Run 166: 29th Mar 2009 - Lanthwaite Green

Hare: Ever Ready

A spectacularly fine day brought out a bumper turnout to the banks of Crummock, as the well thumbed book of 'runners excuses' got an airing.

The On-On brought checking in every conceivable direction to find the start of the trail across open fell. Eventually, flour was found and the tail set off contouring the fell side in the Buttermere direction. Various checks and sheep trails kept the pack together as the trail undulated up the valley.

Runners excuse #1: I have a dodgy hamstring and don't want to put too much strain on itâ€¦
Runners excuse #2: Because of 'recent injury', I've not been out much, so need to keep to a 'steady pace'â€¦

Eventually, the runners and walkers split. The runners had an impromptu 'on-group' waiting for an imaginary hasher some way behind. Despite a hint of frost underfoot, the sun was making it pleasant enough to stand around in shorts and a t-shirt, which was a rare treat! When it finally dawned on us that we should probably get moving, we continued our progress up the valley.

Runners excuse #3: Aren't we waiting for someone to catch up?
Runners excuse #4: I was lagging behind and lost the pack/trail so thought it best to head straight to the pub.

The trail eventually headed down into the valley and back in the direction we came, bringing some impressively slippery mud, and a couple of entertaining hash-crashes. At this point, the runners joined back up with the walkers trail, and dropped back down to the road.

Runners excuse #5: Wrong type of trainers/mud etc.

Another group then brought the pack back together, and across the road into a labyrinth of trails on the shores of Crummock. At this point, mid pack, I slowed down to a crawl as the back of the pack had gone missing, and hoped that I would be able to assist in helping them find the trail. As I exited the woods towards the On-In, I helpfully informed Ever-Ready that we may have strays somewhere in the woods. As he bounded into the woods after his second lap of the trail of the day to find these strays, I arrived at the cars to find the 'back of the pack' had decided to take a shortcut!

Runners excuse #6: I'm going slowly to keep the pack together. Particularly effective from the back of the pack, and bonus points for sending the hare on a wild goose chase!

Fortunately, Ever Ready (who must be familiar with the book of excuses), realised the error, and headed in before the pack started to panic about delays in getting to the pub for a well earned pint!

Great Hash, Great Weather!
HAPPY SAC