



Hash 323 - Railway Tavern. Hungerford Hash

28 March 2010

The Railway Tavern is a super meeting place for a start location of a Hash, as it is located directly adjacent to the Kennet Canal tow path, and Jeremy took full advantage of this for the event.

Des appeared to be operating a press gang on lost railway passengers or passers-by to join to the Hash, but in truth this was a group of ladies from Chiseldon, who were most welcome as an addition to the walking group.

Jeremy called us to order and explained the intricacies of the Hash, which amounted to a long and a short course, optional for walkers or runners, planned in a figure of eight with the cross over in Hungerford. The long and the short courses were to be marked accordingly, but with the proviso that we all started on the short marked section. An additional option was to repeat the final part of the figure of eight to increase the walking distance, if so required.

I must admit to a momentary loss of concentration and may have lost track in Jeremy's instructions, which may make the above complete nonsense (also not realizing I would have to put this in print at a later date). But most people seemed to understand the route and arrived back at the Railway Tavern shortly after 12 noon.

The start of the Hash took us along the tow path towards Hungerford, where the competitive element kicked in early, when some of the front runners seemed to make a specific challenge to the ducks taking off from the water, to see who could travel the fastest. Initially over the first 10 yards, it was head to head, but with the ducks fully airborne it was no competition.

We entered Hungerford and briefly ran along the High Street, then took a sharp turn right along to the church, through the church yard then back to the tow path. We circled around pleasant countryside and returned to Hungerford on the tow path, which is always picturesque with the narrow boats moored by the canal side. This time we stayed on the towpath to take us past Hungerford and then carried on until we reached Hungerford Common, from which we returned to the Tavern.

In the belief that summer had started, i.e. putting the clocks forward, we sat outside in the short spell of sunshine, but this being England we gradually migrated to the warmth inside the pub. On the

