



Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
334	The Royal Oak	Bishopstone	29 Aug 2010	Vivien and John	Mike

Today's hash was memorable for your scribe because today he/I ran the long trail for the first time since January and so forgive me dear reader if I drone on a bit about the exhilaration of being able to run again and how nice it is to be back.

About 20 of us filled the car park behind the Royal Oak on this bright and breezy morning with white clouds scudding across an azure sky, but unusually nobody came out to tell us to park somewhere else to leave room for their customers - which was nice. Nobody was late and so at 11am precisely John and Vivien briefed us about the trail and the savage bull near the start - but we were not to worry about the bull as it looked in a good mood this morning. Trying not to worry we set off down through the village, which is full of chocolate box cottages with small streams and footpaths running between them, and then into a steeply banked valley filled with cattle.

Is this the one with the savage bull we wondered. Colin and Des and the front runners ran down the valley floor unconcerned but those of us at the back who had been savaged by cattle before were more cautious. We could not actually see a bull but decided it was probably lurking behind a tree ready to charge out at us, so we ran along the top of the valley to fool it. We learned later that there was no actual bull. It was just that Vivien had decided that a cow with horns must be a bull and so she was sensibly warning us of the danger.

Emerging unscathed from the valley we climbed steadily up to the Ridgeway and into that great open expanse of downland interspersed with clumps of trees that is so typically Wiltshire. The sun was out and we were running at the top of the world under a vast sky with the wind in our faces and I felt exhilarated at being able to run in such a place. I was firmly at the back by this time. Colin and Des were going really well and even though they checked every false trail they were still miles in front.

I could however just see Dave and Paul ahead and they would kindly wave at me every now and again to show me where the trail went. Paul waved as he took a short cut but I of course kept strictly to the trail as laid and so was then entirely on my own. Towards the end I remember a narrow, empty undulating country road which seemed to go on forever and, running easily at this point, I felt as if I was the only person left on earth. I climbed up to the Ridgeway and on down the hill to the pub - this time imagining I was running into a packed Olympic stadium at the finish of the marathon miles in front of the field. You can probably tell that I enjoyed today's hash.

The Royal Oak is now more a restaurant than a pub with drinkers confined to a small corner and smokers banished outside but we few, we happy few took over the drinkers' corner and made it ours. We have such a lively and friendly crowd in the hash that I always enjoy the company and the chat and today was as good as ever.

Maurice thanked John and Vivien for a truly excellent hash and to really make my day he presented the hash horn to me for beginning to run properly again.

Thank you, John and Vivien, for a memorable and enjoyable hash.



ON ONs

335	12 th Sep	The Queens Arms @ East Garston	Paul
336	26 th Sep	Hash Picnic in Savernake forest	Margaret
337	10 th Oct	White Horse @ Compton Bassett	Des
338	24 th Oct	TBA	Tim
339	7 th Nov	Rose & Crown @ Highworth	Mike

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Maurice on 07887 608109

Email jmspillane@appligenics.com or visit our website <http://www.kvhash.co.uk/>