

KENIN LLEY HAS ISE HARRIERS



Hash 266 - The New Inn, Lechlade - 3rd Feb 2008

When Lt-Cdr RN (Ret'd) 'Mad Mike' Fisher sets a Hash trail, you can be sure of three things: (i) the trail will take precisely one hour for both the average competent Runner and the average Walker; (ii) it will be a decent pub with decent beer; and (iii) the Hash will set off at precisely 11.00 ack emma. Thus it was that having thrashed the eager SEAT from one end of Wiltshire to the other and arrived at 11.02, it was to see the Walkers emerging under the arch whence the Runners had presumably dashed one minute earlier. When I ventured to suggest to the Hare that he might have waited a bit, he remonstrated with me thus: "I don't suppose that 156,000 troops would have hung around on D-Day waiting for very Ordinary Seaman Mitchell to roll up three minutes late."

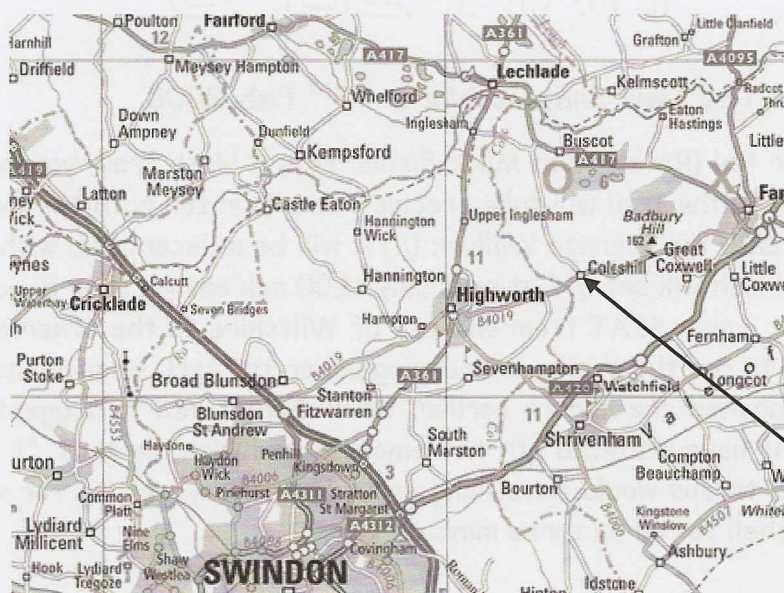
Duly chastened, K&I set off in not very hot pursuit of the Runners, waving back from the bridge at the cheerful Walkers who were following the Thames east. Runners however were dimly in view heading west. An extremely chill force 6-7 was gusting straight at us across the steppes of central Wessex as we beat remorselessly to windward, taking a bearing on a yellow jacket which I took to be Lady Margaret, and a red jacket with a dog whom I took to be GOM [the jacket, not the dog]. Never having been this way, I was quite happy to look at the boats, but tales of the riverbank were soon over as we eventually reached the main road.

Here we had the wind on the starboard quarter [the best point of sail] and made such good time that we were gaining on the yellow jacket - but not the red one...

We soon reached St John's lock, and like sheep followed the yellow jacket, just like [mutatis mutandis] Donald Sutherland followed the red jacket in Don't Look Now - but with somewhat less regrettable results. Having established that we were running in the opposite direction to that which the Walkers had walked, and that at 11.40 no other bridge lay between us and the ever-present spire of Lechlade Church, my suspicions were confirmed by a little floury arrow pointing back the way we had come. A quick jaunt back to the lock revealed the correct trail, which I plodded round on me tod, K having succumbed to hypothermia and taken the short cut. A shame, since this was the prettiest part of the trail. Much good-natured banter [i.e. insults] from the Walkers as they and I all got back to the pub at more or less the same time - as MMF had carefully planned.

Back in the New Inn - a new Inn indeed - we had our very own corner of the old coaching stop to ourselves. There I discovered who my almost-fellow Runners were, including Mad Max, who had put his elders and worsers to shame - well done!

GOM paid his usual fluent tribute to the punctilious Hare, for a traditionally excellent trail - well done Mike, and many thanks!



Unforthcoming Hash Runs

267 - 17th Feb - The Coopers Arms, Pewsey - The Late Keith

268 - 2nd Mar (10th Anniversary!) - Radnor Arms, Coleshill - Brian the Bold

269 - 16th Mar - The Wagon & Horses, Beckhampton - GOM

270 - 30th Mar - The Buggers Arms - Pauline&Clive

271 - 13th Apr - The Suffolk Arms, Brinkworth - Kevin&Ann

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 keithskip9@hotmail.com - website kvhash.mysite.orange.co.uk