

# KENNELLEY HASH HARRIERS



Hash 291 - The Red Lion, Baydon - 4 Jan 2009 - Scribe - Kevin

The first hash of 2009 was organised by GOM at the Red Lion at Baydon, a village scattered along the B4000, quite high on the downs and not very far from Lambourn. The pub had rather a small car park so most of us placed our cars around the village instead of squeezing out the locals. The weather was dry and icy cold - perhaps minus 2 or so (Ed: in fact it was -9C early that morning); impressive then that there was a reasonable turnout of 6 runners and perhaps twice as many walkers, plus a couple of dogs. GOM kept the briefing mercifully brief and then we were off, with Mike leading the runners at quite a brisk pace as we all tried to keep warm!

The first part of the trail led alongside the M4 and (as GOM had warned us) was not greatly inspiring. I think the intention was to lead us to Membury Castle, an astounding and memorable earthwork which we managed not to notice as we ran straight through the middle of it, apparently! Turning away from the motorway we followed frozen and rutted tracks over the top of the downs, interrupted by innumerable circles leading to a record number of false trails for yours truly. I think I chose correctly twice (out of about eleven!) Much of the route was beautiful in a bleak and isolated kind of way. There was a good mixture of hard, frozen fields and softer woodland tracks, some of which had splendid views. A number of deer bounded across fields in the distance but most of the wildlife was trying to keep warm down holes or in nests, I imagine. The same was true of humans, as we only spotted one! Happily, after about half an hour, the blood was flowing quite nicely and I was able to take my hands out of the sleeves of my rugby shirt at last (must get some gloves!). The route was occasionally tricky but the only real puzzle was when we came to the long/short divide as the long sign was separated from the short by about 30 metres and baffled us for a few minutes.

Mike and I had been taking it in turns to lead and after a few miles we were comfortably ahead of the three ladies (Ray had reverted to walking on account of the knees). After well over an hour we still seemed to be in the wilds of wannee but Mike remained stoic, as ever, and we half ran, half trudged on down a particularly lovely track with a welcome gentle downward slope and beautiful downland views over the incline to our left. Just as we were beginning to wonder if

we would ever find civilisation again, the faint sound of traffic on the B4000 began to emerge and we found ourselves approaching Baydon from the rear, past about a hundred alpaca who looked rather cuddly and seemed totally unphased by our puffing and blowing.

Staggering "on inn" after one hour and thirty-five minutes, we reckoned it must have been close to seven miles in all - and rather more than that including my nine false trails! Still, we were pleased to have run off our Christmas puddings in such comprehensive style and very happy to find a welcoming pub with a roaring fire in the grate and a separate room all for us. The other bar was full of locals and there was a horse racing feel to the place, not surprisingly. The walkers were already ensconced in the warmth of the bar and the lady runners (Margaret, Jackie and Pauline) soon joined us, although Clive and Pauline soon left in the belief that dogs were not allowed in the pub.

Once we had all thawed out a little, Mike thanked our hare (GOM) for an excellent, if challenging, trail and was kind enough to offer his personal assistance in helping to devise routes which conformed more completely to the classical 55 minute duration! After Mike's few words there was a spontaneous presentation of the longed-for green shorts (with bells) from Jackie to myself so I can look forward to annoying everyone by jingling my way round John and Vivienne's first trail next Sunday which, a little bird told me, won't have been quite as demanding (phew!) The simple pleasures of the pub were slightly spoiled by the inevitable footie screen going up in readiness for some big match so I took this as my cue for an early exit, for once.

Despite the length of the hash, and the chilly conditions, it was undoubtedly much enjoyed by all and made an excellent and worthy start to hashing in 2009.

### Becoming Hash Runs

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| 293 - 01 Feb - The Plough, Eastbury      | - Jacqui, Ray  |
| 294 - 15 Feb - The Eagle, Little Coxwell | - Navy Mike    |
| 295 - 01 Mar - TBA, Wroughton            | - Keith        |
| 297 - 15 Mar - TBA                       | - Kevin, Annie |

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](mailto:jer@xyz.port995.com)  
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