

HAM SHAG

Kennet & Avon Hash House Harriers

ALL NEW !!!

Christmas Special

Feb 2013

IT'S BACK!

Yes, we know how much you've missed your favorite drinking and running mag, so much so that the write ups and amusing articles have been literally avalanching into the Edit Hare's bulging postbag to the point where he's got to publish them in order to get through the door.

a whole three mags in two years she was totally arsed out as Edit Hare, but now we are catching up with everything you've missed in the last eighteen months.

We have the latest Hole of Shame stats, that we know everyone dissects with keen interest, we have a tale of two runs from Timsbury, with even more glorious, gratuit-



In a packed Christmas Special edition we have write-ups from October 2011 that never quite made it into Magnum's fourth Ham Shag 'cos she couldn't be arsed to publish it. We have write ups from the Beer festival and runs in Spring 2012 that never got into Magnum's fifth Ham Shag 'cos she couldn't be arsed to publish that either. In fact after doing

ous and unnecessary abuse of Magnum than this article, and in addition, there's everything else I've made up since Friday. And already Soprano has promised to do a write up for the next Ham Shag. Our future is well and truly assured!

Le Caniveau

Run No.1101
Hare: Magnum

Bird In Hand, Saltford

12th October 2011
Scribe: Le Caniveau

The more numerically astute of you would appreciate that this run, number 1101, equates to 13 in binary, and would therefore be unlucky for some. Of course only 1 in 10 people understand binary; some would say it's even half of that (1 in 100), but their calculations are a bit out [*geddit!*] It was certainly unlucky for the Hole of Shame stalwarts as the trail headed well away from any of the decent drinking holes in Saltford; it even headed away from all of the half-decent drinking holes, and even all the downright you'd-really-have-to-be-desperate-to-drink-there watering holes in Saltford, so the likes of Stiff, Fat Controller and Lightweight stayed with the pack until the long-short split just 10 minutes from the end.

Meanwhile, the binary-triskaideaphiles among us revelled in Magger's hash, apart from the part of the run that remained resolute in visiting all the failures of planning that were Saltford's monotone residential estates. This was somewhat unlucky for the pack, as, for what seemed to be an eternity, they had to endure the drabness of traversing street after street through lack-lustre housing. No true K&A hasher should mind running through built up areas on winter runs; old iconic buildings, hidden alleyways and winding steps through terraces can make for an interesting urban run, but the more modern housing estates like Saltford that have grown since the end of World War 2 have little of interest. Of course the biggest failure in planning was made by the unitary authority that was the hare and her choice of trail, rather than South Gloucester council and its predecessors. They say that the orderliness of the heavens and the earth were created from the chaos of the early universe ... but you can bet it was a planner that put the chaos together in the first place!

Still, it wasn't a bad hash once we had escaped the environs of Saltford, It resolutely avoided the old Midland railway trackbed, now the Bristol-Bath cycle path, not that the absence flour stopped too many hashers from short cutting along it at the end and bringing a short-ish trail to an even earlier conclusion. But it was a disappointment not to see the Promised Land llamas. For a dark October night it was even warm enough for the hash to sit outside (mainly because of the butane heaters), while the RA doled out down-downs for the misdemeanours. It would be a few months before that happened again [*work it out yourselves!*]

Paul *Fat Controller* writes (with an over-exuberance of decimal places): Kennet & Avon's return to the White Hart at Atworth brings that pub up to second equal in the number of runs from pubs called the "*White Hart*" with a total of 7 runs, equivalent to 18.4210526315789% of all "*White Hart*" runs, and level with the White Hart at Ford. The leading "*White Hart*" is at Bitton with 21.0526315789474% of all "*White Hart*" runs, or 8 in round numbers. While "*White Hart*" is not the most common pub name in the UK, it is the most frequent name for the location of K&A hashes at 3.3687943262411% of all starts, with "*New Inn*" second at 2.2163120567376% (or 38 and 25 runs respectively out of 1128). The most common pub name in England is the "*Red Lion*", but only 1.0638297872340% of K&A hashes have started from a "*Red Lion*". "*Crown*" is the most frequent object in K&A pub location names at 5.4078014833972% of all runs, but many times it's just a part of the name, as in the "Old Crown", "Rose & Crown", "Harp & Crown" and "Crown & Horseshoe". The most common word (excluding trivial words like "the", "and" and "Inn") is "Arms" occurring at 12.9432624113475% of start venues, not including the 2 runs from the so-called "November Arms" in Ston Easton.

Paul *Chickpea* writes (with an over-exuberance of fake history): There has only ever been one cricket test match played in Wiltshire - back in 1895 when a visiting Australian team were due to be playing against W.G.Grace's England team at his recently opened cricket ground in Bristol. The Australian team were travelling from London on the Great Western Railway but unfortunately, heavy rain had caused an embankment near Holt to collapse, blocking the main line to Bath and Bristol after Devizes as it then ran. A runner was sent to the nearest station to telegraph the bad news to Grace, who, not to be put off, arranged for the England team to travel as far out of Bristol as they could to meet the Australians. The teams met on the field at the newly opened Stonar School, just outside Atworth, and had Spiderman's trail gone right instead of left at the second check, the pack could have regrouped on this historic site rather than by the houses in West Hill. Sadly, the heavy rain that cause the embankment to slip returned shortly after the start of the match, and it was abandoned as a draw after only 7.2 overs.

Paul *Le Caniveau* writes (with an over-exuberance of sarcasm): Spider has to be the most precise flour-laying hare in the whole of K&A history. Perfectly circular checks, marked out by protractor and compasses before being set down ... none of this free hand "it'll do" imprecision you get from most hares. If the check doesn't pass Spider's strict quality control, he'll obliterate it and start again. Each blob is a carefully measured handful of exactly 17.5 grams of best double-O graded triple-sifted self-raising flour (as self-raising flour apparently is longer lasting and more reflective than ordinary plain flour). His trails follow a route that maximises the use of under-used footpaths to keep them open, undulating and switch-backing with a mix of acute and obtuse angles to keep the checkers on their toes, and is measured and re-measured three times to ensure that it will be a total 257 blobs long consuming exactly three bags of flour. They always seem great at the time, but completely unremarkable a week later. Fuck knows where this one went.

Paul *Kneed* writes (with an over-exuberance of Vietnamese culture): I didn't do this run because I was in Vietnam teaching the locals how to do my job so that I could be made redundant. Vietnam - it's amazing; It's well wicked. I went into this bar there and there were loads of fantastic-looking women. And they come up to you and start flirting with you. And you buy them loads of drinks which are a lot cheaper than the UK, and then at the end of the night you find out that nearly all the girls there are really blokes! It had me fooled!

Paul *Syphilis* writes (with an over-exuberance of asterisks): I f**king hate it when f**king people have to f**king swear every other f**king word. It f**king makes me want to f**king go up to them and slap the f**k out of them, There is no f**king place for this sort of f**king nonsense on the f**king hash.

HASH IT AWAY DAYS

More details on the "other UK events" link from the K & A web page

Date	Event	Contact
13-14 th April	Teign Valley 1500th run weekend & Devon Gispert Gallop <i>It Ain't Half Hot Mum'</i> weekend to celebrate our milestone run and the birth of our founder. Parkers Farm Holiday Park, Ashburton.	Wigwam 079526972130 www.hhh.org.uk/docs/tvh3_flyer_GG_1500th.pdf
23 rd April	St. Georges Day hash The Grove, Taunton, Somerset, TA2 7SE. FREE	Buzby 07944 294780 onon.buzby@btconnect.com
26 th -28 th July	Isle of Wight 30th Anniversary weekend Stay in a haunted Victorian Mansion (with Magnum) and hash on the beautiful Isle of Wight	www.hhh.org.uk/docs/IOW_30th_Flyer.pdf
26 th -28 th July	Isca Roman Awayday 14th awayday - Topsham, Exeter	Buzby onon.buzby@btconnect.com
23 rd -26 th August	UK Nash Hash Hosted by the Hardy's Hash at Hooke Court, Beaminster, Dorset	www.geoffkirby.co.uk/NashHash2013

Bath Beer Festival Run 2012

Been there, got the T-shirt ... but not this time! The 34th Bath Beer Festival was unlike any of the previous ones that the Kennet and Avon Hash have attended. Firstly, there were no new celebratory Beer Festival hash T-shirts; secondly, no pre-festival hash to run; and thirdly, we actually got to sit down in the venue! The move out of the Pavilion, prompted by CAMRA's displeasure at being forced to use plastic glasses if they stayed, led to a more comfortable night's tasting in the Widcombe Social Club. The list of beers was shorter than usual, although still many more than one person could get through in a weekend, let alone in a single session. And the club was smaller, so we had to play musical chairs, with a fresh arse landing in

each seat as each hasher left to get their next drink.



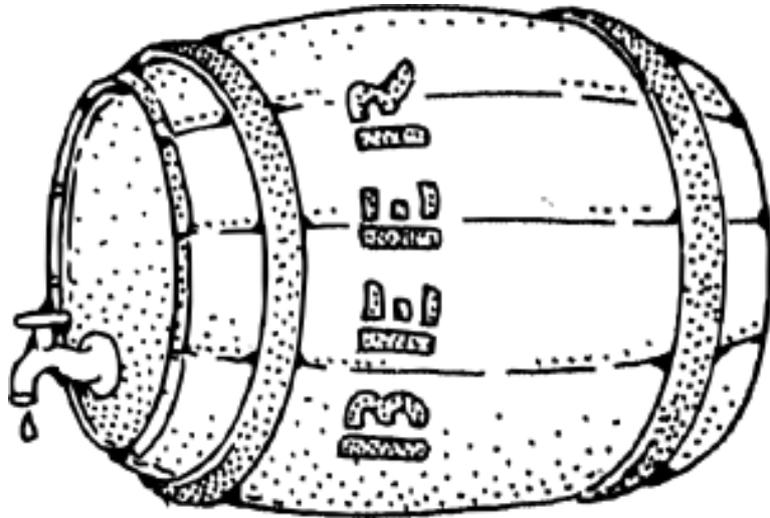
Most of the beers were from small local breweries, with only Thornbridge from Derby, Skinners from Truro in Cornwall, and Green Jack from Lowestoft clocking up any significant beer miles. Sadly, there were no tasting notes to guide you towards the more appealing brews – merely a list of the breweries and the beers. That didn't leave it all to chance though ... most small breweries face problems with consistency

and use beer festivals as a place to shift the brews that didn't turn out quite right. They describe these beers as "specially" brewed for the beer festival as they are unique, albeit unintentionally. And then they give the game away by calling them a silly name. I doubt that the "Silent Slasher" and the "Mooned Up" will appear on too many hand-pumps in the months and years to come, although that doesn't necessarily mean they are bad beers, just that they're not what was originally planned by the brewer. If they make really bad beers then they have to do something else to shift them, like colour them green or mask them with extra flavourings like elderflower, ginger or chocolate. Those are the ones to really avoid!

In the absence of tasting notes, my choice of which beers to try came down to spelling a rude word using the initial letters of the brewers. I rated the **W**ickwar "Penny Black" stout as a decent porter, while the **A**rbor "Single Hop Cluster" was dismissed as light and metallic. This selection process was copied with less aplomb by the Fat Controller and Magnum, as they were already 3 beers in when we first discussed it, and there aren't too many rude words beginning with the letters **YDS** or **DBD**, well not in English anyway!

I thought the **N**orth Curry “Curry Gold” was tasteless, although Maggers thought it tasted f*ucking sh*it. The **K**eystone “Gold Spice” was one of the dreaded ginger and chocolate flavoured beers, though not unpleasant. The **E**xmouth Valley “Spring Beer” (not to be confused with the Exmoor brewery) was a nothing beer, while I noted the **R**amsbury “Gold” as harsh at first, but improves.

Using a rude word as the basis for selection had seen me pick three poor beers out of six. But I wouldn't completely dismiss it as worthless though. Based on the still-readable comments on the torn and stained piece of paper I have left made by the Fat Controller, Maggers, L'Escargot and myself, we tried 19 of the 48 different beers



(with some inebriated duplication), and the ratings for 10 of them were derisory, 3 neutral and 6 positive. I think that pretty much marks the quality of the whole range of beers selected for the festival, with over 50% of them not to our taste, so any selection process is likely to show a poor return.

Our overall favourite was the Thornbridge “Jaipur IPA” (which incidentally was available in the pub stop at the Wheatsheaf, Llantrisant, on last year's Mystery Run), with Yeovil Ale's “Summerset” a good second. At the other end of the scale were the North Curry “Curry Gold” mentioned earlier, the Plain Ales “Innocence” which was found Guilty, while perhaps the strangest comment was on the Stonehenge “Sign of Spring”, a green coloured beer that Maggers described as “tasting red”. Work that one out!

Le Caniveau.

TWO FROM TIMSBURY

Timsbury has been a settlement since the Bronze age, known variously as Tymmersbarue, Timsbyre (meaning wooded hillside), Timsbarrow (meaning timbered grove) and Tempertempersheepshagger (meaning he lost his pride in the shiggy).

While recorded in the Domesday book of 1086, Timsbury only really grew with the Somerset Coalfield in the 18th century. The Somerset Coal canal had a basin at Timsbury to load barges for the journey onwards to the Kennet and Avon canal via Combe Hay. Eventually the canal was replaced by the railway and the village was served by Radford and Timsbury Halt. Trains even stopped there occasionally, but only during the five years prior to World War One.

OK, enough of this prattling old history. As a complete about-turn Toreador has provided write-ups of two runs from Timsbury by his favourite hare. He nearly pays Maggers a back-handed compliment in one of them ...

ooOOoo

Run No. 1125 Guss and Crook, Timsbury Weds. 28th March 2012
Hare : Magnum PI

Our previous Editor will know that I have been less than charitable about some of her hash runs - both in terms of the quality of the run and the long distance from Bath (e.g. winter runs from Devizes and Sherston). However, on this occasion the girl came good (hurrah).

The RA had just finished her spiel, when the Hare turned up and announced that it was a figure of eight run and off we went. Briefly along the road, then left at the first check and down a footpath and then right at the next check which eventually lead to a small housing estate. Gazza had predicted a housing estate run and he checked it out with that "told you so" look. But no, the trail went on a footpath down the hill to the next check at Betty's Gate. A left turn here, then right at the next check, down a steep gulley and eventually on to a minor road. A short run took us to the hamlet of Radford, then left at the next check and up a steep footpath to the first regroup. At this point some of us queried the alleged figure of eight run and were told by the Hare that it was, Quote: "a sort of figure of eight run" (whatever that means). Then it was off to the right, downhill again and across a minor road to the next footpath. This lead the Pack to the second regroup and then on to the Paulton sewage works. A very long uphill slog lead us back to Timsbury and the delights of the Guss and Crook where we enjoyed some well-kept Bass (the only real ale on offer).

Finally, the assembled Hash agreed that (a) Maggers had, surprisingly, laid a good trail and (b) she wouldn't know a figure of eight run from her backside.

On On

Toreador

Run No. 1173
Hare: Maggers

Seven Stars, Timsbury

Weds. 20th February 2013

16 hashers turned up, on a very cold evening, for another Maggers run from Timsbury. The introductions were brief - owing to the absence of Hash Soprano - and off we went.

We took a left turn at the first check, down a lane on the outskirts of a housing estate, and eventually arrived at the next check. The trail then took a right turn on to a footpath where we encountered some ankle deep shiggy. The trail continued in this direction - and so did the shiggy - for the next two checks before veering left down a steep hill into the valley below. We took a right turn at the next check, and ran along the valley for several hundred yards before turning right again up a steep footpath and on to Regroup 1.

From the regroup, we crossed over the B3115 Tunley road and headed off down a steep footpath into the valley below. The pack had some difficulty finding the trail from the next check, with Gazza commenting loudly about the lack of flour. With some prompting from the hare, we took a right turn from the check and moved along the valley. Gradually, we made our way upwards towards the B3115 road again and Regroup 2 - but not before slogging over a large area of deep rutted ploughed fields.

At this point, a left turn would take us quickly back to the pub. But, no, the trail took a right turn before crossing the B3115 and up a dog-shit encrusted country lane. A few hundred yards took us to the next check where the trail went left along a footpath, with more ploughed fields, and eventually back to the pub.

The run was exactly one hour, which made a pleasant change from some of the much longer hashes we have experienced over the past few weeks.

Back at the pub, Maggers joined our table which prompted the following:

- (a) L'escargot complaining about having to run through the housing estate
- (b) Gazza reminding Maggers about her disastrous run from from the pub at Shortwood Bridge, many years ago, which took in a one and a half hour run alongside the A4174
- (c) Dolly passing the OS map for the Timsbury area to Maggers to show her where she might (should ?) have laid her trail.

At this juncture, mountains of chips arrived and, at a stroke, Maggers had laid a great trail.

On On
Toreador

This page is blank – why not fill it up with your own write up, and then hand it to the Edit Hare? Here are a few random words to help you out:

Misprint, vasectomy, estate, microscopic, pink, psychedelic, gravy, wrinkle.

Just pad them out a bit, get you friends to add a few more, and you'll soon have a literary masterpiece fit for the pages of the next Ham Shag. The best write-up using all the random words above wins a prize!

RECEDING HARE LINE

Run	Date	Location	OS Ref	Hare(s)
1175	06/03/13	The White Hart, Castle Coombe. Come off M4 at Junc. 18 head N on A46 and then turn right onto B4040 to Acton Turville and Castle Coombe. Please use Car Park above village and walk down to Pub.	ST846777	Stig and Sir Galahad
1176	13/03/13	The Hop Pole, Woods Hill, Limpley Stoke, 2 miles E of Bath.	ST782611	Gazza
1177	20/03/13	The Bear Inn, Bath Road Melksham SN12 6LL. On the A3102 in the centre of Melksham.	ST904640	The Fat Controller
1178	27/03/13	The Catherine Wheel, High Street, Marshfield SN14 8LR. Off the A420 E of A46 junction.	ST779737	Soprano
1179	03/04/13	The Compton Inn, Compton Dando. A mile or so due S of Keynsham.	ST647646	Fruitcake
1180	10/04/13	Southwick Country Park carpark, off the A361, Trowbridge, Wilts. On Inn to the Farmhouse, ½ mile to the SW along A361.	ST842560	Toreador

HOLE OF SHAME

...these shamelessly ducking out of the full run

Hound	Runs wimped out of	Hound	Runs wimped out of	Hound	Runs wimped out of
Stiff	351	Gazza	13	L'Escargot	1
Fat Controller	350	Soprano	7	Sir Galahad	1
Le Caniveau	99	Our Kid	6	Dolly	0
Lightweight	82	Pinky	6	Stig	0
Magnum	50	Perky	5	Sheepshagger	0
Puki Jangut	22	Cover Up	4		
Toreador	16	Public Enemy	2	Stuart 	25
Spiderman	13	Snails Nuts	2	Molly 	0

Latest additions ...

Date	Run	Location	Shamed Hounds	Reason
20 th Feb 2013	1173	Seven Stars, Timsbury	Fat Controller, Stiff, Lightweight	Getting gussed and crooked
13 th Feb 2013	1172	Ship, Keynsham	Soprano, Cover Up	Short-cutting up the main road after 80 minutes when there was still plenty of trail left to find.
13 th Feb 2013	1172	Ship, Keynsham	Fat Controller	Lounging around off the coast of Africa.
6 th Feb 2013	1171	Wheatsheaf, Coombe Hay	Fat Controller, Stiff, Le Caniveau, Toreador	Hot-footing it to the beer check when they found the Packhorse at Southstoke shut.

Hole of Shame stats. have been accurately maintained since 21st March 2007 – run 854 from the Rising Sun, Bradford-on-Avon, so there. Any inaccuracies can be greatly exaggerated by bribing or annoying the Edit Hare.