



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



**My child won't eat meat.  
What can I replace it with ?**

**A dog. Dogs love meat.**



Run No. 1960  
9th January 2021  
Venue: The Orange Tree  
Beers: Plum Porter; GK Abbot; Tring Mansion Mild; & A Christmas One  
Location: Baldock  
Hare/s: Fliptop  
Runners: 20  
Virgins: 0  
Visitors: 0  
Newies: 0  
Après: 0  
Hash Hounds: 1  
Total: 21  
Membership: More crocks along the way

This morning saw the best turn out of the year so far. Though it was a little disappointing that this wasn't the joint Hash we were supposed to having with Norfolk H<sup>3</sup> after the Herts Christmas Weekend, but as we all now know sadly due Yogi & staff self-isolating this has been postponed until the 18th to 20th March. We are sorry for those who can't make this new date but we had to go for the best turnout, thanks for everyone's patience & getting back to us quicker than we expected.

Back to today's Trail: Two early arrivals, both of whom weren't up to running from the station to the venue, got the earlier Train over to avoid a sprint to the Pub, they arrived at 10 past the hour, so with 50 minutes to use up. They went to a local Café for a bit of breakfast. Now, on the way out they would see freshly chalked arrows leading them all the way along to the On Inn, so when it came to the opening Circle the Hare asked the Pack "Hands up if you had breakfast with Uncle Albert this morning?" As one of the other patrons of the Café looked rather similar to Buster Merrifield, who played Uncle Albert Trotter in Only Fools & Horses.

The Circle was rather rowdy with a lot of separate conversations going on in the background as Fliptop started his Chalk-talk, Mr X & My Lil' held up their hands to answer the Hare's question of breakfasting with Uncle Albert. Then Fliptop went through with what the Pack could expect out there, but the interruptions hadn't finished as My Lil' was asking every few seconds "What about Short Cuts?" to which Fliptop added that there weren't any! However Sludge was present this morning so there would be 'Short Cuts galore' even if they weren't official ones!

Then, without further ado, the Pack were ushered away down Norton Road to the south, most of the Hash knew that this was the correct way to go since they had already seen the arrows crossing the entrance to the road where they had parked around on The Sycamores.

Where's Wally? & Milf were soon down to the first CHK on the corner of West Avenue, & they didn't hang around too long as both picked up the Trail off on this west bound road above Avenue Park that is home to the Baldock Bowls & the Baldock Cricket Clubs.

Mr X was keeping up with these two as Where's Wally? reached the First CHK by a footpath alleyway away in a north by northwest direction but there was no Trail down there & he was soon heading back to find Milf had now been joined by Mr X & Mother on to the wide, rising west bound ramp to the footbridge spanning the A1(M) below.

With a strange running style, due to his still sore toe, Mr X was surprised that he was now leading the way from the next CHK that was located on the cycle/footpath up on top of the western embankment of the A1(M). Mr X was soon off to the south, missing out a small section of a loop out to the west & back from the edge of the Industrial Estate, however the Hare will be pleased to read that this loop was run by Mother, who now found Mr X coming back from the tree-lined footpath to the southwest & he was now searching on the south by southeast tarmac route through the wooded area to the north end of Hadrian Way.

Mother & Mr X were back on Trail as they followed the Dust down on to Hadrian Way, here Lemming caught up as they passed by the wide concrete expanse of the wide bridge for the A1(M) here Lemming & Mr X utilised the excellent acoustics to holla out "On! On!" as they passed by, then turning underneath the motorway to the northeast on the Letchworth Road as it heads back into Baldock.

Mr X now pointed over the busy Letchworth Road toward the north-eastern station, it took a while for a break in the traffic to dash over to just beyond the bridge, for he knew there is a southbound footpath leading down the tree-lined edge of the A1(M) & to its east the sports fields where a football match was underway. Trail was picked up & near the end of this 230 Yards straight stretch, Mr X called "On! On!" to a CHK, Mother said that she couldn't see a CHK, Mr X added that it would be down the short drop at the end of the path where it joins the east to west path, as Mr X said "There's always a CHK there!"

Sure enough once down on the path a CHK was found, Mother questioned whether she should search under the A1(M) bridge & out into the edge of Letchworth to the west? Mr X convinced her to follow him & Lemming off to the east & back into Baldock, but it was only a few yards to where a blob of flour was found by the north-western corner of the small nature reserve.

Lemming now began to doubt Mr X, for there was no dust on the first meandering desire line he searched or second path that Where's Wally? was investigating. Instead Lemming, Mother, Tent Packer & Milf all returned to the main footpath running below the playing fields & picked up Dust but this would eventually lead them up to a Bar CHK.

TBT OBE was a little luckier than the other Keenies, as Mr X hadn't been lured down the long path after the rest & had 'Sludged it' to have a sneaky search off to the south on the original footpath & there he found Trail, so TBT OBE was called "On!" down this route down beside the small nature reserve.

TBT OBE warned that this tree-lined route had plenty of tree roots to avoid, a shocked Mr X took TBT OBE's advice to be careful & not to trip, especially with his dodgy toe, as he lead the way for 338 Yards to pass by another footpath off to the east, Mr X carried on toward the Stables & paddocks but was soon curtailed by another Bar CHK!

On his way back up the Falsie Mr X indicated, with his elbow, to TBT OBE that he should look down the side footpath off into St Mary's Way. While Mr X may have successfully negotiated the tree roots, but when Where's Wally? & Milf came back to the old footpath, Milf didn't see one root & was tripped up & unceremoniously landed on the car keys in the back of her jogging bottoms, at first they thought Milf had injured her back but it in the end she would get away with just a bruised indentation in her cheek.

Fortunately for Milf, Sis was on hand to assist her back, saving on Milf relying on waiting (a very long time) for Kylie to turn up & administer any kind of aid. As Milf hobbled off back toward the Pub, she wasn't going to be the only casualty of today's Trail as Canny Cant would soon pulled up after straining his Achilles.

Those, like Whatevershesays, Véronique & Manjit, who could still move in a fairly easy fashion followed the Keenies out on the urban road, there arrows would lead eastward for 270 Yards on the bow shaped road until reaching a CHK on the T-junction of Weston Way, right opposite the post-office & the infamous Sparky's picnic bin.

Mr X would explain that a few years ago, this was the site of a Held CHK on the first Trail of that year, upon a bin outside the Shop there was a paper party plate with a couple of sausage rolls, a couple of mini quiches & a small roll that had been left out overnight. Sparky arrived at this point on that Trail, spotted the leftovers & was soon tucking into the New Year party food, it was enough to put some off of their Port being dispensed at that Held CHK.

Back on today's Trail, TBT OBE went off down to the south on Weston Way, along with Tent Packer they found Trail leading 165 Yards to a CHK on the Junction with Baldock Lane, here TBT OBE floundered to find any Trail. But Mr X pointed out to Lemming that there is the Crabtree Lane footpath that cuts away diagonally to the northeast behind the homes on Nightingale Way.

Lemming led the way for over 390 Yards, beyond the gap of a narrow cut-through to Hill Crest, he would find a Bar CHK almost at the end of the old footpath & it turned him back, with him were Ewok, Tent Packer, Mother & TBT OBE. Mr X arrived just at the right time to avoid the Bar CHK trap! The Trail now cut through to Elmwood Avenue, which took them around the elbow where the road turns south by southwest to become Mons Avenue, then on to the short Templar Avenue to emerge out onto London Road.

Ewok led the dash over, via a traffic island, to find the Trail leading up to a CHK outside of the local Convenience Store & the Angling Centre, the latter complete with a large image of a huge carp on its frontage. Mr X added that the Trail would no doubt head off beside the Angling Centre on the south eastern Woodland Way, for this leads into just one of the many entrances to the Weston Hills Nature reserve.

Tent Packer, Ewok & TBT OBE all passed through the gap beside the steel five bar gate, taking the wide track leading up toward the bottom of the woodland ridge & a CHK was found before the rise, with Tent Packer searching to the northeast, TBT OBE ventured off to the southwest but there was no calling from either of them.

So, it was down to Ewok to carry on searching on the rise up to the southeast, sure enough Trail was located. Lemming & Mother were soon up with Ewok & the Hash were going to clamber up the ridge. Dust led the way up to the only Held CHK of the Trail, set by a wooden bench almost at the summit. Here the FRBs had a bit of a wait, Mr X amused some as he told of watching the 1980's Japanese TV series 'Monkey' on London Live, something that cheered up Ewok as she too used to watch this. Talk of the tales of a Monkey God & a Boy Buddhist Priest, played by a girl, confused Tent Packer. [Perhaps he thought that it was a Pantomime? – Ed]

Paxo, Whatevershesays, Véronique & Manjit made their way up the climb, but there seemed to be a long gap between the FRBs & the rest of the Middle Order, as Kylie began his ascent of the ridge. Meanwhile Sludge was spotted slinking off at the bottom of the of the hill, right along near the back of the houses, there was also some concern as to the whereabouts of fellow Keenies of Milf & Where's Wally? since neither hadn't been seen for quite a while? Nor was there any sign of the Hare.

Where's Wally? wearing his bright lime green top appeared, he ran half way up the hill until he broke down in to a walk. Upon his arrival he was questioned on what had happened to Milf? Eventually the Hare ambled up to the Held CHK, now walking Teddy, arrived & he explained what had happened to Milf, all while he passed around a bag of sweets. Though Ewok wasn't too enamoured by the dog-poop bag left hanging from the tip of a branch near her at the Held CHK!

On hearing of Milf's Trail woes, there was the usual signs of little sympathy, Mr X said that they knew it wasn't Milf Back that was hurt as a nearby car's indicators kept flashing as the doors locked & unlocked. Then the Pack heard that Canny Cant was also in the wars as well & had to cut short the Trail.

When the Trail resumed there was some confusion as to where to go? For Ewok headed further away to the east & onto the plateau of farm land beyond the wood. Ewok called "On!" out on the edge of the farmland, Mr X was sticking within the top of the woodland, not wanting to go down any steep hills with his sore toe, Paxo too took to this route but no Dust was seen on the smooth, slippery leaf-littered chalk & earth footpath down by the fenced-off special reserve area, which is home to a few specialist wild plants & grasses in there.

Paxo looked behind to see that the Hare & just about everyone else was following on behind these two on a downward slope & then up the opposite side, all the while Ewok could be heard on her own as she made her way

around the edge of the field & back toward them. She would re-join the Trail after Mr X & Paxo found Dust on the gate leading back in to the top of the woodland.

A CHK was found near to the footpath out on the edge of the crop field again, this long northeast path leads around & then down to Home Farm on the edge of the A507 Clothall Road, Mr X went to check this out, for it's a wide & flat route far more suited to his proximal phalanges, but he would find a T, which he turned & indicated to Mother as she followed on behind him. However, Mr X would not return to the CHK, for he knew that there was another way back in through the tall hawthorn hedge, around 230 Yards away.

While the rest of the Pack who had made it this far negotiated the way around the myriad of Paths within the reserve, Mr X cut across toward Lime-kiln Lane & as he did so there was the smell of smoke wafting through the air. It certainly couldn't be from the making of agricultural lime as this area was used for from the Roman times onwards for several centuries. He soon found that the billows of smoke emanated from the bonfire of old branches built by the group who were carrying out work on the reserve, though Mr X wondered if it would be better to let the branches rot down for the insects than burn them?

Anyhow, Mr X made his way over to the corner of the reserve, passing out through to the old by-way of Limekiln Lane, turning left to head north-westward down to the tarmac drive for the local Mobile Home Park & out on to the urban section of Limekiln Lane to South Road, which seems puzzling as it runs from southwest to northeast, but derives its name from being the road to South Lodge, that was once the southernmost point of Baldock on the 1884 Ordinance Survey Map.

The Trail crossed over South Road & arrows pointed the way over to the old back-passage that is also marked on the 1884 OS map, after 160 Yards on the enclosed path the Trail would reach Pinnocks Lane, but there was no turning toward the High Street just yet, for more arrows would cross over to 'The Tene' & the Pack were taken along tis urban street & into the southwestern corner of the playing fields of Buffs FC. It was now the Trail would turn to the left, taking the short alleyway out on to the High Street, not far from Simpsons Court, a new Estate named after the Simpsons Brewery that once stood there.

A dash across the busy High Street to run along its western side, passing by the Dizi Café that the RA & Beer Master had dined in earlier. The wonderful smell of Indian food wafted through the air, stimulating the RA's nostrils as he passed by the Bombay Bistro to reach the crossing over Hitchin Street.

As this section had been walked earlier, Mr X knew that the arrows would lead on down Church Street, passing by St Mary's Church, just for a change this Trail in Baldock didn't run though the Church Grounds. After 100 yards the Trail would now turn off on to Pond Lane, then just a short way to weave its way through the various arms of the fragmented Brewery Lane, this new estate being named after the Pale Ale Brewery & Maltings that stood there in 1823 until acquired in 1923 by Wells & Winch Ltd. The On Inn was found & it was straight over to the Orange Tree, where Sludge & My Lil' were found after their SCBing.

As more of the Hash came in, one of the barmaids informed Sis that the Tap Room had been reserved for the Hash. So, off the walking wounded went to the Tap-Room, everyone coming in suddenly stopped & all looked at the large sign on the back wall, most agreed that Kylie would find it hard to control himself, a case of Hash Bag in front of his crotch as every adolescent School boy experiences in their life, for Hanging on the wall was an old fashioned, Navy Blue British Railways 'Baldock' station sign.

Canny Cant, with Gen & Tonic didn't hang around too long, after asking where the nearest A&E was, they set to the Lister Hospital to have his Achilles looked at. As the Pack settled in, the main subject to start with was another postponement to the Christmas Weekend!

Then the Pack were joined by the late arrival of Flying Solo, who was just back for Canada & Mr X was disappointed to hear that most of the Country is shut! Suddenly there was an issue with the Railway memorabilia, for neither Kylie nor Sludge knew what the Triangle under the number on the Engine tender panel meant? Turns out it mean the engine uses water softening.

Down-Downs saw the Hare rewarded for a good Trail, while one of our fallers had her Hit, Kylie discreetly dealing with the locomotive porn on the wall & a doubting Lemming. After the Circle the conversation became a sex education lesson, shame Pebbledash wasn't there to add her comments.

Just rang up B&Q and asked 'how big is the queue?'

He said 'same size as the B mate'

