**REPORT ON RUN 385 IN APRIL 2019**

In reasonably dry and temperate conditions 17 hashers including a handful of Guildford Hashers and two or three hounds gathered at Hambledon’s Merry Harrier pub (where else ?) and keen to get the On On from the Joint Hares Tampon On and Gamekeeper. First though we had to listen to the Hare, after he had laced his coffee with copious amounts of scotch, give one of the most deceitful pre run information announcements ever.

After a slow start to allow the oldies’ joints to get loosened we were faced with a very wet and muddy section of fenced pathway that we could not avoid – certainly much wetter than our last run along the path in June 2014. Up hill we continued and then the Hares were up to their cynical tricks. Three quarters of the way up a steep open field we were sent back down again – a circular route instead of a falsie!. The tail enders benefitted by not following the leaders.

We were then exposed to the danger of flying balls across Hambledon Golf Course and then another circular falsie, this time through nettles and brambles and back across the golf course interrupting the teeing off from a high tee hoping that the ‘big hitters’ would hold off for a while. Along a vehicular track and past a hidden check that most did not visit and over the lane to a long knackering open hill climb and back into the forest. This scribe then became disoriented somewhere near Munstead and longing for a downhill stretch which never seemed to materialise. So far it was notable just how much of the hash run had been walked and not run ‘due to the terrain’. The fitness of a couple of the Guildford Hashers out up front was also notable.

Further upwards and we came upon Hydon’s Ball; a tract of land donated and dedicated to military personnel lost in the Great War of 1914-18. Even more uphill, and a bit down, we arrived on top of the buried reservoir. This provided an opportunity to ‘regroup’ (a term used to describe recovering) with one of the Hares providing a history lesson about Haydon’s Ball and Octavia Hill, a social reformer, artist, activist and cofounder with Sir Robert Hunter of the National Trust in Surrey in 1895. There is a commemorative board there about her. Worth a visit !

Out into open countryside we accelerated on level ground pretending to challenge absent horses speeding down the sandy gallop alongside our path. Stopping to find directions at a junction we came across a real 16 hands chestnut with its rider suggesting we kept well clear as she was not very good at steering the beast. Some did.

Another out of the way check point did not fool old hashers who had traversed this area before in June 2006, November 2012 and June 2014. Thankfully the final ‘run in’ past Hambledon Church was downhill after a particularly challenging hash, well marked with, one could say generous amounts of sawdust in parts, to the credit of Tampon On and Gamekeeper who of course ran it TWICE. The leaders were back at the pub in 1 hour 20 mins. where we enjoyed a drink and hash conviviality at the Merry Harrier after an enjoyable first post winter run.

