



Date: 9th March 2020

Hash No.: 116 – The Hound of the Baskervilles, Ashburton

Hares: Buzby & Night Screecher

Hashers: Bunion Ring; Buzby; Drop Off; Hairy Mollusc; “Helena”; Lizbien; Mad Max (& Bengy); She’s Ready; Tiny Tanks; Night Screecher (10)

Filthy! No other word for it. Not only did I (**Buzby**) get soaked when checking the trail, but **Night Screecher** and I got wet through again setting it ... and then for a third time when running the trail. Does it always rain in Ashburton?

Gathering in the pub before the hash to, a) pre-order food, and more importantly b) to shelter from the rain, we were joined by **Mad Max** and **Drop Off** ... and eventually the chaotic hound, **Bengy** who looked at home in this aptly named pub. **Tiny Tanks** entered with “**Helena**” – a virgin hasher! She looked anxious, but we soon put her mind at rest, although **Tiny Tanks** didn’t stray too far from her side all evening and even missed out on doing the long trail to ensure she was wasn’t left in the hands of suspect hashers!

Fortunately for **Lizbien**, who had decided not to partake in the whole trail tonight, the first check was immediately outside the pub door, so she didn’t have far to go to ‘claim’ her run before retiring to the warmth of the pub! Meanwhile the rest of the pack headed up the East Street hill to the first check, where **Bunion Ring** checked left and She’s Ready checked on up the hill. We’re a gallant bunch! Never happier than when the harriets are doing all the checking! Well, actually a beer in hand would increase that happiness!

At the next check the trail took us left up Roborough Lane, then up again toward Owlacombe Cross and the long/short split. The longs, **She’s Ready**, **Bunion Ring** and **Hairy Mollusc**, continued to climb up the hill ... but they were on their own! **Drop Off** had pondered to the option of going long or short just too much and fell back on the easy option, and as **Buzby** was knackered and didn’t fancy that section again, a sealed map was given to **Hairy Mollusc** just in case the trail had been kicked out or washed away.

The caring **Tiny Tanks** ensured “**Helena**” was escorted through the kissing gate onto the short trail, along with **Drop Off**, **Mad Max**, **Bengy** and **Buzby**. Down through the fields we headed towards a distant light that proved to be **Night Screecher** at the sweetie stop.

Meanwhile the longs had turned left at Owlacombe Cross, headed down the lane and through the farmyard at Whiddons Farm which was clearly sign-posted "NO RUNNING". This advice was ignored by **She's Ready**. On-on along what must be one of the muddiest tracks in Devon, before dropping down to the River Ashburn and along more muddy woodland paths . This area must be delightful on a dry summers evening, but on a very wet March evening it was messy to say the least! And there was absolutely no chance of seeing the full moon!

As the short trail was so much shorter than the long, the hares decided to let the shorts go from the sweetie stop, so **Night Screecher** ushered them across the road at Cuddyford Cross whilst **Buzby** ran backwards along the long trail to meet the rest of the pack.

All safely back in the carpark at Ashburton the circle was called, but naturally **Lizbien** wasn't going to hear that call any more than she'd be inclined to leave the pub if she had! And where was **Bunion Ring**? Seems she hadn't been told there was to be a circle immediately after the trail and had disappeared in search of her car.

Tiny Tanks and **Hairy Mollusc** officiated the circle and proved the point that no one is innocent!

Down-downs' were awarded as follows:

- Buzby and Night Screecher – hares
- "Helena" – virgin hasher
- Drop Off – long or short indecisiveness
- Mad Max – for detailed inspection of the ground
- Tiny Tanks and Drop Off – cider masters
- Hairy Mollusc and She's Ready – for not telling Bunion Ring about the circle!

Next month's trail is to be confirmed, although at the moment is likely to be from the Horse and Groom, Bittaford and hared by Hairy Mollusc and Tiny Tanks.

On-on,
Buzby