



## Hash 196 - The Victoria, Bourton - 26<sup>th</sup> June 2005

After the rigours and heat of the Ridgeway Relay the previous week, it was a great relief to know that (a) it was cloudy and a little chilly; (b) we would be Hashing, not racing; and (c) we were in the Vale of the White Horse, with any hills an improbable distance from where we were starting.

For the umpteenth Hash in succession, Runners outnumbered Walkers - where have they all gone? Brian the Bold - our noble Hare - did the usual floury mumbo-jumbo, and then showed off alarmingly by joining in and running with us. Superman or what! It's usually only GOM who is up to such heroics.

Over the railway bridge and into Bourton, then down a grassy track and back over the railway. I was intrigued to spot a railway worker driving down the track in what appeared to be the British Rail equivalent of an open-topped sports car - him at the wheel, and three vacant bucket seats - seemed awfully jolly. I wonder if they are available for private hire? Much better than hanging around on Bedwyn station waiting vainly for Virgin to appear...

Out into some very parched open country, with flour dotted everywhere - it must have been on special offer at the Co-op. I managed to fall over on the cracked earth, causing Margaret to double up with laughter. We then came cross the disused Berks and Wilts Canal - which used to run through the centre of Swindon and out through Wootton Bassett. I slipped and fell on the muddy towpath, causing Margaret to treble up with laughter. Ploughing through the overgrown undergrowth, I caught my head painfully on some undergrowing overgrowth, causing Margaret to quadruple up with laughter, then I ran crouching Groucho Marx style, at which point she laughed so much she almost wet her fetching green knickers. So glad to have been the cause of innocent merriment....

We crossed our figure-of-eight course to pick up the Walkers' trail, crossing the railway track for the third time, where I was intrigued to spot three cyclists and a double-decker bus. I was unable to amuse Margaret any further, not least because she had sufficiently recovered her composure to leave me in my traditional last place, and not most because we were just about home. Crossing the railway for the seventeenth time, I was intrigued to spot an ice-cream van, the Royal Corps of Signals motor-cycle display team and the Beaufort Hunt.

Back at the pub, we were considerably discombobulated to find that the damned place was not yet open. Checking our watches, we soon deduced that this was because it was only 11.45 - yes, we had been out for all of 45 minutes, and Mad Mike Fisher was foaming at the mouth at being cheated by such a short Hash. Some people are never satisfied.

The Walkers arriving back just in opening time, our lordly GOM thanked Brian for his picturesque Hash trail, which yet again took us through pastures - not to mention railway bridges - new. No wonder the Hare ran round with us again - he probably needed a bit of exercise! The Horn was absent without Keith2, and I was awarded the goddam knickers for services to comedy.

The 200<sup>th</sup> Hash will be in Marlborough - from my pad, to be precise. I will be laying on a barbie and booze (and hot water for Margaret) afterwards. We will eat in the garage if it's wet. No need to bring anything [although some folding chairs and tables might be handy] - just let me know in advance if you are coming, and especially if you are gluten-allergic, vegetarian, vegan, Martian or Methodist. More details later.

PLEASE NOTE OUR WEBSITE ADDRESS HAS CHANGED - no idea why! There are photos of the Ridgeway Relay - have a look. PS - Mike has asked me to point out that he ran joint fourth-fastest of the ten of us in the Relay team.



### Fifth Coming Hash Runs

197 - 10<sup>th</sup> July - The Fox & Hounds, Uffington - Mike

198 - 24<sup>th</sup> July - The Sun Inn, Coate Water - Steve

199 - 7<sup>th</sup> Aug - The Buggers Arms - Iain

*Seven Stars, Bottlesford*

200 - 21<sup>st</sup> Aug - Chez Keith, The Kennet Valley, Marlborough - Keith

201 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sept - The Buggers Arms - Margaret & Dave

202 - 18<sup>th</sup> Sept - The Royal Oak, Bishopstone - GOM

203 - 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct - The Masons Arms, Marston Maisey - Brian

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bigger's Arms is please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064; email [jer@xyz.port995.com](mailto:jer@xyz.port995.com) or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email [keith@pallettfs.co.uk](mailto:keith@pallettfs.co.uk) - website [kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk](http://kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk)

*30<sup>th</sup> Oct. Keweenaw*

*Halbwan - Fears (Dress)*