



Run Number 582

31st July 2025

The Grace Arms, Ellesmere Port

The Pack: Cleo and Overdrive (Hares), Mad Hatter, Snoozanne, OTT, 10secs, Victim, Wigan Pier



It was a lovely sunny evening if a little breezy. Apparently this was the nearest salubrious pub to the centre of Ellesmere Port. Wigan Pier was one of the first on the scene, having for once encountered no navigational issues. Overdrive explained the markings – three was on, and the trail was marked in chalk and sawdust. Victim was still convalescing and given instructions for shortening the route, apparently there were lots of chances to cut off a loop; in fact he would often be encountered heading towards the same check at the same time.



Here is the first blob of sawdust...



Snoozanne and Mad Hatter rarely miss a chance to practise their Morris dancing steps (see Run 571)



The trail wound through the housing estates with lots of cut-throughs and tempting falsies.



One of them led to a disturbing sight.



Despite Ellesmere Port's reputation there was less litter than expected.



It would be nice to say that this shows OTT getting off her trolley, but it's probably the other way round.



It looks like this special offer was too good to miss...



10secs looking smug at having found the onward trail...



The trail emerged back onto Stanney Lane...



...and entered Stanney Woods where there was a regroup and where it would later emerge that most of the pack took the opportunity to water the trail.



There was a maze of footpaths of various sizes and then we emerged back amongst the houses.



After a final loop through the woods (which 10secs missed by doing an accidental shortcut) we found ourselves crossing some well-groomed grassland...



...and turning a corner we found ourselves crossing Whitby Park very close to the On Inn.



After much dithering we found an excellent spot for the down-downs inside some kind of circular structure whose purpose was a mystery...none of the options such as bandstand, theatre, fountain, quite fitted. Anyway there was plenty of room to sit and deploy the food.



Cleo had made a delicious dip, a variant of guacamole with broccoli, and a lovely cake with almonds and cherries and coconut.



Overdrive took on RA duties, and the circle was called. Comments were invited on the run, which was described as being too posh, too long, too steep, not enough trolleys... There was a general feeling that Ellesmere Port was less seedy than expected.

Down-downs were awarded to:

The hares



10secs: FRB



Snoozanne: Slow-moving bimbo award for unerringly picking the falsie



Wigan Pier: Navigation award for being amongst first to arrive. She was also nominated for an award for not needing a pee on the run, but then confessed to watering the trail in the woods, whereupon most of the pack asked for similar offences to be taken into consideration.

Victim and Mad Hatter: Old troupers award for soldiering on with hip and knee issues

We then retired over the road to the pub for a swift half before going our separate ways. It later transpired that WP had probably retrospectively forfeited the navigation award by getting lost on the motorway on the way back and not getting home until nearly midnight.

