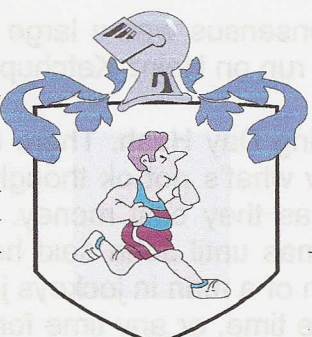


# KENNELLEY HASSE HARRIERS



**Hash 310 - The Swan, Southrop - 27 September 2009**

This was Keith's Hash – and Keats would have been proud of him - “*season of mellow fruitfulness, close bosom friend of the maturing sun*” on this beautiful autumn day!

We ran in the corner where Gloucestershire snuggles into Oxfordshire and Wiltshire. There were more circles and fewer hills on this Hash than usual and the combination was perfect to catch up, to look around, to love this season in the country-side. The first circle was at the pub, how about that for sheer brazenness? And we were off.

The trees had started to speed up their leaf-tossing and the colours of deciduous England were like the ragged mats that you might find at an Arabic bazaar. The slight bareness of branches, as if they were caught undressing, hinted at the change and conversation was endless about how quickly it was all happening, what it would be like in another month, how soon the clocks would go back, when the birds would be circling to head south, how soon we would need warmer clothes on our runs. It was a portent of the weeks ahead, primordial in some ways in that this would have been how our Celtic and Saxon fore-bearers would have felt leading up to Samhain. We ran over crab-apples on a few occasions and the smell of moulting cider was so exciting it sent a rush to the head and brought us back to the reality that our comfort zone in this century is a pub and it's not too far away. This is why we run!

We did get an insight into flour from Keith back at the pub. It has to be “stone-ground organic flour” according to our expert hare, although there were mutterings from other quarters that the organic label made it more brown than white and hard to see at speed. And there was even an aside that an expensive flour might make the hare more parsimonious with the blobs (memories of the Liddington Hash still pervade even when Kevin is not there!) But the truth did out as always – Keith admitted to using this particular flour because he found it at the back of a cupboard and it was beyond the sell-by date. Mmmm – *parsimonious and indifferent to our high standards no less . . . !*

We also had some engineering input on the container that holds the flour. There have been inventive bottles in recent Hashes. It was accepted knowingly that Fairy Liquid bottles are definitely out. GOM recommended a runner's drinking bottle with a little persuasion around the lip with a sharp chisel . . . (look, I only



record what I hear!) The consensus was a large Heinz Ketchup bottle without modification. There will be a run on Heinz Ketchup after this.

We also discussed the Boxing Day Hash. There is no agreement yet on fancy dress. It might help to know what's not ok though. Masks and wigs were considered a poor suggestion as they cost money. There was some excitement around negligees and pyjamas until John said he didn't wear them (pyjamas, one assumes) and the vision of a man in jockeys just didn't seem to have a ring to it around the family festive time, or any time for that matter. What do women see in partly-dressed men? Then again these are the same women who voted over-whelming for Mike's lovely legs a few weeks ago so what do they know.

But back to the Hash itself on this beautiful autumn day, because that was a real winner and we had a big turnout of walkers and runners to enjoy it.

The village of Southrop itself is a Cotswold dream. It is not staged and over-grand like some villages in the area, just respectful to the dry stone walls. The buildings have a variety that stops the eye from being bored with the sameness of stone. The pub itself had a great menu. There was no garden so we took over the village green and the landlord sent local maidens to hump great big seating tables for our comfort. Great to watch! Some of the men tried to help and they just got in the way of both the maidens and the watchers. Lads, lads, lads . . .

A very large steam traction engine came through the village and we watched as the drivers manoeuvred it around the small green. Amazing entertainment! We have to come back here more often.

All in all, a truly great Hash. Well done, Keith.

### Fourth Becoming Hash Runs

312	25 Oct	The Angel, Purton	John and Vivien
313	8 Nov	Downgate, Hungerford	GOM
314	22 Nov	New Calley Arms, Upper Wanborough	Maurice and Tim
315	6 Dec	Black Horse, Cherhill	Pauline and Clive
316	26 Dec	Keepers Arms, Quenington	GOM

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](mailto:jer@xyz.port995.com)

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