

Hash 218 - The Cross Keys, Upper Chute - 30th April 2006

Well I don't know - seems like ages since I've written a Hash Mag. And now I'm writing one again, I shan't actually be here on the day to hand it out (you may have noticed the absence of lanky bald git moping along at the back). Dereliction of duty, you might call it - although in fact I shall have just completed a 26-mile charity walk as you read this, so not a bad excuse. However, many thanks to those noble volunteers who have stepped into my (green) breeches whilst I have been away teaching the Sri Lankans how not to play cricket.

My previous sporting activities having been played under blue skies in 34°C, it was a bit of a shock to the system to be huddling in a chilly, grey breeze in 3.4°C outside the Cross Keys. KVH³ Runners being a bit thin on the ground, it was good to see some R2D2H3 people swelling the numbers - such a pleasant change from the North Wilts rabble! And we were also radiant with Joy, who was so keen to join our ranks that she turned up a whole week early - an example I shall probably not follow - but this Sunday, promptly disappeared into the loo when we started and was never seen again, well not by K&I at any rate - but then nobody saw us on the trail either. This may possibly have something to do with our having gone to bed at 4.45 a.m. that same morning, after staying up all night indulging in most vices known to man, but hopefully not to Toby & Becky, who joined us on the Hash and showed me up summat rotten.

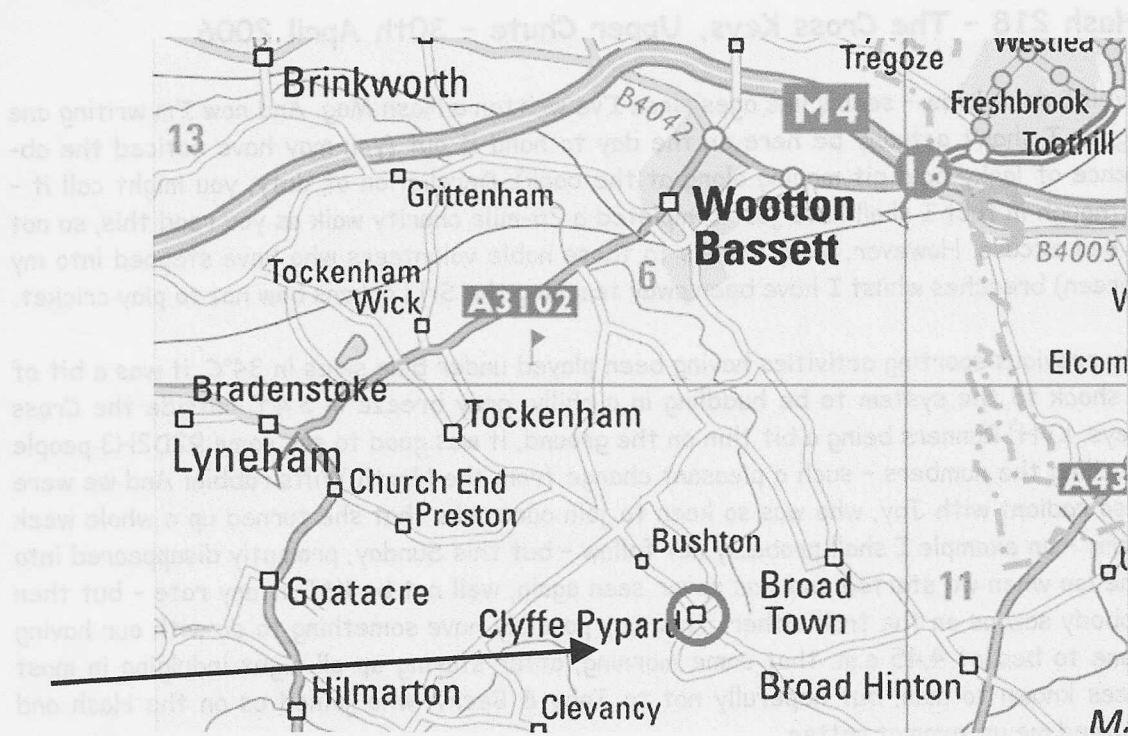
Our Hare, the noble and valiant GOM, taught us some new signs, including the ? - which required those finding it to turn round and trot back until they came across the Hare, who was showing off as usual by running the entire trail with us. This was intended to prevent the front-runners (i.e. the R2D2 folk) from disappearing too far in front of the main pack. Unfortunately, K&I kept turning back at the ? but we never found the bugger - added hours to our time....

The grey and chilly weather did nothing to depress the spirits of those present, as we took off into the most beautiful countryside - posh houses, hills and valleys, tree-lined bluebell paths, views over burgeoning forest roofs across several counties, green fields, bluffs and combs - a Merrie Englande indeed, which lacked only a few more weeks of growth and a dollop of warm sunshine to make it the Perfick Hash. No fault of Jeremy's though - his clever, thoughtful, varied trail is definitely one to walk - or even run - again. The only black spot to spoil the day was a poor little deer caught in a fence; hopefully the determined concern of some Walkers, who sought help at a nearby farm, will have saved the day.

After the second Long detour - through a delightfully dappled forest - we came upon the 'On Inn' sign at the bottom of a very steep hill; almost as bad as the one at the end of (my) leg 4 on the Ridgeway Relay. K&I walked, Becky & Toby ran. Becky has already been volunteered to run a leg of the Relay - maybe I should volunteer Toby to do my leg....

Joy, who had mysteriously started after but finished before us, buggered off immediately - she had obviously heard about GOM's post-Hash speeches. But as the Runners shivered outside in the 'sun' whilst the Walkers sensibly filled their faces inside, GOM modestly praised the Hare fulsomely - and justifiably - for a fine trail. Guess who got the bloody green kecks....

Many thanks, JR!



Second Coming Hash Runs

- 219 - 14 May - The Fox & Hounds, Wroughton , Katrina
- 220 - 28th May - The Goddard Arms, Clyffe Pypard, Keith2
- 221 - 11th June - The White Horse, Winterbourne Bassett, Brian & Linda
- 222 - 18th June - The Ridgeway ZimmerFest, Berks, Bucks, Oxon & Wilts
- 223 - 25th June - Honeymoon Hash, The Buggers Arms, MBA Mike & Phil
- 224 - 9th July - The Buggers Arms, Mad Mike Fisher
- 225 - 23rd July - Nude Hash, Studland, Princess Margaret & Duke Dave

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 or the late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 email keith@griffins.co.uk - website kvhask.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk