



Hash 233 - The Rose & Crown, Ashbury - 12th November 2006

Having recently crossed the threshold into middle age, I find that my memory is starting to go. And I get easily distracted from the task in hand. You know the sort of thing - kettle boils, you head for the fridge to get the milk out and notice an unwashed mug in the sink. So you start to wash it up, then the running tap reminds you that you haven't watered the plants - which you were going to do yesterday. You abandon the mug and water one plant, then on the doormat you see the post, which you open - and there's that reminder for a bill you meant to pay last month. So you sit at the desk to write out a cheque, and remember that you were going to make a cup of coffee. But the water is now cold. So you put the kettle on again, head for the fridge....

What, you may ask, has this to do with Katrina's Hash? Hang on a minute, it will come to me. In the meantime - Becky & I turned up the statutory 3 minutes late and dashed into the meeting-place - the church car park - to find MMF fuming that we were holding up the Remembrance Day service (we weren't, but at his age...). As K did the flour spiel, I noticed the absence of most of our regulars. However there were new faces - the tireless David, who had already run 8 miles that morning - and K's bruv-in-law Julian Ingmar Johansson-Brown, (hereinafter referred to as 'Hyphen'), who had already run 600 yards that morning from his new home to be with us. And Kevin, making a comeback after 8 months, now fully recovered from his sports injury (sprained brain or something). So we numbered 9 Runners and me, and a goodly turnout of Walkers, including Our Mike's Annie and her new feet.

Now you should know that K&I had run the trail only the previous Sunday, so this gave me the perfect excuse (like I need one) for hanging around at the back and not checking out any false trails. But - and this is important - she had laid the trail the **Other Way Round**. As the Walkers were sent off in a northerly direction, the Runners & I were directed east - which stumped me more than somewhat, since I was expecting to go south, up to the Ridgeway. I took me quite some time to reorientate myself, and frankly, when my fellow-Runners turned to me for direction and advice, I was as much use as an earwig's tits. On several occasions I cockily led the troops down false trails, calling back a front-runner who had sprinted miles down what was in fact the correct trail. Or forget where we were entirely, and left us milling about aimlessly with my back to the right direction. The mind, you see - going, going....

Now, where was I? Oh yes - well, we ran towards Idstone, home of the afore-mentioned Hyphen, before crossing the road and down to a farm (see 'milling around aimlessly' above), where we raised MMF's spirits by heading back to Ashbury. But we went straight through

However, the view north from the Ridgeway was superb, and once GOM had divined the correct route home (see 'calling back a front runner' above), it was an easy canter down to Ashbury where Katrina was awarded the Fisher Seal of Approval for a 1 hour 10 mins Hash. Into the very pleasant pub for a few jars, and a glowing speech of thanks from GOM - who later sentenced me to 100 hours community trail-laying for gross incompetence. Well done the newcomers - especially Hyphen, whom K had described as an unfit, lazy bloater but who ran nearly as well as a former triathlete should - and David, who sent a very complimentary email to GOM afterwards. Greaser.

234 - 26th Nov - The Horseshoe, Mildenhall - GOM

235 - 10th Dec - The King & Queen, Longcot - Mabel (Andrew)

236 - 26th Dec (Boxing Day, Tuesday!) - Keepers Arms, Quenington -
Princess Margaret & Duke Dave - Cops & Robbers Fancy Dress

237 - 7th Jan - The Buggers Arms, Mad Mike Fisher

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@griffins.co.uk - website kvhash.mysite.orange.co.uk