

Hash 316 -The Keeper's Arms Quenington. Boxing Day Hash 26 December 2009

Having once again been asked to write the Hash Mag, I have the problem of running out of superlatives to describe the Hash, as each run seems to exceed the last.

The Boxing Day Hash certainly exceeded all expectations in respect of the weather, which was the best anyone could expect for the end of December, especially when taking into account the appalling conditions that many people had to put up with just two or three days previously. In bright sunlight and blue skies we could enjoy the wonderful countryside of the Cotswolds, the splendid rolling hills, the quiet river valleys and the super architecture of the local stone-built houses.

As has been the tradition for the past few Boxing Day Hashes, we all met at The Keeper's Arms in the lovely village of Quenington. The inn was formerly a gamekeeper's cottage, which has parts of the building dating back over 300 years. As we assembled we were impressed with the variety of wigs and head apparel that people had conjured up for the occasion; Kevin arrived with a black wig and a trilby, Malcolm with an Elvis wig, Mike wearing a grey permed wig, and others with a variety of tinselly creations and masks. Margaret went one stage further, looking very glamorous wearing not only a wig, but a full waitress outfit, complete with short black skirt and fishnet tights. In addition to masks, others turned up with painted faces which we were assured could easily be washed off.

G.O.M. laid the trail and warned us at the start that the main hazard of the route was the icy conditions, with sheer black ice on many roads and paths. Despite the warning several of the runners were caught unawares and struggled to stay upright!

It has come to my notice that Mike has been leading several of the female runners astray. Because they were carefully picking their way over the icy fields and paths, Mike and the four females realised they were left far behind the other runners. After an hour of this Mike decided he'd had enough and, concerned about reduced drinking time, decided on a short route back to the pub. By this time the females, realising they had lost the route, decided the safest options was to follow Mike on the short cut. However, they later realised that in doing so, they had missed out on the mulled wine provided by Jeremy on the last stretch of the Hash.

Back in the pub, Jeremy awarded the prize for the best wig to Kevin for his black wig creation. Jeremy then gave us a review of the past year's Hashes reminding us of some of the highlights (and a few lowlights!) of 2009. He also announced that having been G.O.M. for three years he would be resigning at the end of April 2010 at the completion of the 325th Hash. After a complex process of voting, Maurice was declared the new G.O.M. to take over from Jeremy. Maurice looked suitably stunned by the decision, but we are assured he has been appropriately vetted and head hunted for the position. The decision was warmly approved, and everyone was confident that Maurice would make an excellent G.O.M.

Pauline presented the hunting horn to Keith, because he had been seen to fall flat on his face when he slipped on the ice. I feel this needs further investigation however, because there may well be others who fell unobserved, but were not admitting to it.

Many thanks to Jeremy for continuing the tradition of the delightful Boxing Day Hash.

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@cannelle.plus.com

Website <http://www.kvhash.co.uk/>