

Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
340	Old Boathouse	Cotswold Water Park	21/11/10	Keith	Jeremy

Our first visit to the Cotswold Water Park was back in December 2000, and this went down as one of the longest and wettest ever – for those that avoided having to wade through long stretches of waist deep freezing water it took over 2 hours and for the remaining runners some 2.5 hours; as for the walkers, some were lost, never seen again; presumably drowned.

This time, however, we were running under GOM approved guidelines – at most an hour, with no hazards allowed - and Keith our hare abided by them admirably. We also had a good turnout, especially by the walkers. If this was due to an expectation that there would be few hills on the day, then this was to prove correct.

Before setting off Keith produced the purple nicks, which he had apparently many months previously already presented, but somehow not actually presented, since he still had them. Vivien, as aspiring head girl, chirped “I know, I know! It was Bruno who should have had them”. Since he was absent yet again, then they were instead, and by unanimous agreement, passed onto Vivien for being the class swot. However, in true hash spirit, she did wear them with pride and they did suit her in a colour coordinated sort of way; if no other.

The hash itself started off parallel to the Thames & Severn Canal, which is now being restored on the section we saw. Running from, amazingly, the Thames, at Lechlade, to Stroud and then on to the Severn, it was completed in 1789 but eventually abandoned in the 1950s.

The walkers probably branched off as intended after a mile or so, but the runners continued yet further along the canal, with Colin and Emily still in the lead, up as far as the Latton Junction, where it connects to the North Wilts Canal and where we had a spontaneous re-group. The North Wilts Canal runs / ran 8 miles south to Swindon, where it joined the Wilts and Berks Canal next to where Debenhams is now located. The Parade, Fleming Way and the Magic Roundabout are all built on top of what used to be the North Wilts and the Wilts & Berks canals. The long term intention is to bring all 3 of these canals back into operation over the next 10 – 20 years, albeit with some route deviations to prevent disruption to Swindon's traffic flow and shopping experience.

After the re-group at Latton Junction, the runners then crossed fields and followed the River Churn up to and along the disused Midland and South Western Junction railway and thence, as they caught up with the walkers, back over more fields to the start, which had by now been cleverly designated the finish.

We congregated in the Old Boathouse - obviously misnamed as it was modern, elegant and entirely without boat. Margaret recounted stories of her recent holiday in Grenada, and mentioned that we were unlikely to see her grandson Max join us on any hashes again soon, since he had now emigrated to Australia to go and live with his dad. Margaret is being very brave and has started to save up with hopes to visit him next Autumn.

GOM was pacing around trying to get everyone together for his speech, which took time since it's a bit like herding cats. Even once achieved, the usual culprits still had to be admonished for not paying attention and continuing to chat at the back of the class . Once order was achieved, Keith was warmly

thanked for an excellent trail, of precisely the correct length. GOM then announced that there wouldn't be a hash on 19 Dec, but as compensation he is proposing a weekend hash in Dublin, possibly in June - fly out from Bristol and stay in a local hostel is the suggestion. The hash nicks were awarded to Doc Dave for his gallant efforts – or at least it sounded like effort, given his heavy breathing.

The hash horn however, was awarded for distinctively less positive reasons. Mistaking seagull poo for flour and calling ON-ON is to be roundly discouraged, although luckily for us Colin had been on-hand to quickly correct the error. Rumour has it that down-downs will be incurred if this is repeated, so Vivien, as recipient of the horn for this misdemeanour, got off lightly this time. However, being a lady of slender proportions, it remains to be seen whether she has big enough breaths to give it a proper blast.

ON-ON

ON ONs

342	26 Dec	The Keepers Arms, Quenington	Margaret & Mike
343	02 Jan	The Bugger's Arms, Somewhere	Viv & John
344	16 Jan	The Bugger's Arms Again, Somewhere Else	Des
345	30 Jan	No idea where	Fiona & Maurice

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