



"The Late Keith's" Hash (289) - The Horseshoe, Mildenhall - 7 Dec 2008

It was only 2 weeks earlier that TLK had turned up at the South Marston hash in his usual relaxed style - in no obvious rush, and this time half an hour late. He jogged round on his own, seen only by the hares outside the pub as he set off on the final loop. It was some days later, when, with great sadness, we heard that he is now truly "The Late Keith" and that we had all missed him on what has since become his final hash.

Today, we gathered on one of those beautiful crisp winter mornings (although unfortunately it was autumn still); a clear blue sky with a hard frost covering the ground. It was a privilege for us that Dett, Becky and Toby, together with Kathrina and her family all came; and of course, there was a much larger than usual turnout.

Navy Mike was our hare for the day and before setting us off, he gave a short heartfelt speech, dedicating this hash to Keith. Kathy, similarly affected, then read us the following poem she had written:

Keith - were you ever this good?
Those who knew you better would have told you so, I'm sure.
Me, I only knew you from a hundred hashes blessed;
You simply made us *have* to do our best.
Our best - however bad - you still found pleasing.
You hid some real gems beneath your teasing.
But, more - you showed us beauty,
And our gratitude shan't die.
Dear Keith, we've lost so much in such a wretched goodbye.

Then, without further ado the hash got underway.

It was out onto the road with the runners leading the way, and then left down towards the Kennet. Brian was back with us, chiming appropriately like an Xmas sleigh with the green nicks he'd been hiding from us for the last few months. Ray was there too, having already run the Santa Hash in Swindon earlier that morning. Up onto the old railway line, and then up again onto the escarpment for the long-short split. The walkers had an immediate downhill loop back towards the pub whilst we ran on into Savernake. A couple of re-groups to keep us together, the first embarrassing Margaret and Jackie sufficiently to stop them idling along at the back chatting - will they perhaps be joining the walkers soon? There was some confusion in the forest, and then to the second re-group where the hare blatantly mis-directed all of us except Maurice. The frozen ground had already been taking its toll

with a number of fallers, when Jacqui put the hex on GOM who proceeded to immediately slither to a heap in front of her and the rest. More slippery stiles, but Maurice and Keith 2 were by now way out in front as we all eventually caught up with the walkers for the final run across Mildenhall cricket field; no doubt a scene of various TLK triumphs / disasters. And so, On-INN, where we filled the dining room.

GOM thanked Mike for laying a truly magnificent hash trail (despite it being -5C when he started). Brian, to shrieks from the recipient, handed the green nicks to Vivien for some appropriately insignificant reason. She subsequently threatened John with them for the next hash - let's see what unfolds. Mis-mangement of the hash then finished with some final words from Mike and thanks to all of us for being there from Kathrina.

It was Spike Milligan who left us with the epitaph "I told you I was ill". Perhaps Keith would have been wryly amused with something along the lines: "Always the Late Keith". We of course would all prefer if he were on time and with us still, but that is not to be.

On-On Keith, you'd have written this hash mag so much better than I; and On-On the rest of us.

Becoming Hash Runs

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| 291 - 04 Jan - The Red Lion, Baydon | - GOM |
| 292 - 18 Jan - The Black Horse, Wanborough | - John, Vivien |
| 293 - 01 Feb - The Plough, Eastbury | - Jacqui, Ray |
| 294 - 15 Feb - The Bugger's Arms again | - tbd |
| 295 - 01 Mar - The Bugger's Arms again | - Keith |

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;
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Website <http://kvhash.bravehost.com>