



Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website:
hertshash.co.uk



Run No. 1974
3rd April 2022
Venue: The Man in the Moon
Beers: Sadly No Real Ales!
Location: Stevenage
Hare/s: No Eye Deer
Runners: 16
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 17
Membership: Auld Firm surprised at the weather!

There was a consensus between all of the Hash as they gathered outside of the Man in the Moon, & that was the fantastic clear skies above on a No Eye Deer Trail! Strangely there wasn't a single cloud in the Sky, none of the dark foreboding Cumulonimbus (heaped rain) clouds darkening the heavens that are usually associated with a No Eye Deer Trail! The RA said that he had to work extra hard to fix the day's weather.

Anyhow, not a bad turn out this morning either, perhaps the weather being such a fine start helped? As usual My Lil' was eager to get on with things, but he had to wait for the Circle to be called & then that was delayed as Kylie & Milf slowly rolled in to the car park, which only had a couple of disabled spaces left by the time the Hash had filled it up. [It seems pointless putting 'STREET PARKING!' in the weekly email & on the Hareline? – Ed]

Fliptop then began the weekly welcome, getting the R*n number correct & as he added about the year of 1974, Mr X added "Some People were two in 1974!" as Pepé le Pew looked on & the Pack laughed at No Eye Deer's expense with "72!" being mentioned by a few of the Circle.

No Eye Deer went through her 'Chalk-talk' which included a line about her 'famous sense of direction' & then added that she had set the Trail on her own & even Whatevershesays didn't know where the Trail would go! Once Kylie had snapped a picture of the now uneasy looking Hash outside of the Pub taken, the Pack were ushered away to the North on the Willows.

With Mr X & Where's Wally? taking on the search & find the Trail on the first leg of 150 Yards along the urban back-street to where Mr X fancied the Trail would take to a footpath, sure enough arrows led up this short back-passage [Something Pebbledash could appreciate & chuckle at! – Ed] before a few steps down to the old Shephall Lane, the section of rural single track lane that is now used as a Cycleway & footpath.

An arrow now pointed the way to the east & so off these two went, with the rest following on behind, but they wouldn't get too far away from the Pack as after 150 yards along the tree-lined route they went wrong at the CHK by the outside corner of Shephalbury Park. Mr X searched up to the north within the wooded area but there was no sign of any Trail there. Back to the CHK & the Trail was found further along the old lane as it runs above Shephalbury Park School. This area is marked on the 1884 Ordinance Survey Map as being an estate park set on its own in the Countryside where it is named Sheephall Bury!

Less than 100 Yards later & a blob of flour was found by the cycle prevention bars into Park View, this was enough for Mr X, Tent Packer, Noisy F, Where's Wally? & Milf to follow the Trail through this & up to a Bar CHK. A turn around & the FRBs would emerge back through the tree-line just as the SCBs were making their way along the rest of lane. As Mr X passed by Waragi & Super Trouper he overheard Waragi telling Super Trouper that she could run if she wants? Hash-Test Dummy was definitely running today, but not with Herts Hash, for he was on a Half Marathon taking in London Landmarks

176 Yards later, & having passed beside the Evangelical Church, the FRBs crossed Oaks Cross road to make sure the Hash avoided the Hash going into nearby Pied Piper Pub [Some would go in there after the Hash for food & a have a pint of Real Ale! – Ed]

The Pack continued along the next section of the old lane, to the south the New Testament Church was passed by on the 350 yards stretch between the back of two of the smaller back to back estates to come out on to the A602, Mr X was first here as arrows directed the way down a short flight of steps & then through the underpass to find a CHK on the Cycleway/footpath.

Luck was with the RA as he found the Trail northward up through a wooded area on the cycleway/footpath parallel to Broadhall Way, after 230 Yards the Next CHK was found near to the roundabout where Gresley Way heads away to the east, here Mr X would go wrong as he search off in to Ridlins Park to the south. Tent Packer also went wrong as he took to the other of the two paths worn into the area of wild grasses & trees in blossom in this fallow area.

Calls of "On!" brought the two back to Gresley Way, over the reservoir hidden under series small concrete blocks underfoot & down the ridge, where Where's Wally?, Noisy F#, Milf & Fliptop were all heading away along by

the Aston End Brook, a section of which rises in what was the Marymead Spring. However, they would soon be called back by No Eye Deer as they had failed to notice that the Trail was on the western side of the brook & not the eastern side that they were on. This allowed Pebbledash, Pepé le Pew, Paxo, My Lil' & Whatevershesays to keep in touch with the Keenies

Tent packer & Mr X now got back on track as they followed the right Trail around to the north, where they would leave the grass track to come up to a tarmac on running from the ancient Ridlins Wood & on along behind Ridlins' Athletic Track, with a turn to the northeast the track would lead up to Woodcock Road, where an arrow changed the direction of the Trail to the northwest to run on by the sports field where a group of kids were being coached in soccer.

By the dead-end of the car park was an alleyway heading a few degrees west of due north, this track would lead behind the back of more homes on either side, after 180 Yards the way would turn & a CHK was found where the dead-end of Harefield leads away. Mr X & Tent Packer went wrong up this urban street, while Milf & Where's Wally? fared better back on the continuation of the passageway as it heads away due east.

After 215 Yard the Trail would run through a wooded area between the homes, this is the remnants of the finger of woodland [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] connecting the Larger Ridlins wood to the wonderfully named Loves Wood, which still remains amongst the greenery of the New Town.

Arrows pointed the FRBs to the west & the FRBs set out on a long arcing path, which is marked on the 1884 Map, which after 450 Yards was now heading northward to reach a crossing between two more cut-throughs. While Noisy F#, Milf & Tent Packer went wrong looking on the continuation of the footpath, Mr X was making up ground & spotted them coming back from a Bar CHK, meanwhile Where's Wally? was found loitering in the undergrowth to the east, where he had taken the opportunity to scare some squirrels!

Mr X searched beyond Where's Wally?'s shrubbery where some Lent Lilies were still hanging on, but there was no Trail there. So, it was off to the western option & Trail was found on the dead-end Chertsey Rise, a short side road that would lead out around the right-hand, 90° Turn to the junction with Featherston Road, where Mr X noticed that there was a Pink Pillar-box on the T-junction. A family out for a walk also spotted this & they too wondered why it was Pink?

Having seen gold Post-boxes for 2012 Olympic Gold Medal Winners, Mr X wondered if perhaps it was for a Charity, like Breast Cancer? However, a trawl of t'internet later revealed a more boring reason, it is only Pink as it's just the colour of the primer & is waiting for the final coat of Pillar-box Red!

Just a short way down Featherston Road & the only Held CHK of the Trail as found by an elongated Park that had a couple of small wooden horses for the Kids to play on. Of course, the FRBs couldn't resist sitting on these 'Ewok sized' horses, each horse could take two Hashers & that prompted the RA to ask if anyone knew as song about "Room on my horse for two?" before adding "Let's not go there!"

Mr X, Noisy F#, Tent Packer, Where's Wally?, Milf, Teddy & Fliptop didn't have long to wait for No Eye Deer to catch up, with Waragi & Super Trouper now running, while My Lil', Paxo, Pepé le Pew, Pebbledash were being followed on by Flanders & Sludge, to belay any worries about the sweets running out No Eye Deer added that 'Backup Sweets were coming along with Whatevershesays who was bringing out up the rear.

Super Trouper enjoyed the sweets & was ready to have the last one of the Wine Gums, but after being told no more sweets by Waragi, Super Trouper was a sharp as a tack as she immediately came back with "I was getting it for you mummy!" It was soon time to move on again & there were plenty of options to choose from.

One choice was a footpath over the road from the Sweet Stop, that Pepé le Pew had spotted but Mr X pointed out that the young kid on a bike & his grandfather emerging for the path were seen earlier back on the Trail, so he narrowed that option out. "On!" was called from Milf further down Featherston Road to the southwest, with the Trail leading out onto the T-Junction with the larger route of Shephall Way where arrows directed the pack to the south.

Mr X stopped as he pointed out a sign that had My Lil' & Whatevershesays' names all over it, Humps for 940 Yards to the right & 80 Yards to the left the signage stated! My Lil' didn't stop to have his picture taken underneath, unlike Whatevershesays who dutifully obeyed No Eye Deer & posed with her.

On the opposite side of the road was a small shopping area, at the end of which sits the Shephall Tavern but the Hash were kept away from the Bar as Where's Wally? led Milf & Tent Packer away beyond the pedestrian crossing that had double arrows marked by it, Fliptop called them back as the rest followed the Trail over the junction & up by St Hilda's Catholic Church, where a large gathering had formed outside after Mass.

A 480 Yard trot along Hydean Way would eventually take the Hash up to Shephall Green, the original village & Manor House is an oasis that was eventually swamped by the encroaching Newtown of Silkingrad. The Doomsday Book, 1086 names the area as "Escepehale" before which there are records of "Scepa-heal" which means a remote clearing where sheep could be grazed.

Turning southward the Trail would pass by the old Norman Church of St Mary's Shephall, however it may have had an older Saxon or Danish Church as a quin over the south window has runic carvings on it. The Trail then the Old Red Lion as arrows took the Pack down through the village green area with its old well, heading southward on the Shephall Green lane for 300 Yards to pass beneath the A602 Broadhall Way.

Mr X now thought that the FRBs were on the way Inn as he continued down the old lane, which had now become a cycleway/footpath, but the Hare had a trick up her sleeve as he found a Bar CHK! Noisy F#, Fliptop, Milf & Where's Wally? looked on in disbelief as he turned back with one arm out.

Back to the main road & a run to the west would head toward the ground of Stevenage Borough FC, but just before this the Trail was picked up once more, Mr X now reckoned that the Trail would cut through the Shephalbury Park to the On Inn. Sure enough, the Trail ran to the east of the Coptic Orthodox Church & southward through the green space before veering over to the southwest, Noisy F# & Where's Wally? did have a go on some of the 'Fitness Trail's' outside gym equipment. Eventually the Hash came back out on to old Shephalbury Lane.

Only around 100 Yards along the old right of way, then via a narrow footpath the Trail cut through to Nodes Drive, then once through the back street the Trail concluded back on Broadwater Crescent & back by the Local Martial Arts Club to the Man in the Moon. The Broadwater area was more important in the 5th Century, Stevenage its self was no more than a small village that fell within the 'Broadwater Hundred' which was an area made up of 100 Hides or Hydes, one Hide being 120 Acres, though it was more to do with taxation on the amount of feorm (food/rent) that the land could produce for the local Burgh (Borough).

Once inside the Bar it was realised one section had the 'Auld Firm Derby' on, but it was strange seating arrangement as the couple of Celtic fans were watching the TV on one wall, while the Rangers supports were facing the other way & watching the screen on the opposite wall!

The Hash settled in, with everyone agreeing that it was a good run of an hour & 5 minutes for the Keenies, which seemed to take in a lot of Estate Pubs & Churches of all Denominations. However there was one down side & that was that there were no Real Ales available, the Pub wasn't doing any food either which meant the Gourmet Section of the Hash now had a famished Kylie ringing around other nearby Pubs to try & find somewhere to eat.

So, the Circle was put off until the following week. There was one panic, when Super Trouper showed off her hi-tech watch but then couldn't see her pulse on it, so Milf came over to check Super Trouper's pulse the 'old fashioned' way. Milf then tried to teach Super Trouper how to find her own pulse, but it failed, something that Waragi has tried to teach her but also failed.

There was some relief in the end as Kylie managed to get a food booking in the Pied Piper, which satisfied the hungry, another bonus was that they also had real Ale on in there to quench a thirst!

One for Pebbledash next Christmas?

