



### 187 - The Lamb, Buckland, Nr Faringdon - 6<sup>th</sup> March 2005

Yet another Hash along the Thames, that far-flung tributary of the Kennet in the Vale of the White Horse! Posh pub, too - only 4x4 Beemers allowed in the car park, so since none of us honest-to-goodness, down-to-earth Hashers can afford a small armoured personnel carrier to take our kids to private school, or go off-road on the pavement outside Harvey Nicks, we were obliged to stick our prolembiles out in the street with the other plebs.

We were early for twice, and once everyone had had a good nag at Mad Mike Fisher for turning up dressed only in his vest and pants on a freezing cold morning, Brian made a complete horlicks of explaining double-headed arrows, and how to cross a 'T' - depending on whether you were approaching it from the east, backwards, down-wind, ect ect.

Utterly nonplussed, we wound up running down a long road past an imposing ancestral pile, then struck off across country and down a wooded vale into the Thames valley. I had purposely hang back to find a secluded spot where I could get rid of some excess coffee, so I was more than surprised to hear a puffing noise in my ear - which turned out to be Steve, who glided (glid?) past me in a splendid fluorescent yellow hat. The other runners embarrassed me considerably by courteously waiting for me at the far end of a field. A charming Samaritan from the Isle of Wight had taken pity on the shivering Mike, and lent him a jumper. More or less together for a while, we ran hither and thither - although upon careful reflection, it might have been thither and hither - through the fields and across a lock until we came to Tadpole Bridge; buggered if I could spot any tadpoles, though.

Half a mile or so along the north bank of the ~~Kennet~~ Thames - and now in my usual position, I came across a curious sight - a couple of second world war pillboxes. I bet that would have put the wind up Jerry as the *Bismark* came steaming up from Oxford to find Private Pike in a concrete coal bunker as the last line of defence offered by the free world....

A few hundred yards and I came upon an even curiouiser sight - the massed ranks of the KVH<sup>3</sup> walkers heading *towards* me. Was I hallucinating? Had I been running backwards? Normally we go in the same direction, with me wearily weaving through them a few yards before we reach the pub, to the sound of good-natured if woundingly accurate comments on my lack of running ability. But we were both going in the right, if opposite, direction. K & I had a brief, spirited discussion about who would get back first, and with great foresight I snatched the car keys. Mad Mike Fisher was a few hundred yards in front of me, struggling after a flu-induced six-week lay-off, and it was like two tortoises wading through treacle who crossed the cute wooden bridge and crawled together up the hill back to Buckland.



There seemed to be flour everywhere - circles, arrows, double dots; we gave up and asked the very well-spoken village idiot for directions back to the pub. The chap was clearly raving, so we wisely ignored his advice and were back in seconds.

The posh pub turned out to be very welcoming, and the grimly harassed bar-ladies were soon doling out excellent pints of Spitfire. Halfway through pint 2 the walkers staggered in, and our fair lady GOM made her pre-pre-penultimate speech of thanks to Brian for an excellently-worked trail, and Keith2 awarded me the horn for having the best tan!

**2nd Advance Notice:** The Hash on 1<sup>st</sup> May will be a *race* for the runners, practice for the Ridgeway Relay. All runners are welcome, whether in the Relay or not. Jeremy will work out a handicap based on his knowledge of our running ability - or lack of it. Please let him know well in advance if you will be running. Runners will start from the Bell at Ramsbury; please wear a watch. Walkers will start from the Red Lion at Axford. Everyone will finish at the Roebuck in Marlborough. Please arrange amongst yourselves who will drive whom to the starts. There will be no false trails or circles - just a straight - and very pretty - marked trail alongside the Kennet - I will print off maps, just in case. 5.75 mile run, 3 mile walk.



## Second Coming Hash Runs

188 - 20<sup>th</sup> Mar - The Horse & Jockey, Ashton Keynes - Steve

189 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Apr - The Harrow, Wanborough - Keith2

190 - 17<sup>th</sup> Apr - The Check Inn, Wroughton - GOM & Mike

191 - 1<sup>st</sup> May - The Roebuck, Marlborough - The Late Keith

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOMargaret 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>