



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 075 - Sunday 30th December 2000 - The Spotted Cow at Coate

New Years Eve and snow on the ground – a good turnout – and an atmosphere of being on holiday and of cheerful anticipation for the evening’s parties and celebrations– it looked as if it was going to be a good hash. And it was good too. Greg, covered in mud and flour told us that the trail was laid in orange flour this week to avoid confusion with the snow and that and he dealt reassuringly with all those worried enquiries such as “is it as long as Steve’s run” and “ will we be back before the pub shuts”

And then we were off across the fields into the teeth of an icy wind straight off the Steppes of Russia. It was actually quite difficult to see the trail in the snow but Greg had put lots of it down and four of the North Wilts Hash were running with us and they seemed to follow it pretty well. Across three snow covered fields up to the motorway and then right through woods to the edge of Coate Water. Some very clever false trails here which fooled everybody except Keith who applied reason to the situation. As a result he found himself in the unusual position of being miles in front. We then had a regroup and he was able to look smug and superior as the slow runners like Jeremy caught up.

Then on round the lake to the picnic area where Kay was handing out mince pies and mulled wine with a great beaming smile. That was very welcome and enjoyable and really made the day. It was too cold to stay gossiping and eating pies and things and we were soon off on the last leg to the pub – right round the lake and then the last bit back across the fields we came out on. The long trail was about five miles and it took us just over the hour with the mulled wine stop and the walkers, who covered exactly half the long trail, arrived back at the same time as the runners - so it was just right .

The Spotted Cow is a modern pub with about five acres of bars and things and so we had plenty of room. Your scribe bored anybody who would listen by telling them about what the pub was like when he was a boy and Sylvia explained to everyone how she would have gone on the walk had she not broken both her arms and people gossiped and ate Sunday lunch and played with the children and drank lots of beer and the whole thing was exceedingly relaxed and pleasant. Thank you Greg for a well-planned and thoroughly enjoyable trail.

ON ONs

076	14 th January	Carters Rest Wroughton	Jeremy
077	28 th January	Tally Ho Hungerford Newtown	Ray
078	11 th February	Roebuck Marlborough	Margaret & Dave
079	25 th February	To be decided	Steve again !!!
080	11 th March	Swan at Wilton	GOM
081	25 th March	Hare & Hounds Lambourne Woodlands	Ian

If you would like to lay a trail (or find out where the hash is) please give me - Grand Old Master (GOM) - a call on 01672 871374 (Home) or 01793 481220 (Office) or Email at mjf@mfisher.co.uk