



Hash 306 - Prince of Wales, Shrivenham - 2 August 2009

Vivienne and John set the trail and Vivienne, being Vivienne, decided to add an element of competition before we even started. The women had to vote for the "Loveliest Legs" on a man! Vivienne did not vote for John so what does that say to you? We didn't get the result until the end of the Hash so more about that later.

John showed the newcomers the signs using a plastic bottle with a dodgy lid so circles looked like squares, "Ts" looked like arrows and the Regroup had a nod to Picasso!

This was an unusual derivation of the Hash in that the field broke into four groups:

- The Elite Runners
- Those with the Loveliest Legs
- The Third Way
- The Walking Gambollers

This was the debut for The Third Way, a combination of running and walking along the long route. Anne, Katherine and Fiona decided they would run some of the way and walk the rest at a fast pace. Their pink cheeks at the end showed they had certainly kept the pace and they were only 10 minutes behind the runners. So, well done to them!

The course had few hills and a Regroup half-way meant everyone stayed fairly close. It was a cracking trail with lots of circles. It meandered along woodland paths, through wheat and corn fields, over steep railway bridges, and there were only a few road surfaces.

Running through the wheat field was weird – it looked as if there had been an earthquake along the entire length of the path in a zig-zag. Nobody could figure it out. There was also the usual consternation about a field of cows with calves but they stayed quietly in the centre of the field and we ran around the perimeter. We even waited for The Third Way from the other side of the field which showed a caring spirit. Not sure what we would have done if the cows had attacked the women but at least we got brownie points and it gave us a chance to admire their legs.

One runner was lucky in choosing the first few circles correctly and was ahead of the pack shouting "On, On" at each double blob of flour until people cutting hedges kept saying: "Excuse me?" and "What did he say?" and "What kind of an accent is that?" and a woman ran out and gathered in her children. He dropped back and stayed with the pack!

In one field we had the help of a man cutting his hedge atop a tall ladder: "*Down there, turn at the gate and go left. I saw the man with the flour earlier on.*" It didn't seem that big of a hedge and if he was waiting there for two hours this was truly his 5 minutes of fame.

The high points of this Hash were the clouds of butterflies along the hedgerows – we saw lots of cabbage whites and red admirals, a few peacocks and several types of fritillaries.

During the run the Elite Runners had a sneaky look at each other's legs and agreed that we are all in good shape and that there would be no clear winner or someone would get a sympathy vote. So that was that, conversation done, no need to mention it again, men not being the competitive type in the area of self-aggrandisement.

The runners passed the walkers within near sight of the pub so this was considered a triumph and Mike did not have to have a little chat with the hares. Phew for them!

The pub's garden is highly recommended, quiet, with a lovely view of the church and we stayed longer than usual which is a good sign of a lively group enjoying a Summer Sunday. That is, until Vivienne announced the winner of the Lovely Legs competition. Mike won it and the men nodded sagely – clearly a sympathy vote and by a margin of 7 to 1 no less!

Then Mike had the nerve (is there no stopping that man?) to stand on a table, pull up his shorts and show off his legs which the men as a group thought was way over the top, especially when the women made cooing sounds and inappropriate throat noises. It was all a bit embarrassing actually. But dammit, he does have a good pair of pins!

We decided that we should continue the competition at the next Hash. There were lots of suggestions, most of which cannot be printed in this magazine as it may be read by the younger set. The consensus was that it should be women next time and the men will compare the length and breadth of stretch marks and varicose veins. On, on!!

Fourth Becoming Hash Runs

307	16 Aug	Who'd a Thought It @ Lockeridge	Anne and Kevin
308	30 Aug	New Inn @ Winterbourne Monkton	Pauline and Clive
309	13 Sep	Horseshoe @ Mildenhall	Mike
310	27 Sep	Swan @ Winthrop	Keith P
311	11 Oct		Jackie and Ray
312	25 Oct		
313	8 Nov		GOM
314	22 Nov	Cawley Arms @ Upper Wanborough	Maurice and Tim