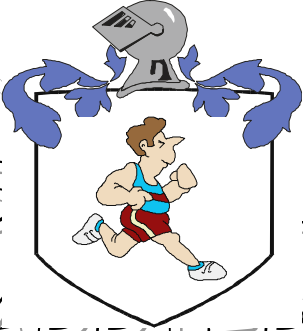


KENNELLLEY HASSE HARRIERS



Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
348	The Downgate	Hungerford	13 Mar 2011	Jeremy	Mike

It isn't often that you get your mag written by a walker but your scribe this week has been a walker for the last couple of months and so here is a golden opportunity for you to read all about how the other half of the Hash live – their thoughts, their dreams and their views on the economic recovery and last night's episode of Coronation Street.

Upon arrival at the Downgate we observed Des mending his usual puncture, but when sympathising with him over his luck with punctures we learnt that he had in fact been repairing a malfunctioning gear chain – so that made a nice change. The Downgate is on the edge of Hungerford common and near the Kennet and Avon Canal so we were very much at home and Jeremy, who knows every inch of the countryside there, was our hare. He was briefing us about a dangerous dog and other hazards when two of our ladies, who had been to the loo in the pub, rushed out and said that the landlord had been giving them a hard time as he wasn't expecting any runners. Jeremy, taking firm charge, pointed vaguely towards the east saying "On On is that way" and stomped off muttering that he was going to sort the landlord out.

We then all set off in his vaguely easterly direction but after about half a mile with no flour we began to smell a rat. Luckily Maurice, who was leading the pack from the front, struck off south across the common and found the trail leading under the railway and on to the canal towpath. With lots of cries of "On On" we were together and on our way.

Along the canal bank and then back over the railway to a part of the common which was new to us. The runners were disappearing in the distance by this time with Des in the lead and Margaret following up the rear and the walkers were beginning to be spread out too with Annie and Anne and me at the front and Kathy and Gentleman James some considerable distance at the back.

We asked Kathy afterwards if she minded coming in an hour after everybody else had finished and she said not really. There were some disadvantages naturally, such as the fact that GOM had usually

finished his speech and half the runners had gone home by the time she got back, but she said loyally that she always enjoyed every minute of the hash and so felt she got more value than most.

Back to the trail - which led us briefly along a road and then up a track to the right through woods and out into open countryside. The runners went off on a loop at this point while the walkers cut across to a point on the far side of the common from the pub. From then on it was an exhilarating walk across the springy turf with the pub getting steadily nearer and, to my great pleasure. The runners caught up with the walkers as we approached and we all (save for Kathy – see above) came in together in a little over the hour.

There is a small cosy part of the Downgate a little below the main bar which we took over completely and we sat, relaxed and chatting in the warmth, with a beer or two, finding it extremely pleasant.

Maurice thanked Jeremy for an excellent trail and as the horn and the bags now seem to be missing he went on to tell us about our forthcoming adventure in Ireland which sounds really great fun.

Another very enjoyable trail by a man who knows a bit about how to lay one.

Thank you Jeremy.