

Dave (Smokeless) Cole Memorial Run 8 December 2022

Twenty years ago on 8 December 2002, Dave ('Smokeless') Cole, whilst on a Churn Valley H3 run from the Stirrup Cup, Bisley suffered a massive heart attack and went into cardiac arrest. Despite every effort by his fellow hashers, Ormonde, Stallion, Banshee Di and others, they failed to revive him and he sadly passed away

Dave Cole started hashing whilst abroad in the Far East, later on his return to the UK he became a founder member of C2H3 in 1981. In his early days of hashing, with the hash handle of 'Smokeless' he was renowned for laying lengthy trails, his second lay with MGM was reportedly longer than a marathon!

Dave was an active hasher and runner, completing many runs and taking part in charity runs for C2H3, notably the Cotswold Way Charity run in aid of Sue Ryder,



He was a passionate cyclist, winning a number of road-racing trophies. He was also a member of Cheltenham Almost Athletes and regularly ran with CVH3.

In 1987, he joined **GGH3 on Run 30**. As a GGH3 hasher, when a vacancy arose he became GM, later Hash Cash, a position he held until not long before his sad demise. **On GGH3 his hash handle became 'Al'** (in reference to his affection for the song written by Paul Simon), so we will now refer to him as 'Al'. Some may remember how Al used to 'rattle' his tin in front of hashers for voluntary subs (before it became compulsory), to the annoyance of some hashers!

In 1998, Al laid his last C2H3 trail with Dame Dave (*aka Sir Raffles*) and Googlies (*aka Carloss*) from the Royal Spring Inn at Lower Lydbrook. A run which earned the comments of being '*well laid in an enchanting landscape, well deserving the applause the hares subsequently received.*'

He then became more actively involved with GGH3 and CVH3 and performing Grandfatherly duties to assist his family.

Al and Sir Raffles with some assistance from Maverick laid the GGH3 Away weekend in the Brecon Beacons in 2000. Whilst reccing it out on a very cold day in early January, Al, slipped on wet stones into a stream flat on his back, he carried on in his wet clothes without too much swearing!

Al will always be fondly remembered by his fellow Gloucestershire hashers as these pictures show.



Al Sleeping peacefully at the GGs Xmas party 2000, Prestbury House Hotel, surrounded by a bevy of harriettes



Five GGs having fun at Interhash Cyprus 1996



Slippy Girl and Horse composed the following poem in December 2002 which was read out at his funeral.

Here's to Al, he was alright,
He is now our Shining Light,
He was a hasher through and through,
And we hope he's hashing in heaven too.
Drink it down, down down.

A fitting tribute to a man dedicated to his choice of pastime. The manner of his passing would surely have met with Al (Smokeless)'s approval, with his running shoes on and the ON-HOME ahead.

This tribute contains extracts from the C2H3 hashatory, the full version is available on request from C2H3 Hash Historian, Larrikrishna.