



Hash 167 - The Something Dragon, Potterne - 13th June 2004

Our scribe today is Brian the Bold:

On this bright and extremely hot morning we began arriving at the George and Dragon, a 15th century inn at Potterne, in our gaily coloured horseless carriages. Some 400 years ago the inn offered stabling for the weary traveller and his horse. There is still a sign saying 'GOOD STABLING' at the front although this should be replaced with a new sign 'INADEQUATE PARKING'.

This village, geographically speaking, is in relatively unknown (to me) territory in the south western sector of the Hash club's domain. It is close to (and I quote Potterne's own web site) Salisbury plane.

Being the last Hash before the relay run along the ancient Ridgeway Path, it would be expected that those entered would be in peak condition. They certainly all looked a little peaky. Mike admitted he'd been drinking the night before but since the Hash is a drinking club with a running problem, it could be said that he'd been in training. Well done Mike, an example to us all.

Despite, or perhaps because of, being in two previous relays the runners all had a nervous look about them upon any mention of the forthcoming event. Perhaps the phrase "if at first you don't succeed, skydiving is not for you" was occurring to them.

Laura called us all to attention. The omens were good, if there was as much flour on the trail [should this be 'trail'? Ed - perhaps not] as there was upon Iain's apparel (had they been having a flour fight?) then we should find our way with ease. Some short explanations on trail signs and we were off. There is certainly something unique about the English countryside in mid - summer. Where else in the world would you find in the blazing midday sun people running? The trail allowed for lots of false trail laying. At one early check there were six or more choices which took a good five minutes to sort out due to the Hashers' reluctance to run too far the wrong way in the heat ("if at first you don't succeed, perhaps its just too difficult" - Homer Simpson).

Highlights of the run included discovering very tall stinging nettles, and that very tall stinging nettles do. Sting that is. The trail was well laid so that most of the runners were kept together. Mostly flat which allowed for some gazing at the beautiful countryside.

Lovely back shaded courtyard and lovely pint. Needed some recovery from the heat. Everybody happy and chatting, the result of a good trail.

