Monday 5th July 2025- Pub Run: George, Finchdean

5 ½ mile (approx.) running route.

From the pub car park, use the gate on the right-hand side of the entrance to the car park. Travel along this narrow path, under the railway bridge and through the kissing gate just past the bridge. The path then opens uphill immediately through the field in front of you.

Run for approximately 500 yards until you reach a large driveway, with footpath signs at that junction. Follow the sign left, and go along the driveway, slightly uphill for around a ¼ mile.

Go across the cattle grid and deviate right towards the house on the right-hand side. If you are unsure, there is a gate behind the cattle grid showing a ‘Farm Livestock ‘sign. Keep to the right of this. Follow the obvious driveway, keeping the house on the right and it will open up to a farmyard. As you reach two old troughs full of weeds, with a barn on your left showing a sign ‘Danger- Overhead Live Wires’, you will notice footpath signs. You need to follow the footpath sign to the RIGHT, do not carry straight on through the farmyard.

This path is a wide one and takes you downhill until you reach a kissing gate. Go through this gate and deviate to the right, following the obvious path. Again, the end of this path opens into a farm area, and to a T- junction of footpaths. Take the LEFT path, which will pass a cottage on the left, and you then need to keep the five-bar gate on your left and follow the obvious footpath. This path narrows and takes you uphill, and you then follow this path for some distance, approx. ¾ mile. Ignore the path on the right, it is marked ‘Private Property’ anyway, but do then keep an eye out for a signpost after that ¾ mile mark.

It shows the path you are on as ‘Public Footpath’, but you need to turn right here, signed as ‘Public Way’. Follow this path, which takes you to the right side of a crop field and brings you to a minor road, between a couple of houses. Look across the road, diagonally left, and you will see the footpath. Travel through the kissing gate, and this path takes you straight ahead, on a path with barbed wire on either side of it.

At the end of this path is a rustic looking gate. Go through this, and you will see a footpath signpost. Go LEFT here, and follow this trail path, bearing to the right at the end. DO NOT go through the kissing gate on your left on that bend. After just 30 yards, you will see another signpost, with a notice attached for dog walkers. Follow the yellow arrow pointing LEFT, do not go straight on. Follow this track, around the right-hand side of the field, until you reach a crossroads, with signposts. Turn RIGHT here, on the Public Bridleway. Follow this path through the woods until you reach a crossroads, where there are a confusing number of signs. Go straight on here, it will be clear to you, signposted ‘Public Bridleway’. You should now be on a path, which winds to the right, and has a large field on the left, which is home to several bulls at present. On a good day, maybe pause here, as you should be able to see the coast and the sea, possibly even Belgium, ahead of you. Stay on the path for around a mile, do not deviate of it, you will pass through a gate around halfway through this part of the run. As you get to a downhill section, you then reach the main drive which takes traffic to Stansted House. Turn right here, and follow the main drive to the end, a house named Middle Lodge will be on your right. PLEASE BE CAREFUL here- this road is reasonably busy. Cross the road, but do NOT take the obvious large track immediately across from the drive you have just travelled down. Nestled to its left is a gate, with a signpost ‘ Monarch’s Way’. Go through this narrow gate, and this area then opens up into what would have been the grounds of the main Stansted House. Follow the right-hand side of this vast field, but do take a moment early in this section, to look back, and get great views of Stansted House, in all its glory. This next section appears endless, but stick with it, keeping going for about ¾ mile to the end of this field, where it enters some woodland, follow the public footpath sign, downhill, with some care needed as this is a little stony underfoot.

Reaching a crossroads, with a statuesque type of map on your right, go across towards the main road, which you will reach by going through a gate. This is Rowlands Castle, with The Castle pub on your left. Cross the road, with caution, and go right, travelling away from the village. Using the house numbers, slow down as you approach number 75, you will see a footpath sign on the other side of the road. Proceed up the driveway, which has a ‘No Cycling’ sign at its entrance, and go past the garages, where the path navigates behind the garages to the right. This path then enters a wheat field, where you will travel through the middle, before reaching a gate at the end. Squeeze through the gap, follow the track to the left, and at the thatched cottage, turn right. Go through the kissing gate, through another field, which then enters a wooded area. Keep on the main path, through another gate and you will reach a minor lane. Turn right down this lane, which takes you into Finchdean, and the George Pub will be in front of you. Well done!!