

30 December 2010

Run Number 166

Away-Day Hash in Delamere Forest, Starting from the Visitors' Centre, Linmere Lodge

The Pack: 10" (hare), Auntie Cyclone + Woody, OTT, Hansel, Grutel, FCUK, Snoozanne, AE + Barney.

Three festive cheers to today's hare who rose to Snoozanne's bait and roused MTH3 from its Christmas slumber!



(you see the tell-tale markings of the white spotted 10"...)

Even before the hash Snoozanne made a new friend, a little green man. As she bowled up into the car park which was rapidly filling up, she was propositioned by a Forestry Commission attendant – who asked her to move her car. It soon became evident that he did this because he wanted to cause an obstruction himself with his truck close to the point that Snoozanne wanted to park. 10" had soon christened him Forrest Grump.

After what seemed an age the pack were flashed at once and then properly with the other half of our black and white canine double act





Conventional markings were abandoned... as we followed 10"'s hash version of the forest trail.



I've always noticed that it takes MTH3 a little while to get its collective hashing brain into gear. I found the trail and this is one of those rare photos when I capture the pack from the front as 10" led us down the approach road. Counterintuitive.



Here's Grutel happy to get the bit between his teeth



We approached a great fiveways check....







Those were three pictures of the same place. Evidently there was potential for getting lost in the woods, as the hash names Hansel and Grutel testify (more on that later)

Over one or two railway bridges and here is the pack reading the runes at a tree – the flour had been spread out into a line you see.





The marks (which included a dog turd 12 inches up the trunk...the mind boggles...) were deciphered and the pack headed off again. Wonderful carefree running this, over well-drained and well-built paths, the early mist had cleared and oxygen in the cool fresh air was reaching those places which even good beers seldom do





Glorious Delamere! It shines through even on my manky mobile phone camera







Then at a regroup, 10" began to rummage in his rucksack, what would it be, cold beer no problem. But no, in honour of the Auntie's run 164 perhaps, 10" offered us piping hot Gluehwein libations! You can see that this interested the dogs too!



Here's the Auntie trying to catch up with Hansel to let him know he was on a false trail. He was called up for this in the circle...



I know that these are all beautiful paths and intersections and they were a great hashing pleasure, but, just like finding the free car parks at Delamere, the difficultly is that there are no identifying features. I asked 10" if he had a copy of his map. No way! He had disposed of it in a dog poo bin somewhere. So we will wait for that.





Slowly the mist was closing back in and Delamere began to take on shades of Jurassic Park



Help was soon at hand in the form of the $\ensuremath{\mathsf{ON}}$ $\ensuremath{\mathsf{INN}}$



The pack posed again at the point



where Hansel and Grutel (née Gretel) were christened



Woody prepared some tricks while the circle was assembled



The beer was downed in honour of falsie bound FRBs, latecomers, the one who took the train, returnees and to all of you who weren't there. With thanks to the



for the most expensive car park in the North West