

Run 213 – St Begas, Bassenthwaite Lake – 6th January 2013

Hares – Huggy and Slasher

A fine gathering of runners and walkers gathered on a dry and crisp Sunday morning, in the layby for St Begas Church. There was a certain tension in the air – but I think I'd heard a whisper of "subs due", and certain members of our fraternity went into hiding in their cars – muttering about keeping warm before the start. Don't worry – we'll see you next month! Plum and Rocky were keeping clear notes!

Some of us had been here before, and thinking that the Hare wouldn't start us off twice on the same route – we headed naively in the opposite direction – which was a mistake. Never think you can outwit a gorilla! The route headed down towards the church and lake – with some pressing on ahead now convinced that we were headed up towards Scarness Bay! Think again – we did an about turn heading in the opposite direction along the lake shore, prior to cutting back and into a wood. The pack then divided and seemed to be spreading in all directions in the hunt for flour – but eventually the cry was heard and we emerged – briefly once again along the lakeshore – on a very pleasant levelish path. Arrrhhh! This was a very civilised levelish route for a winter hash! We then found trail taking us back towards Mlrehouse and after skirting the house, crossed the road into the car park adjacent to the Old Sawmills. For some of us this enabled a pleasant break and the Hare had kindly arranged public toilets for our convenience. Cries of "checking" reverberated around, and somebody kindly eliminated the vertical route..... or so we thought!

Oh no! The hare kindly suggested we might have missed something. Oh dear – the vertical route was the right one after all. The pack ambled up the trail – pretty quickly reaching the Osprey viewing point – oh what nice views – some exclaimed! Some checked their watches – and were thinking an hour – must be about time to turn around and meander back towards the start. How silly can one be?

The pack eventually found a good – reasonably level trail heading south – worryingly away from the start point! Warning bells were ringing! Then we found some good shiggy – but heading upwards. And upwards. And upwards!!! The summit of Dodd was in sight. Worryingly so was the summit of Carlside beyond – as we headed unerringly towards it! But wait! All was not lost! We emerged onto the forest road heading north - back down towards the sawmills! The junction was reached and the naive members of the pack were thinking – thank god! "all downhill from here". But no – it couldn't be – we were still heading up briefly – but then trail was found taking us back down to the descending path! "Yes" we thought – but "No" quickly after – as the daft hasher still checking out the uphill option – had found flour! It must have been a mistake? It was just some old fungi – but no -flour it was! We sensed some potential revolt was in the air – people were talking about "going down"! However, the hare was convincing in telling us it would be a lot longer that

way! Oh no! Dilemma! Down hill or shorter! What to choose? The 2 hour mark was closing in – and the quicker option whilst not looking good – sounded the wisest choice. The mass of the pack headed in that direction – although we appeared to lose Brother Henry – at this stage.

We headed on a good trail along the fellside – but not much descent was experienced! Eventually running above the treeline along a deer track, we hit the long awaited downhill path, bringing us out opposite the road end for St Begas. It was a good route. Although a tad too long for aging and new hashers trying us out! It could indeed have set a new Cockermouth Hash longevity record as some very weary people got back to their cars – 2 ¼ hours after they left them.

Relatives awaiting at The Sun had been thinking about calling Mountain Rescue – but the landlord via his walkie-talkie had been put on standby – and fortunately concerns were alleviated! The food was still hot and fresh, the beer cold and welcome, the hashers wrecked and sleepy! Another month, another hash beckons. Memories fade..... A new year awaits..... shorter hashes are in sight. Please come back and try a shorter event in February!

ONON –Rent Boy