

REPORT ON RUN 448 3 NOVEMBER 2024 at BEXLEY HILL

Bexley Hill is a strange place for a run location made confusing by a road closed sign. The hare, The Ayatollah being a bit rusty having not set a run for 3 years handed out back up sketch maps before the start with a verbal about properly treating the long check points, and a warning to give way to cyclists. Off the pack of 7 (Lost Fart, Isneesrbuggeered, Chastity Belt, Chatbot, Headboy, Daystripper, and MaraThow) went down an unmarked path along the edge of the forest, stopping off at an abandoned dumper truck. The road was *actually* closed but beyond the parking areas for the run, which caught out those who chose to come in the opposite direction to the hash directions, thus arriving after the start which included Alex (Fagan) Matthews, Noah and Toby Matthews, Rachel Lane, Nicola Forgette and bringing up the rear, Chillie Willie. Finally Forgetmeknot arrived 10 minutes later having driven some youngsters off the road and then rescued them; he set off to catch up. The trail continued downhill in a long muddy northerly manner and into Verdley Wood. Eventually a checkpoint was reached and the new trail weaved through the trees to a gravel path, and a right hand change of direction. At the next checkpoint it became apparent that it was time to climb uphill as no trail was found in any other direction.

At this point a gamekeeper arrived to chastise the pack for making too much noise and disturbing his pheasants and that the footpath went elsewhere. Fortunately, Headboy was on hand to use his communication skills acquired from his teaching days to smooth over ruffled feathers! (Note from the hare: he had been in that area at least 10 times with his gundogs and never had a pheasant been put up. Moreover, he had not seen any pens or feeders anywhere.

The trail climbed steeply up along the off road cycle paths to a point where many in the pack were able to enjoy a breather. But there was a back check to a new trail that again went up and over the escarpment overlooking the valley at the top of Bexley Hill. A bit further on the route crossed the road and up to the Midhurst transmitting station with its guyed steel lattice 386 ft mast. Again, a checkpoint with the trail meandering through the chestnut trees to the penultimate check point. This continued downhill for some way, but it was a false trail so the weary pack had to climb up the hill again. Back on the right trail to the final checkpoint with some concerned it might be another false. However, it comprised the correct but steep and slippery slope back to the welcome sight of the cars, led by Forgetmeknot and Noah and Toby Matthews. Of the aforesaid pheasants none were seen nor heard, the only noise being the "on, ons" from front-running hashers, by now safely out of earshot of the grumpy gamekeeper.

Total distance 6.4 kms/4 miles in one hour 20 minutes with 14 runners plus the non-running hare!

The ON ON was at the Duke of Cumberland. When all had refreshments in hand, The Ayatollah thanked absent AlphaBlocker for his tenure as GM. He then unnamed Dan Cook as Fannyless on the grounds that it was a false naming by another hash. Then to important business nominating Chillie Willie as next GM which when put to an 'all in favour' was agreed unanimously.

A satisfying hash day all round.

Various Authors