



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 050 - Sunday 16th January 2000 - The Horseshoe at Mildenhall

I think we can say with some confidence that the 50th run of the Kennet Valley Hash and the celebrations that followed it were not altogether without success. In fact I would stick my neck out and say that the whole thing went rather well.

Let me set the scene. A beautiful crisp winters morning in bright sunshine - old thatched pub nestling in a valley of stunning rural beauty with wisps of early morning mist over the water - large numbers of runners and walkers arriving abuzz with anticipation and wearing daft clothes - pub car park filled early and eventually whole village filled with hashers cars - 80 something people of all shapes and sizes hopping and jiggling and chatting behind the pub waiting for the run to start.

GOM welcomed everyone and gave a demonstration of British Standard Hash Trail signs and then we were off - it looked a bit like the start of the London Marathon as the multitude surged towards the road - down into the valley past the church and away across the water meadows to an old stone bridge over the river. The field already beginning to string out at this point with our very own Jeremy in the lead in front of all the keen young types from the North Wilts Hash. Up a steep escarpment (where there was some shortcutting at this point - shocking though it may seem) and then a long slow climb up into Savernake Forest. The Longs and the Shorts divided at the edge of the forest and it was pleasing to see several runners running the short trail. The Longs looped through dappled glades in the forest and down a muddy lane and across a field to another bridge over the river where the Longs and the Shorts joined up again. And to celebrate this joyous moment there was mulled wine and mince pies. Annie had spent the whole of Saturday night cooking several thousand pies and mulling several gallons of wine and she stood handing it all out with a bright smile next to the most beautiful bridge in Wiltshire. People leant on the wall in the sunshine and gossiped and played with the children and admired the view and munched pies - all very sociable and pleasant. Then it was on again for the last mile back to the pub - up a lane that was a fraction too steep for runners full of wine and pie but it flattened out through a little wood and then it was all downhill back into the village and the pub.

To celebrate the 50th run we had a party. We took over the restaurant at the back of the pub where the landlord had laid on a magnificent lunch. Place absolutely packed - spilling out and taking over the whole pub - lots of laughter and chatting - wonderful atmosphere. Greg had forgotten to bring the Hash Horn and so GOM thanked Annie for the pies and Napoleon for helping to lay the trail and for running round twice in support and finished by proposing a toast to the Kennet Valley Hash. What a hugely enjoyable day.

ON ONs

051	30th January	The Bruce Arms at Milton Lilbourne	Keith M
052	13th February	The Swan at Wilton	GOM
053	27th February	The White Hart at Burbage	Jeremy
054	12th March	The Dog and Flannel (?) at Baydon	Margaret and Val

I do not think the pub at Baydon is actually called the Dog and Flannel. It is called the Black Horse or the White Hart or the Red Lion or the Green Dragon - or something. Anyway it is the only pub in Baydon. Name to be confirmed in the next Mag.

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)