



Hash 234 - The Horseshoe, Mildenhall - 26th November 2006

Hashers seemed a little thin on the ground when the luxury Škoda glided to a halt outside the Horseshoe on the dot of 11.01. But fortunately your Scribe was there mob-handed, the mob consisting of Katrina, Becky, Toby and a small white dog called Archie, all anxious to join the fray - the fray comprising MMF, Keith2, Brigadier Phil and Johnny - newly returned from his honeymoon (so he says - nobody has ever seen his missus...)

A small but determined phalanx of Walkers was also assembled, including a very nice lady whose name I didn't catch, who agreed to take Archie for a drag. All we were missing was that Sunday *sine qua non* - the Hare. But GOM eventually loped into the car park, entirely unabashed, did the stuff with the flour, and sent us on our way with dire warnings of mud. I also thought I heard him mention wild pigs, but maybe he was just talking about us.

Mildenhall has always had unpleasant associations for me, since it brings to mind my arch-enemy at school - Keith "Wanker" Mildenhall - so-named for reasons I hardly need to elaborate. And as the fat bastard shared my Christian name, and was alphabetically one place before me, I found myself in far more of his loathsome company than any reasonable boy could be expected to bear without offering physical violence. However, the village of Minal (as it is spelt on old maps) is a quiet, pretty little place, and as we ran down to the church in a stiff breeze beneath blue skies, it seemed that all was right with the world.

It was Andy Warhol who said "in the future, everyone will be famous for 15 minutes". Well I managed precisely half of that, a combination of local knowledge and downright bad luck propelling me into the lead all the way from the pub to the main road via the cricket pitch. Only after a long haul uphill to a T was I able to resume my rightful place in the rear, where for long periods I was kept company by the Hare himself, showing off alarmingly by doing a second circuit. We talked of this and that - well, he talked, I puffed - including expressing surprise at the sight of a Small Tortoiseshell butterfly which overtook me. My Dumpy Book of Butterflies tells me that it should be safely tucked up in bed by October, and here it was almost in December. Look out for mayflies on Boxing Day...

Up a long, steep hill, and back down into the quaintly-named Sound Bottom, where I remarked to GOM that we faced another long climb back up on the way home. "Oh, we've done most of the 'up'", he lied cheerfully. Heading further north and west, my legs quailed as we ran past Lower Yielding farm - a far-distant landmark on a trail I had laid from Ogbourne. More ups and downs before we slithered up a muddy, overgrown track where I was perversely pleased to see some bloke trying vainly to extricate his 4x4 from whence it had slid. Keep the paths for Hashers!

A gentle trot down the road into the village - my feet now aching, since I had somehow taken my walking boots instead of running shoes - and into the lovely pub for a pint of Badgers and a melt by the roaring fire, where we found - The Walkers! They had so easily beaten us back that Kathy had finished her statutory 3 pints and was on her way out. As a small brown-and-white dog called Archie snoozed beneath everyone's feet, GOM made a fulsome speech praising the Hare and the excellence of the trail, whilst the Brigadier awarded Bernadette to Becky and the Horn to myself for 7½ minutes of trailblazing. Many thanks for a splendid morning out, Jeremy!

A detailed map of Gloucestershire, England, showing towns, roads, and a proposed railway line. The map includes numerous place names such as Gloucester, Stroud, and Cheltenham. A thick black line with arrows at both ends represents the proposed railway route, passing through or near many of the towns. Road numbers like A16, A17, and A18 are also visible.

235 - 10th Dec - The King & Queen, Longcot - Mabel (Andrew)
 236 - 26th Dec - Keepers Arms, Quenington - Princess Marge & Duke Dave
 237 - 7th Jan - The New Inn, Winterbourne Monckton - Mad Mike Fisher
 238 - 21st Jan - The Buggers Arms - The Late Keith
 239 - 7th Feb - The Calley Arms, Chiseldon - Jackie & Pauline

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 kvhash.mysite.orange.co.uk