



**ERSEY THIRSTDAYS
HASH HOUSE HARRIERS**

Run Number 503

28th July 2022

The Mockbeggar Hall, Moreton

The Pack: 10secs (Hare), Sticky Rice, Snoozanne, Overdrive, Cleo, Victim, ET, fcuk

The pack gathered in the Mockbeggar Hall, a Wetherspoons in the centre of Moreton. We congregated outside where the hare explained the markings, that “one was on” and the first marking would be found within 50-75 paces. This resulted in him being required to do a “Ministry of Silly Walks” style demonstration of a standard pace. He also said that there would be a regroup during the run where he would take the pack on a mystery tour.

Snoozanne commented that after an admirably clear start he had tailed off into a confusing ramble; which he said would be no surprise to most of his students.





We had the team photo and then the pack set off.



There were checks at almost all the junctions...



At one check Overdrive went exploring in the right direction but spent ages finding the first arrow, leaving time for Snoozanne to disappear over the horizon looking for a non-existent arrow in the wrong direction. It turned out that the first arrow had been embellished and adopted as part of a game of hopscotch.



After a detour through one of Moreton's many housing estates, the trail returned to the main road, and crossed into another housing estate. The trail led down to the Arrowe Brook and then headed towards Saughall Massie.



At least the residents had tried to enliven their gardens, in this case with a Green Man type figure.



Eventually the mystery regroup was found by a large field. By the time 10secs arrived Cleo and SR were sitting on a rock some distance away nattering, and SR was observed to respond to an invitation to come and hear 10secs' explanation with a V sign. Another experience familiar from his lectures... But eventually the pack gathered to hear 10 secs explain that he had a book which claimed that there had been a prehistoric stone circle here which had been destroyed, and the rocks scattered around here (including the one on which Cleo and SR had been sitting) were among the remaining vestiges. This was probably all moonshine, but there really was something at the centre of the supposed circle, and 10secs was going to take the pack and show them. They trooped across the field towards the woodland on the far side.



Part of a stone circle?



But then disaster struck. A man walking his dog approached the pack and asked if they were out for a run. This was a flattering description of the pack's current speed but we admitted that we were, albeit a slow one. "Oh well", he said, "be careful if you run over there because you might trip..." At this point 10secs' face was observed to start to crumple... "...on the gravestones". That was it; the surprise ruined, the cat out of the bag. The pack realised from 10secs' expression that this was the secret he was about to reveal. Meanwhile the man proceeded to tell the pack about the church (called Overchurch) which had been destroyed to make way for the motorway slip road, leaving the gravestones poking through the ground; spoiling 10secs' next lecture as well as his surprise. The crestfallen hare stomped off through the undergrowth in search of the gravestones.



These were eventually located; quite a number of them, some with inscriptions just about visible. By this time the hare had perked up sufficiently to tell the pack that our informant had been wrong about the church being buried under the motorway slip road; it had quite naturally been very close to the graveyard and the ruins were still just about visible in the nearby undergrowth.



From here the trail led fairly directly back to the On Inn, and we set up camp in the car park behind the pub.



SR had offered her services to 10secs on the catering front and it would have been churlish to refuse, especially in the light of the marvellous spread she had conjured up for Run 501. Tonight was no different and she produced marinated chicken wings, couscous with sundried tomatoes, chick peas and homegrown beans, homegrown kale and garlic, with and without bacon, all delicious and served on real plates with real cutlery.





Eventually when the pack was replete the RA rang the bell to call the circle to order. The trail was described as having not enough checks, not enough shiggy, and not enough housing estates. Down downs were awarded to:

The Hare

Snoozanne: for wearing seven-league boots while measuring out 50 paces looking for the trail

Overdrive: for consistently being the FRB

Sticky Rice: for the excellent food

Victim: watering the trail

By this time dusk was falling and we called it a night; in fact it was 10pm or so and there was a general decision that it was too late to go to the pub, so we went our several ways.

N.B. for more details on the church and graveyard see:

https://www.merseysidearchsoc.com/uploads/2/7/2/9/2729758/jmas_9_paper_6.pdf

A runic Anglo-Saxon stone now called the Aethelmund Stone was once found in the graveyard, see

<https://bigheritage.co.uk/overchurch/>

At various times it has been in the Williamson Museum in Birkenhead and the Grosvenor Museum in Chester, though it doesn't seem clear where it is now.