



REPORT ON RUN 439 ON 4th FEBRUARY 2024

There were a lot of smiles this morning as we bid a painful farewell to 'dry January', hopefully February will be much wetter!

As we gathered at the ON ON, Ravinous Curls our illustrious GM, dropped the bombshell, announcing he will be stepping down in April after 5 eventful years. Cue the dramatic music, enter Alpha Blocker – the next H4 GM, the onlooking hashers all agreed that we were still in good hands. Also, slightly against tradition, ChatBot and Baywatch received their Hash names before their run. There were plenty of nods of approval and cheers. A couple of great names, hopefully they will be worn with pride. It was all happening on the ON ON this morning!

Now down to business. The run. We started from St James Primary school and headed into Thursley common. We were met with deep puddles, wet feet but amazing views across the common.

Interesting fact 1: Thursley Common suffered a terrible fire in June 2020, with large areas of marsh land badly burnt. Hollywood took notice, mobilised their film crews to sleepy Elstead and these barren landscapes formed the back drop to a number of scenes in the recent Amazon Lord of the Rings – Power of the Rings Season.

As expected the run was well organised with plenty of false trails and a devilish fish hook, which took 5 keen hashers (Forgetmeknot included) all the way to the back of the group. I didn't hear any grumbles, but then again no cheers either (apart from the other hashers). The run continued through even more deep puddles. Alpha Blocker gave up trying to tip toe around and decided to go wading. Not sure if he could swim, but his running shoes were super clean at the end!!

Hashers are always keen to provide helpful advice during a run. According to ChillyWillie, dropping your phone is a rite of passage. Who needs false trails and fish hooks when you can run halfway back along the route searching for your phone and WhatsApp account! Fortunately, the phone was found with its dramatic rescue being witnessed by the other hashers and will probably be trending on ChillyWillie's Instagram feed very soon!!

Interesting fact 2: To those wildlife lovers, Thursley Common covers a total of 325 hectares, consisting of mainly of wetland and heath. It's home to red crossbill, red kite and 20 different species of dragon fly. Osprey have been known to nest in the area too. Next time I will bring my binoculars!

The run finished with a long stretch back to the cars, led by Forgetmeknot. I wasn't sure if his speedy finish was misguided enthusiasm or maybe just keen to get to the pub. Probably the latter.

The Mill Pub, our post-run haven, offered exclusive access to the small bar upstairs. It wasn't quite clear if this was out of respect for the H4 or a clever move to hide muddy, wet hashers from the unsuspecting Sunday lunch crowd.

Verdict: We all agreed that ChatBot and Baywatch organised a great run. It had everything a hasher needed, including that dastardly Fish Hook for those Keeny Hashers. Well done everyone for a great day out.

John 'Friar Tuck' Monkman





