

## **16th Annual Harbury Hash**

On Sunday 17th September, 53 runners and walkers set off from Itchington Holt, Thwaites Estate, for the 16th Annual Harbury Hash. The hares were Mali (Little Big Horn) Murphy, Ian (Biker Bill) Hartland, and Doug (Dunn Inn) Freeman.

It was yet again a fine day with blue skies and fluffy clouds, and the temperature was perfect for running, walking and later the BBQ. The trail in flour had been set on Saturday afternoon, and was still mostly visible when the Hash started at 2:45pm. The walkers set off at a sensible pace leaving the Holt at the north east corner, past Badgers Coppice and Kingston Farm, alongside the north side of the lakes, and to the refreshment stop at the small wooded area just above Kinston Manor Farm. The runners were led on a demanding run zigzagging through the length of the Holt, before exiting at the north and heading towards Christmas Hill. This roundabout route eventually brought the runners back past the lakes and to the refreshment stop.

We had planned for the walkers and the runners to arrive together at the refreshment stop, but this year the runners were so slow (or was the distance so great) that walkers had to start the second half of the Hash without any runners in sight. By the time the runners reached the refreshment stop, the walkers were busy picking blackberries around the lake to the south of Kingston Manor Farm. The runners still had a long way to go, and were sent off in the direction of Chesterton before heading back towards the walkers. The two groups finally caught sight of each other to the south of Badgers Coppice, and everybody arrived home at approximately the same time.

With everyone safely back, it was time for the down downs for breaking the unwritten Hash rules which included; being a first time hasher, picking blackberries, being a front runner, being too keen, or just being there. Our thanks to Peter Bones (Hash Fire), Sue Hartland and Janny Freeman (Hash Cashers), Dave Shuttleworth (Hash Web), and to all those who turned up. We raised £67.66 which has been donated to Harbury Guides and Scouts (GASS).

Finally, our special thanks again to Brian Merriman for allowing us access to Thwaites Estate and Itchington Holt, and to Alistar Brooks the Thwaites Farm Manager. Don't miss the 17th Harbury Hash in September 2007. See our website (<http://www.actionability.co.uk/hh/>) for photos of this year's Hash.

**Doug Freeman & Mali Murphy**