

The Hash House Harrier tradition of the Hash Name is used to maintain a friendly exchange between hashers, separating the regular and hash lives. It is sometimes used to bestow membership and test the humor of potential members. After a runner has completed five or six runs (or in the case of some hashes, when one has earned it by doing something stupid, which could take much longer), the Hash membership (all those with hashnames) will determine an appropriate Hash name for the individual. These hashnames may be based upon appearance, ability, advice from "friends", personality, and/or the whim of the Pack. The issuance of the HASHNAME means acceptance into the Hash membership and is concluded with the individual being baptized with a "Down-Down".

Hashers who join with a bona fide Hash Name from another hash may usually keep their old name to prevent confusion. This hash courtesy is important as many government, military and corporate hashers may belong to dozens of hashes over the course of their lifetime and many gain a certain notoriety at InterHashes under one specific name.

Once a hasher is bestowed a hashname, it is usually kept for life. However, many may change it when the opportunity arises as they move to other hashes and fewer still may request a change from the pack for various reasons. If this is allowed by local tradition (remember, it is part of the test for a sense of humor), the pack thinks long and hard for a hashname that will usually be more humiliating or nasty than the last.

On the naming process, I have long cautioned hashes that the original hash names were quite simple and clean! The HHH founder was nicknamed **◆G◆** probably because people had a difficult time pronouncing 'Gispert'. Naming hashers a dirty name because they have done something to deserve it, and they have enough sense of humor to accept it, is fine. The hash is supposed to be fun, not humiliating just for the sake of humiliation. The current trend, to always try to find a dirtier name than the one before, is not based in tradition and more than likely results in names for hashers which have nothing to do with them - just for the sake of shock effect. ◆I recommend going back to the basics - personality, appearance, behavior, etc., for a more accurate naming.

But regardless of your local hash naming tradition, or even lack of a local naming tradition, the local tradition is always right and as stated many times in the Hash Bible, prevails over anything written here. For those with a tradition of bestowing a hash name on members, we all know it is usually with a sense of pride that we gain these names, and hashes should bestow good hash names on their membership with consideration and pride as well.

On On!
Stray Dog