



CHURN VALLEY HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

RUN - NO. 1558

STRATFORD PLACE STUD, COLN ROGERS

It was posh here ! For me who had just returned from a weekend in Wigan and Bolton it was very posh ! It was yet another day of restless weather in this record breaking capricious summer. Great decisions had to be made. Water still lay around from the last heavy shower, as threatening cumulo-nimbus grew upwind. Do we risk another sodden run ? Do we wear waterproof tops and get sweat wet inside ?

Most hashers had never run in this area nor been to the hamlet - but the prospect of beer, cider and a barbecue made for a good turnout. There was much talk of the length of run - as hashers were nervous of a follow up to last week's muddy marathon. Others, inspired by a week of Olympics approached their warm ups with style. Caviar practised her new Jessica Ennis routine, whilst Musthash worked on his Farah ritual.

The briefing was very brief and were off for 5 yards to the first circle. What ? Not a regroup ? Soon we trod a delightful path along the banks of the bubbling Coln creating panic in the trembling water vole colonies a few feet below our thundering trainers.

The ambience of serene gentrification that surrounds this place seemed to be absorbed by hashers. There was an epidemic of very sensible and mature behaviour. Gates were held open for ladies, the conversation was intelligent and polite. They'll never keep this up I thought. They'll crack and revert back to juvenility, silliness and crass ignorance.

In my normal state of paranoia, I began to think it was a conspiracy to make it impossible for me to hand on the sheep's head hat.

Through another charming hamlet (Calcot ?) and into a series of lovely, rolling dry valleys. There were no locals to look surprised, confused or disgusted as our sweaty, shouting crowd lurched past (in fact I only saw one person during the whole run).

Does anybody live here or are these cottages preserved by the Cotswold Tourist Board for brochure and calendar photographs ?

In one remote spot, Chris, as always, volunteered a long search down valley and returned with a definitive "no trail !". After a few moments of confusion (there were no other paths !) our hare said it was down that valley. An hour later Chris was still insisting there was no flour, he couldn't have been wrong, he was infallible !

After more lovely, deserted paths we entered Winson, where one incompetent group did an extra loop. Along with this group I passed a sign saying "Coln Rogers $\frac{3}{4}$ ", followed 3 minutes later by a sign "Coln Rogers $\frac{3}{4}$ " and then, after a further 4 mins an identical sign. Who puts these up ? It's just not good enough ! I shall complain to the Cotswold Council, Gloucestershire County Council, the Ordnance Survey, Unesco and the International Court of Justice.

In a perfect finish we arrived in the yard to find the bar and barbecue well under way - some hashers not getting as far as their cars 50 yards away - such was the pull of the bar. A really scenic run ending with a lovely barbecue.

The sheep hat was awarded to Martin for seeking out and attempting to cross the only bog on the whole run. I looked back and saw this slime covered creature emerging from the swamp (remember the film ?) !

Thanks to Phil and Carloss for a great hash/après in a new area.

PS If anyone thought their beer/cider tasted a bit off, then blame one of those Norfolk/Border/Lakeland (?) terriers – seen cocking its leg and peeing into glasses standing on the floor !

ON & ON & ON & ON :

1560 27/8 Great Witcombe Roman Villa Car park Carloss
(Parking limited - please car share if possible).

• Last Monday run 1561 3/9 The Weighbridge, nr Nailsworth Bell End

• First Sunday Run 1562 9/9 TBC Hung Lo

1563 16/9 Daneway, Sapperton Kipperknickers and Fishfingers

1564 23/9 The Vale, Cricklade Caviar or Groper

1565 30/9 TBC Gringo Gripper

1566 7/10 The Keepers Arms, Quenington Anorak and Polepussy



Fireraiser's persistent nightmares of invasion by giant, killer flour blobs were becoming a serious problem.