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

7 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.

There is a signpost by the immediate farm buildings in the yard. DO NOT go right, follow the path straight ahead. Follow the green public footpath sign (with yellow arrow), and the track will move left. Fork straight ahead, now following the yellow public footpath sign (black arrow). After approx. 400 yards, the path moves off to the right, following the yellow F/P signs with black arrows. Entering an enclosed wooded area, the path narrows. Reaching a crossroads, continue straight, following the yellow sign, then the green.

Passing through a kissing gate, with a house on the left, continue straight, passing Horsley Farm & Coach House. At the junction just along from these houses, turn right, signposted Public Bridleway. This track opens, stay on the main track, and you will reach a main road. TAKE CARE on this road please.

Turn right, staying on the verge and pass the ‘ Forestside’ village sign. You will pass around half a dozen houses (on your right), before reaching a turning on the left showing ‘Walderton 2).

Go down this lane for approx. 200 yards, where you will see a bunch of tyres, and a ‘Public Bridleway ‘sign on the right-hand side of the road.

Proceed along this Bridleway, you will reach a house on the left and farm on the right, continue on the path/track between them. Go through the middle of the field beyond the farm, and you will reach some woodland. Here, there is a crossroads of paths. Continue STRAIGHT across, showing ‘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!!