

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 0074 – Sunday 17 December 2000 – The Crown, Cerney Wick

It's not often that the hare on his first trail is by unanimous verdict presented with the horn, but this was one of those rare but memorable occasions. Undeterred by rising water levels he had risen early to lay his trail and the rest of us did our best to arrive for the off at 11am. That was with the exception of Square One who had had an Xmas bash the night before so were among the late shows. Jane and Tony through foresight actually arrived late enough to miss the walk altogether and headed straight for the pub. What a clever decision!

Steve was our virgin hare and began by explaining his signs – a clever combination of North Wilts and KVH3 symbolism. There were also some vague references to the difficulties of trail laying when all paths in the vicinity were under 6 foot of water. Ignoring all such hints we started on time with around 6 runners and a similar number of walkers – with Greg and co arriving a little later to join on the walk. There was an immediate split at the start with Steve leading the walkers off to spread yet more flour around the countryside.

The runners began with Ian and Ray checking out the first false trails. Then it was a few miles of level road running before hitting Cricklade and heading back along the old railway line towards Cerney Wick. This time Jeremy was the one being kyboshed by Steve's handicraft. A brief re-group for the leaders and off again on the anticipated last section as we approached Cerney Wick. But hang on, why are we running towards South Cerney – is there another hash group running in the Water Park? Somewhat puzzled, and muttering not a few oaths, we continue on, eventually meeting up with a somewhat sheepish hare. Ian leads on into the village with Jeremy and Ray following. Margaret and Dave given the choice take a sharp exit, and Keith gallantly continues on and on and on and on at the rear.

In the village we meet up with some lost walkers and then demonstrate brownian motion for 15 or 20 minutes before briefly picking up the trail and then getting lost again. This time a signpost indicating Cerney Wick 2 miles beckons and giving up on the quest for flour we head off along the canal. After a mile and a half disaster strikes – floods and raging torrents block our way. No way are we going back, so braving the freezing waters we wade knee deep across a 100 yards of flooded field to finally continue the last half mile back to the safety of the pub. Ian, Ray and Jeremy were the first ones to complete this double hash in the record time of 2 hours 5 minutes, beating Ian's previous allcomers record. Special congratulations must however go to Keith who arrived after nearly 2 and a half hours having managed to be the only one to follow the trail as laid. Steve is sent off on a fruitless attempt to rescue the unknown group of walkers but they were never seen again – the first walkers to be noted in the hash log as lost at sea!

Back at the pub we found that GOM had forsaken all for the delights of a luncheon party, so Margaret did the honours, somehow finding the strength of humour to congratulate Steve on a job well done. In truth an excellent trail Steve. Well signed, with some impressive false trails, but please ... you have your record now, so a normal hash next time to save all our legs! Well done!!!

ON – Ons

076	14 Jan 2001	The Carters Rest, Wroughton	Jeremy
077	28 Jan 2001	Tally Ho, Hungerford Newtown	Ray
078	11 Feb 2001	Can't make their minds up yet	Dave, Mgt
079	25 Feb 2001	Hare in hiding – no idea where	Steve again!!!
080	11 Mar 2001	The Swan at Wilton	GOM
081	25 Mar 2001	Hare and Hounds, Lambourn Woodlands	Ian

Future Trails

If you would like to lay a trail or find out where the next hash is please ring
Navy Mike (GOM) on 01672 871374 (Home), 01793 481220 (Office)