



**ERSEY THIRSTDAYS
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

Run Number 520

16th March 2023

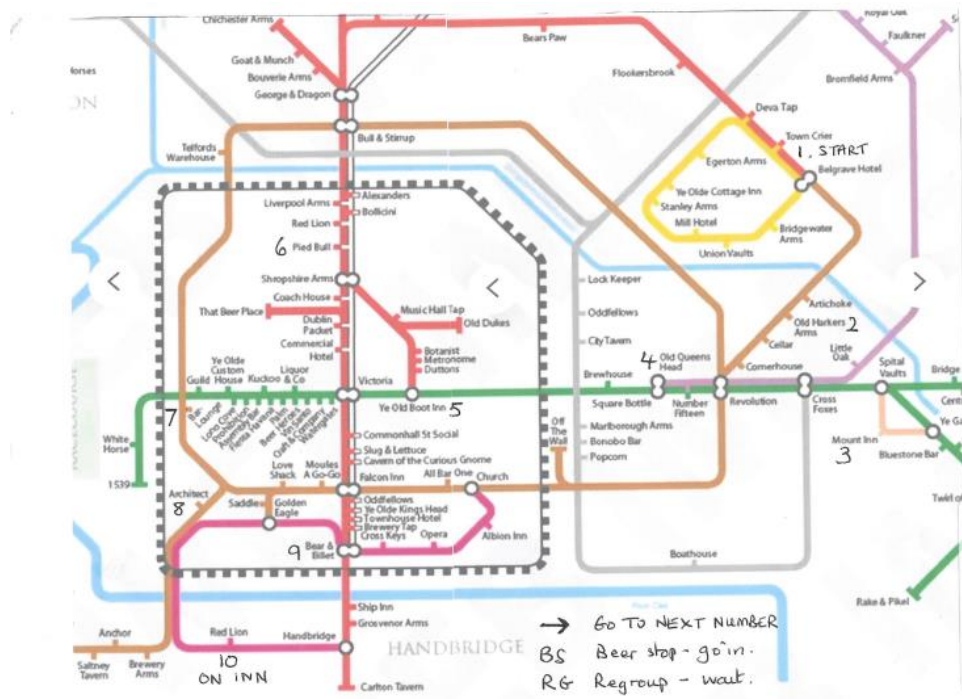
The Town Crier, Chester

Victim's Birthday Run

Hares: Victim and Bimbo

The Pack: FCUK, OTT, PJ Vindaloo

Victim had accosted Anticyclone on an escalator at Lime St Station 2 weeks earlier, and tried to persuade him to lay the trail for this run, but without success - he had a threefold excuse - he would only just be back from a ski trip, he was going to the dentists that afternoon and he had some friends coming for dinner that night. Reluctantly Victim nominated himself as the hare - it was his birthday, he was taking a tour round Chester earlier that day, and the weather forecast was heavy rain for the previous 3 days. The solution was to have a run round a tube map "pubstops of Chester" which he had found on the internet.



This avoided the need for any markings apart from one of three symbols - an arrow meaning “go to next pub” , BS, meaning “go inside”, and RG meaning “wait for everyone to catch up”. Copies of the map were handed out and Victim explained that the Queen Hotel opposite was opened in 1860 for 1st class passengers, and the Town Crier six years later catering for 2nd and 3rd class and steerage. The two pubs were joined by an underground tunnel beneath City Rd.

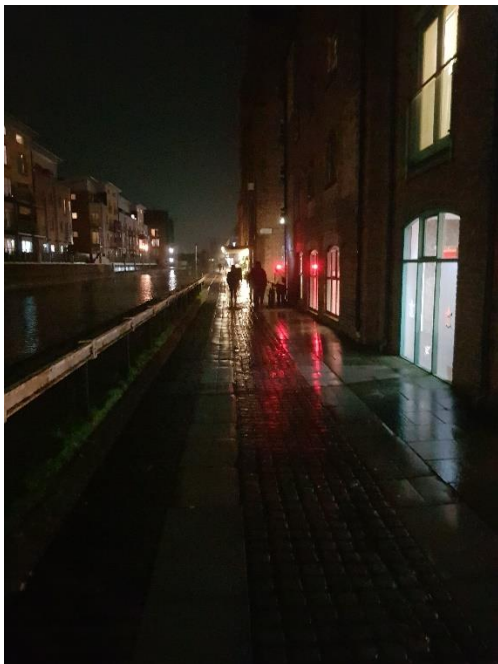


The pack then lined up for the obligatory photos outside the Town Crier





before setting off in the direction of the Old Harkers Inn, where there was an arrow, and on along the side of the canal towards Boughton.



The marking outside the Mount Inn indicated it was time for a beer stop, so the pack trooped inside after another posed photo.



Here Victim explained the raised patch of grass outside was the site of the St Giles Cemetery where patients from the St Giles Leper hospital were buried, along with victims of the plague, Black Death and sundry martyrs like George March who was burned at the stake in 1555 at nearby Barrow Well Hill, during the reign of Catholic Queen Mary, with a bucket of hot tar suspended over his head to make his end more excruciating.



Next the map led us past the Old Queens Head – a reference to Anne Boleyn, the second wife of Henry VIII, who had lasted for 3 years before being sent to the Tower and executed to make way for Henry to marry wife number 3, Jane Seymour. After passing the Eastgate we arrived at The Old Boot Inn, where the Hare had crossed out the RG and changed it to BS.



Here we admired the wattle and daub construction dating from 1643, viewed a musket ball from the civil war preserved in a glass case behind the bar and heard about the goings on in the room at the rear frequented by horse dealers by day and after dark by ladies of the night.

Time passed and OTT surreptitiously polished off the remains of the large bottle of cider she had brought with her from the previous beer stop. A decision was taken to cut out the next few stops including the Pied Bull and The Architect.

We passed the arrow outside the Bear and Billet.



Crossing the Old Dee Bridge, we headed we headed up to Handbridge Pub, where occasional hasher Richard and his wife Helen were waiting. and an impromptu beer stop was held.



From here we adjourned to Victim's near the Red Lion for the On Inn and cutting the birthday cake.

