



## REPORT ON RUN 424 ON 6<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022

A run report like no other...for on this occasion H4 was one of a number of regional southern hashes joining forces together (a big-bash hash!) to run the 17th CAMRA Event (more later). Organised this year by Hursley HHH, the run took place in and around Alresford over the border in Hampshire. In fact, a multiple choice of three diverging trails had been laid extending from just over 2 to 7 miles to break up the 100 or so runners (now that's what I call a pack!). Even those participants looking for an easier Sunday morning were provided for with a leisurely stroll around the town.

Of the three H4 representatives, Ravinous Curls and Marathow, being macho hashers, took the long route while the Ayatollah, with a sorely hip, went for the walking trail. After initially weaving in and out of various local roads the hashers found themselves on the north side of town running along the banks of the River Arle, a small tributary of the River Itchen and from which Alresford gets its name. Venturing into open country, and having said good-bye to the short and medium trailers at various points along the way, the long hashers began a steady climb along wooded footpaths to a combination of open fields and smoothly tarmacadam-ed Hants lanes (much better than Surrey's). With scenic views to admire those with sufficient breath also took the opportunity to engage with fellow hashers from other packs, as far afield as Cambridge, Didcot and the Isle of Wight.

Of particular note was one area where two RAF planes had accidentally collided in training for Operation Overlord during WWII with loss of life in both cases, a sad tale to relate. Onwards the long-distance trailers persevered turning eastwards with the hare up front helping to mark the way (live-hashing?) until returning to the outskirts of Alresford past some neatly attended watercress beds, for which the town is famous, and winding along a River Itchen pathway.

With the heavens about to burst open, a bit of a spurt was then required to get back to the Community Centre in town from where the run started before post-hash proceedings got underway. With the room tastefully decorated with "hash tag" monikers (see below), CAMRA had thoughtfully and freely supplied a variety of real ales of differing strengths which went down exceedingly well with all and sundry. Then to a lunch of baked potato and chilli followed by some scrumptious home-made cakes/tarts with custard and cream, eliciting memories of favourite school dinners.

H4 being a non-ritual performing pack, both the present and former GMs skipped out of the ceremonial "down-downs" before we wended our various ways back home, well-fed and "watered" after the morning's exertions. By way of footnote, this joint CAMRA/ Southern Hash Event is held annually and grateful thanks go to Hursley HHH for the splendid organisation...and lunch!

**Doug 'Marathow' Thow**





