

KENNET VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Mag No 325- Sunday 25th April The Horseshoe Mildenhall. Scribe - Mike

A long time ago, the 1st March 1998 to be precise, a new hash was formed which we called the Kennet Valley Hash House Harriers. Now, twelve and a bit years and 325 trails later KVH3 has grown and prospered to the point where today over 40 runners and walkers celebrated the handover of power by our third Grand Old Master Jeremy to our new Grand Old Master Maurice. I was fortunate to have been there at the beginning and so you can imagine the pride and pleasure I feel in being there and in writing the Hashmag about such an historic event.

The Hash was originally based in Marlborough as all the original hashers lived near there but even though most of us now come from around Swindon it was nice to go back to our roots and run from the Horseshoe which has become a favourite pub of ours. The weather was typical for April with bright sunshine and shower clouds scudding by and when I arrived the pub garden was full of colourful and lively people chatting animatedly and welcoming old friends in the spring sunshine in a real carnival atmosphere. Jeremy called everyone to order and announced that the long and the short trails were genuinely short because he wanted everyone back for the grand après celebrations - and off everybody streamed into the Wiltshire countryside. I did not actually run today (as I am unable to run more than about an inch at the moment) instead I helped Annie and Margaret prepare the pub for the apres. I did however get a full report on the trail from John who said that they had run through interesting and beautiful countryside bright with spring colour, that the trail markings were clear and unambiguous and that runners and walkers kept together well and all arrived back within the hour. A masterly example of good trail-laying by Jeremy.

The weather remained fine and so we had the handover ceremony in the garden. I started the proceedings by thanking Jeremy for his excellent trail and he then made a moving speech about how he had enjoyed his time as GOM with stories about some adventurous and humorous times. Being a self-deprecating sort of chap Jeremy then moved on to tell us about our new GOM Maurice - that he was a poet (we even had one of his poems read to us), that he was highly intelligent and brilliant at IT and altogether the right man to be our new leader. The actual transfer of power was done by the symbolic handing over of a folder containing all the hashmags from 001 to 324. Maurice then stood up and formally accepted the symbol of power with a short speech saying he was proud to be our new GOM. I then thanked Jeremy for being a splendid GOM for the past five years and presented him with a token of our esteem - a painting of Liddington Hill by a local artist. Just for a bit of fun I told the story of how hashing began and how the various hashing customs and traditions had developed - including that of the ritual of the Down-Down - and to demonstrate how it was done both Jeremy and Maurice stepped forward and drank their pint straight down to the sound of some lusty singing of the Hashing song followed by warm applause. Great fun (remedial singing classes start next week mind). Margaret then finished off proceedings by telling us all about the exciting hashing events we have to look forward to including the seaside hash and the picnic and rounders hash. It began to spit with rain at that point and so we all moved into the back room of the pub where the landlord and landlady had laid on a large and delicious buffet and we chatted and reminisced over a few pints and said how much we'd all enjoyed the day and eventually drifted off home at about three in the afternoon.

Our thanks to Jeremy and Margaret who organised the day so efficiently and to all old and new Kennet Valley hash House Harriers who supported them and made the day such great fun.

ON ONs

326	9 th May	The Dumb Post @ Bremhill	Des
327	23 rd May	The Inn with the Well @ Ogbourne St George	Colin
327	6 th June	The Buggers Arms @ Nobody Knows	Jacky and Ray
329	20 th June	Ridgeway Relay	Jeremy
330	4 th July	Cross Keys @ Upper Chute	Jeremy

If you would like to know where the Buggers Arms is or you would like to lay a trail - then you can contact GOM Maurice on 07887 608019 or email mspillane@appligenics.com. Or you can look at our Hash Web site - www.kvhh.co.uk