



CRAPAUD H3 REPORT

Run No: 1733

Date: 2 April 2023

Hare(s): Fuzz and Wendolene

ST MARY was the venue for the first run of April 2023, but the On-downs were not to be at the pub. Fuzz, whose run it was, had opted for a picnic event, and the parish authorities had kindly agreed that we could use the field behind the primary school. Fortunately, the weather was fair, if a little on the chilly side.

Having said that Fuzz was the hare, I should clarify the assertion. She was, in fact, ably assisted by Wendolene, whose lot in life now seems to be the runners' representative when the trail is set by someone who intends to walk. Anyway, she performed her duties well – as always – leading our remaining athletes on a tour of the parish that was entertaining, imaginative and, I think, took in a stretch of virgin territory.

It was, meanwhile, good to see Dodger back on parade. He seemed to be on good form, so let's hope that he becomes a Sunday morning regular once more, helping to swell the otherwise diminishing ranks of the runners.

And we had other important visitors. At the end of the run, Sweetpea turned up with his dad, Popeye, who came to wish us well and to give us the opportunity to reciprocate and to express our sympathy for the recent loss of his wife, Olive, long a faithful and much-loved supporter of the Crapauds.

As well as leading the pack and the walkers through some picturesque off-road territory, the trail took in the new footpath between the Elms and the ruined mill at the end of St Peter's Valley. Even if this was not too far off the beaten track, I suspect that this qualified as terra incognita, given that it has only just opened.

As well as setting a good run, Fuzz catered for us very well in the food department, There were plenty of sandwiches and some remarkably good cake too.

Down-downs were awarded to Fuzz and Wendolene and also to birthday girl Jenny.

As a result of pub prices and landlords' reluctance to accommodate us, picnic runs are becoming more common. If they are all up to the standard of last week's, that might be no bad thing.







