

Hash 227 - The Crown & Anchor, Ramsbury - 20th August 2006

Our Scribe today is Brian the Bold:

Why should a small Wiltshire village, miles from the sea, have a pub named the Crown & Anchor? For those who couldn't care less skip the next paragraph.

Crown & Anchor - OK, so we're OK with the Crown part, right? Anchor? Well, that would suggest sailors and the like. So, the Crown and Anchor is for Sailors loyal to the Monarch? Spot on, the Crown & Anchor appear on the coat of arms of the Lord High Admiral and, for retired Naval Officers who set up taverns, was a nice way of showing their nautical roots and remembering those carefree days being keel-hauled and dunked in barrels.

As we gathered in the car park it was good to see there a sizable number of runners and walkers. As Jeremy gave his preamble (pre ' in advance of'; amble 'an unhurried walk') he assured us the run would last just one hour (good) and the runners must not use any footbridges (not so good as I had left my shoes behind and my trainers would have to do me for the pub afterwards). He then announced the trail began at the front of the pub.

An immediate choice was presented. I chose to go up the hill known as Crowood Lane and was rewarded by finding two dots of flour. So with a shout of 'on on' we were off. Before too long a left along a track known as 'Swan's Bottom' Why, I can only conjecture.

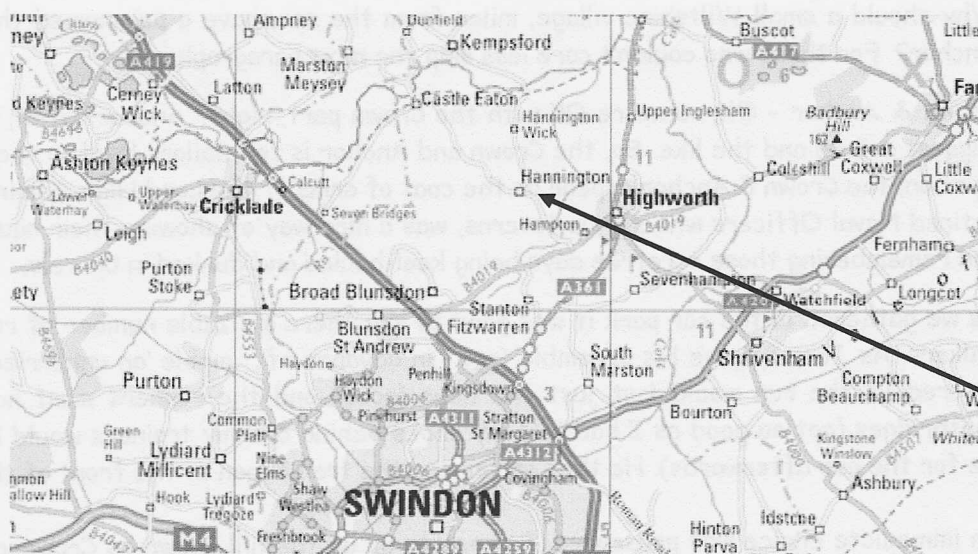
We ran for a while through open fields including one unharvested wheat field with Iain leading the way (the wrong way as it happens). Then into a wooded area soft under foot but flat. We were all pretty much together at this point and I was able to chat a little to Keith² and Big Steve. The group started to spread out as we began a windy downward descent (a downward descent?? Should I edit this out? Ed). The trail had been laid very with adequate flour signs. I was running with Navy Mike. We both observe the rule of shouting 'On On' whenever two flour dots are passed.

We drop down a hill called Hilldrop Lane (a very good name I thought) into the west side of Ramsbury a quick left and right and into Mill Lane. Presumably there was once a mill in Mill Lane and that mill used the power of the river to turn the millwheel. That river being the River Kennet. The mill is no longer but the river still flows and a very clear arrow of flour directed us into the river. A quick decision and into the river I ran (well ran for about five feet and then gingerly tip toed (I wasn't the only one) to avoid unnecessarily wetness) out the other side and then immediately into another channel of the same river thus becoming the Kennet River HHH for a while.

A sharp turn westwards about a quarter of a mile and then right to cross the river again only this time over a solid stone bridge. We run beside the grounds of Ramsbury Manor, the 17th century house of property tycoon Harry Hyams. Navy Mike told me the house had been burgled earlier this year and treasures of £30 million had been stolen.

At Whiteshill we turned east back towards Ramsbury. When we reached Mill Lane again Mike and I were so engrossed in conversation that we did not realise that we were meant to go down it again and go through the river a second time (honest truth) and instead walked/ran along Back Lane oblivious to the lack of flour. We reach the pub after exactly one hour. We were surprised to find we were the first back but since there was no crowd at the bar we did not complain. A pint each of the local ale. When everyone else did arrive (barely half an hour later) we bought our second round.

Everybody agreed it was a fine run/walk and Jeremy was duly thanked. MBA Mike awarded the horn to myself because I still wearing wet trainers. (wot no green kecks? Ed)



4th coming Hash Runs

- 228 - 3rd Sept - The Crown & Anchor Korma Korner, Ham - Phil
- 229 - 17th Sept - The Jolly Tar (nautical again!), Hannington - MMF
- 230 - 1st Oct - The Buggers Arms - Brian the Bold
- 231 - 15th Oct - The Charlton Cat, Charlton - The Late Keith
- 232 - 29th Oct - Swan Inn, Lower Green, Inkpen - MBA Mike
- 233 - 12th Nov - The Buggers Arms - Katrina

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@ariffins.co.uk - website kvhask.mvsite.oranae.co.uk