



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 286 – 26th October 2008 – Ramsbury Brewery. Scribe - Mike

We sometimes think, perhaps unkindly, of the North Wilts Hash as being rather nearer the coarse end of the hashing spectrum than ourselves but you have to admire the way they organised the combined hash today; they made a fantastic job of it. What a brilliant idea to have a run from a micro-brewery in the middle of nowhere, invite a couple of neighbouring hashes and have a hog roast and beer tasting afterwards. It was raining steadily as I arrived with Rew and Sam and John and Vivienne but the North Wilts were there in foul weather gear with cheerful grins to welcome their visitors – a bit of rain was not going to spoil their party. The brewery is indeed micro; just a shed in a field (where walker Steve tells me that the brewery grows its own barley for malting) and the party and the roasting hog were in a small muddy area between the shed and the field where about 50 runners and walkers all squashed together. We were quite well represented – there was Keith 2 and Margaret and Sylvia and Cathy and Sandra and Steve as well as my family group and the big chap who walks with his son (my apologies to them for failing to remember their names).

The briefing was a typical North Wilts shambles with two hares shouting instructions about the Mongolian system of trail marking - which nobody listened to as they were too busy trying to dodge muddy water being thrown about by the rough element. There was eventually a cry of "On On" and the crowd surged forward into the barley field and began spreading out as far as the eye could see as the good runners sped away and the walkers, including Rew and me – he with a broken leg and me with a virus, took up the rear. The trail was excellent – clearly marked, through some lovely countryside and full of interest, but there did not appear to be any difference between the long and the short trails. After we had been walking briskly for about two hours the walkers arrived in Ramsbury still not having seen a long/short divide and getting a bit anxious about whether they would be back in time for the roasted hog. So I took charge, asked a local for directions and took everybody back about two miles along the road. The runners got back in about an hour and a half so the trail was on the long side. Some of our newer runners, not accustomed to the eccentricities of the North Wilts Hash were surprised to be drenched in icy water by the aforesaid rough element as they ran through the ford at Ramsbury – we should have warned them really.

The après was friendly and jolly as we stood around in the cold mud chatting and drinking pints of Ramsbury Gold bitter and Kennet Valley bitter, both wonderful real ales but the Kennet Valley was the best! The hog took a little longer than expected to cook all the way through but my word it tasted good when it was. The North Wilts hashes are never dull and today's hash was lively and fun and I enjoyed it immensely. Thank you NWHHH for your hospitality and a great run.

ON ONs

287	9 th Nov 08	The Tally Ho at Hungerford Newtown	The Late Keith
288	23 rd Nov 08	The Carpenters Arms South Marston	Pauline & Clive
289	7 th Dec 08	The Horseshoe at Mildenhall	Mike
290	26 th Dec 08	The Keepers Arms at Quennington	Margaret

Grand Old Master (GOM Jeremy) - 01672 521064 or email jer@xyz.port995.com. The Late Keith Mitchell 01264 850841 – email keith@griffins.co.uk HashWeb site – kvh.hash.bravehost.com