



Run Number 521

30th March 2023

The Glen Affric Brewery, Birkenhead

The Pack: 10secs (Hare), Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, fcuk, OTT, Sticky Rice, Cleo, Overdrive, Wigan Pier, Victim

The On Inn marked a return to the Glen Affric brewery tap, now provided with much more seating room. fcuk was found hitting the ground running with two half-empty pint glasses in front of him, with only his word for it that they had only ever contained half pints.



ET found a flyer advertising a Wirral Ales Trail with a free bus taking people from pub to pub, but sadly that had nothing to do with tonight's event which would be strictly self-propelled.

Overdrive appeared saying that Victim and Cleo were on their way. Apparently a seagull had crapped on Victim's head right outside the brewery. Victim was cleaning himself up and Cleo had been so traumatised by witnessing the attack that she needed a moment to collect herself. Overdrive described it vividly as an ice-cream cone incident; possibly one with two scoops and extra butterscotch sauce. Cleo and Victim arrived a couple of minutes later, Victim with admirable sang-froid congratulating himself on having been wearing a hat and saying he thought he had removed "most of it".



We gathered outside...



...and 10secs explained the markings which were pretty simple; oh but there was one complication (here there were audible groans) where there was a Rambo-Wimps split which was provided with a regroup so there could be further explanation when the time came.





And then they were off...



...with an inevitable visit to the priory...



...and then down to Monks Ferry.







Then along the riverside....





...to Woodside. Here everyone surged the wrong way at the check and some milling around ensued before the trail was found passing the Resurgam submarine...



...and heading up to the old dock entrance. Then the route followed the tramlines past Pacific Road and up towards Hamilton Square.



Then across the gardens...



...and past a check in the middle...

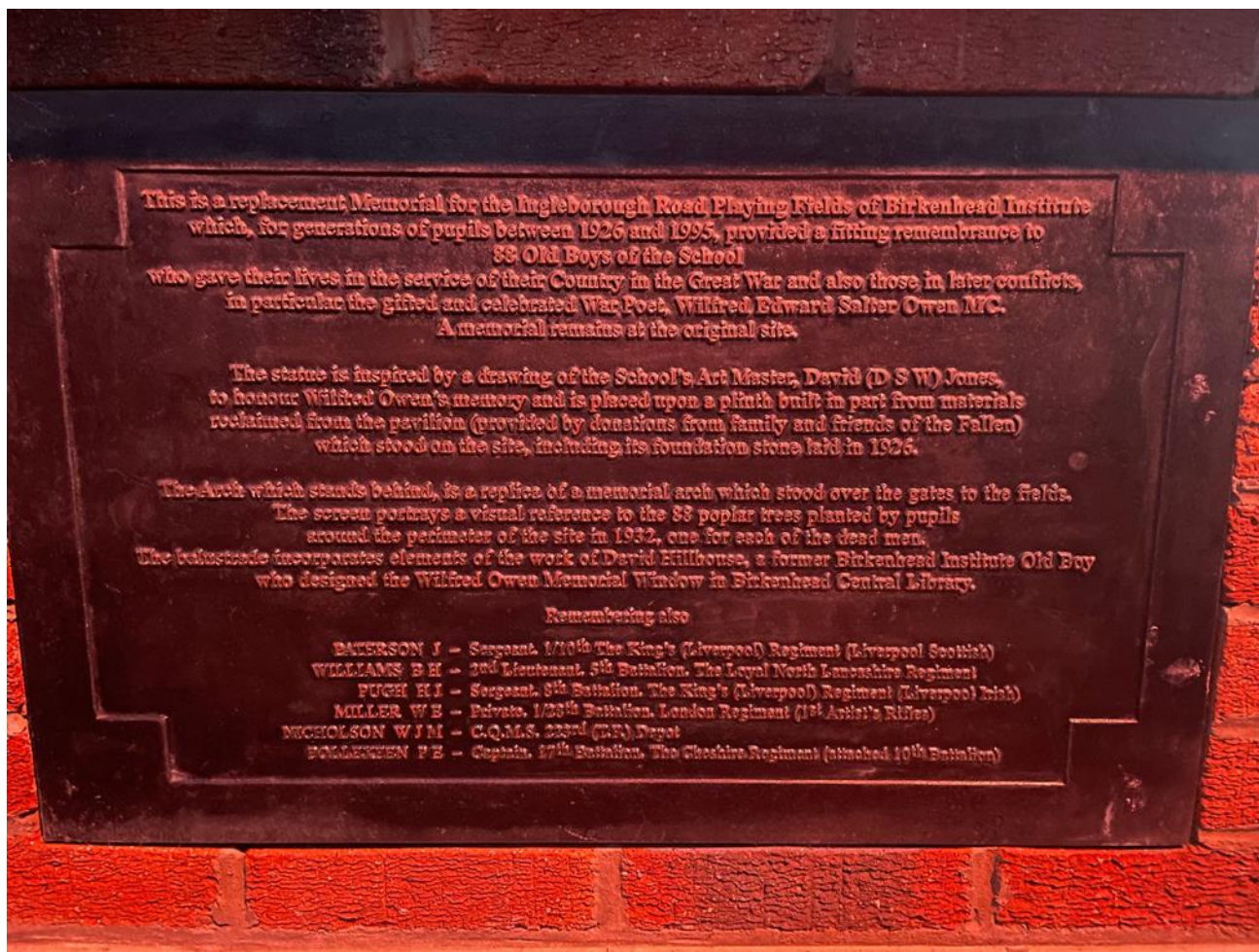


...a regroup was found by the Wilfrid Owen memorial. Here Snoozanne recounted her story of seeing Prince Harry and Meghan Markle unveil the memorial back in 2019.



“...and then His Highness bowed and kissed my fingertips...”





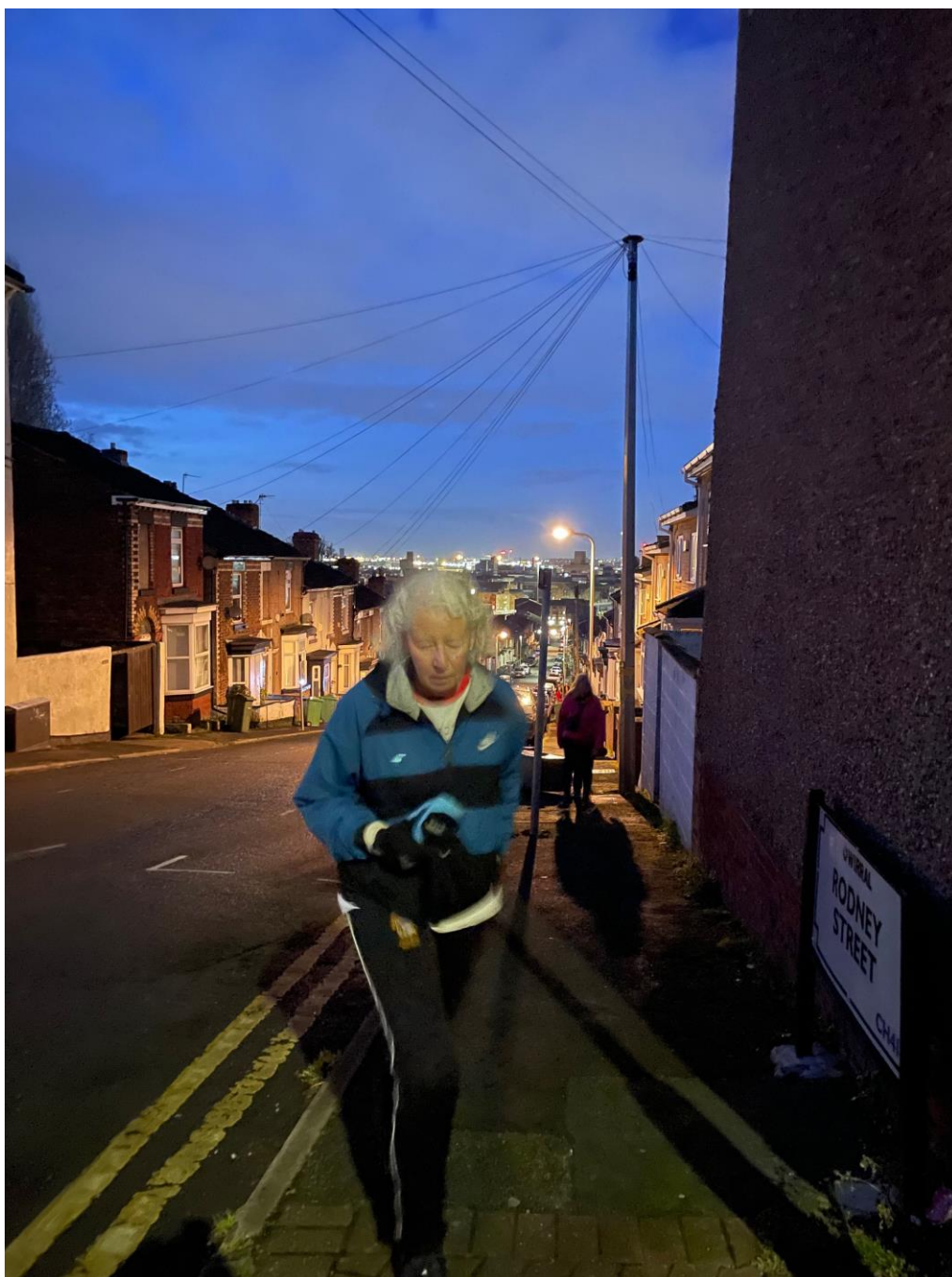
The inscription was hard to read with the naked eye in the dim light but pretty clear in a photo. Another side featured one of Owen's poems.



We also decided that this was the celebrated phone box where we had huddled to eat Snoozanne and Mad Hatter's haggis on a freezing cold Burns Night run several years ago; though the setting was now almost unrecognisably different.



Heading down past Conway Street and then Central Station, a cut-through led to Rodney Street...



...and a steep climb up to Tranmere...



Here Snoozanne pointed out the unusual number of planets which were currently visible and 10secs reminisced about the famous photograph taken more or less from this spot showing the enormous bulk of the Ark Royal looming in the distance as it was launched at Cammell Lairds.



A short distance further on the promised Wimps/Rambo split was found. The Rambo option offered a short trip into Victoria Park where there was a viewpoint. There was a unanimous decision in favour of the Wimps option, possibly because of the 10pm closing of the brewery and the tempting array of beers still to be sampled.



The wimps trail led quickly down a staircase called for some reason "The Monkey Steps", and then past Green Lane station and onto the New Chester Road.



Here the On Inn sign was found...



...and soon we were back at the brewery.



The friendly staff allowed us to have our down-downs indoors, so we commandeered a table and set out the food.



Cleo couldn't decide which drink to pick so she just ordered them all.

The RA had brought the accoutrements so he discreetly donned the helmet and gave a soft tinkle on the Compo bell. Comments were invited on the run which was described as too scenic and having too many chippies.

Down downs were awarded to:

The hare

Victim: for the "ice cream cone" incident

Cleo: for drinking three beers at once



All too soon last orders was called and we were heading home.