



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS
Mag No 163- Sunday 18th April - Blackbird at Bagnor

It rarely rains on a hash - but my word it did today. As I approached the Blackbird - a delightful looking pub in an idyllic setting - it began to drizzle and then to rain steadily and by the time we were ready for the off it was hammering down. Nothing deters our brave boys however and runners Mike and Keith and Brian and Maurice (and three walkers who were so wrapped up in storm clothing they were unrecognisable) stood stoically in the downpour listening politely as Jeremy our hare explained that two dots meant you were on etc. He then went on to talk about a new sign he had invented where you had to go back if it was the first time you saw it but you had to go on if it was the second time you saw it. Too cold to ask questions and so we hoped it would be alright when we reached the sign and galloped off in the direction of the Watermill Theatre.

There were about nine circles in as many yards so after running hard for twenty minutes we were still only about a foot from the pub. Wonderful countryside though - just visible through the downpour - over little bridges through fields and wooded glades. Back past the pub where the trail then led up out of the village in a steady climb to the top of some hills through mud and water with the wind increasing to Force 7 in exposed areas - and the rain still coming down in torrents. Now, there are some people who might not have enjoyed this. We four (and Jeremy who loyally ran round again with us) however thought it was wonderful. Once wet you cannot not get any wetter and running up hills always gets you nice and warm and so you can really enjoy that powerful sense of being as one with nature and the elements. And the sense of achievement and pleasure when we all arrived back at the pub more or less together was palpable.

The trail was well crafted and constantly interesting. I remember running through woodland and across an ancient common and we crossed the huge A34 twice. There were more false trails than you could shake a stick at and it was fortunate that Jeremy was there acting as sheepdog otherwise we would have been running for most of the day. As it was we were out for an hour and forty minutes. Delightful countryside - one of the great hashes.

Back in the security and comfort of a very nice pub we sat and gossiped and drank pints and wondered where the walkers were. We were halfway through our fourth pint when they finally turned up. "Got lost" they said. "Ah" we said. I then thanked Jeremy for a splendid run and presented the horn to Maurice. Do I have to do everything ?

ON ONs

164	2 May	Radnor Arms at Coleshill	Brian & Keith
165	16 May	Buggers Arms	Ian
166	30 May	Oddfellows at Manton	Keith

We need a few more trails really

Any enquiries please ring - Grand Old Mistress (GOMargaret) on 01793 703744 or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - or you could visit our web site at <http://kvhash.mysite.freemove.com>