



CRAPAUD H3 REPORT

Run No:	1721	Date:	8 th January 2023
Hare(s):	Steptoe	Scribe:	Tinky Winky

The “Golden Duck” Award

Despite GM’s dire warnings of torrents, hailstones and floods for our second 2023 Run / Walk the Weather God smiled on our Pack last Sunday morning giving us a nice break with even some Sun until after the Down-Down’s, when the usual wet stuff we have recently continuously experienced started falling again. At least our reservoirs are full to overflowing, although Jersey Water claim to be uncertain until March this year whether they will have enough water stored – what, don’t they look outside to see what’s dripping down all around us? Anyhow, after our perambulations our GM should have been awarded the “Golden Duck” for prophesying we risked being washed away – oh ye Steptoe of Little Faith.

Instead Steptoe claimed he had been praying all night for decent weather.. and, Hey Ho, his prayers were obviously heard by the Weather God! Mind you, before the Run even started Steptoe misbehaved – or so it seemed – inveigling Twin Peaks to join him behind a van, appearing intent on having his wicked way with her. He is one for the ladies but claimed to have been telling her the Trail route for the Walkers, what a poor excuse!



GM Ready to Go!



More Cuddles after Van Diversion

We warmly welcomed Flasher and Grantchester back with their Lola joining us again after some 4

months, the hiatus caused by Flasher's accident after careering down Commercial Buildings at high speed unfortunately coming off his e-bike due to oil on the road, ending up crashing onto the tarmac at the bend with a dislocated left knee and several torn ligaments causing 6 weeks off work and much longer recovering until he could manage joining us again sporting a walking stick. What a Hero! It was also great to see Molehills again having arranged a carer for his beloved Gill. Everyone was wishing each other a Happy New Year, and even better Wendolene was dishing out Hash Xmas pressies to all and sundry even though it was two weeks after Santa had sleighed across our skies and climbed down our chimney's (if we had one, otherwise he threw them at our front door)!

Before Steptoe lied to us which way to Run / Walk (Trail was bound to be in the opposite direction) he proclaimed "*well done*" to Sheffield Wednesday winning a match for a nice change, also Jersey RFC despite being a man down massacring Portsmouth 94-0, chalking up their 14th win this season. Our GM then reverted to his normal impenetrable questions, "*what opened in 1797?*" I thought "*bigger me, this was 158 years before I was born, how can I know?*", but it transpired this was the General Hospital. Then "*what battle happened in 1815*", while everyone looked stumped Steptoe leaked some clues "*not Waterloo, it was a battle in peacetime not on this Continent*" which did not help us at all, so he ended up telling us it was the Battle of New Orleans. I thought "*never heard of it, he's making this up!*". Thankfully Steptoe is not a mind reader, otherwise I would have been in trouble (although read later my close escape), but our GM carried on advising the Trail was laid in sawdust although he had used some chalk which he had checked was all washed away overnight.

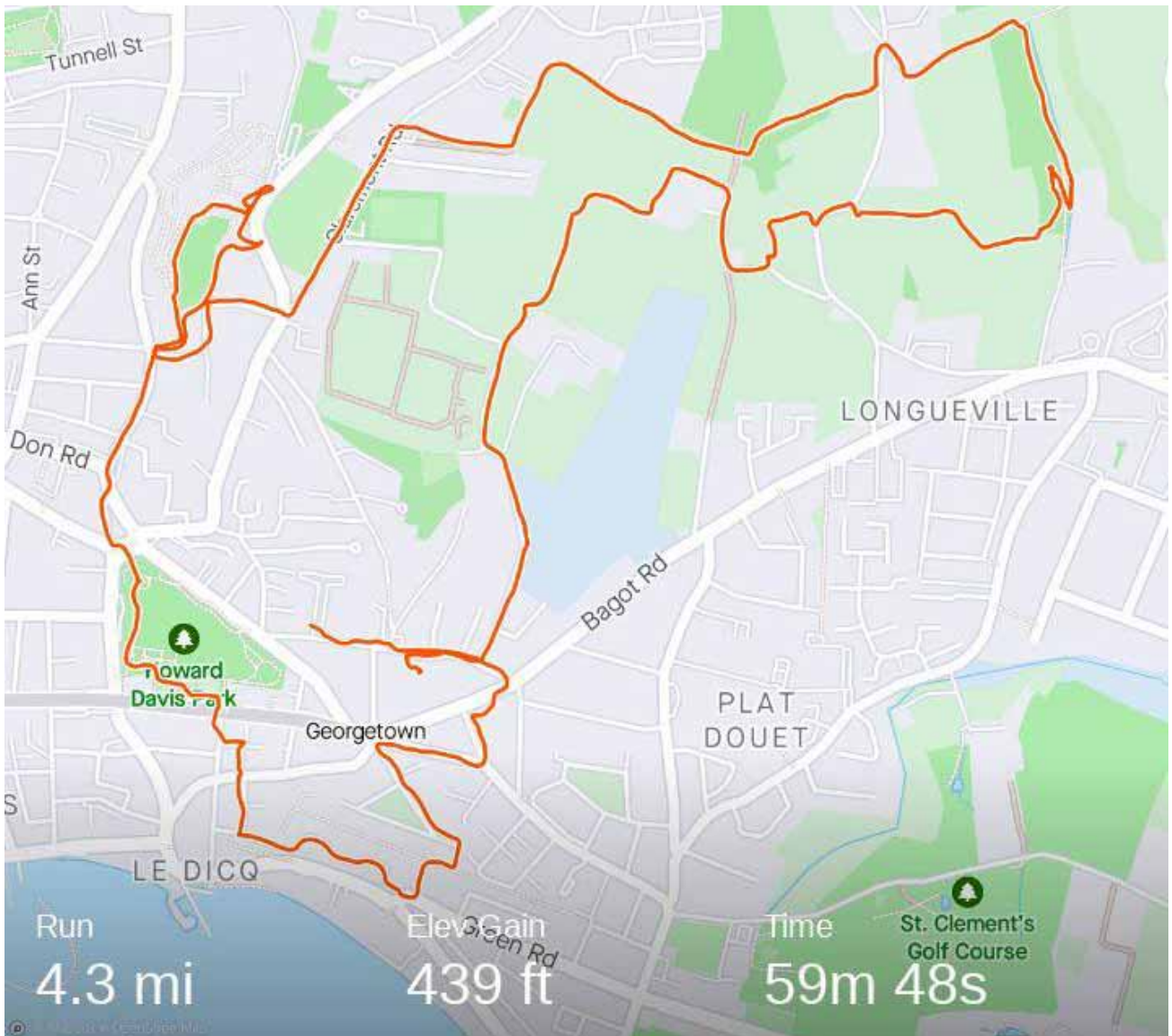
There were only two Runners joining Steptoe on his Run - Wendolene & Bagsoflt - but they paid no attention to Steptoe's announcement to the extent GM told them off for not listening. I worried there might be mutiny somewhere on the Trail and Steptoe might be left in a watery ditch. Fortunately Steptoe safely arrived back at the On-Down venue chez "Shiraz Lodge" with his two intrepid Runners in tow having forgiven his pre-Run telling off on the way round a route covering, he later announced, 4.3 miles as recorded on his Strava.



False Trail Rest in HDP



GM Cuddling (again!)



Route planned & laid by Strava?



An Edifice almost as Magnificent as our Grand-Master?



GM our Hero? What For??



Landslide on College Hill



Going Fuzzy Wuzzy above Swiss Valley

Apart from the Runners unplanned False Trail detour around Howard Davis Park (“HDP”) and into lower Georgetown the Intrepid Three Runners route after crying “On On” with relief at finding the Trail was up Fountain Lane into neighbouring fields above Gros Puits (which the Walkers wisely missed out), down into Ivystill Lane, then cutting across Les Varines into yet more fields going east before finding themselves above Swiss Valley (getting rather fuzzy) before venturing back across Les Varines to get back down through Palace Close, past JCG Prep into Victoria College top gates. Then disaster struck when the Intrepid Trio found the bottom gates were firmly shut so they were unable to escape without Running all way back to the top gates. By that stage they had had enough, finding the shortest and quickest way back to Belvedere Hill and the On-Down’s at Shiraz Lodge.

Meanwhile the much larger Pack of Walkers avoided being misled by GM into the HDP False Trail, going straight for the long climb up Fountain Lane all way to the top, up again past JCG Prep (not so steep) then perambulating around in a big flat circle (so I was told) before descending again to Shiraz Lodge.

Although the sunny morning was a blessed relief there were even more pleasures to come. Walkies had been “*cooking up a storm*” (apropo Gordon Ramsay) in her kitchen. I could even see the slashes in the kitchen walls where Walkies had thrown her kitchen knives just like like Gordon Ramsay. Maybe it was frustration with chopping so many ingredients for two delicious soups – tomato & pork bean crock – Walkies had made, but I dare not ask in case she stuck another knife into me! I jest, in fact Walkies was the perfect embodiment of calm and controlled chef – unlike Gordon Ramsay at times!



What a Spread!



Real Beer on Tap.....



From which GM Drank Plenty!

There was plenty more lovely fare on offer as you will have seen in photos above, which we sampled while chatting away. Eventually Steptoe required us to form a circle, which gave us some difficulty in a square room but we shuffled around. Firstly GM called out Tinks, chiding him for still not having published Run 1704 report from last year he had spotted was missing from the website Run Reports, which Tinks assure us is “*Coming Soon!*”, whereupon GM said he would let Tinks off... this time.

Steptoe then asked his standard year questions... “*Who was born in 1939?*” – Shirley Bassey.... “*Who died in 1970?*” – I did not catch his name but during Occupation he helped escapees. As our not-so-religious Adviser was AWOL instead Molehills reprised his former role, saying how great it was to see Flasher and Grantchester again, before congratulating Walkies for serving “*the best bean crick I have tasted for a long time*”. I was decided we should avoid giving Flasher a Down-Down as he only had one good leg and we did not want him to fall over. That took us straight onto Molehills awarding the Hare Steptoe and his Chef Walkies Down-Down’s for a great Run & Grub. Amazingly, Walkies finished her beer with several seconds to spare before Steptoe, but he complained his was a full pint and his better half only had a half to Down.

On On, Tinks. With thanks to Steptoe for extra photos.



Preparing for the Dual Boat Race



Ready, Steady, Go!



Post-Hash slumber after Refreshments



Walkies moment of Triumph!