



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 048 - Sunday 19th December 1999 - Black Horse at Cherhill

Snow fell on Saturday night and as the unfortunate Richard set out to lay the trail he looked out with some dismay at a landscape that looked like the North Pole. It took him an hour and a half to get to the Black Horse on the icy roads and then realising that a conventional trail laid in flour was not going to work on this occasion he put on his snow shoes and set off to lay the trail somehow - determined that a little unusual weather was not going to spoil things.

The hills around Cherhill looked stunning in the bright clear sunshine and with the crisp cold air and the challenge of running in snow this was a great day for hashing. Unfortunately only a hardy few came to enjoy it with just three runners (plus Keith M who arrived late as his car had frozen solid and he did his own individual run) and six walkers. Napoleon would have been there too but he rang to say that he was snowed in. So we set off slipping and sliding down the main road looking for the trail. Richard had used a system of marking the trail with huge arrows and circles carved into the virgin snow but with all the other marks in the snow they were a bit difficult to find. Fortunately Richard ran round with us and we had to rely on his guidance quite a lot. The walkers got lost immediately and did not see a single trail mark during the whole forenoon. They nonetheless used their initiative and created a trail for themselves that was not far off the proper trail and amazingly walkers and runners joined up at the end and came into the pub together. The trail was superb. The runners turned left off the road and climbed steadily up snow filled lanes until they reached the open hills - and then it was on up to the ridge and an undulating climb up to the beacon at the highest point. Running in snow on the top of a mountain in brilliant sunshine is one of the most exhilarating experiences on earth and your scribe will not forget that in a hurry. It took about an hour to reach the beacon at which point Richard decided to cut out part of his trail and showed us a short cut down the hill. And we bounded and slid and hurtled down the hill to the pub in high spirits - Margaret slipped and did about twenty yards on her bottom and your scribe laughed and immediately went head first into a huge snowdrift - great fun.

The apres was fun too. The pub was very keen on people eating and so it was difficult to find somewhere just to have a drink but we found a corner eventually and GOM thanked Richard for a valiant effort and a very successful trail despite the unusual conditions. He in turn presented GOM with a bag of flour (surplus to requirements today) beautifully wrapped in christmas paper and with a little label saying 'from the Hash'. Very touching. Conversation flowed and nobody wanted to leave but eventually the last Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers run of the twentieth century came to a close. And thank you Richard for a most remarkable trail to mark the occasion appropriately.

50th Run Celebrations

The 50th run is from the Horseshoe at Mildenhall and to make it special there will be little celebratory extras - such as hot punch and mince pies served in the middle of nowhere and silly things to do on the way round. You are encouraged to wear something which is celebratory and fun but which of course does not impede your running style.

After the run the party begins. I have booked a separate part of the pub where an extensive and delicious buffet will be laid out and which we have to ourselves. The room is right next to the main bar for easy access for drinks and there will be champagne (if I can get any) served for the toast to the Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers.

We will be supported by runners from the North Wilts and the Churn Valley Hashes but they will probably only stay for the run and a quick beer afterwards rather than join us for the food and the party afterwards.

The total cost of all this is £6 (amazing really how they do it) and as I have to pay the landlord and tell him how many people to cater for I would be grateful if you would tell Val that you are coming and let her have your £6 in advance.

I have ordered some 50th Run T shirts which will be available for sale (at cost price which also happens to be £6). They are the same basic T Shirt - ie blue with the white logo on the front but with the 50th run details emblazoned thereon. These will quickly become collectors items and so if you would like one please let me know - and let me have your money as I have to pay for the bulk order up front.

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049	2nd January 2000	The Carters Rest at Wroughton	Greg
050	16th January	The Horseshoe at Mildenhall - 50th Run	GOM
051	30th January	The Bruce Arms at Milton Lilbourne	Keith M
052	13th February	The Swan at Wilton	GOM

If you would like to lay a trail (or find out where the next hash is) please give me - Grand Old Master (GOM) - a call on 01672 871374 (Home) or 01793 481220 (Office)