

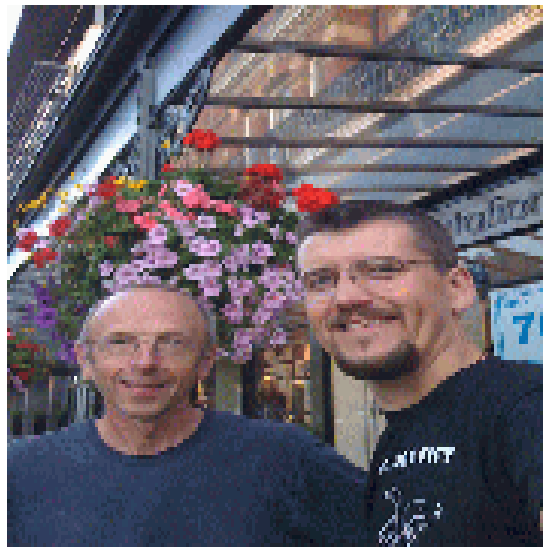
## Mersey Thirstday Hash House Harriers

Run Number 157(a)

Southport CAMRA Beer Festival 9<sup>th</sup> September 2010

Hare: Sprog

Pack: Ten Seconds



It looked like 10 Secs was going to have to work hard as the sole runner to check out all the trails and many falsies set by Sprog for this balmy evening run around Southport's high and low spots...

After the customary Hash Flash, the pack of 1, plus hare, set off from the band stand and along the Lord Street boulevard. Moments later, a mobile phone call from Evil Twin announced his late arrival for the On-On, and I managed to recall 10' back to the start.

An overly-keen ET had headed straight to the Beer Festival venue from Southport Station, top marks to him for coming to the run instead of making an early start on the beer!

## Mersey Thirstday Hash House Harriers

Run Number 157(b)

Hare: Sprog

Pack: Ten Seconds and Evil Twin



The pack now having grown to 2, another Hash Flash, and On-On on Run no. 157 (part deux). A well-placed check at the start of Lord Street foxed the runners until 10' picked up the trail leading behind Duke Street Church and into the Victorian ginnels.

Check three led into the Municipal Park, and past Compo's playground: the swings looked forlornly empty without a gang of Hashers playing on them...

The next check was at the start of the coastal road, and my several falsies sent both runners in opposite directions on a successful circuit of the shrimper statue roundabout, before picking up the real trail leading into the coastal nature park.

A regroup at the Southport Sands air-trip vista point was well-timed to admire the setting sun, and after a very quick head-count (one, two!), the pack separated into the sand dunes and boardwalk over the natterjack toad and alligator ponds (ok, I made the alligator bit up).



The trail led past the Eco Centre and on to a well-placed check at the entrance to Victoria Park. A clearly marked flour trail led straight through the chained gates of the Park (mental note to self: check closing times of Park in future!), but this was just an evil-Sprog-falsy. ET headed off on another falsy towards the beach, whilst 10' disappeared behind the Southport swimming baths on the correct trail. ET and I just managed to catch 10' up at the next check, and the three of us looked over the charred remains of Southport's famous Kingsway Nightclub, which had burned down in mysterious circumstances just a few nights before...

The trail continued in to the Marine Lake park, and weaved its way between the bowling greens, before heading down the steps and into the Marine Lake. The trail led along the waters edge, and up onto the wooden pedestrian bridge where the *omnivorous rats* "water voles" had scoffed every trace of flour laid just two hours before (excuses, excuses!).

A sneaky back trail led back under the Marine Lake bridges, and on to the lake side vista points where we paused to admire the Southport skyline reflected in the waters of the lake. The flour continued through the retail park and on to the sea wall, before the obvious route up the steps on to Southport Pier. Another regroup (still both here!) and back along the pier in the direction of the town centre. Half way along, a foot bridge led onto the Millenium suspension bridge, another of Southport's unmissable attractions capable of supporting a

Hash trail!

A wide loop of the Ramada hotel and conference centre in the direction of the Lakeside Pub - no pub stop (so near-to-beer, but yet so far!), and back along the lake side underneath the pier. A last couple of checks in the back streets behind Lord Street, including a brief stop at England's oldest seller of Morgan motorcars where ET selected a sporty new convertible, err.... pedal car (!).



The On-In was marked back to Market Street. Time for a quick tinny and change of clothes, and we headed to the On-Inn at the CAMRA beer festival at the Scarisbrick Hotel. After paying the admission fee, and collecting our drinking glasses, we fought our way through the crowds to the walls of casks of imaginatively named beers & ciders. The first few glasses barely touched the sides!!

A short while later, we were joined by Brian's brother (Evil Triplet?), and continued to sample the various brews, until home time beckoned and the wobbly walk back to the station... memories get a bit blurred from here on!

On-On!

Sprog