

Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers



Hash 237 - The Swan, Great Shefford - 21st January 2007

Our scribe this week is Brian the Bold:

I'm not a morning person. That is to say, I do not readily appreciate the glories of a new day. Not for me the childlike wonderment of a new dawn as the light slowly rises in the east, not for me the homage to the sun king, not for me the veneration and awe to another day of grace on this precious world. But hey... isn't it good to put your sunglasses on in January, slip smoothly into fifth gear and play loud music as you speed to a hash.... even if it is still morning. Having established my chav credentials I must admit that even my lowly senses were soaringly uplifted by such a blue sky, such a bright sun, such a beautiful landscape as chosen by The Late Keith for our delectation.

I am unfamiliar with the Lambourn Valley. I had never been to The Swan Inn at Great Shefford before. The Late Keith was late, but so he should be. His Hash address to the assembled was perhaps the funniest I've ever heard as he described a route that was entirely uphill, into the wind, mud sodden, waterlogged and full of wild animals. Everyone, including me, laughed and gleefully set off.

Now not being familiar with the area I've really no idea where we went but it was definitely in a south-easterly direction. [North-westerly! - Ed] Once clear of the village we were running on a slight left to right gradient on very slippery mud. My method of combating the possibility of falling over is to wave my arms frantically about in a rather demented fashion. This was difficult as to my left was a barbed wire fence (perhaps the one that cushioned The Late Keith's fall) so I could only wave my right arm about. As a method of keeping your balance, trust me, it doesn't work. So I and the Lady Margaret (perhaps the best A over T exponent in the club) walked for a while thus keeping our dignity and allowing us to admire the panorama of west Berkshire.

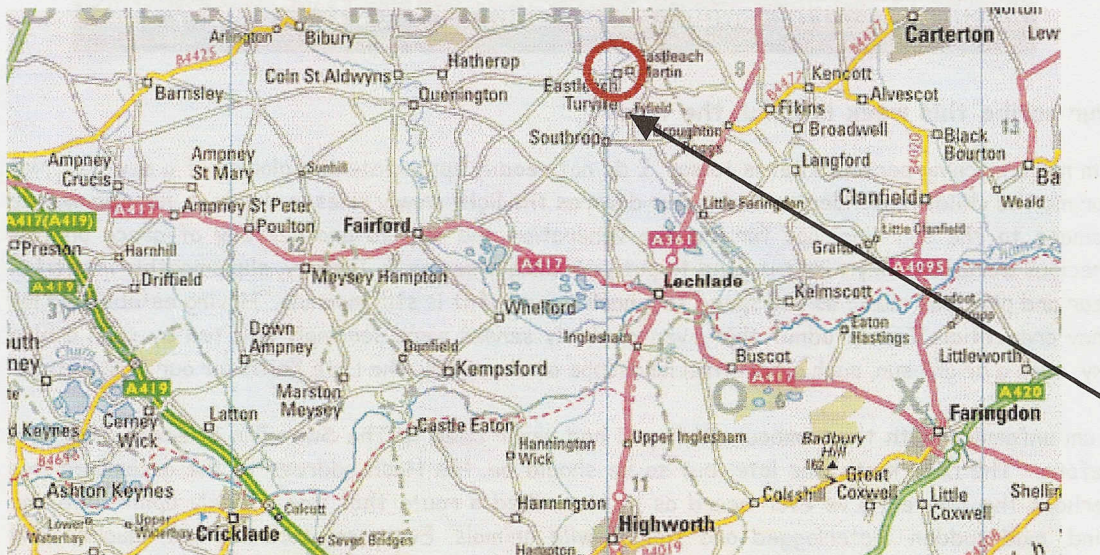
The barbed wire ended and I decided to stretch my legs. I overtook Jackie and Pauline who I later discovered have run so many marathons they can't remember how many (I am very impressed), but managed to miss the llama. At least I think someone said they saw the llama. We turned north. We began climbing. I was running on my own, took a false trail, an upward one of course. On trail again and a regroup. Short chat to Jeremy, Navy Mike, Andy, MBA Mike, Big Steve and new guy Carl (Karl?). Others catch up and off again. I and the Lady Margaret run together again. Neither of us has fallen over.

Steve has the horn and has made good use of it. I hear it again but it sounds a long way off. I let Steve catch up. "Is that an echo?" No, somewhere there is a hunt going on. We see the hounds and hear the horn. Steve runs ahead honking as he goes.

Lady Margaret and I catch Steve at the top of a hill. The others have run down the road. Steve is looking for flour. It's amazing how easy it is to follow blindly and then realise you haven't seen any flour for ages. Steves instincts are correct. We three are on the correct trail. Downhill. The rest catch up. I run with the Lady Margaret. We chat about France as we find ourselves by a river. All of a sudden we are back at The Swan Inn. All the walkers have arrived first (I think they got lost). It's a very agreeable hostelry.

The Late Keith is thanked and applauded for a delightful trail. Navy Mike is awarded horn (sorry Mike I can't remember why) and Carl gets the rubber chicken. He doesn't have the faintest idea why or even if it's an honour.

Feb 18th is Linda's trail at The Victoria Inn, Eastleach, Nr Fairford, Glos GL7 3NQ. We can use the pub car park but please the far end and bunch them up close together. We can use the toilet facilities before the hash. The menu looks great and prices reasonable, but please telephone (01367 850277) to book in advance.



Second Coming Hash Runs

239 - 4th Feb - The Calley Arms, Chiseldon (Hodson) - Jackie & Pauline

240 - 18th Feb - The Victoria Inn, Eastleach Turville - Lovely Linda

241 - 4th Mar - The Swan, Swinbrook nr Burford - Keith2

242 - 18th Mar - [TLK's birthday] The Buggers Arms - GOM

243 - 1st April - The Buggers Arms - Brian the Bold

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 kvhash.mysite.orange.co.uk