



Hash 205 - The Shears, Cadley - 30th October 2005

It was 3.30 a.m. The tall, young, attractive, shapely blonde and I were dancing, alone. "You don't want to go on that silly old Hash tomorrow" she purred in my ear. "Why don't you stay here all day - we could have lots of fun".

I have to say I was tempted - what red-blooded male wouldn't be? Have fun all day with an extremely well-proportioned blonde, or run in the mud with Mad Mike Fisher - I believe this is technically known as a 'no-brainer'. However, as Katrina was dancing in the garden (in the rain) with the blonde's extremely strong young husband and other friends, and the fun would involve the six of us wreaking even further havoc upon our livers - and I would have to help clear the mountain of washing up we had created - I held firm. But my main reason for wanting to run was that I had specifically asked Iain & Laura to lay the trail again from The Shears, so much had I enjoyed the previous Hash they laid from there. "No", I said, resolutely. "K&I are going to bed right now".

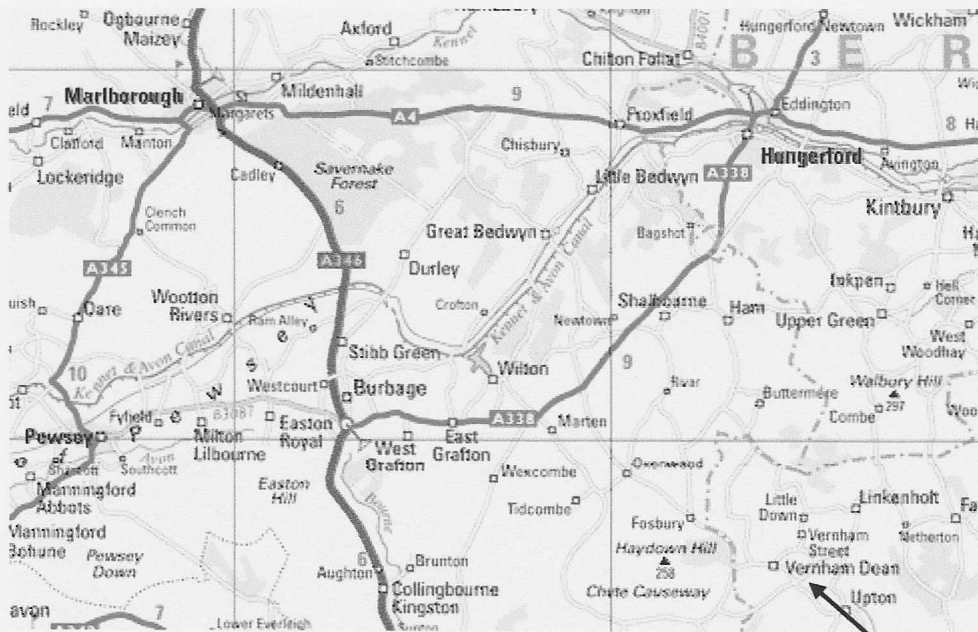
Thus it was that an hour-and-a-half and several Cointreaus later (God! why Cointreau? I loathe the stuff) we fell into bed, and after what seemed like 2 minutes, crawled out again to make our 90-mile journey from Horsham to Cadley.

Only 10 minutes later, I knew my drink problem had become serious when I saw several gorillas in running togs loping round the Shears car park. Some of them turned out to be Brian and Dave in Halloween masks, but the rest were of course the North Wilts Hash. Head Louse, Whitlow, Bottom Burp and the other vermin picked their noses thoughtfully as the Hares reprised the flour signals, and off we set - some 25 runners (including our IoW friends) and just 4 stout Walkers. Despite having driven through a torrential downpour to get here, the rain immediately stopped (fortunately, or else I would have been straight off to bed) as I left a pale and frail Katrina zedding in the executive Skoda.

As we struggled up a seemingly never-ending series of hills, a North Wiltsher puffed "don't we ever go down?" "Maybe tomorrow" I replied, as we eventually ran past the same Ludgershall Castle that I had driven past only 20 minutes earlier. Most of us were very grateful to the front-runners, who managed to find what little remained of the flour that hadn't been washed away by the storm - well done folks! We were also grateful to Laura, who ran round marking fresh flour arrows for the back-markers (astonishingly not me), and to Iain, who kept popping up mysteriously from the undergrowth to guide us on our way through Collingbourne Woods. How the hell does he do that?

I could tell from the direction the scudding clouds were following that we were heading ever further from Cadley, through a seemingly never-ending succession of muddy, slippery bramble-strewn forest tracks. Some of us (well me, at any rate) wound up flat on our faces on more than one occasion. Iain materialised from another subterranean tunnel to spirit Mad Mike Fisher back to Cadley by a short cut (he walked, Annie, honestly!), leering impishly at the rest of us that it was still "a very long way". Which indeed it was, but it was such fun that it really didn't seem like the 1 hour 35 minutes it took to get back to the welcoming Shears. Muddied and bloodied, we scraped off most of the filth and took over the south-eastern corner of the pub, where our dignified GOM refused to pander to howls of the North Wilts mob for that disgusting spectacle the 'down-down', and graciously thanked our three Hares - Iain, Laura, and Sick-Bag from NWHHH. The Horn was awarded to Brian for - well, being Brian, I think.

A splendid Hash indeed - many thanks!



Third Coming Hash Runs

- 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 - Margaret & Dave

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bigger'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 kvh.hash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk