



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

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An historic hash today as Kevin and Ann were laying their first trail and what a good job they made of it. Kevin was a bit worried that nobody would turn up as Annie and I were the only people there at 1055 but then everybody arrived in a rush at 1102. I must have a word with the staff about timekeeping.

The briefing was fun - Kevin began with a gentle courteous run through the trail signs - flour dispensed from a watering can which was novel - and Ann followed with a brisk 'Health & Safety' risk assessment lecture in which she warned us of the horrors of barbed wire and electric fences lurking out there waiting to get us. There was a short stretch on the road and then we ran out into open country looking anxiously about us for hazards but luckily nobody was seriously hurt. The trail led along muddy tracks and over open fields with some very good false trails which kept us together nearly all the way round. Ray would regularly leap ahead but he equally regularly found the false trails so we managed to keep up with him. There were only five of us - Ray, Jackie, Keith P, Chris (girl who came for the first time when we ran through the floods last month) and me and we chatted and admired the view and enjoyed the sunshine. There were about a dozen or so walkers but we saw nothing of them on the trail. Walker Graham was wearing the silliest hat you have ever seen; he said it was to keep the buzzards off - which is daft as Ann didn't even mention buzzards. Just after the long/short divide the trail led into a wood where we had a bit of trouble finding the trail. We thought we were doing well until we came to an arrow pointing back the way we had come. So we retraced our footsteps to the last circle from which every path was either tee-ed off or going back the way we had come. In 20 years of hashing I have not come across that one so I took charge and led the troops back to the long/short divide and we followed the short home. Kevin later explained that one of his arrows must have been eaten (by buzzards ?) and we should have ignored a T the second time round. We were back in an hour and 12 minutes but I am sure it would have been an hour if we had not been flummoxed in the woods for a while.

The après was sociable and pleasant as always. Jeremy is in France and so I thanked the hares for an excellent and challenging first trail and Kevin presented the horn to Chris for having a P behind a pile of logs. Thank you again Kevin and Ann.

Stop press

TLK's daughter Becky missed the hash today as she was running the London Marathon and I've just heard she did so well. She finished 8,694th (out of 35,000 runners) in a time of 3 hours 50 minutes and she was the 1,263rd woman to finish. We're all proud of you Becky.

ON ONs

272	27 th Apr 08	The Bell at Purton Stoke	Margaret
273	11 th May 08	The White Hart at Woolstone	Jackie and Ray
274	25 th May 08	The Downgate Hungerford	Mike
275	8 th Jun 08	TBA	Brian
276	15 th Jun 08	Ridgeway Relay	GOM
277	22 nd June 08	TBA	TLK

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