



### KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 293 - 18 - The Plough at Eastbury. Scribe - Mike

Lovely day for hashing today - bitterly cold with an icy wind straight off the Steppes of Russia - but we hardy types from the Kennet Valley are not deterred by a bit of winter and so we had a remarkably full turnout (9 runners and 12 walkers). I even wore shorts to prove it (being hardy I mean) but I was the only one - everybody else had more sense. It was good to see Maurice and Fraser there who ran with us for the first time at the Black Horse in Wanbrough. Fraser was called 'Razor' for some reason in the last hash mag. Either it was because Jeremy is hard of hearing or that he believed that Razor was a good hash-name but the lad is pretty sharp and so Razor he is. Jacky and Pauline, whom we recruited at Studland, were the hares today their other halves being indisposed and they made a splendid job of it - but more of that later. Eastbury is a very pretty village nestling in the Lambourne Valley with chocolate box houses and a small river running through it but we did not have much time to admire it all as we set off as we had to run hard to keep warm. Over the river then and through a narrow path between the houses and up the side of the valley to the top. Most people were puffing and blowing as we climbed - hills always seem much worse when they are at the start of a run - but we were nice and warm by the time we got to the top. Just as well really because when we came out of the shelter of the valley the wind cut through us like a knife. The trail then led through woodland paths and bridleways and over open fields with wonderful views and although there were times when we were strung out some clever trail laying meant that we were always regrouping. Margaret arrived just as we ran out of the pub and so was a long way back at the start but Brian, being a considerate sort of chap and one who understands the importance of the social element of hashing, waited for her and kept her company until they caught the rest of us up. The paths we ran over were rutted and frozen solid with ice so we had to run pretty carefully; to fall on that lot would have been very painful. No mishaps though and the run was full of interest, very enjoyable and to make my day the runners and the walkers all got back on the hour. A very well laid trail indeed - Jacky and Pauline can be very proud of that.

The pub was excellent - good beer and food with a nice atmosphere and an open fire. We had plenty of room to sit together and gossip and talk about the Ridgeway Relay (only five months ahead). Jeremy made a longer speech than usual in praise of our hares and Maurice presented the bags to Razor for being so young and fit and running at the front all the time. What a good hash.

#### ON ONs

294	15 <sup>th</sup> Feb 09	The Eagle at Little Coxwell	Mike
295	1 <sup>st</sup> Mar 09	The White Hart at Wroughton	Keith 2
296	15 <sup>th</sup> March	The Jolly Tar at Hannington	Kevin and Anne

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