

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

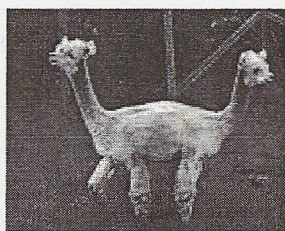
Hash 320 - The Red Lion, Baydon - 14 Feb 2010

Shivering in the car park we had been wondering whether the hares had actually remembered there was a trail to lay today, but they soon arrived, and we realised we would quickly be able to warm up.

Hearts and Minds is the normal British strategy for winning favour, but for Maurice, our forthcoming GOM, Hearts and Poems was his and Fiona's Valentine's Day tactic. This is certainly preferable to the Irish-American approach in 1929, with their Valentine's Day Massacre in Chicago. This was possibly therefore the old romantic in him coming to the fore; no doubt with active encouragement by Fiona. Anyway, whatever the real reason, it was tremendously successful.

In his pre-amble (is that what walkers have I wonder?) Maurice explained these novel aspects of the trail (Hearts instead of circles and Poems that we each had to find). White dots were apparently the signal to dive into the woods for a sh** - this possibly being some part of Valentine's Day etiquette that had previously passed me by. On the other hand it may just be a theme favoured by Maurice. I remember him being quite keen on the custom in Hungerford of tying up young damsels and demanding favours for their release.

However, thenceforth and with immediate haste, we quickly set off and soon found ourselves surrounded by Push-Me-Pull-Yous. It turned out they were in fact pairs of Alpaccas who had perhaps had a tiff and were positively ignoring each other - didn't they know it was Valentine's Day?



Bruno was the first to dive into the woods for a sh**, just before we took the first of two forays off-piste into the fields; but luckily no one spotted us and no incidences occurred. The short-long divide had the walkers heading back home, whilst the rest set off uphill for an additional loop or two, before re-joining and just catching the walkers as we arrived back in Baydon.

Des was obviously nervous at the thought of having to lay the next trail, so went home early for a lie down, but for the rest of us, we joined the regular inmates (very friendly) for beer (very good) and better-than-sex chocolate hearts (extraordinary). Elizabeth presented all the poems she had collected on her walk and had ordinary chocolate. Maurice and Fiona were applauded for a really wonderful hash, the horns were presented and blown vigorously and GOM forgot to mention the Ridgeway Relay and the forthcoming 325 hash (buffet tickets will be £9 each, obtainable from Margaret).

And then, we all slowly wended our ways in ones, two, threes or more.

Fourth Becoming Hash Runs

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| 322 - 14 Mar - Red Lion, Castle Eaton | - Kevin, Ann |
| 323 - 28 Mar - Railway Tavern, Hungerford | - GOM |
| 324 - 11 Apr - Blue Boar, Aldbourne | - John, Vivien |
| 325 - 25 Apr - Horsehoe, Mildenhall | - Mike & Margaret |

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@canelle.plus.com Website <http://kvhh.co.uk/>