

Hash 148 - The Trout, Lechlade, 21st September 2003

This was the first Hash that Katrina has laid, and I have to say that it was the most beautiful, cunningly-crafted and rewarding trail I have ever run; I have to say it, or it's no jollies until Christmas....

I was not only early, I was the first to arrive - principally because the Hare had set off to lay the trail well before the sparrows had arisen for a shower and shave, and I was left to prepare my own Earl Grey, toast and gentleman's relish, so I had allowed myself plenty of time for this unfamiliar task. The usual large numbers of faithful walkers duly turned up, and GOM, Dave, Keith2, Brian and Mike materialised for the runners. However there were plenty of other people wearing shorts and plimsolls - loathsome unshaven, pot-bellied creatures with knuckles trailing in the dust - and the blokes weren't much better. Yes, the foul rabble from North Wilts Hash had been released into the community to spoil our enjoyment of a lovely day. Katrina was only slightly discombobulated at having to make her maiden flour presentation to such a large gathering, and 15 runners and about the same number of walkers headed off promptly at 11.07.

The trail soon crossed the Thames and led off across open farmland, with your scribe leading the field - nothing to do with me having checked it out with Katrina a few months earlier! We ran through a farmyard, where later Hashers claimed to have seen a dead calf; rumours soon circulated that it had died of shock upon seeing me in first place. A little further on, runners and walkers parted company by a lock gate, and the former all cheated by running diagonally across a field whilst I diligently followed the trail as laid, and so was able to resume my rightful position at the rear. Seeing a cruiser apparently sailing across a meadow, I rightly divined that we were back at the river again, and we re-crossed the Thames at another lock. We wound our way along the riverside path, and as I passed the walkers I welcomed Annie to the noble company of Saga-louts before perspiring merrily into the Trout at 12.30. All returned safely except one North-Wiltsher who got hopelessly lost and turned up when we were well into our second pint.

Our fair lady GOM made a moving speech - interrupted by constant coarse heckling from the North Wilts dregs - and I was presented with the horn, I think for being early. As we sat in the late summer sun in the pretty riverside garden, we all agreed that indeed it was a beautiful Hash, and look forward to Katrina's next trail!

Second Coming Hash Runs 149 - 5th Oct - The Rose & Crown, Highworth - Mike 150 - 19th Oct - The Baker's Arms, Badbury - Ian 151 - 2nd Nov - The Bugger's Arms - Ray 152 - 16th Nov - The Tawny Owl, West Swindon - Brian 153 - 30th Nov - The Bugger's Arms - Jeremy 154 - 14th Dec - The Royal Oak, Wootton Rivers - Keith1 If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where the Bugger's Arms is please ring GOMargaret on 01793 703744, or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - email keith@pallettfs.co.uk

WEBSITE

For those of you who are interested in this sort of thing, well KVHHH is stumbling slowly into the $21^{\rm st}$ century, by getting ourselves on line. Soon anyone with a computer and a telephone, anywhere in the world, will be able to surf the 'net and look at our very own website! Can't you see them queuing up, from Saigon to Saskatchewan, from Santiago to St Petersburg, to read the latest news about the cool and fragrant Lady Margaret, Mad Mike Fisher, and the six brown walkers, in lil' ole' Kennet Valley?... No, neither can I – but if they want to, they will have the means.

It seems we have had the skeleton of a site for some time - nobody told me nuffink. But when I found out, I thought we should update it. I know diddley-squot about this stuff, so I asked a North Wiltsher for help - through *their* website. This is his answer:

Hi Keith

The website is not automatically updated that would need scripting for this i.e. cgi scripts.the freeserve website is updated by me when I am emailed a new run sheet and the next run is highlighted by me after each run. I use frontpage express to make and edit the sheets, this comes part of win98. If you would like to view the data html script, use tools click on view source then save it to a directory on your hard drive. Then if you use frontpage to open it you can see how the page is made up. Change it to the look and feel you want (you will notice the pictures of the pig etc don't show up, you need to insert your own pictures off your own drive(gif, jpg). It is best to keep all this in the same directory mine is d:/hash/). When you are happy with the look, save it. tip. (when inserting pictures 8k max 72 dpi for faster page load. The page should be less than 64k)

Now I don't speak Martian, but Katrina does, and so has been able to set up an embryonic site, on http://kvhash.mysite.freeserve.com/. It will look prettier soon, and also be a direct link from the main Hash website - so hundreds of people will soon be turning up from all over Wiltshire and the Thames Valley, we original old stagers will be marginalized and elbowed out, Hashes will be run on Tuesday evenings and Saturday afternoons, the entire character of the KVHHH will change etc etc etc......(exit, foaming at mouth)