



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 072 - Sunday 19th November 2000 - The Radnor Arms Coleshill

We have never really been rained on during a hash run – a bit of drizzle here and there and even a bit of snow – but never proper stair rod type rain. Until today. Your hare started to lay the trail at about 0900 in bright clear sunshine thinking what a wonderful day it was for a run in the Wiltshire countryside - but by the time the runners and the walkers had gathered in the car park of the pub the sunshine had gone and ominous black clouds loomed above us. The rain started as a mizzle after about ten minutes into the run and gradually became heavier and colder. Kennet Valley Hashers are however totally unconcerned by such things as freezing rain and gale force winds and everyone, runners and walkers, set off with cheerful optimism.

Up a lane from the pub to a junction with 5 false trails but Dave found the true trail quite quickly - so no rest there and so on up a muddy track to the top of a hill with wonderful views. Down the other side into the woods where the mud was so deep and squelchy that Nina and several of the children got stuck and had to be hauled out. On up another lane through a farmyard to the long/short divide. Here the runners set off on a loop which took them along the boggiest bridle way in Western Europe, through the delightful village of Great Coxwell (famous for its barn) and then back across flooded watermeadows, through a little wood and then across the middle of a huge ploughed field (feet getting heavier with every step). It was here that the walkers and the runners met and exchanged pleasantries. Jeremy was as usual miles in front despite having checked all the false trails - then there was Margaret and Dave running well – and then in his usual position in the rear was Keith encouraged and supported by Andrew (who had already been round the trail once to help lay it and was going round again as sheepdog). Your scribe's knee failed at the start of the second lap and so he looked after the walkers on the trail. Walking in freezing rain in running kit however is not to be recommended if you wish to avoid hypothermia.

All the walkers especially the children were frozen and everyone was wet and so we were all very glad to get into the cosy warmth of the pub. Soon warm, everyone relaxed and chatted happily about their adventures on the run. The apres really is one of the nicest things about hashing.

PS I really am far too modest to thank your GOM for such a wonderful trail.