



### Hash 180 - The Lamb, Marlborough - 28<sup>th</sup> November 2004

I was full of the joys of winter as Katrina, Toby, Maurice and I parked behind Waitrose and headed towards the Lamb. However my joy was short-lived, as I turned the corner to see several lumbering louts carefully grooming each other for fleas and howling at their reflections in shop windows; yes, the North Wilts Hash were making our day by joining us.

One of the less despicable habits of NWH is that of giving themselves nicknames - Smeghead, Dogbreath etc - and thus it was that Laura introduced her fellow trail-layer Ladyboy. Now we experts of KVH can find our way round Wilts, Berks, Gloucs and Oxon simply by means of flour dots, circles and arrers. But Ladyboy described several new signs which we had never heard of - raised manhole covers, early closing Wednesday, rock awash at the level of chart datum, and last church before the M4. Once we had practised these for a while, we were off - on a guided tour of Marlborough's historic council houses.

We passed No 7 Milton Obote Avenue, where Steve the postman has lived for 50 years with his mother and widowed cat; 33 Boutros Boutros Ghali Crescent, home of Sharon Gross, Southern Counties freestyle liposuction champion; and Sid Charisse's all-night video and crack cocaine emporium. After an hour or so of these delights, we branched off for a few minutes into open country.

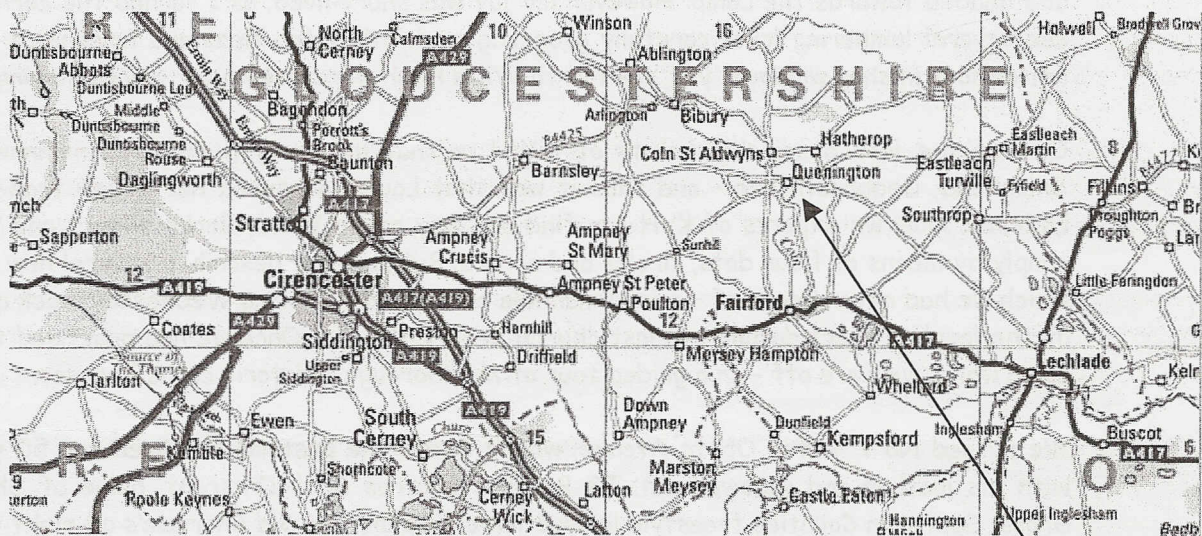
I counted at least 25 runners and riders as we headed south, skirting the forest parallel to the Burbage Road. I was rewarded for having skilfully manoeuvred myself into last place when the rest of the pack had to retrace their steps at a checkback, and Toby & I joyfully galloped into the lead - up to another checkback; hubris, hubris. Although we fought a close battle with some lame NWHers, we passed nobody except a couple of disgruntled punters tearing up their betting slips (I thought I was quite good value at 500-1).

We found ourselves just in sight of the furthest part of the trail I had laid from Wootton Rivers, and then briefly touched on another of my trails - this time from Manton. So in the space of 10 months we had covered much of an area of beautiful countryside I have lived in for 20 years without exploring - one of the many joys of Hashing!

We passed a flour sign which I think meant 'no Yellow Pages' and crossed the Pewsey Road. Toby cracked a fetlock and had to be put down, but I trotted on down Marlborough high street, passing the walkers - all of whom were feverishly window-shopping. We nipped off back to the stables for a brisk rub-down with embrocation and a bag of oats, then back to the delightfully roasting Lamb.

One of the *more* despicable habits of NWH is their childish insistence on dragging everybody out into the freezing cold for ritual humiliation and tribal songs. Poor old Maurice (note - *Maurees* not Morris) was picked on just because he got up late and forgot to change out of his jim-jams, and Mike was rather more justifiably picked on simply for being Mike. We were allowed to return to our beer just as the rain started *sipping* down, and congratulated ourselves - and thanked Laura and Ladyboy - for an excellent, dry run.

Now - pay attention! The Hash on 26<sup>th</sup> December - Boxing Day, for those unacquainted with British religious customs - will be in fancy dress. Our fragrant lady GOM hopes you will join in the Yuletide spirit and turn up unsuitably attired. But remember you will be running or walking - a frogman's outfit or suit of armour may create problems when leaping over stiles. Furthermore, if you wish to eat at the pub, please select from the attached menu and phone through your choice well in advance.



## Second Coming Hash Runs

- 181 - 12<sup>th</sup> Dec - The 5 Bells, Wootton Bassett - Iain
- 182 - 26<sup>th</sup> Dec - The Keepers Arms, Quenington - GOM & Dave
- 183 - 9<sup>th</sup> Jan - The Carpenters Arms, near South Marston - Mike
- 184 - 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan - The Cross Keys, Upper Chute - Jeremy

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Margaret on 01793 703744, or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - email [keith@pallettfs.co.uk](mailto:keith@pallettfs.co.uk) - website <http://kvhash.mysite.freemove.com>