

Thirstday 23 October 2008

Run 106

Location: The Old Harkers Arms, Chester.

Hare: Auntie Cyclone

Pack: Compo, 10 Seconds, Posh Frock, Sprog, Snoozanne, Cleopatra, Overdrive, Ursula.

Arriving early meant that there was time to look into the pub for a pint before the run. Who should also be there but the hare, who had indeed cycled one way.

Gathering outside for the photo we realised that no one had a camera so some imagination is required to picture the events. The trail was explained using a torch which was a novelty and we wondered how the markings would still be there. Fortunately the hare had also used flour, the rain was holding off so along the canal we were off too and past some startled swans.

The trail had many twists and turns and along the city wall but got back to the canal where the lock gate paths were negotiated with some care. At this stage we were ahead of the hare and came across a "PS" which had us all looking optimistically in tree hollows and bushes for the hidden stash of beer. The hare turned up, enlightened us that it meant play stop and proceeded to climb up an etched pole with what looked like a pot at the top, now that's playing. On again, more walls and some more canal before crossing Sealand Road and another "PS". This time we all managed to have a go at the swings and slides and marvelled at how 10 seconds managed to fit into a child's seat for a swing, astonishingly he also managed to get out.

Along the river now at the back of the sea cadets unit and neatly back upon ourselves to Water Tower and along the wall again past Watergate and the Roodee. Cunningly he took us onto the racecourse for a canter, back to the river again and then around the castle before leading us into the Albion for a welcome beer, courtesy of the hare.

The trail continued with a look at the town cross, around the cathedral, through the city and back to the Harkers where half the pack finished up wondering what had happened to the other half. The answer was that Snoozanne had parked her car in front of Last Orders pub and that was where the food and beer was, so we all found that after some confusion. At least we now know where the pub is for Overdrive and Cleopatra's run. The circle started with a sermon from Auntie. Doctor to patient – bad news I'm afraid, you only have ten to live. Patient – ten what? Seconds, minutes, hours, days, months, years? Doctor – 10, 9, 8, 7

Down downs were dispensed in good style by Overdrive and then we went into Harkers for some excellent beer. We were joined in the pub by Tie One who had returned by coach from London and therefore missed the run. We were also joined in the pub by Auntie's wife, who is the essential part of one way cycling.

A really pleasant evening all round.