

Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
349	The Inn with the Well	Ogbourne St. George	27 March	David	Maurice

Some hares invite trouble and David, our hare this Sunday, certainly knows how to do that. He introduced the hash with the usual blobs of flour and then came to explain a long and short decision that he thought might be a bit complex. So before demonstrating the signs with flour, he said: "This will easily be understood by intelligent people so would Viv and John stand back." Good man is all I can say and I shall enjoy them getting their own back at some future date.

Women generally have good memories for the smallest slur, indeed the smallest slip-up that men make and will drag it out at the opportune time in the future and slap it about while men try to remember when and where it took place. David, I am writing this down so you will remember and Viv has a better memory than most!

It was a wonderful spring morning and a good turnout. What is it about a lovely day that brings the best out in people? Smiles before we start, enlightened conversation as we ran around and that uplifting mood continued into the bar area afterwards. After the protracted winter we all needed a shot of sunshine and we got it today.

The trail was well laid, plenty of flour and lots of circles early on to slow down the fast runners and give us a chance to catch up. David's only fault was to put flour on the left instead of the right, especially on roads. He followed us around on his bicycle and when slagged about the flour retorted that it was only a convention. Mike's retort was classic: "It has been hash law over centuries that convention is a rule." Follow that!

We are very lucky to live in this beautiful area of England and this hash encompassed the best of everything. Down country lanes with the first flowers well into bloom and colours jostling with shade as we ran past; clumps of daffodils like warriors in half circles every now and again and the first white flowers on the hedgerow. We kept pointing out clumps of colour and

identifying views as we ran up hill and had time to see, and then doing the same as we ran the rolling hills where familiar landmarks were easily identified along the valleys.

A week or so at this time of the year and the hedgerows change suddenly. We were hoping that we would see a few bluebells this Sunday as this area is perfect for them but not one was to be seen. Almost certainly on the next hash then . . . We did try to identify bird song and heard the "teacher, teacher" of the Great Tit and the "pink, pink" of the Chaffinch as the little birds darted around us and in one woodland we heard the unmistakable knocking of a woodpecker.

David took us back up to the Ridgeway as a final softener (!) and then through more woodland paths and down the long back road into Ogbourne St. George. He paced it well because we passed the walkers on the final stretch into the village so top marks there!

GOM thanked David for a really good hash. Mike got the bugle and we still don't know have the shorts. They were given to a woman who joined us for the first time in the Black Horse in Wanborough and was never seen again. There was a general nodding of heads that we won't do that again if a woman joins us for the first time. As noted above in the Mars v Venus opening paragraph, being a woman she can't say that she forgot. And as final note it was at that very pub that I had my first hash and was presented with the shorts and I am still here. Discuss!

