

## Hash 193 - The Suffolk Arms, Brinkworth - 29th May 2005

Isn't it funny? We turned up having quite forgotten who was the day's Hare. There was Steve looking bronzed and fit, and I and several others sidled up to him and asked in a worried tone whether he had laid the trail. Great relief all round when Margaret and Dave turned up looking muddy, floury and sweaty - or in Margaret's case, glowing.

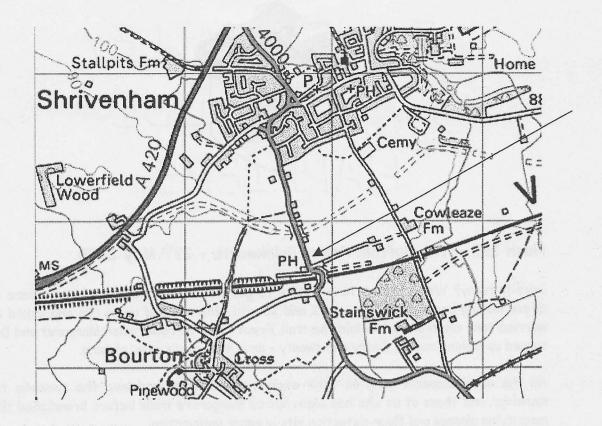
All the usual suspects hung on their every word as they explained the symbolic trail markings, and those of us who had experienced Margaret's trails before brandished their magnifying glasses and flour-detection kits in eager anticipation.

Longest village in England, Brinkworth, apparently - so it's lucky we didn't have to run through it before we got out into the countryside. Nor did we have to play chicken along the nearby M4, as the trail soon took us north, then east (I think - there was no sun) into what may well have been Webb's Wood. Occupying a strategic last place, as is my wont, I was very grateful to Katrina and Mike for signalling me into the undergrowth and beckoning me on through the woods from afar, as I am sure I would never have found my way through otherwise - very gloomy. I felt like I was an extra in The Blair Witch Project.

After that, it was fairly plain sailing, and we wound up back at the very odd Suffolk Arms – a huge place with only one bar – an unwelcoming, harsh and windowless room which soon led us to decamp into the fresh air of the garden.

So there we were, sipping us beer, when who should appear 20 minutes later but Brian the Bold - spectacularly late and having run round all on his tod. His excuse was that he thought the Hash was in Marlborough, and so he went down the M4 to Chippenham, or some equally unlikely story. Given the almost total absence of flour *en route*, I was amazed at his pluck and perseverance in finding his way round, and I thought he deserved both the Hash Baggy Pants and the Hash Horn, but these were presented to Katrina and someone else (forget whom - it's me age).

Many thanks to Margaret and Dave for an excellent, muddy and varied trail!



Please note the Victoria is outside of Shrivenham, on the way to Bourton. Hash 195 is the Ridgeway Relay – well-wishers and groupies are welcome to cheer the loonies, have a beer at South Stoke, or meet at the Presentation at Marlborough Sports Centre from 7.30 onwards, followed by more beer at anywhere other than the ghastly Royal Oak afterwards!

