



**KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

**Mag No 302- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June The Village Inn Liddington. Scribe - Mike**

Today Maurice laid his first trail for the Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers and he made the occasion a memorable one. He invited all his friends and relations along and the landlord's son as well and the car park of the Village Inn, luckily a large one, was teeming with new faces and lean fit bodies. He also organised the weather so that it was perfect for running - warm sunshine and a pleasant cooling breeze. Bit of a delay before the brief as everyone was chatting and meeting new people and we had to wait for Margaret who was late and then Maurice told us that he had laid the trail with half a bag of flour which raised a few eyebrows but when he told us about a massive herd of bullocks in a field at the beginning of the trail he had us all worried - particularly Annie who a year ago almost to the day had smashed her heel escaping from a mob of these very animals. I can report however that she was immensely brave and she walked through the danger without incident.

Off down the hill we went - me trotting slowly at the back determined to get round the long this time - down a wooded path and out into what is known as the Coombe - an extraordinary steep sided curving valley. We became spread out here as some climbed to the top of the ridge to avoid bullocks and others ran bravely along the bottom. At the end of the Coombe we ran through a farmyard and up a track to the road where Maurice was making sure we weren't lost. We then plunged into some woods where (I heard later) many actually did get lost. There were dozens of tracks going in all directions and Maurice was obviously conserving his limited stock of flour at this point. I was right at the back by then but managed to find my way out onto the Badbury road where I picked up the trail and galloped along there hoping to catching up with the others. The only person I did see however was Maurice and he kindly ran with me up the Ridgeway past that wonderful landmark clump of trees at the top of Liddington Hill and then we ran sweeping down across open countryside back to the pub. That was a wonderful bit.

We all sat out in the sunshine on the grassy bit at the back of the pub afterwards and it was very relaxed and sociable and pleasant as always. GOM Jeremy thanked Maurice for an excellent first trail and urged our Ridgeway Relay team to keep training hard and then we carried on drinking. Thank you Maurice for a superb and memorable trail.

ON ONs

304	5 <sup>th</sup> July	The Patriots Arms at Chiseldon	Jackie and Ray
305	19 <sup>th</sup> July	The White Hart at Oare	GOM
306	2 <sup>nd</sup> August	?	John & Vivien

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