

Hash 285 - The Wheatsheaf, Chilton Foliat - 12th October 2008

I almost didn't come to this week's Hash, since I was in the middle of urgent and delicate negotiations to buy Iceland - but as I couldn't find the key to my granddaughter's piggy bank, I had to put it on hold. And jolly glad I am that I turned up, on surely the finest Hashing Sunday of the summer, once the mist had burned away. And even jolly gladder were all the other runners:- Jackie & Ray, to be precise; it's hard finding the trail on a 3-way check when there's only two of you...

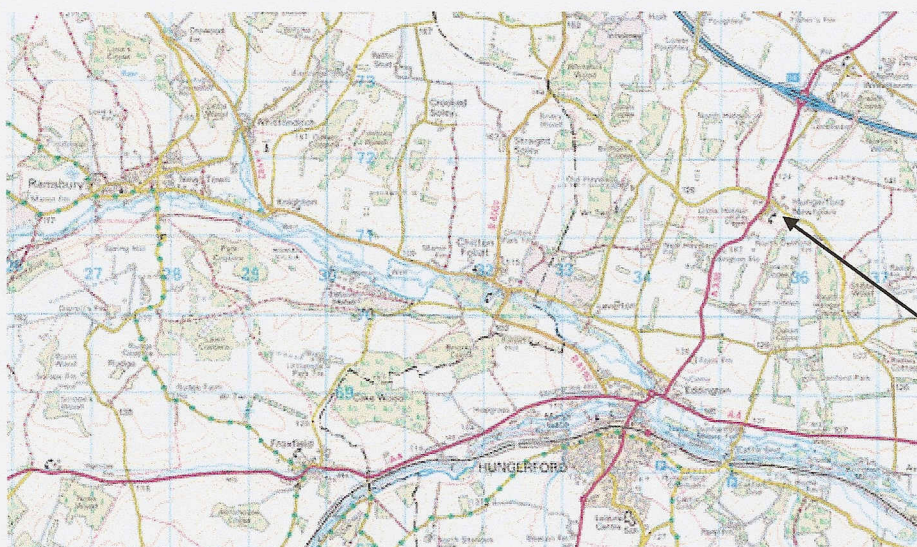
I imagine our Hare was also somewhat relieved that his efforts were slightly less in vain, not that my appearance does much to increase the strength of the Running contingent. But Walkers there were in abundance, a dozen or so. For once we didn't bother with the intro, just set off to the first circle, where the Hare had his (very) little joke with us by setting a double-dot of flour on two of the three trails which led from it (they both met up after 50 or so yards).

Soon we were out of the village, and it was just the Three Musketeers - Bathos, Pathos and Avarice, galloping across the Berkshire countryside in search of derring-do. But thanks to an accelerated breeding programme - details of which Jackie would prefer to keep private - the three of us quickly grew into six. First to join the Three Musketeers was D'Artingom, who was as usual showing off alarmingly by running the trail he had laid that morning. He was soon followed by Lady Margaret, who, despite turning up 20 minutes late (shamefull!) managed to catch us up in a time which I for one found somewhat embarrassing - not least because I was springing a leak when she hove into view. My long legs failed to keep up with her rather shorter ones as we trundled downhill towards the A4, when Katrina - officially a Walker, as she has been for at least the past 6 months - decided to stop being a lazy cow and also caught me up, even though she was wearing walking boots. Maybe it's time I packed up...

The sun finally put his hat on as we ran along the K&A canal, passing on the way a statue of Morecombe and Wise which I must have seen before, but don't remember. The plaque said that it had once stood in Regents Park, but the residents found it 'too vulgar'. Toffee-nosed gits. As we re-crossed the A4 heading West, it became apparent that when GOM said he had recycled a previous Hash, what he meant was he had recycled the one Maurice laid from Hungerford a few years earlier, but in reverse - and none the worse for that. We finished by hurtling over the beautiful Kennet (hurrah) and catching up with the Walkers as we all arrived together back at the pub - something which Mad Mike Fisher would have approved of - though probably not the 1 hour 20 minutes it took us to complete the course.

As we sat outside in the garden, in sunshine which would have been acceptably warm in July, Ray congratulated himself on not passing out *en route* - which he had recently done whilst training for today's Hash; and GOM congratulated himself on setting a brilliant Trail, which no-one could begrudge him. A day, and a Hash which Pop Larkin would have described as 'perfuck'.

By the time you read this, the clocks will have gone back last night - so hard luck to all those who turned up an hour early - and the global financial crisis will either have resolved itself, in which case I may be able to retire before I'm 90; or it will have got worse and collapsed around our ears, in which case we shall have to start eating each other, starting with the oldest first. Fisher and chips, anyone?



Unforthcoming Hash Runs

286 - 26th Oct - Ramsbury Brewery - North Wilts Hash

287 - 9th Nov - The Tally-Ho, Hungerford Newtown - The Late Keith

287 - 23rd Nov - The Bugger's Arms - Pauline & Clive

288 - 7th Dec - The Bugger's 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 01264 850841 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website <http://kvhash.bravehost.com>

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