



## KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 059 - Sunday 21st May 2000 - The Red Lion at Baydon

Dear Diary

Great excitement ! – I went hashing today. I had never heard of hashing before but I was told that the finest hashers in the whole of Wiltshire were the Kennet Valley Hash and so I went to Baydon to find out.

When I arrived at the pub there was a crowd of half-naked lunatics standing in the car park in the pouring rain listening to a lady called Val giving them a lecture about small mounds of flour. As I joined in to my great surprise everyone suddenly rushed off down the road shouting 'on on' to each other. I had to follow them just to see what happened next. You would never believe it – there were men women and children all happily rushing about the countryside – going off in one direction and then rushing back again muttering about false trails – up and down hills through lakes and stinging nettles and deep slimy mud – apparently enjoying every minute of it. They were all completely round the bend.

I was struggling along at the back with an incredibly handsome chap they called Gom. He very kindly told me the rules of hashing (apparently there are no rules in hashing) and then he left me to sprint up a long hill to overtake a couple of whippet-shaped chaps called Jason and Jeremy at the front. I was going to ask two other very handsome young men about hashing – they were running along at the back keeping an eye on the lunatics as they were Val's nephews and had apparently helped her lay the trail – but I was too shy. There were however some other ladies running and as they looked saner than the rest I asked the one they called Margaret to tell me about hashing. She said its quite simple - all you do is start running from a pub following small blobs of flour some of which go the right way and some of which don't until you arrive back at the pub again about an hour later covered in mud and sweat – which is great fun.

Now that I knew all about it I joined in the spirit of things and laughed when Ian fell into a huge puddle and then proceeded to throw water over everyone else. When Richard slipped on the mud in his new running shoes and did a spectacular reverse back somersault with pike into a muddy ditch I nearly died. The countryside was looking absolutely lovely and the rain stopped and the sun came out. I really began to enjoy it and was almost sorry when we arrived back at the pub. Val had told everyone at the beginning that the trail was about 7 ½ miles but I think we missed a big loop out and so only ran about 7 miles.

Everyone gathered in the pub afterwards and chatted sociably to each other and told great yarns about their adventures on the hash and they made me feel very welcome. The one they call Gom thanked Val and her family politely for an enjoyable trail and then they all went back to drinking and gossiping again. I quite enjoyed that. I think I'll go hashing again



# ON ONs

061	18th June	The Ridgeway Run Relay *	Jeremy
062	2nd July	The White Hart at Oare	GOM
063	16th July	The Sun Marlborough	Greg
064	30th July	The Catherine Wheel at Bibury	Margaret
065	13th August	Black Horse at Cherhill	Richard

If you would like to lay a trail (or find out where the hash is) please give me - Grand Old Master (GOM) - a call on 01672 871374 (Home) or 01793 481220 (Office) or Email at [mjf@mfisher.co.uk](mailto:mjf@mfisher.co.uk)

\* Jeremy has the running numbers and information about hazards and cut-off times etc . Please make sure you get your running number and are fully briefed.