



## **KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

**Mag No 178- Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> October - The Well with the Inn Ogbourne St George**

It was good to be back to good old fashioned hashing today - nine miles worth of mud and hills and hundreds of false trails that caught the unwary on this grey, damp and overcast Sunday. About 20 runners and walkers gathered outside the pub gossiping and pleased to see each other. 11 o'clock came and there was no sign of Keith our hare. No time to worry though as at precisely 17 seconds past 11 he galloped up with a big grin.

The briefing was in standard format: It's about six and a quarter miles he said - translation - It is at least nine miles. There's no mud or hills he said - translation - if you are a fell runner or a water buffalo you will be fine. There's no bull in the field where it says 'Beware of the Bull' he said - translation - it will be hiding behind a tree until you arrive and then rush out at you.

Off in a loop round the village and then along a lane to open fields and a cluster of thatched cottages near the main Marlborough road. Sailor (from North Wilts Hash) was way ahead by this time but I was, unusually, at the front of the following pack and just saw him disappearing up a steep path leading to the Ridgeway. So, across the main road and up this steep muddy path that seemed to go up for ever. Lots of false trails on the way up, which the front runners ignored and so when we arrived at the top the pack was pretty spread out. The trail then became a blur of fields and lanes and woods - all muddy. We then came to the circle that started the rot. It was near an enormous puddle in the woods next to a parting of the ways. The correct route was straight ahead but only 20 yards ahead was a cross roads - with no circle. How do you kick out a circle to say "it's ahead for a bit and then its left". I failed to do this and the back markers, Brian and Marion and all the walkers, lost the trail. Another few miles of fields and lanes and then down a long narrow path to the road and the pub. It only took me an hour and a half to run the 9 miles and so I must be getting fitter. Brian and Marion took 3 hours and most of the walkers are still out there.

The apres was relaxed and enjoyable as always. I was standing in for GOMargaret (off on some jolly in Devon) and was in a quandary about when to do the little thank you speech. Should one wait for the stragglers to come in, by which time all the front runners will have gone home, or should one speak while there is still someone to speak to. There's no answer to that.

Thank you Keith for another well-crafted and enjoyable run.

### **ON ONs**

179	14 Nov 04	The Coldharbour Blunsdon	Keith 2
180	28 Nov 04	The Lamb Inn Marlborough	Laura
181	12 Dec 04	The Five Bells Wootton Bassett	Iain
182	26 Dec 04	The Buggers Arms	GOM/Dave
183	9 Jan 05	The other Buggers Arms	Mike

### **Boxing Day Hash**

It is a tradition in Hashes around the world to have a special hash on Boxing Day and as our normal hash falls on Boxing Day this year here is an opportunity to enjoy this splendid tradition. After a Christmas day sitting in front of the tele eating and drinking too much and keeping mother in law and assorted relatives happy, a sociable run in the fresh air is just what you need. Bring mother in law and assorted relatives along too; they will enjoy the walk and the opportunity to meet new friends. To make it special the hash will be run/walked in fancy dress and there will be a prize presented by GOM for the most amazing dress. No theme - just express your originality.

Any enquiries please ring - Grand Old Mistress (GOMargaret) on 01793 703744 or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - or you could visit our web site at <http://kvhash.mysite.wannado-members.co.uk>