUN, OLD PARAMALI	TBN
26/10/2010	2419	DAVE NORRIS RAY TURFORD MICKY BALL	AVDHIMOU	FAMAGUSTA
30/10/2010 SUNDAY OPEN RUN	2420	JIM BURKE JIM SMITH DREW MUIR	WELL OF THE FRANKS	SELF HELP BBQ

RUN 2411 - AKROTIRI (SAND, SAND & MORE SAND, WI' A BIT O' GORSE & STOOR)



FAST RUN DATA: Hashers - 22, Checks - 9, Check backs - 1, Distance - 6.2 Km, Time 46 mins.

SLOW RUN DATA: Hashers - 17, Distance 2.3 Km, Time 35 mins.

RUN SUMMARY: Here we are back at Akrotiri for EH3's annual sojourn to Death Valley, lots of sand, near entrapment by the SBA Plods and something different. Following the expected military brief with a shite joke the fast runners set off on a 750 mtr loop to bring them back to the RV! Then manoeuvring WEST, in sight of the slower pack, they joined them at the new fishing shelter where all were invited, but few accepted, to paddle across the entrance. This was check 6 where the water was provided alongside Keo and Girlsberg, much to the appreciation of Peter Viney and Bob Bensley. We then meandered through turtle nests, crossed Death Valley and again met up with the slow pack on the ON IN. Guests were Lee, son of Nev Rushton and Alan Mitchell pal of Colin Winyard. The run was a fine military affair conducted with bona fide precision, including the SBA Plod speed check on the way home! However, why the

Critmaster awarded 9/10 must bother his conscience until 2412!! In the absence of the On Pres', then there was then something different.

Post Script: Nogsie on a 'ring-pull' 'biff chit' returned but declined to fast run or chop.



MENTIONED IN DISPATCHES
RUN 2411



"What have I
returned to?"

"I'd better check, obviously
ring-pulls are bloody dangerous"



"I KNOW who's doing
the Crit' - Cheerio!"



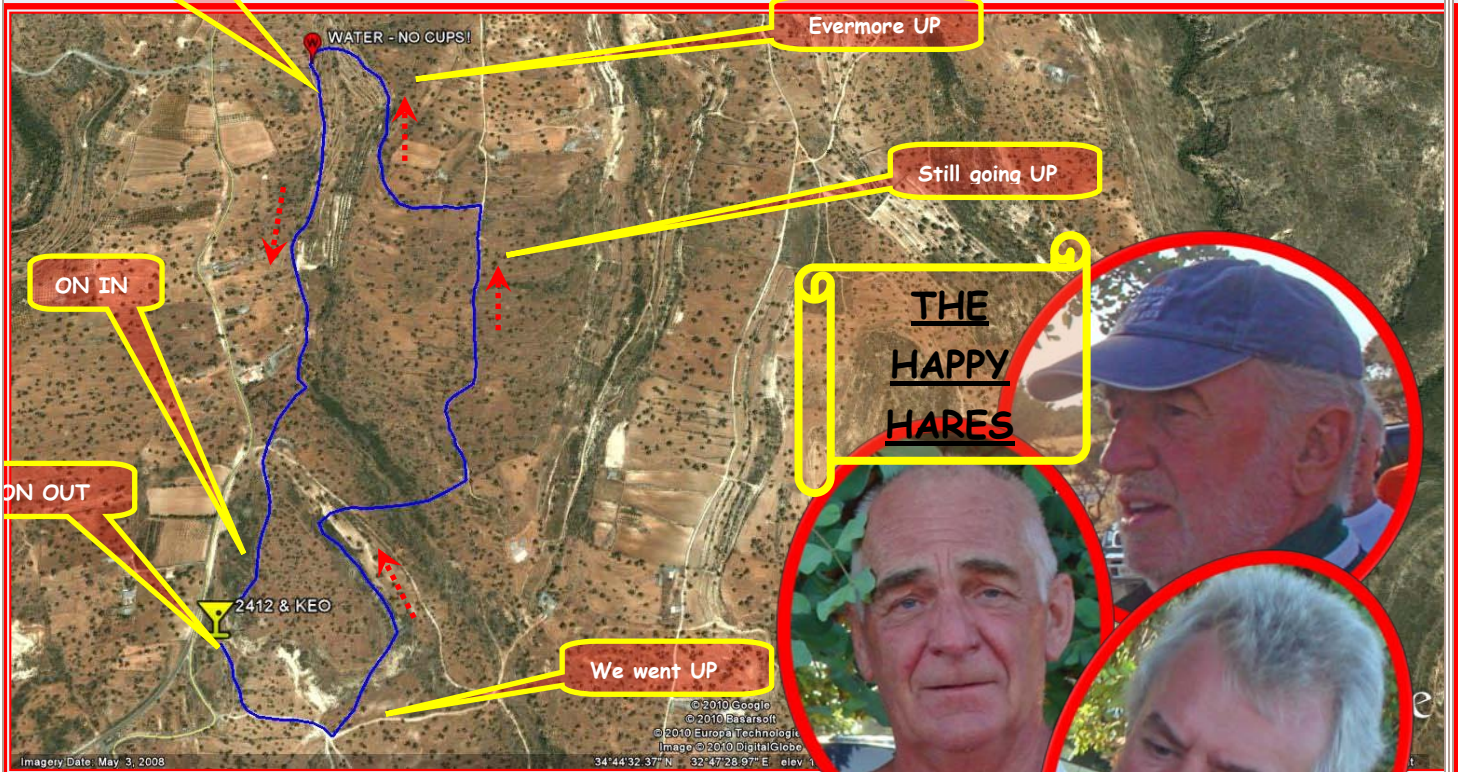
"Dad, I didn't want to
be a HARE"



RUN 2412 - A TAD NORTH OF PRASTIO

(The Duke O' York's or The Rocky Road to Dublin Run)

DOWN - thank f...

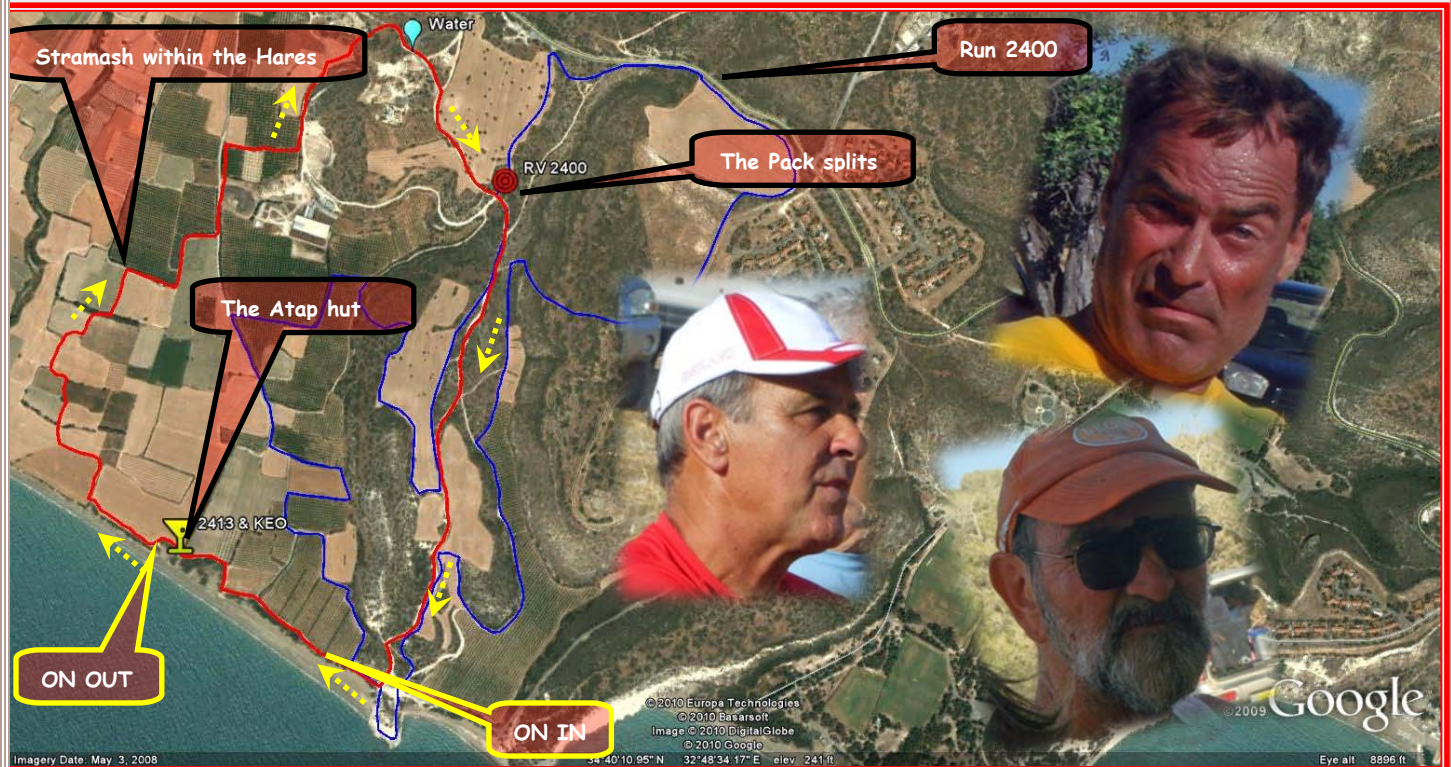


THE RUN DATA: Hashers (all sorts) - 47. Checks - 6. Check backs - 2. Distance - 4.2 Km. Time - 42 mins.

THE RUN SUMMARY: The Hash duly assembled in an RV adjacent to a defunct Prastio tip then proceeded on the 'On Out', transiting a ploughed field, to one of Bob's well known if hardly loved Prastio RVs now to be known as Check 1! We then manoeuvred NORTH and UP, that being the 'fast runners' along with the hare with the knackered knee, until arriving at the Water Check. Highlight of the run, we were greeted by the other running hare, having not been seen since the 'On Out', by announcing that some idiot had forgotten the water cups! We then manoeuvred SOUTH and DOWN through the narrowest but longest ploughed field, filled with more rocks than the road to Dublin, this side of Cairo! Not forgetting the 'slow pack'; they were out there somewhere, eventually sighted on or about the 'On In'.

Guests were Colin Evans - pal of Brian Liddell and Charlie Rotherham - young blade from some cav' regiment. Cliff Martindale, Russell Combe and John Quinlin returned - after this run, probably briefly!

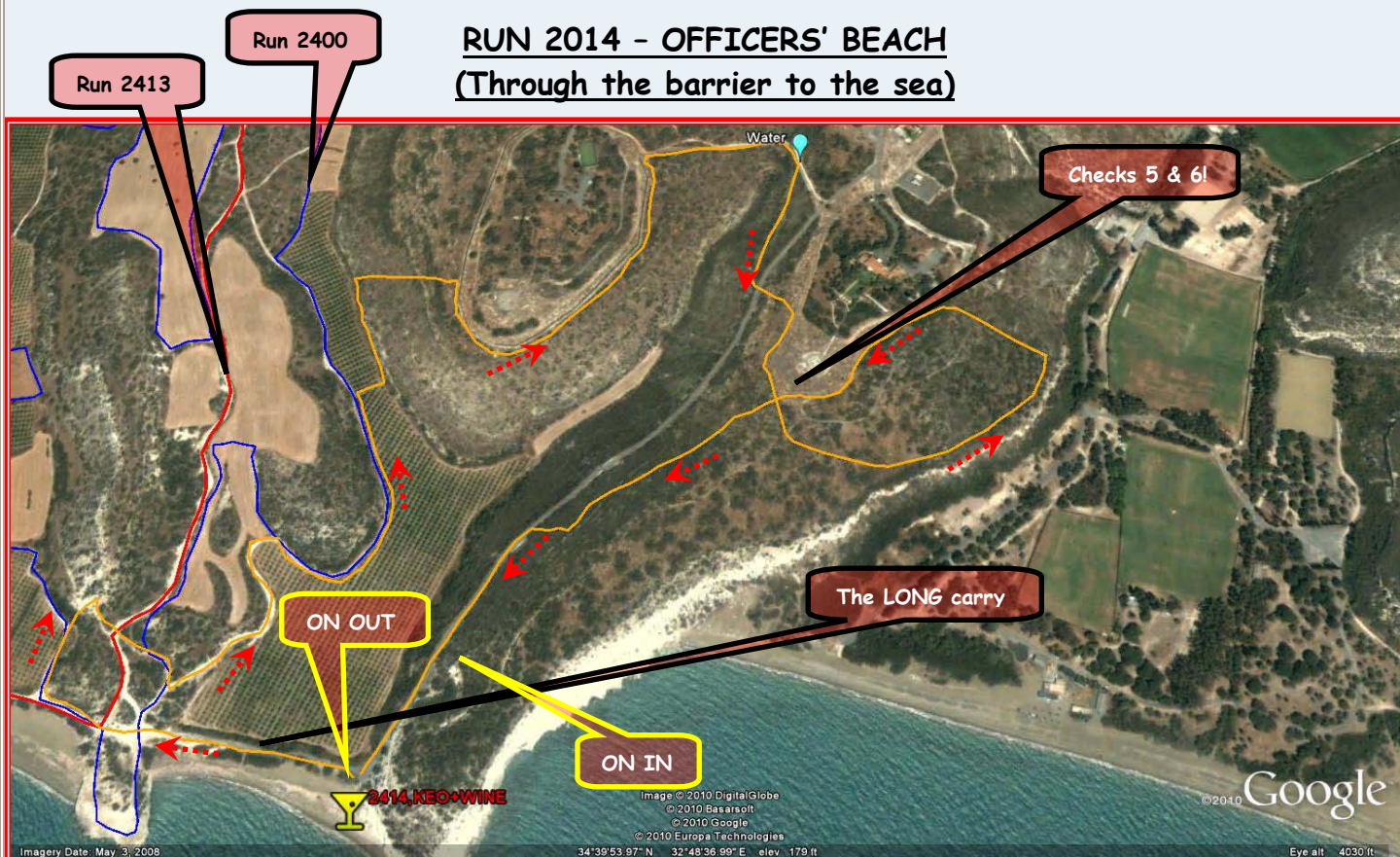
RUN 2413 - PARAMALI SOUTH (Through stoorie fields to the 'Atap Hut')



RUN DATA: Hashers (All sorts) - 44. Checks - 6. Check backs - 2. Distance - 4.4 Km. Time - 46 mins

RUN SUMMARY: Having manoeuvred across the stooriest field SOUTH of Kathmandu the HASH arrived at the car park, the RV being some 50Mtrs away through a chain-link barrier to the Atap Hut - speak to those who have served EAST of Suez for an explanation. A cunning hare plan to save the Hash from the heat of the afternoon sun. The best laid plans o' mice an' men! Having parked us down-wind, the hares ensured that all vehicles were equally covered in a layer of dust and powdered goat shit. That notwithstanding, the temperature within the hut was higher than the stoorie field! It was then back to the stoorie field for the brief (there was a joke of sorts) and the ON OUT across even more stoorie fields, interspaced by ploughed ones until we experienced the highlights of the run. Check 2 and stramash within the hares. The Hash experienced what has become the norm with hares associated with the teacher fraternity, "We have forgotten where we laid the pick-up". Check 5 and the pack splits. Following a fine downhill falsie some 50% of the pack, led by the Ulster contingent, decided stuff this we know where we are and we are heading for KEO or for some Magners!

Nevertheless, for a pair of hashers from the teaching fraternity clearly influenced by a military chef (commissioned) it was a fair run. The chop at The Balti House was to say the least novel and albeit after a substantial wait the 'balti' duly arrived to be enjoyed by all. That is probably all less the On Pres' who by his demeanour remains somewhat apathetic to foreign nosh!



RUN DATA: Hashers, Harrietts, Pups & a Pet - 41. Checks - 6. Check backs - 2. Distance 4.2 Km. Time - 36 mins.

RUN SUMMARY: Due to the inherent probs of Troodos Sundays it was decided we head back to the beach. This time somewhat differently, with a new location for most, on Paramali beach and BYO BBQ. A cunning hare plan to save the Hash from transiting through South Paramali resulted in what is fast becoming the norm - "The best laid plans o' mice an' men"! Having obtained authority to open the beach barrier and the padlock key, some sad git had blocked the padlock mechanism resulting in frustrated hares with a few less finger nails and a tad of a walk by the Hash to the best end of the beach.

Notwithstanding the aforementioned 2414 was a resounding success, with fastidious reference to the innovation of checks 5 and 6, the solitude and beauty of the beach and the outstanding BYO BBQ!



MENTIONED
IN
DISPATCHES
RUN 2414



10 out of 10!

The arrival of The Lady Christina

I am so awfully proud



I believe there is
something touching me

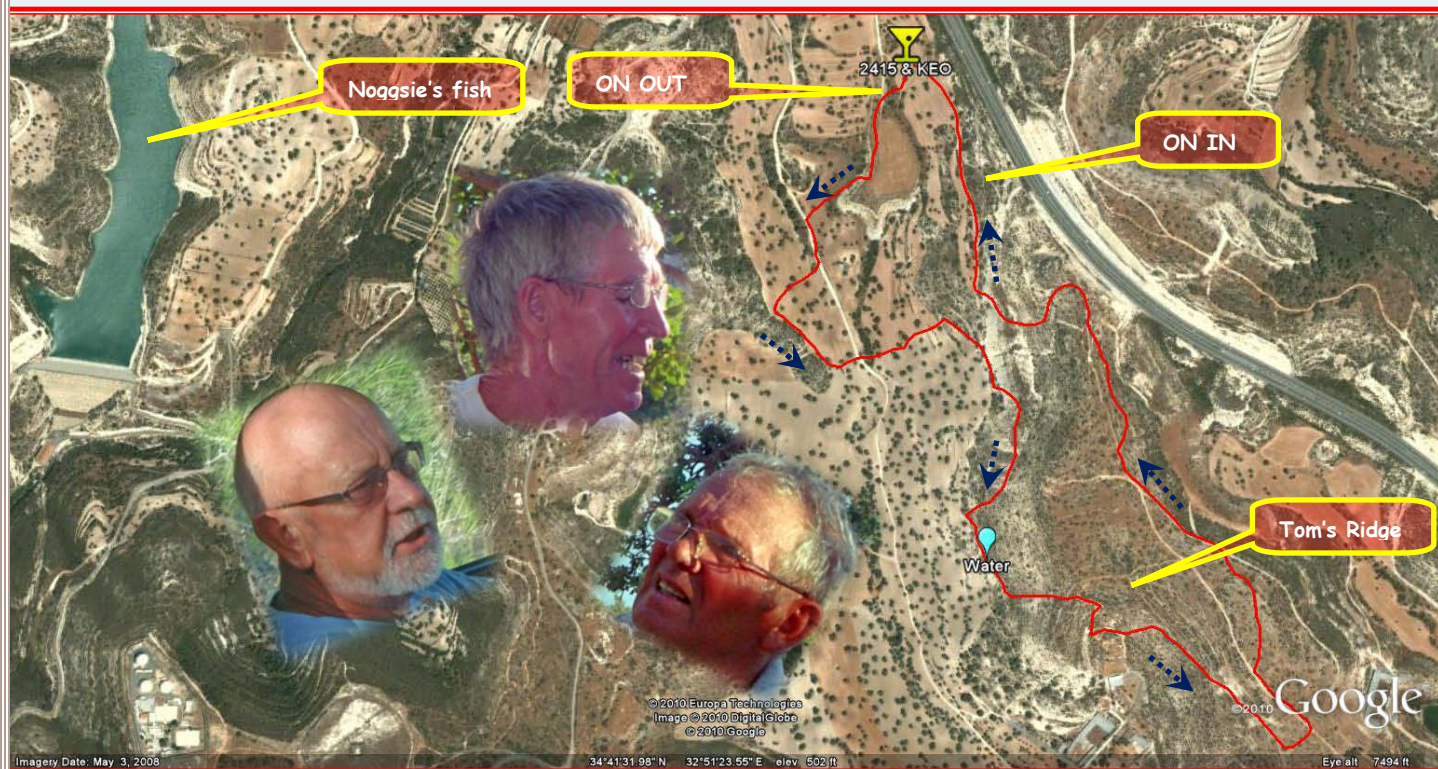


This is as close to
water as I get

That man is
disgusting



RUN 2415 - SOUTH OF SOTIRA (Yet another TOM McS special)



RUN DATA: Hashers - 36. Checks - 7. Check backs - 2. Distance 4.4 Km. Time 48 mins.

RUN SUMMARY: Yet another lead Hare special in his favourite stomping ground of a tad SOUTH of SOTIRA and likewise EAST of NOGGIE'S FISH, ably assisted by Tony the 3 Badge Stoker and Drew the Banker. Highlight of the run was the looks of disbelief from returnees and visitors at the water check when being confronted with the climb onto Tom's Ridge. Returnees of note were Dave (Doc) Smith - unable to attend 2414 due to pressure of golf and Lil; and Will Drysdale - with no interest in golf but did not return in time for 2414! Steve brother of Laurie Mitchell was the visitor. Mike Earp completed 100 runs, received his tankard, produced no brandy; whilst Trevor Kemp celebrated his 63rd birthday did, albeit not '31'. The Critmaster awarded an unbelievable 9 out of 10.



THE ACTIVE LIST **AS AT 01 OCTOBER** **2010**

Hashers are requested to
check their details for
omissions or errors and
inform "Words" by email
- hopefully not waiting
for about six weeks to do
so!

ONERABLE HASHER		HOME	MOBILE	EMAIL
Jim	Adair	25222917	9925524	jradaircyprus@cytanet.com.cy
Andy	Anderson		97690657	whoawilbur@gmail.com
Mike	Ball	25211270	99493451	mjpbball@hotmail.com
Bob	Bensley	25222981	99789455	thelmabensley@yahoo.co.uk
Dennis	Blackburn	25221828	99179313	denissy@cytanet.com.cy
Mike	Borner	25717009	99400329	mbx2@cytanet.com.cy
Barney	Bruce	25827084	99405886	barnlizzy@cytanet.com.cy
Jim	Burke	25816880	99356039	jimtima@cytanet.com.cy
Ray	Bolger	25934635	97659568	raybolgier@hotmail.com
Jimmy	Carroll	25222308	99462308	carrolls@cytanet.com.cy
Simon	Carroll	25221235	99285751	simon_carroll@btinternet.com
Pat	Chapman	25816740	97807955	s_chapman5@yahoo.co.uk
Clive	Clayton	25932097	99670473	cliveclayton@hotmail.com
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Mark	Foley		99604019	markfoley@foleysschool.com
Geoff	Fryatt	25932263	99456714	fryatt@spidernet.com.cy
Colin	Garland	25942266	99474386	ceegee@cytanet.com.cy
Stewie	Glanfield	25221550		monalena@logos.cy.net
Dave	Hewson		99766285	hewsondavid@gmail.com
Mike	Hillyar	25873856	99015247	liquideng@cytanet.com.cy
Peter	Hogg	25221532	99259791	pdhogg@cytanet.com.cy
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Dave	Smith	01382540311		drumoig.dave.lil@virgin.net
Nick	Smith	26654115	99934668	nicja_cy@hotmail.com
Jim	Smith		99271450	james_connie2@cytanet.com.cy
Sid	Swan	25933217	99186537	sidandaf@cytanet.com.cy
Vic	Tandy	25933538	99587098	victordy@logos.cy.net
Anders	Tholle	25934094	99656405	tholle@cytanet.com.cy
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Mike	Woods	25934995	99997715	michael@amimarine.net