



**Run Number 469**

**29<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

**Gothic Fountain, Sefton Park**

**The Pack:** ET (Hare), Overdrive, Cleopatra, Snoozeanne, Madhatter, OTT, SF, Breaststroke, VR, Grasshopper, SMS , Jill (Friend of BS).



A perfect evening to enjoy the springtime glory of Sefton Park. The unauthorised usage of the Sefton Park Hotel toilet facilities was undertaken by a few prior to commencement of activities.

Instruction was distracted by the local petrol heads using the same car park communicating by revving engines.



*Springtime walk*

Sefton Park being the local oasis for many recreational activities meant shared space with scooters, bikes, dog walkers as well as other running groups more dynamic than our own. It was suggested arranging a hash on scooters – imagine the carnage. Even though the daffodils were finished the joys of the apple blossom and magnolia flowers could still be viewed.



*Magnolia flower*

The numerous checks and double backs encouraged too much shortcutting by all.



*Not Cycle friendly – hence shorter run*

Arrived at the Fairy Bridge where the tragic story of past lovers was told by the Hare once a canoodling couple had moved on. Madhatter was not apparently aware of this story.

In Victorian times, the Fairy Glen and Iron Bridge were popular meeting places for courting couples. One of the ghost stories associated with the Bridge, which was constructed in 1873, relates to Oliver who was from an upper class family and Cathleen who was middle class. They were deeply in love. However, Oliver was forced by his family into an arranged marriage. He told Cathleen of the devastating news on a cold St. Valentine's night, as they stood on the bridge. He begged her to meet him in a year's time on the bridge at 11pm. A year passed and Oliver, true to his word, arrived at the bridge. 11 o'clock chimed, five past, ten past, and at a quarter past the hour, Cathleen appeared at the far end of the bridge. He ran to greet her, but she passed straight through his body. Shocked and devastated, Oliver later discovered that Cathleen had died in a cholera epidemic at precisely 11.15pm.

Her dying words were 'I must meet my love on the bridge at Sefton Park'. The story goes that every St. Valentine's night, at exactly 11.15pm, both Oliver and Cathleen mysteriously appear and cross the bridge hand in hand.

The Fairy Glen is an original feature of the Park. It is a manmade rock structure and consists of a series of cascades and pools built by French rockwork experts brought over from Paris by Edouard André.

### *Ghost Story-*

Found 'The gateway to the unknown'. Excitement dwindled once it was realised that it only went under the path above rather than to the Underworld or Moria.



*What lies beyond?*

Was not one of our more explosive outings. This gentle chatty run was required to follow on from months of inactivity.



*Too much chatting and not enough hashing*

Encountered 11 ducklings with mother duck - Not an ugly one to be seen. This reflected the hare and 11 hashers. Coincidence with the number? The duck had better control over her brood than the hare over his charges.



*Pictured earlier in the day*

Also encountered the usual grey squirrels, submarines, coots, moorhens and rats.



*Unusual craft sighted*

Challenging playground tonight. Cleo tumbled from a springy rocking device which obviously was targeted for more diminutive users. The Rocket frame was easier to climb than to get down.



*Ready to catch*



*Safer playground attraction*

Sefton Park was getting ready for a post covid practice concert for 5000 with no social distancing/ masks. The band 'Blossom' were scheduled to play 3 days later. Think that this one is for the Young'uns.



*Blossom Venue*



*Twilight time – Getting cold*



*Post hash feed provided by VR*

Down Downs awarded :-

SMS - For wearing shorts ( Too Cold )

Madhatter – For not knowing something

ET – Hare

Cleopatra - Playground mishap

ET, VR & Snoozeanne - Undisclosed military service

Unpredictable pub hours resulted in no beer being had at the 'Aigburth Arms'. It had closed early as it wrongly assumed that that the cold would deter potential customers. Will all be entitled to an extra beer next hash.