

Run no: 384
Date: Monday February 11th (60th anniversary of Gispert's death)
Venue: The Plough, Lenton
Hare: Smutley

Considering I was the first to arrive and the last to leave, and I was also the only person to do the full trail, I was obvious choice for Scribe.

This pub, as everybody knows by now, is the home of the Nottingham Brewery, abandoned by Whitbread but the name and some of the historic brews resurrected by Phil Darby, formerly of Castle Rock. As the Hashers filtered in we started sampling some of the brews. After all, we'd heard Bugger and Goblin were only 15 minutes away, and we had an enigmatic sick note to decipher: we knew Mark was injured and couldn't make it, but who was Mark?

7:20 came and went and still no Bugger, so we went ahead with the pre-run Briefing. After Smutley had attempted feats of extraordinary engineering in trying to get flour through as tiny an aperture as possible, he plumped for a tennis ball. Unfortunately the ball wouldn't bounce, so he had to pick the ball up off the pavement every time he laid a blob. When asked about the length of the trail, the hare promptly produced ten bus passes, should anybody need them!

The trail started with a cunning little loop that fooled everybody. We should have guessed why the hare wasn't with us, as we quickly went round the block and back to the pub via a fake on inn. The proper trail started, with some good checks leading up to the Alfreton Road. This check fooled most people, but I found thee trail leading back through the estate and out to where the Boulevards meet. From here, I was convinced the trail went into the Red Light District, but instead Blow! Found the trail up Alfreton Road, which then cut back and into the Park. A cunning story of "I've run out of flour" then followed, but that was just a ruse – it was really a back check, the trail leading through the Park. Then the flour really did start to run out, and Chicki stopped to admire what by all accounts was a beautiful kitchen. This wasn't Smutley's house, but he Riff Raff generally didn't know where his house was. We had a pretty good idea though, because shortly afterwards the flour started being used with wild abandon.

The trail then went along the canal, and under lots of bridges. At one bridge, Creamy and Tom decided they didn't know where the next bridge was, and plumped for that one, clambering over fences and all sorts of vegetation to get onto it. The rest of us proceeded to a good check that kept us together. It was obvious that Smutley had laid the trail starting and finishing at his house, as there were three falsies from here. Eventually I found the trail, but at the next check I wrongly believed the trail would go past the White Hart and through the kiddies' playground. Everybody followed me and then decided to go straight back along the road, leaving me and Bugger (who'd caught up with us in the Alfreton Road area) to find the trail. This led us up a much more scenic route, mainly down cycle paths, (and a long falsie down Derby Road), eventually coming out at the impressive new Jubilee Campus of the University. With all the rooms lit up, including a building in the middle of a lake, it looked like a futuristic new city. Then it was back to dreary Lenton (probably Radford in fact, but who wants to admit to living in Radford?) and the wonderful oasis, the Plough.

There waiting for us was huge quantities of delicious curry, lashings of beer, and lovely crispy garlic bread. In the circle (where we entertained two non-Hashers in the bar with the Hash Hymn), Porca got a down down for worrying about how many times he'd get mugged on the trail. Bugger would have received one for doing the full trail, but it transpired that he hadn't done the loop at the start, so this privilege fell upon me. Finally the Hare for a stonkingly good wheeze. During the evening Smutley boasted about the size of his filofax ("It's only this big" – holding his hands about 20 cm. Apart), well I assume it was the filofax he was talking about. Well, we had a great time, if you weren't there, why not?