

## Run No 473 The Mount, Chester.

The Pack: Victim (hare), Cleo, Overdrive, Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, Wigan Pier, Anticyclone, OTT.

Victim had advertised his run and the pub in advance with impressive photos of the best drinking view in Chester:



But he hadn't accounted for the grey skies and threat of rain that greeted the assembling pack. There was a rare appearance by Anticyclone, who was immediately pounced on (well, not literally!) by the hare aka the Hare-razor, to pin him down (again, not literally!) to set a run. Meanwhile, Snoozanne and MH were busy allocating and reallocating roles on the committee, as this run was also advertised as the delayed AGM. By 7.10 it was all sorted and everyone had been given one or more jobs on the Committee.



Keen to get going before we were given anything else to do, the pack milled around in the car park before setting off over the main road towards the canal.

Wigan Pier, who was limping, brought up the rear, followed by the hare who was cheating by riding his electric bike instead of running.



We passed The Spital Arms, with some wondering why we had never run from there, probably because it's hidden away down a back street with no parking....

We eventually crossed Hoole Lane Bridge, past the derelict-looking Lock Vaults and meandered through a housing estate to emerge on Tarvin road, passing another closed pub, The Peacock, venue for many a WCH3 Hash in the past, now boarded up and also looking a bit derelict.



Across the road, an interested resident told us the trail (chalk arrows) had been removed by somebody- he would not say who- but he directed us in the right direction, to playtime in a playground behind a house once inhabited by OTT's nephew. He had moved because there was too much noise from the play area at night!! Mad Hatter, SMS, Snoozanne, and Overdrive were intrepid explorers of the rope slide, Overdrive nearly being ejected as it swung back and forth.







Further trail led us to Caldys Valley Road and a back check up a long path adjacent to, but out of sight of the A55. Snoozanne found the back check, so the rest of us didn't have to.

Entering the woods of Caldys Valley Park, we were relieved to see sawdust had been used, as blobs of flour had caused suspicion of poison from dog owners, an investigation by the police, and questions at the local Parish Council meeting after a previous WCH3 hash in that area. SMS was also relieved, after he had disappeared into the bushes....

Victim admitted he had got lost setting this bit, as one overgrown path looks very like another. So Woods had got lost in the woods...





Eventually finding our way out of the Park, we passed Bishop's High School and down to Sandy Lane where Snoozanne informed us that a guy in fancy dress and a skirt of leaves was going into the river as part of a pagan ritual linked to the Solstice (maybe).

After the run we gathered round the pollution sensor thing as usual, and shared the food we had all brought. SMS and Grasshopper had generously supplied a quiche, but no knife to cut it with. Having many years ago been a Girl Guide, OTT kept one in her car for such an emergency. Sausage rolls, crisps, Doritos, tomatoes, and the hit of the night, a bright orange 'Coronation Dip' supplied by WP, were soon consumed, followed by 3 types of cake. The Coffee and cream sponges made by Cleo were voted the best of the three, particularly the chocolate coffee bean decorations.





Down downs: Overdrive stepped in as RA and Victim was awarded 3 down downs, one for getting lost setting the trail, one for having a squeaky bicycle, and one for being the Hare, SMS and Grasshopper for having no knife for the quiche, Antyclone for being a returner, and Cleo and OTT for supplying cake.



We repaired to the verandah of The Mount, now in the rain, but where judiciously placed umbrellas kept (some of) us dry. Antyclone was browbeaten (not literally!) into setting the next run, and Victim regaled us of his plans for yet another change of career- from expatriate teacher- to Zookeeper and monkey-shit shoveller- and now soon to be an official Chester Guide. He's even planning to conduct tours in Russian and possibly Ki-Swahili.

Clearly, Mtu mwenye talanta nyingi !