

Berkshire Hash House Harriers

Run Number: 2198 05Jan20
Venue: The Hare and Hounds
Sonning Common

Visit the website - <http://www.berkshirehash.co.uk>
Website Email - iceman@berkshirehash.co.uk

Hares: Hashgate, Donut, Shitfer

Hounds

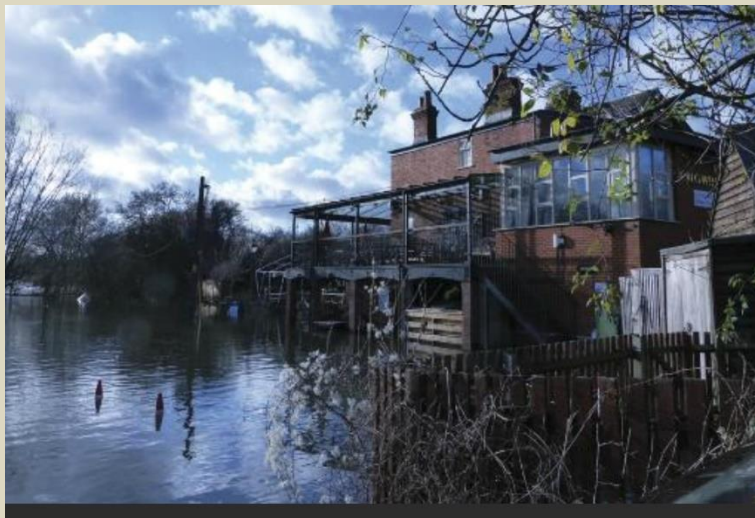
Trout Twanky Desperate Cerberus and dog Chilli BillyBullshit Dunny Rampant TC Whinge Motox Iceman Swallow SlowSucker Posh Bomber Ms Whiplash PennyPitstop Horny Helmet Lilo and dog Minx TinOpener SkinnyDipper Slapper Dumb Dumber WaveRider NappyRash Spot Pyro and dog Whisper Shifty FalseTart Florence Lonely Nicki Martin NonStick Cloggs Liz CouchPotato

Oops!

There are certain absolute requirements when organising a Trail. Let's check off the list. The main one, of course, is the venue. The Flowing Spring. But, oops, no. Their car park was still half flooded after the Biblical deluge before Christmas so we had to hurriedly pick another. Luckily, the friendly and accommodating landlord and landlady at The Hare and Hounds, Mick and Claire, who we asked only a week before the Hash, agreed that we could use their pub. And it couldn't be better named for a Hash venue. Ok, check that.

Secondly, make sure we had enough flour to lay the Trail. Yep, no problem. Bags were bought the weekend before and left in our porch in a Tesco bag. But, oops, no. When Donut's Mum left us after a visit, she accidentally picked up the bag and took it home to Maidenhead. Aargh! Another rapid visit to Tesco replenished the supply. Goodness knows what she is going to do with all that flour. We're looking forward to the biggest ever Yorkshire pudding the next time we go to hers. 😊

Thirdly, we needed to ask Iceman to upload the new details to the Hareline on the website, along with a re-worked 2195 Gobsheet, ask him to send out a mass email to all members and send the details to Slapper, who kindly changed the winter runsheet and also had that uploaded. Phew!



The Flowing Spring flooding.

Then there's the Trail. We had thoughtfully and carefully arranged a cunning and enjoyable Trail to and from The Flowing Spring. But, oops, no. We needed a different one for the replacement location. Luckily, we had kept the details of our Hawaiian Hash in June, run from the same pub (see [here](#) if you'd like to read about our hot Trail) so we thought, why change a perfect route? We used it. Saved receiving another. We laid the Trail on the Saturday prior to the event day and most enjoyable it was. For those who have not yet laid a Trail we can

assure you it's great fun. You know exactly where you are going, you can take your time and, in our case, you can change the Checks and Bars to give the FRBs even more pleasure than the original Trail.

We also had the kind assistance of Shitfer, to whom we had sent a map of the walkers' route. But, oops, no. He decided to do his own route which rather negated the need for the maps we had printed out for the walkers... He'd decided to lay a live Trail with pink flour and it was interesting to see the walkers coming in the opposite direction to the runners at one point. Sigh. However, no-one got lost and apparently the walkers got to appreciate even more woodland than we had lined up for them.

On a cool, but fair day, it had started well. Spot illuminated us during the Circle with the fact that today was Perihelion Day, when the sun is at its annual closest to the earth. You could have fooled us, as we shivered slightly below the dark clouds and in the nippy breeze. Things got off to a good start when Trout kindly went up the first of the Falses that we had laid. Good of him. Then Iceman was equally kind

to jog off along the same wrong way that he did during the previous Trail when we reached the first One-Blob Check. I thanked him for his efforts. The first of the Regroups followed, at the end of a longish, uphill climb through a field, providing a brief break and getting everyone back together. Sadly, no-one attempted the False we had laid as we started off again and we negotiated the short road section safely (thanks all for keeping on the right-hand side of the road 😊) before diving off into the forest for the Long and Short split. The Short included a Check near to the Long Trail marker and Swallow, TinOpener and FalseTart pretended to check out the route before following Donut along the correct way. I pointed Liz, our new Hasher, along the Short, which was 'a good thing' since just about everyone on the Long Trail managed to get lost. On the Short we met the walkers, coming in the opposite direction, who included Shitfer, Cerberus, Whinge, NappyRash (he had a bad cold so was not able to run), Spot, Ms Whiplash, Pyro and Whisper.

On the Long Trail and further into the forest I'd laid a One-Blob Check with a Bar-3 up one of the four tracks leading from it. The first blob on the actual Trail was a little way down another track. Oops! Utter chaos! Billy went straight over the Bar. WaveRider, TC and Slapper went off along one of the other tracks and met someone who said, "They went this way." Who the hell 'they' were is a mystery. WaveRider *et al* stonked round on the shiggy for about a mile and ended up on the other side of the Bar-3! Meanwhile, the rest of the Short Trailers had reached the second Regroup and milled about waiting for the Long Trailers. First Motox appeared. Apparently, he'd gone over the (unseen to him) Bar on the Short and come back via the end of the Long Trail. Then Twanky arrived, having not seen any flour but finding the route anyway. Bomber and Iceman were next, looking somewhat out-of-breath and confirming that everyone else on the Long was rather confused. My thought was that the Trail was going very well...



Rampant arrived, saying that Dunny was not in the best of humours – I apologized to her afterwards but she was very gracious and said that her New Year's Resolution was not to get uptight when she lost the Trail. The rest of the Long Trailers fetched up in dribs and drabs and nobody was entirely lost. Fortunately, the general consensus was that a) this is a Hash and, b) there are no rules. Excellent!

So they were also fine when the next bit took them way down a field to another One-Blob Check, where most of them went wrong, and back up the other side of a triangle to meet those who had taken the short cut straight across the field. They were taking it well.

And they took well the further chaos at the top of a narrow alley where a call of "On On" from a One-Blob Check had many of them running completely the wrong way into some woodland. Why anyone made the call when we had laid no flour there foxes us. I'd be fascinated to know who called it. I'm sure the followers would be too, if only to take them behind the bike sheds and give them a good duffing. 😊

Then, oops! Poor Desperate ran straight into the Bar-2 about 200 yards past where she should have turned left into the alley that led to the forest, taking quite a number of Hashers with her. They traipsed back, looking mainly sheepish, though I thought I detected some dark mutterings about the Hares. Off we went to the top of the forested hill and, you guessed it, a One-Blob Check. Damn good these are. I recommend them to Hares since they save effort and give the FRBs a good run. At this one, Slapper decided we may have laid a Back Check and tripped lightly back along the alley. Twanky asked me if I might suggest he tried the track to the left and I replied that I could certainly suggest it, if he wanted me to. Never give anything away you see – especially to the good runners. The Trail actually went diagonally down through the leaf-strewn wood, along the top of a very muddy embankment to a Check (a real one for once!). You could go up the steep hill or down it and Rampant, Bomber and Dumber were good enough to go and find the False at the bottom. It's a fair old hill to climb up and it was nice when Liz and I reached the top to be greeted with a small ripple of applause by a smiling family with their dog (the dog didn't clap).

Along the road to The Butchers Arms and one of the Hares (ok, it was me) sneaked through the car park short cut instead of going round by the duck pond. The exit gate is quite high above the footpath along which ran Cloggs. I called out "On On" to check her reaction. Perfect; it was surprise and minor confusion.

Now from here, all anyone had to do was follow the flour blobs up the hill (assuming they had not gone the wrong way on that last Check...) and turn right into the road where a clear 'On Inn' and arrow showed the way. Donut and I were with Swallow and FalseTart, the latter entirely missing the almost luminous white lettering next to her on the ground. We ushered the poor sausage the right way and Donut laid another arrow so that no-one could miss it. Little did she know that a little way behind us was Shifty, helping newby Liz. He was chatting to her so much that he completely missed both the newly laid arrow and the On Inn. I guess they both enjoyed the view of the Co-op, Indian restaurant and café, both going past them and coming back.

Back at the pub, we were a little concerned about SlowSucker, who we hadn't seen for most of the Trail. We shouldn't have worried. When we saw him, he told us that he'd run round the Trail in 49 minutes so went off to do a bit more. Perhaps those poor lost Long Trailers should ask him for lessons... 😊

Afterwards, in the pub, we found that Mick and Claire had laid out water jugs and glasses for us – how nice of them. We had the entire back room at our disposal and from the loud chattering it was obvious that everyone was having a great time. Hash Chips appeared and were devoured rapidly and it was great to see that a lot of people stayed and chatted until long after the Down Downs.



We hope you enjoyed our (Oops!) Hash as much as we did. Thanks for being there.

I must mention Dumb and Dumber for their excellent New Year's Day Hash in Caversham. A fine Trail and a fun event afterwards with plenty to eat and drink and a large crowd of people. Aren't we lucky to do all these things!

On On. **Hashgate.**

Down Downs

We were allowed to have the Down Downs in the pub so Motox presented the following.

Who Got It

Cloggs, Hashgate
Whinge
CouchPotato

Dunny
FalseTart
Shifty
Hashgate, Donut

Why

Their birthdays!
Forgetting to a) wear the La Pecarina apron and b) failing to pass it on.
Not only blocking other Hashers' way during the Trail but joining Reading Doggers! Or should that be Joggers...
Not getting angry at being unable to find the Long Trail.
Her 100 Hashes award! Well done!
Getting Liz lost.
Hashgate being well beaten by his lovely wife 😊

Up and Coming

Run	Date	Grid Reference	Venue	Hares
2200	19Jan20	<u>SU658730</u>	TuTu Hash – Yes, Wear One !!! Fox & Hounds 116 City Rd, Tilehurst RG31 5SB	NappyRash WaveRider
2201	26Jan20	<u>SU561892</u>	The Bear at Home High St, North Moreton, Didcot OX11 9AT Joint with Didcot H ³	Ms Whiplash PennyPitstop