



ERSEY THIRSTDAYS HASH HOUSE HARRIERS

Run Number 393

17th January 2019

The Brewers Arms, Neston

The Pack: OTT, Hansel (Hares), 10secs, Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, ET, Overdrive, Cleo, VR, Compo, Carthief



The pack gathered in Neston Station car park on a freezing evening. The hares had ingeniously made even locating the start point an exercise in trail finding, as one of the main routes into Neston was blocked by road works;

and of course the usual response on seeing signs saying “road ahead blocked” is to say “they can’t possibly mean that” and steam on regardless...only to find the road barred almost within sight of the On Inn.

Before we set off the hares explained the markings. There would be checkbacks (or was it backchecks) marked by crosses and false trails marked by F and three-ish would be on... and the markings might be on the ground or on the walls. And they were in a mixture of chalk and flour. And there might or might not be a beer stop. Never noted for its long attention span, the pack started showing signs of confusion. Anyway, they were off, heading down towards the Wirral Way.



The markings were sometimes a bit few and far between but this might have been due to the activities of officious dog walkers...



...or just economical use of the chalk.

As usual Hansel was adept at lulling the pack into a false sense of security by accompanying the front-runners in completely the wrong direction, often towards an



After following the Wirral Way for a while, we crossed the Parkgate Road and onto the fields, where the hares' injunction to bring a torch was thoroughly explained. Eventually we crossed the Wirral Way and headed down into Parkgate, attracting the ire of a dog-walker who accused us of worrying her dogs.



The hares had tried to disguise the existence of the possible beer stop by taking us past it on the other side of the road and drawing our attention to the lovely view of Wales in the other direction; but Compo was not to be fooled and insisted on a vote. Since there are few hashers who will refuse a drink when offered, we were soon over the road and in The Ship.



Here Snoozanne pointed out a sign saying that if you bought 5 pints of Trappers Hat, you got a 6th for free, and Compo promptly took advantage of

the offer. Unfortunately it then turned out that 3 pints would probably have been enough, but the pack rose to the challenge and necked the lot.



Pausing for a team photo, we were on our way again; along a lane where even the Hare seemed to be struggling to locate the markings; and by this time the pack had forgotten the earlier instructions until reminded by cries of “Look on the wall! On the bloody wall!”

Eventually we came through Neston Churchyard to emerge in Neston town centre and a quick stroll past Sainsburys to the On Inn. Here it transpired that Cleo had made good use of a Christmas stockpile of parsnips by making delicious soup, perfect for a freezing night;



and OTT had baked some excellent cupcakes.

Down-downs were awarded to:



The Hares





Snoozanne and Compo: The Bargain Hunters for seeking out the free beer



10 secs: for being reckless or desperate enough to have an on-trail al fresco wee on such a cold night.



Snoozanne and Mad Hatter: For surprising/embarrassing Sprog in an unannounced visit to his shop.



VR: for saying “this can’t possibly be the way back” right by a sign saying “Neston town centre this way”.

We then retired to the welcome warmth of The Brewers Arms. While we were enjoying our drinks the whole pub was suddenly plunged into darkness. This turned out not to be an announcement of early closing but caused by Compo leaning on the main light switch while making a phone call.