

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS



Hash 223 - The Woodman, Fernham - 25th June 2006

Our Scribe today is Brian the Bold:

This was a combined Hash of the Kennet Valley and the Isle of Wight Harriers to celebrate the marriage of Steven and Jan (Baldrick and Slackbladder). The Hash had been preceded the previous day and evening by the wedding and the more traditional celebrations of food, drink and dancing at the Shrivenham Defence Academy.

In keeping with tradition the gathered guests were required to wear the wedding apparel of brides' veils and top hats. However it was the men who had to wear the veils and the girls wear the top hats.

As we all assembled in the pub car park on what was a warm and sunny day there was a fine array of assorted and colourful headgear. I also had the honour of wearing the 'shorts of bells' to which Linda and I had added nine more bells. That was six each, except I gave up after half way through.

Off we went. Or rather off we stood milling around at the front of the inn as the keen Runners scuttled around looking for the start of the trail. Trail found, on-on called and away we went. One minute later we were labouring uphill. I used to hate running uphill but since I adopted the strategy of walking up them they are not a problem. However, on this occasion there was a photographer [your Editor; see the pics on the website] half way up, and Mad Mike Fisher exclaimed we should be running if our photos were being taken. So barely five minutes into the Hash my tactics were shot to pieces.

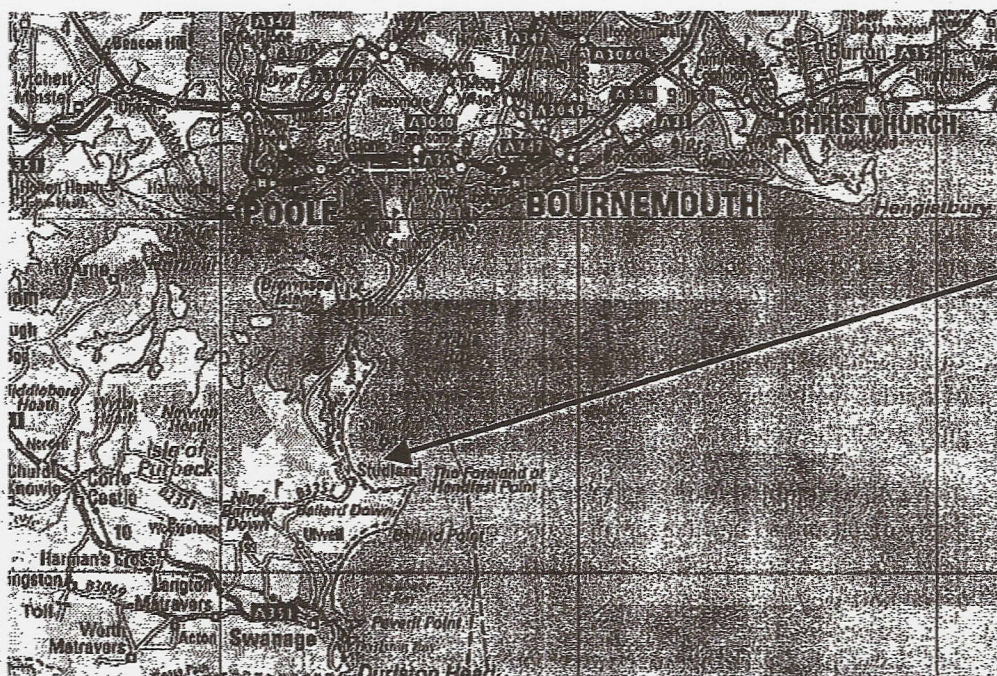
It never ceases to amaze me how in areas that I think I know well there are footpaths which give views of great beauty that I've never seen before and the only thing that spoils the serenity and tranquillity is the sound of those damn bells.

As we scamper eagerly (well we have only been running for about fifteen minutes) along a track where there have obviously been horses recently, our wedding veils flowing in the breeze, someone innocently asks "Is this a bridal path?" Mass laughter doesn't break out.

Onwards ducking low hanging branches. The bells are really, really irritating. I sound like a reindeer cantering along however someone passes me saying "Hello Morris" a reference to Morris Dancers. We pass through a little village called Little Coxwell. The only thing I have against Little Coxwell is that it isn't near Fernham. Many of the Runners are in close proximity. Katrina, looking very fetching in top hat and tails (three tails to be exact) was making good use of the horn, "D'ye ken John Peel" comes to mind.

Through fields of wheat (I think) and then an almost double back. Two miscreants who I won't name, called David and Mad Mike, cheat by taking a short cut.

All of a sudden the 'on inn' sign and we're back. The landlord allowed a barbeque in the car park for the special occasion. Jeremy thanked the Hares, MBA Mike and Phil, Katrina and I awarded the horn and shorts to Mike and David respectively. The Isle of Wight Hash have a number of 'down downs'. I was selected as Morris. For a moment I thought they would fob me off with water but I insisted on the beer. Katrina was selected for her tails and drank something other than beer. The happy couple were presented with a cake. The cake was cut. Linda and I had a slice each and I enjoyed both of them. An excellent day.



Second Coming Hash Runs

224 - 9th July - The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers, Iain

225 - 23rd July - Bankes Arms, Studland, Lady Margaret & Duke Dave

226 - 6th August - The Millstream, Marden - Laura

227 - 20th August - Crown & Anchor, Ramsbury - GOM

228 - 3rd Sept - The Buggers Arms - Phil

229 - 17th Sept - The Buggers Arms - The Late Keith

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.port99b.com or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website kvhask.mysite.orange.co.uk

Dear Kennet Valley Harriers,
Thank you so much for
the gift vouchers. We will
enjoy choosing a gift to
remember a very happy day!
Thank you also for joining
us and the IOW Hash
for dancing and hashing!
We enjoyed the weekend
very much, and hope you all
did too.

Look forward to meeting
you all again when
we're invited to
Wiltshire.

Best wishes
Jan & Steve.

