


KENNES VALLEY HAS USE HARRIERS



Hash 204 - The Rose & Crown, Ashbury - 16th October 2005

Dave had mixed feelings today - alarm at finding himself the only runner, then gratitude at seeing two other blokes roll up in shorts and plimsolls, then alarm again at finding that they were the two fit young blokes (whose names I still don't know, shame on me) who had joined us for the New Year Hash and again in September. Had he known that K&I were also on the trail, he might have been relieved, but he didn't know, for - yes, we were late yet again, the result of a late-night dash from Staffordshire and not waking up till gone ten. Did we receive any praise for our efforts - did we gubbery!

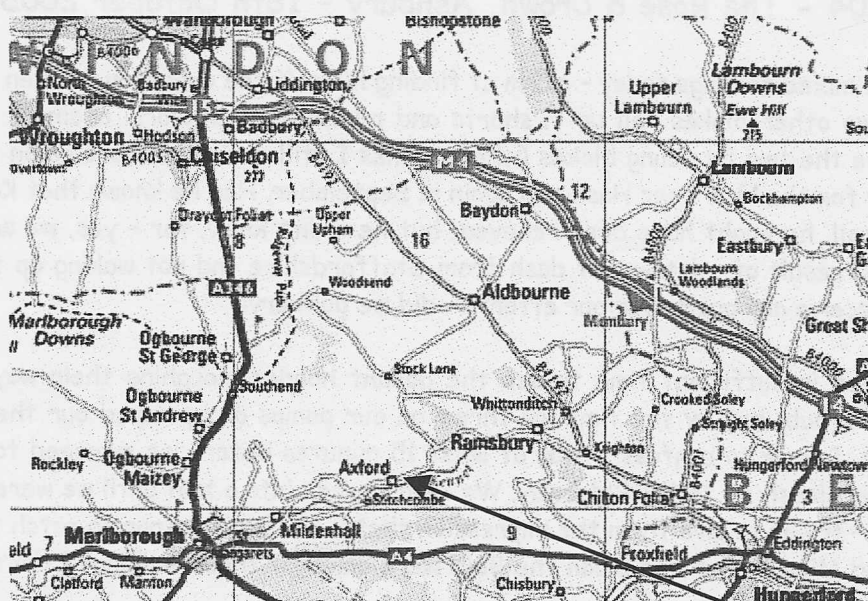
We arrived in sufficient time to see the gallant hordes ploughing their way up the hill behind the pub, but by the time we threw on our pumps and pumped our thews, all were long gone. I have to confess it was at least 15 minutes before we managed to run, as the trail led pitilessly up to the Ridgeway. We didn't break into a trot until we were up with the Walkers - trying to give them the impression that we had in fact run to catch them up, but since Mad Mike Fisher and Brian the Bold were amongst those walking, I don't imagine we fooled anybody....

As there were just the three Runners - and only one of them was a regular - it didn't occur to them that anyone could be as late as us, so none of them gave a thought to kicking out the circles (not even for the benefit of the Walkers). So K&I had to do much route-finding and circle kicking, and thus it was that one solitary, distant 'on-on' carried on the wind, was all we saw or heard of our unwitting fellow-Runners. Crossing over the Ridgeway, we carried on ever onner and upper, until we came to the L-S divide at yet another virgin circle. As it turned out, this was the last circle we would see until we were almost home.

Our route took us down a wooded field-edge to the Lambourn road, and then up a fiendishly steep track through freshly-sown winter wheat, and then across a field of freshly-sown turnips (or possibly parsnips, swedes or mangel-worzels - I must get a book) to a spot high on the downs, with misty views over most of Berkshire. It might have been Weathercock Hill, or then again not. Whatever it was called, it is hard to imagine a more remote and austere beautiful place. As Keith2 had acquired an arrow-fixation, we were spared the effort of checking out further untouched circles, and ran gently back down a hanging valley to the road. At last we were heading north, and the trail turned left into Something Park, a National Trust estate which beckoned us gently down a long, wide avenue bordered with noble oaks, chestnuts and ash which strewn our path with russet confetti. Such evocative and atmospheric prose, don't you think?

Slightly to our surprise - since we hadn't got a bloody clue where we were - we found ourselves once again at the long-short divide, and retraced our steps back through the Walkers on the now much friendlier trail up which we had earlier sprinted. Cheered on by a helpful 'you're last' from my good friend Mr Fisher (standing in for step-son Tom, whose usual refrain this is), K&I both managed - quite independently of each other - to take opposite and equally wrong paths back to the pub, adding another half-mile each to our outing. But who cares! It was a lovely day, and a splendid trail, a fact which Mike (standing in for GOM, who was running the Swindon Half-Snickers) pointed out in his brief speech inside the pub. As I had been pretending to wear the sodding green knickers, I presented them to - a Walker, viz Graham - who pretended to be grateful for the honour, and nobly refrained from smacking me in the mouth.

Many thanks Keith2!



Third Coming Hash Runs

- 205 - 30th Oct - The Shears, Cadley (Collinbourne Ducis) - Laura
- 206 - 13th Nov - The Red Lion, Axford - Mad Mike Fisher
- 207 - 27th Nov - The George, Vernham Dean - Katrina
- 208 - 11th Dec - The Buggers Arms, Outer Mongolia - Steve
- 209 - 26th Dec - Boxing Day - Monday - Fancy Dress - Marge & Dave

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 or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email keith@pallettfs.co.uk - website kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk