

Devon A-to-B hash 131, Peak Hill, May 2018

This hash was originally supposed to be run in March, but heavy snowfall postponed it until the hottest early May BH weekend on record (trust me, I'm a meteorologist) and boy, was it a scorcher! (technical term).

That's Crap was away, on decorating leave apparently, so Twiggy stepped up as RA, and I was voted in as Scribe despite deliberately staying very quiet. It turns out the last time I came along to Devon A-B hash, I was also roped into write the words you can read them if you like a bit of hash history at: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtoesqv>

If you are a regular A-to-B hasher and didn't recognise me that will be because that hash was hash number 1 in June 2007, my next was hash number 131, today, in May 2018 only a gap of 10 years, 11 months and three days. I plan not to leave it so long before coming back again!

A good sized group of us (34 if my memory serves me) including quite a few Virgins gathered in the sunshine. The Hares, Woody, Gymslip and Baby Doll briefed us on the trail. I definitely heard several times that the long would be about 14 miles. Just right I thought, as we headed out of Peak Hill car park, across the road and towards the coast. Which way would it be though, Sid Valley or Otter Valley?



The question was soon answered as 'On-on' was called in the Otter direction. We staggered up



the hill, pausing to enjoy a lovely view towards Sidmouth through a gap in the trees. The first Long-Short split sent the Longs scampering up to the High Peak trig. point and the Shorts running down toward Ladram Bay. After a brief gathering at the trig-point, and more admiration of the view, the Longs descended and immediately lost trail due to some missing flour marks. Some tourists told us they had seen some down the hill so we were soon back on trail, skirting Ladram Bay holiday park and heading in-land, hot on the heels of the Shorts. The trail then took us down

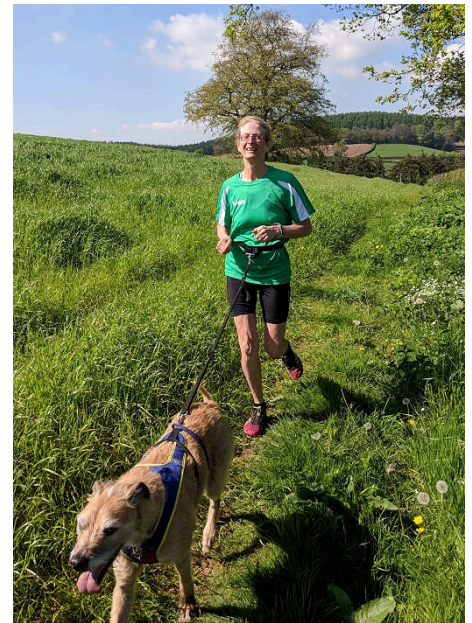
the rather overgrown stream bed of Otterton Brook, with a few deceptively deep pools which

caught a few hashers out, including Chewing Gum who ended up wet to his nipples. Meeting the River Otter we ran down one side into Otterton, crossed the bridge and then up the other side, sadly not seeing any beavers.

Shortly afterwards we reached Colaton Raleigh for the first, very much needed, refreshment stop. Flour Power nobly went back to find any stragglers as the rest of us set off, and we didn't see him again for quite some time!



Along footpaths, Devon lanes, forest and meadow, we wended our way up to Woodbury Common. Skirting through the cool forests at the edge of the Common rather than facing the full glare of the sun was very pleasant. We swept up some Shorts who were coming the wrong way down the Long trail and were soon in Yettington as Flour Power re-appeared, hang-over now fully sweated out, just as we reached Larks Vomit's car with the second set of refreshments. My Stat-Nav was telling me we had already done 14 miles and the Hares were murmuring that there may



be up to 5 more miles on the Longs.

As gluttons for punishment a fair number of us coaxed our weary legs around the Longs, which took us on a scenic and circuitous route, past a glorious blue carpet of bluebells, to East Budleigh. "Ah, this must be point 'B', thank goodness!" I thought, but no such luck. There was a little bit further to go. Woof Woof giving me words of encouragement helped me stagger to the finish line, which was the King's Arms at Otterton, having clocked up a respectable 19 miles! Beer, cider food and merriment ensued. Twiggy, the RA, called a Circle and Down Downs were awarded to:

- Freewheeler (GM of Otter Valley H3) on behalf of all the Virgins.
- Woody, Gymslip and Baby Doll, The Three Hares for a long but very enjoyable trail.
- The hasher formerly known as Annette was christened 'Spread'Em'.
- Chewing Gum, on behalf of all the injuries and fallers, for his plunge into the brook.
- Myself (Damp Patch) for returning after so long.
- Flour Power on behalf of those that were lost, having gone the furthest of any that got lost.

On-On to next time....

Damp Patch

Photos courtesy of Flour Power.

