



Hash 239 - The Calley Arms, Hodson - 7th February 2007

In accordance with Rule 3, para 2(iv) subsection (a) [Winter Conditions] of the Articles of Association of the Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers, it was a crisp, fine morning when Runners and Walkers assembled for the inaugural examination of neophytes Jackie and Pauline. The Calley Arms, erstwhile watering-hole of the absent MMF and myself in days of yore, was bathed in chilly sunshine as Jackie and Pauline nervously - but with growing confidence - explained the flourey order of proceedings to an audience of critical but kindly Hashing Elders. The stern visage of GOM relaxed as they passed the first part of their initiation test with flying colours.

With a sigh of relief, our L-plate Hares pointed out the first On-On. Momentary panic ensued as the Hashers milled aimlessly around, but TLK quickly assessed the situation and took command, leading the Hash down a frosty trail, where he was soon joined by fellow-graduate of Britain's finest business school - MBA Mike. Now any fool can run across level countryside; a child of five can sprint up the side of a valley. But it takes years of business training to lead a Hash successfully **down** a slope. Mike and I held a brief strategy meeting: "Situation analysis" said Mike incisively; "When they are up they are up." "SWOT issues" replied TLK - "When they are only half-way up, they are neither up nor down." "Objective matrix:" came back Mike - "When they are down, they are down." Problem solved. By which time the entire band of Runners had swept past us - but hey, what decision-making skills...

[Ed - Get on with it!] OK, OK. We ran east - or as Brian the Bold would have it - west along a delightful wooded valley, before clambering up to possibly the neatest, tidiest, clearest Long-Short divide I have seen in 8 years of Hashing. GOM licked his pencil before ticking off full marks for sign-posting skills. We followed a path behind the Plough pub - GOM deducting points for passing a pub we couldn't drink in [~~pissy~~ Arkells bitter] - and then watched in disbelief as Duke Dave flagrantly took a short-cut across a field of winter wheat (for which he was later grassed-up by Katrina - see below). Runners rejoined the Walkers before descending to run parallel with the M4, where a fine, wooded track led us back to the escarpment above the valley. Such a wonderful view as the sun filtered through the branches - MMF would have given his upper plate to be here.

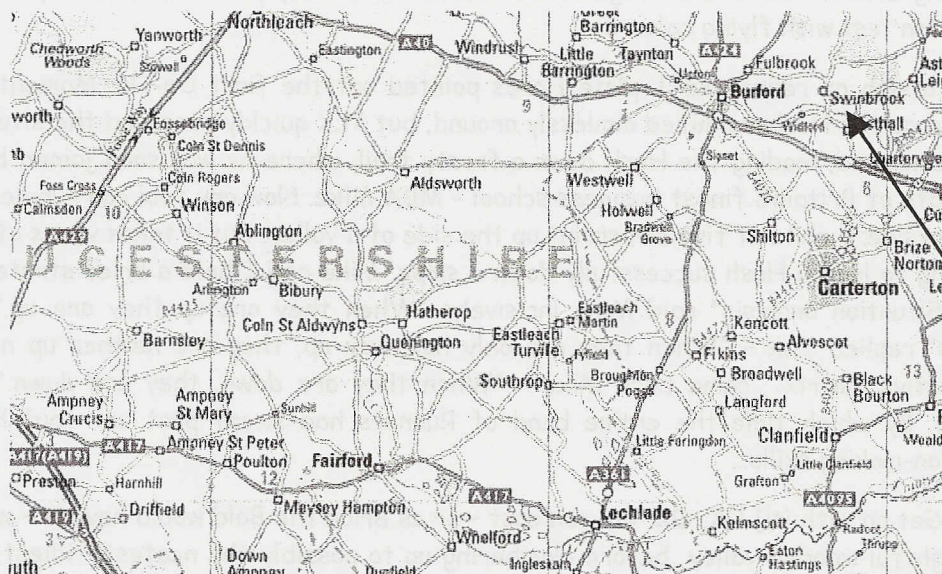
Arriving back on the Broome Manor road, we were briefly diverted across the muddiest part of the valley - J&P thereby losing a few marks - before arriving back at the pub, more or less in the MMF-approved one hour (or so), thus winning them back. Jackie and Pauline also ran round most of the Trail with us, thus earning bonus points, and were only slightly marked down for getting **all** the Walkers back - and on the correct trail! They therefore graduated with first-class honours and were elected *summa cum laude* into the Hasher Hall of Fame, thereby securing the right to lay Trails singly, alone and by themselves!

In the excellent pub, GOM made a graduation speech entirely in Latin and awarded J&P their degree certificates. When asked to present the Hash Horn, MBA Mike demonstrated his incisive, MBA-honed decision-making skills by dithering for a full five minutes before picking on Lovely Linda by the toss of a coin. The Brigadier awarded Duke Dave the Order of the Green Kecks for cheating on the field of battle.

Many thanks Jackie and Pauline for a truly delightful and well-planned trail, which yet again reached the parts of Wiltshire we thought we knew well!

The Editor writes:

The Management has recognised the increased demand for the KVH³ Magazine. There were ugly scenes in the Calley Arms this week as frantic Hashers (especially Kathy) clawed, scratched and bit each other in the attempt to secure one of the few remaining copies. In the interests of public safety, we have managed to secure sponsorship for an increased print run. This edition is therefore brought to you courtesy of **Griffins Financial Solutions™**, purveyors of high quality Independent Financial Advice to the toffs of West Berkshire for over 25 years.



Second Coming Hash Runs

40 - 18st Feb - The Victoria Inn, Eastleach Turville - Lovely Linda

241 - 4th Mar - The Swan, Swinbrook nr Burford - Keith2

242 - 18th Mar - [TLK's birthday] The Buggers Arms - GOM

243 - 1st April - The Buggers Arms - Brian the Bold

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