



Run Number 360

23rd November 2017

The Swinging Arm, Birkenhead

The Pack: Sergeant Bilko (Hare), 10secs, Compo, Cleo, Overdrive, ET, BS, Carthief, Snoozanne, VR

As we met in the pub the long-awaited 300th no 360th run T-shirts were produced to universal acclaim, though several hashers seemed to struggle with the meaning of the various strange acronyms such as RG and BS.



History (or at least my memory) does not record why Carthief is the only one not sporting his new shirt, and indeed flaunting this omission.



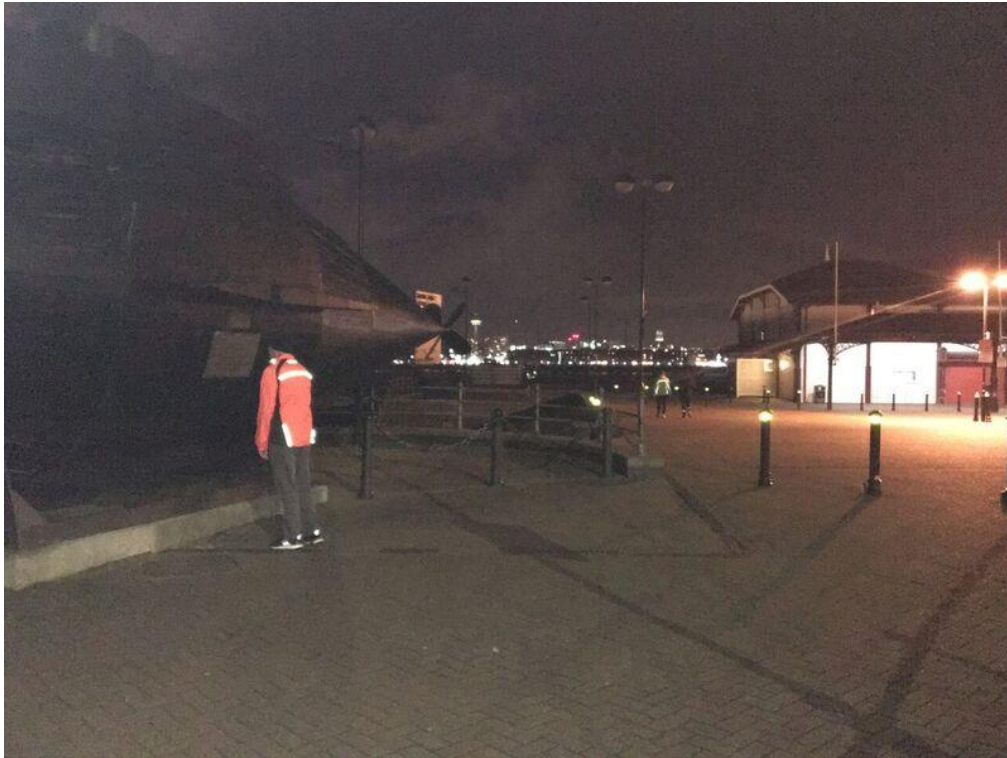
Before we set off the Hare explained the markings, which apparently are those of the Hong King hash; indeed it was agreed that they probably had some meaning in Cantonese. The T symbol was new to us and turned out to mean Check back...ooh, for ages and ages.

In fact we set off and soon found ourselves on the New Chester Road heading past the Mersey Tunnel entrance. The hare was using copious quantities of flour, enough in some cases to have preserved the pawprints of various wild animals. After half a mile or so the front runners indeed found a T symbol. The first tempting turn-off heading backwards led across into the Macdonalds carpark and the front half of the pack spent some time milling around there. The tailenders were observed heading towards the checkback and apparently disappearing from view. Much confusion and some frantic phone calls ensued, before it was finally established that the checkback actually went almost back to the start, where we'd emerged onto the main road. Here the pack was reunited the confusion was not yet over. Firstly the On Inn was found, but after some debate it was felt to be too soon for a return to base. Shortly afterwards an arrow pointed across the road directly at Gallaghers pub. The temptation was too much for Compo and Snoozanne

who were at the bar with breathtaking speed and only extracted with some difficulty.



Eventually proceeding on our way...



we shortly found ourselves at Woodside passing the Resurgam. The trail went along the river past Morpeth Dock and over one of the old bridges



before cutting inland past the tram shed.



Just beyond here we pondered the meaning of one of Sergeant Bilko's enigmatic signs. Was it a T or an arrow? The use of half a kilo of flour had not made it any clearer...



“Not another Beer Stop” says VR

Thankfully, soon after this we found another sign whose meaning could not be in any doubt...



pointing as it did to the Stork



where we were soon enjoying a welcome beer generously provided by the Hare who has clearly been putting his shore leave to good use by sniffing out the best pubs in Birkenhead.



Emerging from the pub...



it was not long before we found the On Inn (for the second time that evening...)



and most of us were soon enjoying a drink in the playground outside the pub—though Compo and VR had disappeared into the pub saying something about seeing how busy it was. It must have been so busy that the crush prevented them from leaving again...

The circle was convened and down downs were awarded to

The Hare (it also being his last run before raising his anchor and sailing for pastures new)

Compo and Snoozanne: for their unofficial Beer Stop

The Haberdashers: for their better late than never T-shirts

It was raining so there was not much appetite for further down-downs, more so for the pies which were said to await inside.



The rumours of pies this time proved to be perfectly well-founded and we all gratefully tucked in. To Cleo's delight many of the beers on offer were obscure German brands. There was also a quiz in full swing but in a sign of the times it was very difficult to participate in without a smartphone linked in to the quiz website.