

Hash 269 - The Wagon & Horses, Beckhampton - 16th March 2008

They say a picture is worth a thousand words - well here's three sides of A4:



Keith2 & Brian watching Chris in a deep bit



We arrive at Avebury

Talking of the A4, it had rained a bit between Silbury Hill and Beckhampton, and when I beached the amphibious SEAT outside the pub, any would-be Walkers had buggered off back to bed - where I had left the eminently sensible Katrina. Runners MMF, K2, BtB, J&R and new bug Chris (f) from Corsham were stood on the only bit of dry land, shivering in the rain. GOM - our Hare - greeted us with the news that West Wilts was full of River Kennet, and we could only run  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile to Avebury and back again, as the rest of the trail was floating off towards Reading.

We splashed our way back down the A4 to Silbury Hill, then struck nor'east towards Avebury, soon wading ankle-deep for several hundred yards as the left-hand field overflowed across the path into the right-hand field. The path and the river Kennet soon became indistinguishable, so I legged it over the barbed wire onto dry land to overtake the lesser-spotted waders, thus avoiding drowning at the slight expense of slipping and cutting my knee badly, and eventually regaining my feet covered in mud from ears to elbow. Oh how we laughed!

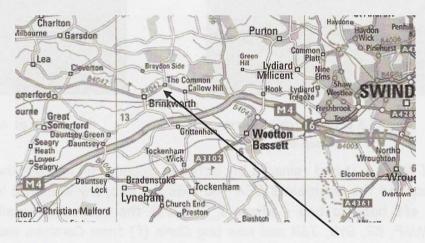
Upon reaching Avebury I huffily refused to go back the way we had come, so GOM, bless him, volunteered to take us on round what would have been the Walkers' trail - if they'd had less sense - as we surveyed the ocean which covered the Runners' trail. A sensible-looking lady approaching us from the path we were headed down told us that it was quite impassable. If only we had listened...

I was soon up to my knees in lovely, refreshing iced water, but hey! - at least it had stopped raining. A trail of bubbles indicated the location of Chris, the shortest of us, but being a cheerful stoic, I swam on, a natty little refrain of Macbeth's running through my mind: "I am in mud stepp'd in so far, that, should I wade no more, returning were as tedious as go o'er".

After half a mile or so, we were back on dry land, and all stripped to the buff to wring our clothes out. It was only a short jog back to the pub, which we regained a mere 40 minutes after we had set off. As I knew that MMF would not be satisfied with such a brief Hash, I suggested we went round again. Oh how we laughed!

We were soon in the bar, swapping tales with a bunch of brass monkeys who were shivering by the utterly pointless coal-effect "fire", and pouring delightfully cool beer down our throats. MMF made a short speech of thanks to GOM for his valiant efforts to amuse us. I seem to remember a tall, grumpy old git who wouldn't Hash in wet weather...

Many thanks, Jeremy!



The Suffolk Arms is at The Common, before the centre of Brinkworth proper

