

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 254– Sunday 19th August 2007 – The Sun Inn at Lydiard Millicent .

Scribe - MMF

Many years ago when the world was young and the Kennet Valley Hash had just begun there was one run when only one person turned up (I think it was Jeremy). When I arrived in good time at the Sun Inn for Jackie and Pauline's trail this morning the car park was deserted with no sign of hares or hounds. I wondered then if history was about to repeat itself and that I would be a lonely long distance runner. Things looked more promising however when walkers Sylvia and Janet and a new lady arrived - and then Brian and Linda bowled into the car park followed by Laura and her family. Finally, Jackie and Pauline puffed in from a field behind the pub at ten past eleven explaining that the trail was a little longer than they thought !

So, after a quick brief Brian and I galloped out of the car park and down the road followed by a small band of loyal walkers. We soon turned across some muddy fields and up to the entrance to Lydiard Park where we were delayed by a lack of trail. Some member of the Swindon lower orders had scuffed out all the flour and Brian and I had to check about seventeen possible paths without success.

Fortunately one of the walkers was either lucky or had some inside information and they found a single blob of flour under a tree about a mile from the circle. On we went round Lydiard Park lake – with a lovely fountain in the middle - where we met our hares who had been repairing part of the trail. They ran with us to the long/short divide where they told us that the long was indeed long with lots of false trails and did we really want to run it with just two of us. Brian and I being of a determined and courteous disposition said of course we would run the long. As I said to Brian an hour later – as Jackie and Pauline had put so much time and effort into laying our trail it would have been awful for them if nobody ran and enjoyed it.

And we did enjoy it. Brian is the most amiable of men and good company and we ran over miles of fields and lanes chatting and enjoying the scenery. We only lost the trail a few times – went round one huge field about three times before finding the flour on the other side of the hedge – but Jackie and Pauline met us a mile or so from the end and ran in with us. They must have run miles.

Just a select few in this very nice pub afterwards as most of the walkers had gone by the time we sat down to a beer. I stood in for GOM and thanked our hares for a splendid trail and for the conscientious way they had watched over us during the run. A great pity more of us weren't there to enjoy it. Thank you again Jackie and Pauline and very well done.