

## Hash 202 - The Royal Oak, Bishopstone - 18<sup>th</sup> September 2005

For those of you who managed to make it to Meysey Hampton today, rather than Long Hampton or Marston Meysey or Royston Vaisey - congratulations. To those who wound up elsewhere -I blame Katrina.

It was the truly Late Keith (& Katrina) who turned up in the car park at 11.15 - we *had* driven from Stoke, Staffs, that morning, and if there hadn't been a close encounter of the 3-car type at Turnpike which formed a lovely jam, we might have made it in time. However, I'm sure I will have plenty more excuses to invent over the coming months.

The car park was devoid of Hashers, but full of cars and an irate landlady, arms folded and foot tapping, who harangued us mercilessly whilst we were donning the footwear. Were we responsible for the flour everywhere? What time were we going to be back? Did we know she had a big party in at 1.30? Where were her regulars supposed to park? &c &c &c. Earholes severely bashed, we left her in full flow....

Katrina was walking, suffering from an excess of cocktails over the previous week or so, and thus it was a very lonely long-distance runner who did a turn round the duck-pond, under the eaves of several thatched cottages - where the village wag enquired if I'd taken a wrong turn on the Great North Run - and out into the sunny open countryside.

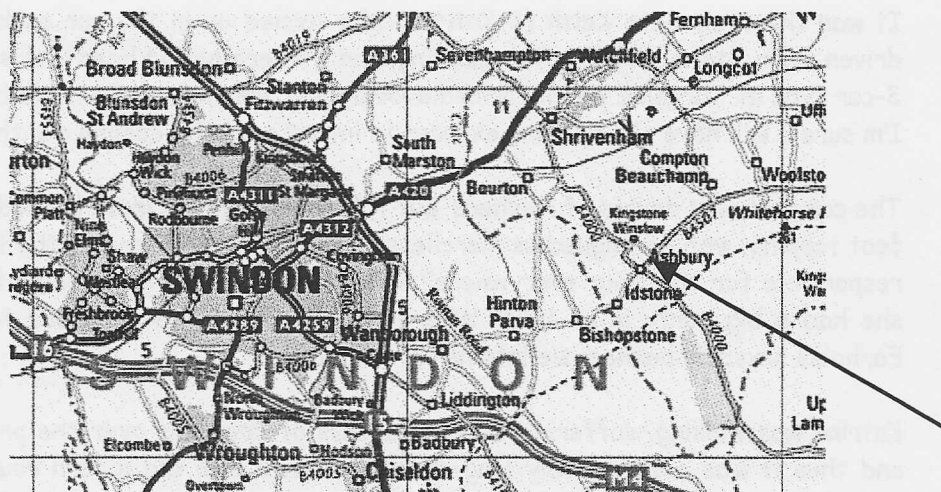
As I passed through a fairly familiar deep valley, I caught up with the Walkers, who were wholly unsurprised to see me so far in the rear; a few faces I had not seen for quite some time - welcome back! In the far distance, I could see our Annie walking, squired by a devil-may-care, rangily good-looking bloke who, to my intense surprise, turned out to be her husband, sadly afflicted by a bone in the leg which prevented him from running. I joined them for a while, talking of this and that, then sped off up the easiest section of the Ridgeway, which some lucky Hasher had the great good fortune to run down in the Relay a few months earlier.

I have to say the trail was exceedingly clearly marked, with supplementary arrows added for the benefit of anyone who might have turned up late. A cunning check-back duly fooled me - not a difficult task - and led me back down a gentle path to - Ashbury! I'm sure someone is doing a Hash from Ashbury shortly, I thought to myself, as the trail led all round, through and over every conceivable footpath in the vicinity; ah well, familiarity breeds content, or something. It was slightly disconcerting, however, to be sent in the opposite direction to a sign which read 'Bishopstone 1½'.

Eventually the trail led in the appropriate direction, and I once again caught up with the Walkers, all busily filling their faces with blackberries from the hedgerow, instead of attending to the matter in hand and heading back to the pub.

Upon arrival at said pub, I noticed that the flour had been ostentatiously washed away, and found Keith2 glumly awaiting the arrival of his car keys, which were still in the possession of a scrumper. I made his day by telling him that the keys were making slow, black-stained progress....

Sitting in the soon-to-vanish sun in the garden were the Runners, augmented by several guests who had so enjoyed running with us at New Year that they had rushed back to join us again in September. As the chilly clouds gathered, we drank lots of beer served by the cheerfully relenting bar staff, and listened to GOM heaping justifiable praise on himself for setting such a spiffing trail. Many thanks Jeremy! The pub, by the way, was still virtually empty when we left at 1.45.....



### Third Coming Hash Runs

203 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - The Masons Arms, Meysey Hampton - Brian

204 - 16<sup>th</sup> Oct - The Rose & Crown, Ashbury - Keith2

205 - 30<sup>th</sup> Oct - The Shears, Cadley (Collinbourne Ducis) - Laura

206 - 13<sup>th</sup> Nov - The Buggers Arms - Mike

207 - 27<sup>th</sup> Nov - The Buggers Arms - Katrina

208 - 11<sup>th</sup> Dec - The Buggers Arms, Outer Mongolia - Steve

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064; email [jer@xyz.port995.com](mailto:jer@xyz.port995.com) or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email [keith@pallettfs.co.uk](mailto:keith@pallettfs.co.uk) - website [kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk](http://kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk)