

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS – KVH³
Hash 0272 – Sunday, 27 April 2008 – The Bell at Purton Stoke

It was about 15 years since I had last driven to Purton Stoke, and the continuing expansion of Swindon was quite a shock – where were all those fields I used to know? And please don't remind me of what it looked like 50 years ago. I can still remember seeing steam trains on the Swindon Marlborough line before Mr Beeching got involved; it's now just a trail for cyclists, horse riders and lost hashers. At least the Swindon Cricklade line has a little life left in it.

There were however a few other hashers who hadn't got lost when I arrived, so despite Ms Hare's concern the night before at the lack of electronic publicity, we did have good turn out, on what was much better weather than those idiots in the Met Office, with all their high powered computers, had predicted. They really ought to put windows in their offices.

Madge and Steve gave us their pre-run summary, and we were off, turning right through the village and then ambling along the local country lanes until eventually arriving at the long / short split. The runners turned left into Stoke Common and the walkers right, back to the pub. We runners meandered around the common long enough to ensure Iain got fed up and ...ed off by himself. Then we re-found the trail and eventually found ourselves running back the way we had just come, back towards Madge and Steve, and those late late runners, Jackie and Ray. Given the hares seemed totally unconcerned to see us running back the way wot we'd come, this seemed to suggest all was well, and so we were, back at the split, wisely deciding to take the short route at this point. On the route back we passed The Spa (some ancient form of supermarket I believe) and also a couple of hashers from North Wilts who were trying to understand why there was a hash tail laid at the very venue they had chosen to hold their trail that very evening. After further discussion with our hares it seems they were going to re-run ours – hopefully Madge and Steve got suitably thanked for this.

The runners were the first arrivals back at the pub with the walkers eventually filtering in, probably having never strayed off of the trusty tarmac around Purton Stoke – no doubt a cunning plan of the hare's that was intended to ensure they would survive the predicted bad weather. As it was, we all sat out in the beer garden, the hares were thanked profusely, Iain arrived back without us having to get North Wilts to look out for him, and Jackie presented the horn to Ray – not sure whether it was because he demanded that she keep her legs further apart, or because of his inability to understand her map directions.

<u>ON – ONs</u>		<u>All start promptly sometime after 11am</u>	
273	11 May	The White Horse, Woolstone	Jackie & Ray
274	25 May	The Downgate, Hungerford	Navy Mike
275	08 Jun	tbd	Brian the Bold
276	15 Jun	The Ridgeway Relay	K.V.H.H.H.
277	22 Jun	tbd	The Late Keith
278	06 Jul	tbd	Jackie & Ray
279	20 Jul	Ramsbury	GOM

Future Trails

If you would like more details you can:

- contact GOM on 01672 521064 / email him at jer@xyz.port995.com, or
- contact the Late Keith Mitchell on 01672 511530 / email him at keith@griffins.co.uk, or
- check out our website at <http://kvhash.mysite.wanadoo-members.co.uk/>