Jim Fraser # Flasher

I first encountered Jim on the Baghdad Hash sometime I believe around 1984-85, when he was selected by HMV for a few Down Down’s because Jim was considered “privileged”. It is well known that everyone is equal on the Hash and HMV ensured this was strictly adhered too, provision of an extra chair or lettuce leaf in the salad in someone’s garden at the on- after would ensure his wrath.

As Jim was from the British Embassy and was able to get things through diplomatic channels that the rest of the pack was unable too, HMV considered Jim fair game.

Jim took all this in good part and as a keen sportsman joined the Babylon Hash in its formative years eventually becoming (being cajoled) the Hash Master which he survived for a long period before passing the mantle over to a fellow Scot Dave Nebuchadnezzar Clark on his work reassignment.

I recall Jim going on leave one time and ordering a brand new car in the UK ready for his collection. Jim was to drive the car back to Baghdad on his return from leave. The car turned out to be a Bright yellow Ford Escort (I think) and carried British registration plates LOV ??? . Hence the Hash name Flasher came into being.

Unfortunately Flasher encountered a sandstorm whilst driving back down Route No1 from Jordan which did not do much for the car and although the shine was taken off the paintwork the windscreen was a complete write- off as it looked like frosted glass.

Poor Flasher came in for some stick at the Hash and it was always referred to as Flashers love bug and luckily for Nada it was just before she came on the scene otherwise HMV would have had a field day as this would have been seen as steamed up windows due to internal activity! How embarrassing.

Activity in this area must however have taken place as Jim has left us with two terrific Hash Brats, Bravefart and Twinkletoes (nee Desmond) with whom we hope will carry on their fathers legacy by escorting Nada to the reunions

I had the privilege of introducing Nada to Jim in the Mongoose bar one evening but take no responsibility for Flashers actions.

Cooperman recalls one weekend when Jim went to the Quarry to practice his windsurfing technique before showing his mastery at Lake Tharthar, he went windsurfing with his keys in his pocket and of course ended up in the water. When he came out the key fob didn’t work so he couldn’t turn off the immobiliser or the alarm so looked like being stuck there as he was adamant that we couldn’t override it because it was secure. He was not impressed that Cooperman got his bonnet open and did override it and start the car. Jim was of course grateful but probably lost faith in his security system. Cooperman of course showed one of his many learned teenage life skills coming to the rescue.

#HMV = His Masters Voice = John Haist founder of the Baghdad HHH