

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers

Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk

Run No.1988
4th July 2022
Venue: The Chequers
Beers: Old Growler (Steady Pebbledash) Cwtch, Loads More
Location: Stevenage
Hare/s: Ketchup
Runners: 13
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 14
Membership: Celebrating Independence from Colonials.

Who is in favour of bringing Roman numerals back into use?

I for one.

So, after so many options for a US Independence Day Trail being ruled out, Arnold's as they never replied to us last time & let us down, the alternatives of Sloppy's (Hertford) & Potty's (Potters Bar) aren't open on Mondays. So, Mr X came up with the idea to do a shorter than normal Trail & then stop off at the local Five Guys on the way back to the On Inn.

Having arrived early to enjoy a couple of the wide selection of Ales on offer in the Chequers, Mr X asked two civilian women if he & My Lil' could sit at the other end of the large tables under one of the windows, they said yes, then My Lil' pointed out that there were two 'Reserved Table' signs, one stated 'Reserved for Mr X from 7pm' & the other 'Reserved for Mr X from 8:30pm' (Doh!).

This week we had a Virgin join the Hash, a colleague of Milf's who was awaiting the Pack's arrival before the Trail started. Milf arrived with Paxo & TBT OBE, though they weren't the last as that would be Zing-a-long-a-max a little later on after the Pack had set off.

My Lil' was tapping at his watch, after Fliptop had introduced the Pack to the correct Run Number, then Anne-Marie's introduction, Ketchup went through what we could expect out there on the streets of St Evenage, but more time was taken up as he had to demonstrate the Hash Markings to our virgin Hasher.

Mr X looked away & soon spotted a Stevenage Hamster, which he pointed out, as it dashed over the green of the Millennium Garden of the King George playing fields. It soon scoffed the treats of take-away food left out for it by the kindly locals, then it dashed back into the hedge.

Milf asked if anyone needed a stars & stripes bandanna for the Trail, Paxo accepted this offer after the RA pointed out that Paxo was not wearing any Red, White or Blue for the Trail, instead he had a bright Pink Bull Moon Hash Games Weekend t-shirt. If the Mr X had looked harder then he's may have noticed the name on the Sleeve was his own & not Paxo's, for My Lil' had swapped the goodie bags over at the Bull Moon weekend registration.

The Trail finally got under way some minutes after the hour, as most had seen the arrows pointing the way a few yards down to Gates Way to the west, where the Trail followed the underpass through the A602 Lytton Way to emerge out on to a CHK on the west of the Dual-Carriageway. From here there were only two real options, though a couple did eye up a set of concrete steps up in to the bush covered rear entrance to the empty office block.

While No Eye Deer went wrong with her southbound searching of pone tarmac ramp, Mr X & Where's Wally? found the Trail on the northbound section of the cycle/footway to run through the open Roundabout where Trinity Road crosses Lytton Way, the Trail would continue out to the west side of the northern section of the Lytton Way, here the next CHK was found.

When the Trail was picked up, it saw No Eye Deer, Milf, Mr X, Tent Packer, Where's Wally? TBT OBE, Fliptop & My Lil' start to pull away from the rest of the Pack. After 130 Yards the Cycleway/footpath would drop & turn from northbound to head east by northeast under the Lytton Way again, taking the Primmet Road car park, in the area where the old Driving Test Centre used to be.

The architecture had now gone from glass, steel & concrete to old red bricks & timbered buildings as the Dust now took the FRBs over to a passage way out through to the High Street in Stevenage Old Town. The Girls were quickly across the High Street as the Trail was found to take the FRBs up one of the eastern back-passages [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] that leads on to Church Lane, there the next CHK was found. Mr X went wrong here as he searched down Church lane, to the south. Mr X was called back as the other FRBs disappeared further eastward on a green space between the apartments around Church Road & Southend Close.

The Trail would take a slightly convoluted route through the dead-end back streets that are linked by a myriad of alleyways in this area where the concrete & steel returns, eventually the Trail would come out on to Letchmore Road. By the time the RA reached this section, the rest of the Keenies were found milling-around, so Mr X headed down Letchmore Road toward the south end of the Old Town Centre, he was wrong & called back once again.

The Trail ran through the ginnel between two of the more modern homes to head south-easterly a few yards to emerge out in to the left arm of the T-shaped Pike End, here there was an easterly turn to run up toward the elbow in Pound Lane by the Fairland's Primary School, the Hare had already marked this as Mr X made up the lost ground, & he was soon joining the rest of the alleyway that runs between the two separate sections of the Primary School on a 150 yards southbound trot until emerging out onto Sish Lane.

The rest of the Keenies could be seen away to the east & they were searching from a CHK up by the junction with Popple Way, where a short parade of shops sits on its north-western tip. While Where's Wally?, No Eye Deer & Milf all went wrong, TBT OBE had come back from the shopping area. Mr X believed that TBT OBE hadn't looked far, or close enough! Having passed by the Chinese takeaway & Convenience Shop Mr X was proved correct as he spotted the Dust on a Tree on Greenways, a small cul-de-sac below the shops, this would now lead the FRBs out into the north-eastern corner of the King George Playing Fields.

The FRBs set off in a south-western, diagonal path, bisecting the dry playing field into two large triangles of browning green space, at the end of the 330 yard Run under the warm, sultry evening skies, a CHK was found on the edge of the cycleway/footpath on the north edge of Fairlands Way.

After his sudden success, Mr X was again back on to the back-foot as he searched to the west, only to be called back as the other FRBs found the Dust leading through the underpass into the open Fairland Valley & St Georges Way roundabout. A 270 Yard section would lead from southward to eastward on the cycleway/footpath to the south of Fairlands Way, then it was onto the end of Silam Road, where the Pack were turned southward to find a CHK.

Mr X found the Dust as he & My Lil' picked up the Trail on the southwestern bound path into the centre of the Stevenage Centre Park, from here the FRB's were split up as they searched the four other spokes of the alternative paths that radiate out from the tip of the lake in the centre of the park.

Mr X went wrong, or so he thought, as he took to the southeast tarmac path in the wooded area below the flats to the east, things became a bit hazy for the RA as he inhaled the very strong fumes of some rich & exotic herbal cigarettes, his hazy head cleared slightly as he turned westward toward where My Lil', & then Fliptop with Tent Packer were heading over towards St Georges Way at the west of the Town Centre Gardens.

As his head cleared, the RA spotted Dust by the base of one of the lamp-posts but it may have been from the wrong direction, he also thought that he saw Zing-a-long-a-max here, which he did & that wasn't a hazy illusion. Somehow most of the FRBs stumbled the Trail as it headed southward to Cuttys Lane opposite St Andrew & St George's Church.

As the FRBs searched for the Trail by the modern, brutalist Church, some looked back & spotted that TBT OBE was now on the west of the St George's Way dual carriageway, then the Trail was found down the eastern edge of the Church, on passing through the small gardens these Keenies would see the sunken garden section with a modern mosaic showing the roman history of Stevenage.

The RA hung about as he was convinced that there was a down & out drossing down in amongst the bushes until Milf & No Eye Deer had come safely through. Out around the back of the church, where the Stevenage Museum is housed, then it was out on to St George's Way, still on the opposite side of the main arterial road from TBT OBE.

As the Pack passed by the Fire Station, Mr X pointed out the three Fireman high up on the fully extended platform as they carried out their training at their base. The Trail continued southward into the underpasses to the centre of the open roundabout with Six Hills Way, named after the Six Tumuli (Burial Mounds) from the Iron Age days well before Silkengrad was created as the first New Town after the Act was passed by Parliament in 1946. At the time of early construction, many locals didn't like Silken's designs for the Town Centre, commenting on its resemblance to cold war soviet eastern-block towns.

The SCBs, of Skip, Paxo, Flanders, Sludge & Anne-Marie, had already been along this route, via a short cut, & were well on their way to the Stevenage Leisure Park. Meanwhile Mr X, Where's Wally?, Milf & No Eye Deer found the Trail heading westward on the cycle/footpath toward the next roundabout, with Zing-along-a-max, Tent Packer, My Lil', Fliptop & TBT OBE following on to where the next CHK was found by a set of steps up to a footpath toward the library in the north.

No Eye Deer & Milf were soon up this path, where a large Stevenage Hamster was seen lying, somewhat flat in the middle of the pavement, it probably fell foul of an electric scooter rider whizzing through too fast for the rodent to avoid its fate, leaving a road-kill scene that the squeamish TBT OBE didn't like.

Mr X & Where's Wally? searched through to the next sunken, open centre of a large gyratory traffic system. Mr X, knowing where the Burger Stop would be, was straight on to the dust as it led on along the cycleway/footpath below Stevenage Police Station, then under the Railway line, before reaching the turn by the Institute of Engineering & Technology building, the Hash now moved northward into the Leisured Park's southern entrance.

Dust led up into the park, an area that is like an American Shopping arcade in style, resembling an industrial park but with food, drink & entertainment outlets, perhaps that would fit in with the original Silkengard designs. The FRBs made their way over a series of zebra crossings in the car parking area to find the SCBs waiting by Five Guys, it was here that Where's Wally?, Zing-a-long-a-max, Anne Marie, Skip, Flanders & Sludge all headed back to the On Inn, while the rest went in for a proper American Style Burger in décor, as well as succulent patties & a host of toppings.

Now nourished there was no more running, the Keenies would set off to the north-eastern section of the car park, any thoughts of breaking in to a stride was soon curtailed as the Pack had to scale the steps up to the Stevenage Railway overhead concourse. The end of the Trail was nigh, yet Fliptop almost went wrong while rest of the Hash made their way to the second & furthest flight of steps down to the Lytton Way by the Gordon Craig Theatre, Mr X to informed Fliptop that he had seen the flour that way & not down by the station taxi rank.

At the bottom of the steps the Trail lead northward a short way, before swinging off through the local Tesco car park, then along by the front of the supermarket to reach another set of steps. These start by the Petrol Station & then crossing high above Fairlands Way to drop down the footbridge to the dead-end of Ditchmore lane, by the Stevenage Cricket & Hockey Club then by the On Inn before reaching the cut off section of the old High Street.

Back at the Chequers & the SCBs were found at the reserved Table, where Flanders was caught vandalizing the wording so it was now reserved for Mr Y! Our Virgin was amongst the few who had to leave before the Circle was called out in the back garden.

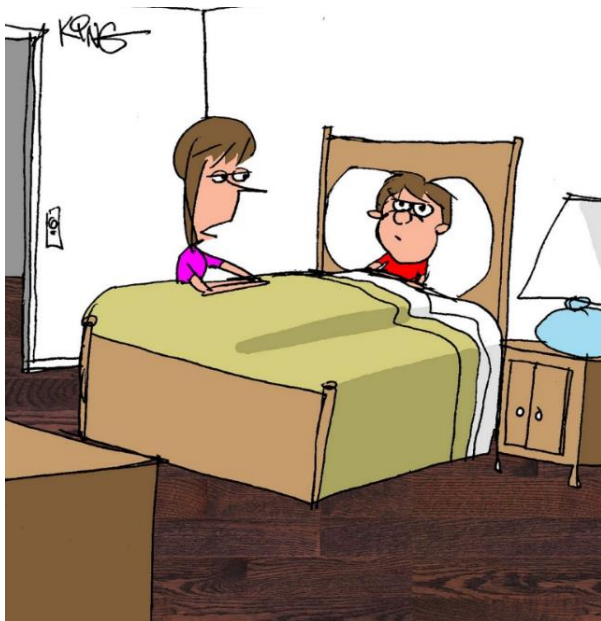
The Hare was reward for a good Trail that took us around for Hash & a Burger all before getting back to the On Inn for 20:30Hrs, which wasn't bad at all. The other Down-Downs went to Paxo for not wearing Red, White & Blue at the start, as well for his Freddie Mercury 'I want to break free' performance of vacuuming at the Bull Moon Commonwealth Games Hash weekend, which Wanktlers describe as Paxo being in the 'Durham Light Housewives', it was here that My Lil' pointed out the name on the Away Weekend T-Shirt that he was wearing being that of Mr X! So, Mr X was out for not spotting his own Shirt, as well as asking for

Same as it ever was...

"And you may find yourself behind the wheel of a large automobile
And you may find yourself in a beautiful house, with a beautiful wife
And you may ask yourself, "Well, how did I get here?"..."



permission to sit at his own reserved Table!



"There's no monster under your bed, but there are phone chargers, old computer mice, mouse pads, cords, and, of course, pizza boxes."

