



### Hash 189 - The Harrow, Wanborough, 3 April 2005

So this is it - the end of an era. The Pope is dead; Prince Rainyday of Meccano is dead; the Labour so-called Government is hopefully dead; but of far greater significance is the fact that the reign of the fragrant and elegant Good Queen Margaret has drawn quietly to a close - and death by mau-mau to the treasonous North Wilts scum who ever dared call our wise and graceful GOM the 'Grand Old Mattress'. As we sit indoors in the sipping rain/outside in the burgeoning spring sunshine (delete whichever does not apply), we will be all agog to learn the name of the anointed successor to this ancient and venerable post. At the time of writing, William Hill were offering: Dave - evens; Jeremy 14-8; Keith2 100-30; Mike 5-1; Brian 8-1; Laura 10-1; Ian 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ -1; myself a measly 15-1; Katrina 20-1; Ray 21-1; Maurice 25-1; Tony Bush 100-1; Elvis 500-1, and Steve 250,000-1 (memories are still fresh and raw). But whoever gets the nod will have a jolly hard act to follow. Mad Mike Fisher set an example which Margaret has only burnished, and we all wish her noble anointée the charm, skill, tact and *joie-de-vivre* which Margaret brought to the position. We all wish her a happy birthday, happy retirement, and many happy years of Hashing!

But for once I am getting in front of myself! A fortnight ago, Keith2 led us a merry trail round the many hills and valleys of Wanborough. His opening remark was 'Steve raised the bar on the previous Hash' - and so far as many of us are concerned, it can bloody well stay there! But Keith2 seemed to regard this as a challenge - a fact which was commented on with some authority - nay, asperity - by our GOM in her speech of thanks back at the pub. It seems that the grey (and blonde) voters will henceforth come out on strike if a Hash lasts for more than an hour (or so). Rebellion is in the air before the new GOM is sworn in!

But it was a super Hash. Though only a few miles from the urban blight of Swindonia, the Vale of the White Horse is both wild and remote, yet blessed with soft and hidden beauties, and Keith2 did an excellent job in guiding us through all aspects of our wonderful Wiltshire countryside. Fields, woodlands, airy heights, verdant valleys, ancient paths, old homesteads, sleepy villages - we had the lot. And for me, it didn't seem a moment too long - although I have a smidgeon of sympathy for those (unlike Jeremy and myself) who added an extra five minutes to their journey by failing to follow the trail as laid. Apart from this lapse, runners and walkers alike managed to negotiate the arrows pointing in opposite directions, and we all arrived back more or less together. And it was a true 3 bears day - not too hot, not too cold, but just right - and to cap it all, the sun came joyously out as we reached the pub, where we sat outside in our very own private garden.

Many thanks to Keith2 for yet another thoroughly enjoyable Hash. The Horn was not awarded, owing to the previous recipient still being unable to drag her tortured limbs out of bed!



**Hash 191** - a final reminder that this will not be a circular trail! It is a *race* for runners - practice for the Ridgeway Transvestite Geriatric Gallop - and a walk for walkers. There will be a trail laid from Ramsbury to The Roebuck at Marlborough - walkers will join the runners' trail at Axford. There will be no circles, check-backs etc - just a well-marked one-way path to Marlborough. These are the arrangements:

**Walkers:** please assemble at the public car-park in Axford (just east of the Red Lion) at 11.00 prompt. I will be there (in time - honestly!) to set you on your way, to pick up the trail at the southern bank of the Kennet. A map is attached to this Mag; please bring it with you, although the trail will be very clearly marked. Please arrange amongst yourselves who will drive whom to the start, and who will leave their cars at Marlborough to get a lift to Axford. I am sure we will all be happy to ferry people back to Axford after the Hash. Please give right of way (and water, beer, fags etc) to the runners, who will be on a timed race - many thanks. Distance is approx 3 miles, so should take you just over an hour.

**Runners:** you will start from outside the Bell at Ramsbury at 11.15 or whenever I arrive, whichever is the later. Park in the street. **Please wear a (stop if possible) watch.** Jeremy will set us all off at (probably) one-minute intervals, according to his highly personal assessment of our abilities. **ALL ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE, WHETHER RUNNING THE RELAY OR NOT!** Please let Jeremy know in advance if you will be running, so he can cast his runes accordingly. As with the walkers, please arrange amongst (y)ourselves who drives whom where. Distance is just under 6 miles - an hour for me, 25 minutes for Jeremy. See map attached, but trail will be clearly laid - even if it is raining. Tripping, barging, boring and bad language are positively encouraged!

### Fifth Coming Hash Runs

- 190 - 17<sup>th</sup> Apr - The Check Inn, Wroughton - GOM & Mike  
Margaret's Last Hash as GOM - party time!
- 191 - 1<sup>st</sup> May - The Roebuck, Marlborough - The Late Keith
- 192 - 15<sup>th</sup> May - Royal Oak or Greyhound, Pewsey - Katrina
- 193 - 29<sup>th</sup> May - The Buggers Arms - Margaret & Dave

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Buzzer's Arms is please ring GOMargaret on 01793 703744, or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - email [keith@pallettfs.co.uk](mailto:keith@pallettfs.co.uk) - website <http://kvhash.mysite.freemove.com>