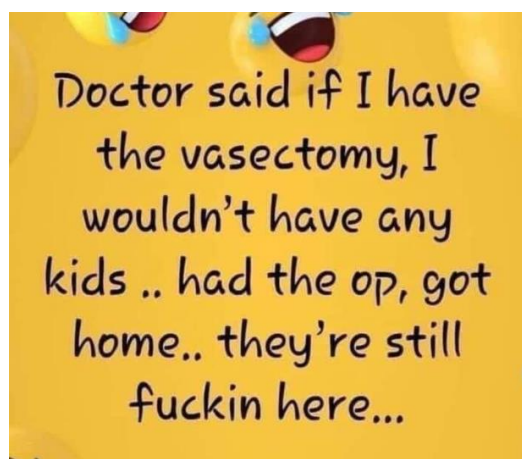




Herts  
Hash  
House  
Harriers  
Herts official Website: [hertshash.co.uk](http://hertshash.co.uk)

Run No. 1954  
5th December 2021  
Venue: The Two Willows  
Beers: Spitfire; Admans Ghost Ship;  
Location: Welwyn Garden City  
Hare/s: Mr. X  
Runners: 13  
Virgins: 0  
Visitors: 0  
Newies: 0  
Après: 0  
Hash Hounds: 0  
Total: 13  
Membership: Hobbling along!



After the previous week's long Trail it was time for something a little more sensible, the Pack were not going to be disappointed with the length of it [As Pebbledash said to the Bishop! – Ed] as this morning's Hare had spent the day before walking miles on a reconnoitre of the Herts Crimbo weekend's main Trail. There was also another limiting factor to where the Trail could go as there was a 5K marked around one part of the second Garden City, which was coming to an end as the Hare completed setting the Trail that morning.

While the weather had ceased raining as the Hare finally hobbled up to the Two Willies [As the local's now call the Two Willows! – Ed] the wind was now picking up, it was a tad chilly. The Two Willows was rebranded this as Welwyn derives its name from the old English for Willows & founding father Ebenezer Howard they wanted to call it after was a tee-total quaker.

Most of the Pack arrived on time, with early arrivals of Whatevershsays & No Eye Deer retreating back to the warmth of their car until a few minutes before the off. There would be exceptions to being on time for the opening Circle, one was Sparky, who had issues with not being able to hear the directions of his TomTom [Has he not used the hearing trumpet he got in the RA's secret Santa a couple of years ago? – Ed]

Anyhow, this week saw the return of Pepé le Pew who was about to start his first Hash Trail of the year, since there was no Herts X-mas weekend at the start of 2021 due to covid lock-down restrictions. Of course being this time of year the old Crimbo theme starts early & around Welwyn Garden are various seasonal theme features to have a photo taken in or beside, so the first of the day's photo-shots had the Pack crowding around the illuminated hot-air balloon by the Pub.

Photo taken, after Mr X had shouted out "Throw the access baggage out & the balloon will soar higher!" & it was time for TBT OBE to welcome everyone to the Hash, getting the R<sup>n</sup> number correct as well, then it was over to the Hare to explain what was out there.

Mr X said that he was hoping that Sludge would be there, sadly he was tucked up in bed nursing a chest infection, for he added a warning 'Not to follow the orange arrows!' as these were for the 5K Run & if Sludge was there he would have ignored the Hare's advice as he does & could have ran an extra 5K. The good news was there were plenty of Short Cuts available to the Hare to mark.

The Trail began with a lot of Tallin bobble hats moving off to the first of two crossings, funny how so many were wearing the misspelt Herts Hash Stag & Hen weekend winter headwear [Even while writing this drivel, the spell check has highlighted with a red wavy line the fact the Tallin is misspelt & has two n's! – Ed] Cutting over the Parkway by the Coronation Fountain & the Henry Moore Statue that is on loan to celebrate the 2020 celebration of the 100 Years since the founding of the Second Garden City.

The weather now became a mizzle & it seemed that the Trail was not going to be that pleasant, thankfully some had warmed their cockles with some of Pepé le Pew's 'Göring-Schnaps, as Jägermeister became known after its creation & introduction in 1935, the tag came around as Herman Göring was the Reichsjägermeister of Reichs Master Hunter but went out of fashion by 1945.

Some, like Pebbledash, Pepé le Pew, Paxo, Whatevershesays & Tent Packer knew that the Trail would run down Russellcroft Road, a quick stop by the oak tree which now houses an NHS dedicated shrine of painted stones & other trinkets set on the cement repair to the bottom of its trunk.

A short way along was the next CHK, located on the corner of the east by southeast dead-end section of Guessens Road, Paxo called No Eye Deer back from searching further down Russellcroft, since he had parked by Dust on the trees down the dead-end. The Pack followed the Trail out to the dead-end, where TBT OBE missed the arrows by the Police Station & went wrong, dragging a couple of others over Bridge Road at the western corner of the Campus, they had to be called back from the car park to the north.

Tent Packer was one of the first over the Campus & on to the semi-circular green space, but he was another who took his eye off of the ball, well the Dust on the group of trees at this end as he failed to spot the Trail heading up

to the only Ladies CHK of the Trail, which was located below the Kathleen Scott 'Ad Astra' Statue, a bronze of a nude lad looking toward the sky, it must have been as cold this morning as when the artist was doing her preliminary sketches as his little man was indeed just that, a wee George. [Bet you can't get that image out of your mind now? – Ed]

Tent Packer led the way on Trail without even realising that there was a Ladies CHK, but he picked up the Dust as it headed to the Pedestrian Crossing to find arrows point away around the Library end of the Campus West, were a few are going to watch the Adult Panto there on the Monday 27th December [Mr X still has around 10 tickets he pre-ordered before lock-down to shift so please come along! – ED]

The Trail headed nor-nor-east on to Digswell road & after a few yards up this another arrows pointed the way off to the left & down the steps descending beside the town's famous 'White Bridge' to come down on to a CHK. No one searched to the east under the White Bridge, as Milf, Tent Packer & TBT OBE were all soon calling "On!" as the Trail headed west by southwest on what was the former Welwyn Garden City to Wheathampstead & Dunstable Railway line, now known as the Ayot Way.

Now the Pack were sheltered from the wind as this section of the old line has embankments up on either side, another bonus was that the mizzle had ceased. Some 240 Yards along the line & the Trail changed direction, with No Eye Deer, Milf, TBT OBE & Tent Packer taking to the wooden steps up over the embankment & into the Campus Car Park, the very one TBT OBE was searching earlier. These four were the only ones to run the 450 Yard loop out through the car park, then right through the tree-line & along Bridge Road to a CHK by the small former Chapel now converted in to a home.

The Trail was found to the north, & back up the short way on what was a level crossing over the old Railway, there another CHK was found on a rough old lump of concrete, strategically placed there so no one could kick that out! Milf picked up the Trail, it was down the new wooden steps found some 20 yards along the westbound section of the former rail line, No Eye Deer, Tent Packer & TBT OBE followed on behind her, while the rest were led along the Ayot Way by My Lil', who the Hare had informed as to where to turn off of this route, avoiding taking his wonky old knee on the loops out to the north & missing out the very slippery Shiggy in Sherrards Wood.

The Keenies were soon out of the wood, to follow arrows up by the homes on the west of the Reddings for 80 yards, then at a CHK by the footpath off to the west they were soon back in amongst the broadleaf trees & on to the Shiggy paths running between them, a further 100 Yards & the FRBs would encounter the next CHK, situated on a tree stump by the crossing of a couple of bridleways in the wood.

The Keenies searched three of the five options, then No Eye Deer noticed the Hare at the end of the southbound path. The going along this way was slowed by the deep slippery Shiggy as it covered the width of the track, though the pooch out for a walk thought it was fun to run around in while carrying a lump of wood in its mouth. The FRBs were now heading back toward the old Railway, but wouldn't join it again just let, for after 200 Yards the Trail turned westward to follow a path below the embankment.

A further 200Yards & the level of the railway had become equal to that of the hilly woodland, here the Keenies found themselves on the wide arc of the Ayot Way as it runs behind the homes on Brockswood Lane, it takes 350 Yards for the line to change from west to north.

The SCBs were just in sight as the FRBs caught up at the next CHK. The Hare was just far enough behind to see Milf & Tent packer were going to carry on straight on toward a T to the north & so he called them back where they would find the Trail heading up the rising wooded hillside to the east.

After 100 Yards they reached the plateau, then a further 40 Yards a CHK was located on another cut off tree trunk. Four options here, enough to slow the Keenies up you'd have thought, but Milf was off down the correct Trail straight away & was soon calling "On!" All of the FRBs headed due north to run 180 Yards up to Six Ways, which, as its name suggests has five other paths radiating out from its centre.

TBT OBE search a long way down the east by north east arm, no Trail there, neither was there any joy for No Eye Deer on the northern option up toward the covered reservoir, Milf didn't go too far for she was taking Hash photo's of the carvings of an huge ant & a bug as well as the information board of this area of SSI.

Having taken the snaps Milf found that she was not too far away when Tent Packer found the Trail on the southwestern arm from Sixways, this was the narrowest of all the routes out of Sixways, it would also be the steepest descent at its end, something the Hare found out as he realised he was wearing the wrong Hash Shoes for grip on the damp exposed roots this morning.

After a careful end back out on to the Alban Way, a CHK was found not that far from the last one at the opposite end of the long fenced-in catchment pond on this wide & level route. The SCBs had already been through here & were now quite away ahead as TBT OBE & No Eye Deer tried to make up lost ground, Tent Pack seemed to be on a mission now as he was straight on to the Trail as he climbed up the opposite embankment.

The Path up between the bushes & trees would turn slightly before coming out up the Brockswood area of Sherrards Wood, another stump of a trunk had a CHK upon it to keep it out of the way of dog-walkers. Tent Packer & Milf went wrong here, & it took TBT OBE a little while to find the Trail in the area covered in leaf mulch, allowing No Eye Deer to make up the lost ground, she was soon on behind TBT OBE as he called from over by one of the greens on the Welwyn Garden City Golf Course.

After some 200 Yards beside the edge of the course, TBT OBE was then found at the corner of the wood beside Brockswood lane, he seemed bewildered as to where to go but this dithering allowed the rest to catch up as he hadn't noticed that the Trail would turn from south to east & run down inside the woodland beside Brockswood Lane. Brockswood derives its name from the Old English Brock or Brox for Badger.

190 Yards down the woodlands west side to come out on to Brockswood Lane by the old Scout Hut, with probably the largest house in Welwyn Garden sitting un-noticed by most up on its own on the wooded ridge. For

some reason TBT OBE had wandered up the lane, ignoring the far safe tarmac footpath rising on the left embankment the homes sit upon. The rest had more sense than play with any traffic, well later we would hear that there was another road wandering when Sparky & then Where's Wally? both arrived back at the On Inn, well after the rest were settled in.

100 Yards up to the level, there a CHK was found opposite the start of High Oaks Road away to the south. Milf found the T further down Brockswood Lane, she was called back to join Tent Packer, TBT OBE & then No Eye Deer all head off down the street of large detached homes in a more expensive part of town. They would no embark on the last loop of the Trail, as did the SCBs ahead of them.

While they all ran down to the quiet Dognell Green, taking to this dead-end side road, the Trail would pass through the alleyway by the local Tennis Club to emerge on to the opposite dead-end of Dellcott Close, the 300 Yard loop would come back out to Brockswood Lane, where the Hare was waiting at a bench to hand out Fudges or Chocolate Limes for the Keenies, he arrived just too late for the SCBs as he could see Whatevershesays just turn off 140 Yards down at the junction of Valley Road.

The Keenies took their sweets, then the Hare took then rest for the SCBs when he arrived back at the On Inn, which was not that far away, only 185 Yards to go, with the Trail leaving Valley Road to Russellcroft Road, though the Hare had to call No Eye Deer back from running further along the southbound road on what could have been a 'Sludge Trap' of joining the 5K.

Beyond the large house that was once the Doctors, the 'On Inn' was passed on Russelcroft Road, on his way by this the Hare then crossed out the 'Orange 5K' written beside this & lucky he did as Where's Wally? & Sparky were both behind & they could have quite easily have mistaken the orange spray painted arrows for the Hash Trail.

It was now just a short wander back up to the Parkway & over by the Fountain to the Two Willows with 5 minutes before opening time. The Pack soon settled into the same spot, on the long bench seat, it soon became quite raucous over in our corner, those who couldn't attend the quiz night on Friday at Welwyn Rugby club, got to hear about the raffle & how it was such a laugh as the Hash Table, & the one of civilians next to us, seemed to monopolise the prizes between us. It wasn't a fix as the strips of tickets were really random, it just came out that way.

The Circle was called, TBT OBE raised the toast to the Hash, then for the Down-Downs the Hare was awarded his for an excellent Trail, Paxo awarding this to Mr X. Then Mr X was back in the RA position, so Pepé le Pew was next up for completing his first Trail of the year which although one of the shortest of the year, was his longest!



More photos—shopped picture when his wife asks how the kids are in his company

