



Run Number 523

27<sup>th</sup> April 2023

Ma Boyle's, Liverpool

**The Pack:** Karim (Hare), Snoozanne, Mad Hatter, 10secs, fcuk, ET, BS, Wigan Pier, PA, Victim, Bimbo, PJ Vindaloo, Pete, Delayed Entry



It was a good turnout at Ma Boyles. Some of us (Snoozanne and 10secs) reminisced that last time we were here (Run 99, astonishingly, back in 2008), some winos had tried to join us for the down-

downs in the gardens. Karim then told us that this was his local and moreover he and his wife often sat out in the gardens. Perhaps we had met Karim earlier than we thought?



Karim gave us our instructions. We were issued with a piece of paper and a pen which looked like it might have been liberated from a local bookies'. The trail was going to be marked in the little-known Kuala Lumpur style – no checks, but lots of regroupings at each of which we would be given a quiz question to answer; and the prize would be a bottle of wine!!



### **Another Liver Bird is visible from the gardens**

The first question followed almost immediately: “Which day was St George’s Day?” and the next soon after: “Which famous book featured Starbuck?” This question was posed at a regroup outside the a branch of the eponymous coffee chain, and it soon became apparent that most of the questions would be tangentially related to some local feature. (Answers follow at the end...)

The markings were executed in the timber crayon which fcuk had distributed a few weeks ago; but it had not survived as well as on the Beerfest run. It was not helped by the fact that the whole of central Liverpool turns out to be paved in a stone with lots of thin white lines. Karim was discovered surreptitiously refreshing some of the markings after the pack had sailed past them.



The trail then led to what is apparently called The Face of Liverpool, near the Radisson Hotel. The Morse code on the wall spells out "Permission to come alongside" and the question for this regroup was "How many dots in SOS?" This would have been harder had Karim not shown most of us the Morse alphabet helpfully printed at the end of the wall.



Shortly afterwards the trail led into Exchange Flags.



There was some debate about the modifications to the monument. Apparently it has been produced as part of the Eurovision festival, to mark the Ukrainian conflict. Anyway the actual monument commemorates one of Nelson's victories, and the question was "In which eye was Nelson blinded?".





The next regroup was found on Mathew Street. The question was “On the cover of Abbey Road, which Beatle is in front?” Apparently Karim had rejected asking who was barefoot as being too easy. The lust for winning the bottle of wine led Wigan Pier to ask the bouncers outside one of the nearby bars...





...which gave us a lorra lorra laughs...



The trail led onto Whitechapel where old Liverpool residents reminisced about ancient bookshops (Philip Son and Nephew) and record shops (Rushworth and Dreaper, Probe) that used to be hereabouts... Question: "Who was Elvis's manager?"



The next regroup was on Williamson Square where the question was “How tall is the St Johns Beacon?”. ET wondered if the Beacon would land on us if it fell; it made one feel oddly uneasy when we decided it probably would.

People seemed to have forgotten the fountains which used to randomly turn on and wet people as they walked past – someone asked if the gratings, which were best avoided if you wished to stay dry, were for ventilation.



Across Queen Square and past Doctor Duncans we found ourselves in St John's Gardens. The question here was which city did the Hillsborough disaster occur in? (The Hillsborough memorial being visible a few yards away.).



Then up past Lime Street station, past the John Blackler Wetherspoon's, through Central Station (where the question was "What was the name of the café in Friends?") to a regroup in Concert Square ("What year was Live Aid?"). The trail then led down to Duke Street and along Paradise Street into Liverpool One.



Here the question was "What is the state capital of California?". Personally I missed this regroup, so the only link I can think of between the question and the location is that Radio Merseyside is headquartered near here, and Capital is also a radio station...



Soon afterwards we were at the Victoria Monument (“Who succeeded Victoria?”). Time was marching on and the Hare announced we would do some shortcutting. Other questions were therefore not necessarily exactly relevant, e.g. “Who did Jurgen Klopp manage before Liverpool” and “What are the names of the Liver Birds?”.

Finally we were back at Ma Boyle’s and a figure setting out food on a table outside proved to be Wendy. There was lots of salami, a wide variety of different wraps, a huge pot of hummous, and bread with actual butter. We all gorged ourselves...







and then Karim revealed the answers. 10secs had won by a whisker with ET and BS one point behind.



Karim then presented the bottle of wine. Here the winner is doing his best to look thrilled.... He asked if anyone had any thimbles so everyone could join him in raising a glass.

The RA then called the circle. Comments were invited on the run, and it was described as having too many checks, too clearly marked, too much greenery...

Down downs were then awarded to:

The hare

Karim and Wendy: for (possibly but realistically unlikely) being the winos of yore

Pete: for being the furthest flung pack member, having flown from Croatia to join us

10secs: for being a swot

Wigan Pier: for desperately seeking answers from bouncers



We then repaired to Ma Boyle's where Karim and Wendy had shown great attention to detail by booking some tables for us.

Finally, the answers to the questions:

1. April 23<sup>rd</sup>
2. Moby Dick
3. 6
4. Left
5. John Lennon

6. Colonel Tom Parker
7. 453 feet
8. Sheffield
9. Central Perk
10. 1985
11. Sacramento
12. Edward VII
13. Borussia Dortmund
14. Bella and Bertie