

Hash 214 - The Hit or Miss, Kington Langley - 5th March 2006

Ah, back in the saddle. My thanks to sub-editor Mad Mike Fisher for the previous edition of the Hash Mag - but contrary to the scurrilous rumour he opened with, I was not 'off enjoying myself' this week - I was at today's Hash. I did not write the previous edition because I laid the trail. He will be hearing from my solicitor. Hold on - he *is* my solicitor. Can he sue himself? Anyway, Mr Fisher was not at today's Hash, owing to a sudden attack of grape flu. Well that's the official story, but I have heard that a £350,000 bribe from Signor Berlusconi may have something to do with it. But I'm sure he enjoys Mr Blair's entire confidence....

In fact Runners were a little thin on the ground - a bit like the flour. Also missing were Laura, Iain, Brian, Steve, Katrina, Kevin... In fact if it were not for new recruits Andrew, Phil and MBA Mike, there would only have been two Keiths and a GOM. Fortunately there were loadsa Walkers, many of whom were the 'invalid' MMF's family & friends, nobly presenting a united front to the world's press.

Our Hares Lady Margaret and Duke Dave waited patiently whilst we parked on the grass in the village (do pubs not have car parks any more?) then waved us off in a general direction. I ran about half a mile without spotting flour before turning back, only to be confronted by an agitated LM who whispered "it's where you've come from". I duly retraced my steps to find a double dot of what looked like canary poo another 300 yards further on, and just had enough breath to wheeze "on-on". The other Runners soon overtook me, but owing to an unlucky break at the next check, I once again found myself in the lead. We eventually came across Phil, who had started late but had somehow wound up in front of us, and we took off more or less together into the countryside.

And a very pleasant toddle it was too. Lots of wooded paths between fields, gently trilling brooks to run alongside - and through, you b@\$*#ls, into six foot of mud. And MBA Mike with his newly-washed trainers... Plenty of checks, to allow the back-markers to rejoin the pack (do keep up, Jeremy), the occasional dot of flour to keep us on our toes, sun overhead to ward off the worst effects of the chill north-westerly breeze. Perfick!

Runners eventually wound up at Sutton Benger, with myself firmly in my rightful position of Last, when a chronic shortage of flour reminiscent of the Winter of Discontent, coupled with the eagle eyes of GOM, allowed me to regain the lead whilst the overshooting front-Runners executed a smart about-turn. Off through a remote hamlet, where a bemused Walter Gabriel put me right - "they'm a-going wrong, me old beauty" - turn left by that old tree." A brief traverse across some fields, and there we were back at the pub, warm in the sunshine. Walkers showed up just as I was brushing out my flowing locks, then in for a well-earned orange-juice-and-soda.

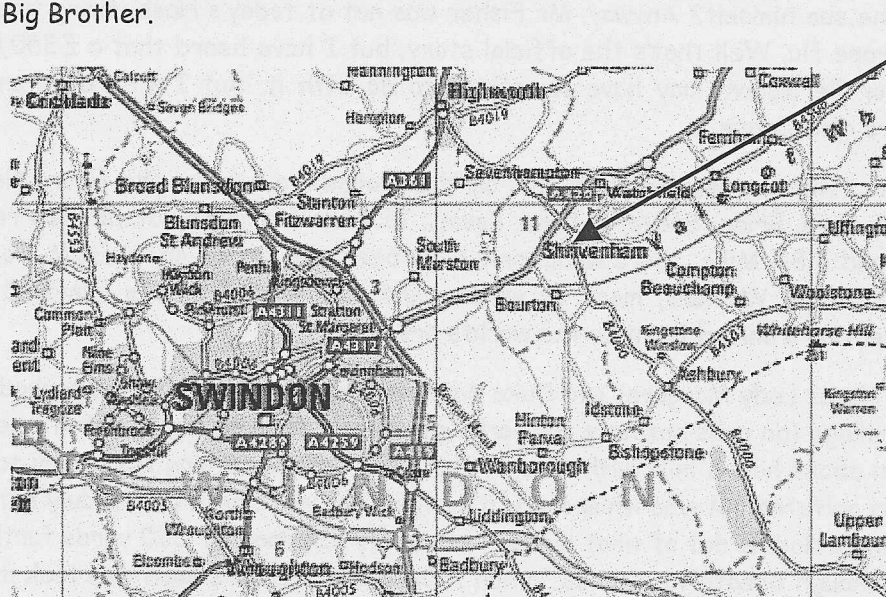
We had a room to ourselves, with reserved tables, and sipped off the landlady something wicked by not ordering food. GOM made a glowing encomium of thanks to our energetic Hares, and I finally got rid of the green knickers - to Phil, who had injudiciously sniggered "snazzy shorts" as he ran past me. He'll learn....

Letters to the Editor

Last week we published a letter from a Mr Michael Fisher of Barking, who wrote to complain that recent Hashes had been either too long or too short, and pleading for five miles and one hour precisely. This week we have a reply from Mr Keith Mitchell of Leyton:

"Yeh well that ole geezer Fisher don't kno nuffink. I jus layed a trail wot woz 6 miles and it took me one hour an 25 minnits when I prackticed it, an I'm offishully Slow. So it shoud take a propper Hasher abaht 1 hour ten. Trubble is we're all getting on a bit, an cant run as fast as when ole man Fisher woz a Olimpyc Marrafon runner."

The Editor invites further correspondence on this topic, which is surely as contentious as the Schleswig-Holstein question, or whether Chantelle was the legitimate winner of Celebrity Big Brother.



Second Coming Hash Runs

- 215 - 19th Mar - The Bridge Inn, Horton - Steve
- 216 - 2nd Apr - The Prince of Wales, Shrivenham - Andrew & Baldrick
- 217 - 16th April - The Five Aills, Filkins, Lechlade - Mad Mike Fisher
- 218 - 30th April - The Cross Keys, Upper Chute - GOM
- 219 - 14 May - The Buggers Arms, Kevin

If you want to have a bash at a Hash, or find out where The Bugger's Arms is please ring GOM Jeremy on 01672 521064; email jer@xyz.port995.com or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website kvhshash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk