

The Interhash Council

April 3, 2022

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Fellow Hashers,

I imagine you have heard by now that the Trinidad & Tobago Interhash has been canceled. At the time of the cancellation Covid-19 protocols meant that Interhash would not have been able to be held in the traditional manner. Goa has been selected to host Interhash from 4 to 6 November 2022. New Zealand will host Interhash in 2024.

This rapidly evolving situation has raised some confusion and generated a number of conspiracy theories. With the past history of shenanigans surrounding Interhash selection, poor execution, and outright theft of Interhash funds, I can understand how hash suspicions have been raised. I want to lay out what actually happened to address these suspicions.

As you know, the Interhash Council was formed in 2018 to oversee Interhash bids to assure that they were well thought out and provided Hashers the best value for money. (Prior to 2018 an informal elders council would meet to discuss the direction of Interhash and offer informal advice to bidders and hosts). The Council also supervises elections, so they are fair and transparent, and provide advice to the

winning bidder when asked. Prior to the cancellation of Interhash T&T, the Council reviewed three potential bidders for Interhash in 2024: - Goa, New Zealand, and Turkey. The Council found the Goa and New Zealand bids were well thought out with good support and experience of hosting major events. The Turkey bid was found to be incomplete with no sponsors, government support and limited Turkish kennel support. The Council informed the Turkey bidders of the problems inherent in their bid and encouraged them to continue working on the bid for presentation at a later date. So, that left us with two viable bids for 2024.

Then sadly T&T was forced to cancel their Interhash because of the pandemic. This would have left us with a six-year hiatus where there would be no Interhash. The Council members and those international hashers they consulted felt that this was unacceptable and could lead to the death of Interhash as we know it. As the Council mulled over the problem, Goa stepped up and volunteered to host the 2022 Interhash in November. They had already secured government support, had Indian kennels behind them, had beer and goodie bag sponsors lined up, and were in the process of negotiation for a venue. The Council accepted their offer, leaving New Zealand the only certified bidder for Interhash in 2024.

As this was unfolding, the Council negotiated with T&T to assure that any surplus funds remaining after the formal audit was completed would go to the next winning bidder. The T&T Interhash committee noted that the audit was not likely to be completed until early Autumn. We informed the Goa management team of this potential timing problem. They decided to move forward with Interhash without this surplus funding. Subsequently, the Council agreed to pass on the surplus, if any, to the New Zealand bid team.

I have been asked by some hashing mates "what about Turkey"? What if they deliver a complete plan to host Interhash in 2024? After substantial debate, the Council decided to stick with New Zealand. This was our reasoning. We have asked all potential bidders to present their bids six months before Interhash so the Council could carefully review the bids, get back with comments and questions to the bidders, and for the bidders to revise

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their bids as needed. In this case, we were flexible given the pandemic and shortened the drop-dead submission time to three months. The Turkish mis-management team missed both the six and three months cut off dates and delivered an incomplete proposal only two months before the T&T Interhash was to kick off. With this questionable performance (understandable given that the Turkey GM contracted Covid during this period), the Council was left with only one acceptable bid to consider for 2024. If Turkey does submit an acceptable bid in the future, they will be considered with other bids to host the 2026 Interhash.

I trust that my explanation goes a little way to ease your suspicions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at onongarfield@gmail.com.

On On forever,



Marty "Garfield" Hanratty, Chairman
Interhash Council