

Hash 265 - The Trotting Horse, Bushton, 20th January 2008

I thought we'd run out of new pubs within a 20-mile radius of Ramsbury - the spiritual home of the KVH³ - but Jackie&Ray had managed to suss out another which met the criteria: a big car park, a friendly landlord and some decent beer. And a good crowd of Runners and Walkers was there to show their appreciation, including the long-lost Andrew, who had come all the way from Warwickshire [only just outside the Kennet drainage basin, some weeks] to run with us, and the even longer-lost MBA Mike, who had forsaken his expectant missus to join us. Unfortunately absent were MMF, and Annie, whose brother had unexpectedly passed away on the Friday. Several of us had met him at the Fisher nuptials - a thoroughly nice bloke. Our sympathies to Annie.

If we had been horses, I am sure the Hash would have been cancelled, as the course was waterlogged. But having no horse-sense, we splashed and paddled our way up towards the Goddard Arms at Clyffe Pypard, where Keith2 had led us through knee-deep mud of Biblical proportions 18 months earlier. But strangely enough, although it was bluddy soaking, it wasn't particularly muddy, just slippery. And slip we did, all the way along the path below the escarpment of Clyffe Hanging [no, I'm not making it up], until we turned back down the hill. I was of course in my accustomed position at the back of the field, until Katrina and Pauline, who were clearly gasbagging for England, managed to run for some distance straight past a huge arrow pointing left and thus I managed to keep my slender hold on third-last place all the way back to the pub.

Even so, the youngsters - GOM, Keith2, Kevin, Clive, Steve & co - were all changed and in the bar before we got back, followed at some distance by the Walkers. And jolly pleased to see us the Landlord must have been, since we had the bar and almost the whole pub to ourselves. There was a vaguely roaring fire, but since Andrew and Jeremy had generously plonked themselves right in front of it, the rest of us had to jog up and down on the spot to keep warm.

GOM managed to tear himself away from the fire long enough to deliver a glowing tribute to Jackie&Ray, who had indeed laid a fine Trail with splendid views over the countryside. Mad Mike Fisher would have been euphoric, since even I was back in 1 hour 10 - so jolly well done to our Hares!



The Coopers Arms is HERE down Southcott Road. It does not do food, ever!

