



KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 200- Sunday 21st August - Chez The Late Keith at Marlborough

Today's the day that the Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers ran their 200th hash and this great point in our history was celebrated with all the fun and sociability that it deserved. A huge slice of the credit for this highly enjoyable day must go to the Late Keith who not only laid the trail but threw open his house and garden for the apres and laid on all the food and drink. More of this later.

A large crowd of runners and walkers (about 30 of us including children) gathered in front of Keith's house in the hot sunshine and at 1109 sharp we were entertained to a briefing on the pleasures to come from Keith. We all paid attention and laughed at the right moments (except for Ian who always shuffles about in the background pretending not to listen - he'll get lost one of these days and he'll only have himself to blame). And then we were off up the hill towards Hungerford running easily and effortlessly - for the first twenty yards - then we turned left into that lovely area between Marlborough and Mildenhall and from then on hardly saw a road. It was pretty hot and everyone was running with sweat but the countryside was wonderful and it felt good to be out in it. We ran beside streams and over fields and crossed the Kennet a couple of times and then across the cricket pitch at Mildenhall and looped round towards the eastern edge of Marlborough. Oh good I thought, a nice short run so that we're not too tired to enjoy the apres, but what's this? - a long/short divide allowing only the walkers back early with the longs being directed north towards Swindon! - bleed! And so head down the old railway line towards Swindon. I am last by now (the Late Keith not having gone round again) and struggling to keep up with Brian. He, however has a spurt of energy and disappears around the bend like an olympic sprinter. Luckily GOM Jeremy is keeping an eye on his flock and he arranges an impromptu regroup at the bottom of a field which was welcome. One minute's rest and on to the last stages back into Marlborough. We all ran across the Ramsbury road into some water meadows that extended almost to Keith's back door and we all came thundering in cheerfully together. What a satisfying run, planned and set by a master craftsman - did us all proud.

And we sat in the garden afterwards drinking beer and wine and munching steaks and sausages and talking to everybody while Keith and Katrina worked hugely hard to feed us. Sun still hot, conversation interesting, company excellent, the air filled with a drowsy contentment. GOM thanked Keith and Katrina for a memorable trail and wonderful hospitality and awarded the bags to some poor sod, Margaret told us all about the forthcoming Summer run in the New Forest and Mike presented the last remaining Kennet Valley Hash T shirt to Laura for her contribution to the hash over the last 100 runs - which was nice as she had all her family with her and they were all very proud of her. A lovely day. Thank you Keith and Katrina.

ON ONs

201	04 Sep 05	High Corner Inn Linwood New Forest	Margaret and Dave
202	18 Sep 05	Royal Oak Bishopstone	GOM
203	02 Oct 05	Masons Arms Meysey Hampton	Brian
204	16 Oct 05	Rose & Crown Ashbury	Keith P
205	30 Oct 05	The Shears Cadley Collingbourne Ducis	Laura
206	13 Nov 05	Buggers Arms	Mike

Any enquiries please ring - Grand Old Master (GOM Jeremy) on 01672 511530 or the Late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 - email keith@pallettfs.co.uk - or you could visit our web site at <http://kvhash.mysite.wannado-members.co.uk>