

Hash 127 - The Bell, Ramsbury, 15th December 2002

This time a run from our spiritual and ancestral home. Once again Hashers' luck brought a break in the gloomy weather, as the persistent rain and drizzle packed up just long enough for the many runners and walkers to get round the trail whilst remaining dry - apart from a little perspiration, of course.

This was, I believe, t'other Keith's first trail, and a jolly fine effort it was too. We started off by doing a big up- and downhill loop, with some of the fit, fast, front-runners on their way back almost meeting your slow scribe still struggling on his way there. Rather cruelly, I thought, for a trail-laying virgin, we were sent back up another muddy bloody hill, until we slid over the brow to behold the imposing Tudor pile of De Savary Towers - otherwise known as Littlecote House. Passing a damp and dispirited gaggle of archers - probably Brian Aldridge's manifold mistresses - we stopped to admire the Roman jigsaw puzzle of Orpheus which is housed snug and dry beneath a wooden awning. Unfortunately for Orpheus, the awning also shelters a number of sparrows who use his face for target practice - with much greater accuracy than the aforementioned archers.

We then crossed the meandering course of the Kennet delta by means of 83 bridges, and just as we were congratulating ourselves on getting back to the Bell, were sent off up one last hill. With Navy Mike's kneecaps cracking out like pistol-shots at every step, we finally trotted down the hill to our destination, to be followed three or four pints later by the moderately gruntled walkers. As Mike had left the horn at home, prominently displayed where he could not fail to remember to bring it, the presentation ceremony was somewhat shorter than usual. However, GOM's stentorian voice silenced the entire pub as she thanked Keith2 for his sterling efforts, and wished us all a Merry Christmas.

Don't forget to let Mike know whether you will be attending the KVHHH 5th anniversary dinner, which will take place on the evening of Saturday 1st March 2003. Only the conception or delivery of a baby will be accepted as an excuse for non-participation!