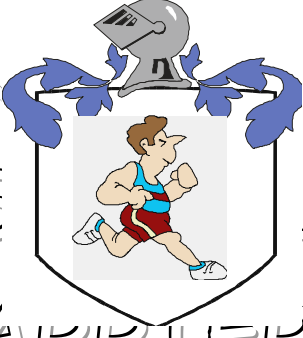


# KENNOLLEY HAS HARRIERS



Hash	Pub	Village	Date	Hare/s	Scribe
367	The Tunnel House	Coates nr Cirencester	6 Nov 2011	Keith	Mike



The weather was gorgeous for our hash today - difficult to believe that Christmas is only six weeks away. We ran in bright sunshine, under a cloudless blue sky, with zephyr breezes to maintain a comfortable temperature of 14.5 degrees C - perfect!

And the Tunnel House Inn is the most remarkable of pubs. It was built in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century to house the navvies who built the Sapperton Tunnel and rather like the Daneway Inn at the other end of the tunnel it has kept its welcoming atmosphere and its unusual and eccentric character. To get to it you head out into the middle of nowhere from Cirencester along increasingly narrow country lanes and the final approach is a muddy farm track full of massive potholes.

Once there you become very aware of the tranquillity of the place and the beauty of the countryside around it.

On to Keith's trail. He said, jokingly, when briefing us, that he didn't want anything to spoil the nomination of his trail as 'Hash of the Year' (see GOM's recent email) - and although everybody laughed, I think today's hash will take an awful lot of beating. It was superb. We had about twenty walkers, a dog and five runners (six including Des who arrived 40 minutes late having cycled the 30 miles from Chiseldon, ran the long at full tilt, joined us for the après and then cycled 30 miles home again) and after a welcome from GOM (who had to rush off to a non-Christian christening and missed

the run) and a witty briefing from Keith we were off down a steep slope to the towpath by the derelict canal. Margaret and I were in the lead at this stage - we tend to come in last these days I've noticed and so it was nice to be charging along at the front for a while. The old canal is lined with mature trees and they were today all in magnificent autumn colours and bright in the sunshine - it was a sheer joy to be alive and running there.

Vivien and John and Jeremy and Popsy the dog caught us up at the second circle where we climbed up from the canal to a farm track over a bridge. We then had a sociable time milling round for a bit checking about nine false trails. Twas Jeremy at finish wot found the right trail and we were off again, with cries of "On On " down a long track and out on to open farmland - see below.



We kept very well together, thanks largely to Jeremy who every now and again pretended he wanted a rest so that the stragglers could catch up. After a few miles we swung round in a loop towards Coates and into woodland on the edge of the Bathurst Estate. Here again it was a delight to be out with the sun dappling through the trees as we ran on paths that were soft underfoot through golden coloured glades. And the trail ran on through the woods right up to the pub - one minute you can see nothing but trees and the next you emerge into the open ground round the pub.

Walkers and runners were all back before us (except for Des of course) and back in just over the hour so full marks to Keith for a really enjoyable and well crafted trail. He had to rush off to Yorkshire unfortunately and was not able to bask in our praise and so I hope he is able to read this.

It was so warm and sunny that we all sat outside by the south facing wall for the après and looked out over the Cotswold countryside whilst enjoying a drop of real ale. There are times when there is nothing in the world quite like hashing. Vivien was acting local GOM and she thanked Keith for a splendid trail in his absence. Unfortunately I missed her speech as I was refilling some beer glasses at the time but I understand that the holders of both the bugle and the green bags had forgotten to bring them so it was quite short.

That was a great trail Keith - many thanks