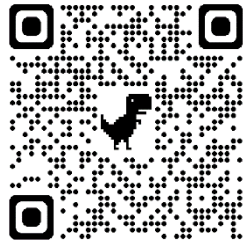


Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk

Run No.2007
2nd November 2022
Venue: La Cantina Carnitas
Location: Hitchin
Beers/Cider: Modelo
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 8
Virgins: 2
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total:10
Membership: Celebrating Dia de Muertos!



Another week with not so good weather, however the RA was feeling a bit more chipper this week, the result of which was the portents of a torrential downpour evaporated to nothing more than a bit of Drizzle to start with. After leaving the local 'spoons, the Hare & My Lil' took shelter in the doorway to Cantina Carnitas, which was pretty busy, but that may have been due to the 2-4-1 Margaritas offer on a Wednesday.

Where's Wally? arrived, wearing his 'Drum & Bass raving Skeleton onesie' which he says has had better days, as well as wearing a head torch that was flashing away like a police car! Where's Wally? was in the company of his Brother & Father, they had been in the Kite at the Red Hart for a celebratory Birthday Dinner for Where's Wally?'s Dad, Mr X wished Where's Wally?'s Dad a 'Happy Birthday!' It then dawned on Mr X that he was now going to have to cancel at least one of the tables he had booked at the Cantina Carnitas, something that was compounded when No Eye Deer arrived & added she had also already eaten at School, apparently it is worth it for the steamed pudding!

With just two of the six waiting outside the Restaurant going to dine afterwards, the Hare was now relying on those who had said that they would be there for food but by the time the Circle was called there was no sign of **TBT OBE** or Paxo. Des Res arrived & thankfully for Mr X he too was going to eat après Trail, the number now dining was a heady three, but Mr X still had to go in & cancel one table.

The Trail started with the Hare explaining that the Trail was normal Hash markings, but he may change the route near the end & cut things short for the Sweets & Drink Stop, there would be Short Cuts & that a torch [As advertised on the Website! – Ed] would be needed for two section of the Trail, then it was time to set off.

No Eye Deer was happy to be wearing a couple of ponchos, with the Saracens one being a handy new addition. The Pack set off & the pace was just a walk up Bucklesbury in a nor-nor-eastward to the Market Square, on the way passing The George, then the Pitcher & Piano to reach arrows pointing North-westward into the 'Arcade' which was a part of the former Swan Coaching House, it is made up from the remaining undamaged sections after the Swan was destroyed by fire in 1853. The current style of small bespoke shops, undercover from the rain were developed in 1927.

The Trail now came out through the car park behind the Arcade & back out into the drizzle as the Pack then came out to the crossing on the A505 to the centre of the ring road, here No Eye Deer missed the arrow pointing south-westward & was called back from entering the Eastway Enterprise Centre, she was to follow on behind My Lil' & Des Res, who were making their way around by the Tyre & Exhaust Centre & onto Nun's Close. [Where's Father Jack when you need him? – Ed]

Just a short way on to the west & an arrow pointed the way across the A505 Bedford Road 'Raceway' of small the two lane ring road. A CHK was found behind the metal railings to prevent 'daft people' from crossing here, yes you've guessed it, right at the point where the Trail took the Hashers across, since it's a wee bit quieter at night away from Rush Hour.

No Eye Deer went wrong again, which was surprising as the CHK was right by the street light lit Braunds alleyway, that runs for almost 100 Yards, first beside the one home & then out by Gray's Lane Play Area to reach a stretch where 65 Yards of the arm of Winston Close breaks the alleyway in to two sections, by the western section a CHK was found.

It was down to Des Res to search up the back passage & find Dust. My Lil' & No Eye Deer were now making up ground & passed by Where's Wally? his Brother & Father to catch up. After 77 Yards on the street lamp lit back-passage the Next CHK was found where the Alleyway ends on the junction of Grays lane & Westfield Lane.

On! was found to the North, up Westfield Lane, it was here that the Hare received a txt message from Paxo that said "Stuck in traffic before Watton, turning back!" as the Stevenage road was seriously flooded, at least Paxo let

the Hare know he would not be coming to eat, unlike **TBT OBE** who emailed he was going to eat after this Trail but didn't bother to inform the Hare he wasn't going to show. At least **TBT OBE** has let Mr X now that he no longer wants to go to the Adult Panto, [Guess Mr X will have to take a hit on that? Unless someone wants to take up any of the spare tickets??? – Ed]

Anyhow, after 90 Yards the back street becomes a wide cut through footpath out on to West Hill, there the next CHK was found by the double set of rails, which also had a bright red post box & concrete bollards to prevent vehicular access!

Des Res was quickly On to the Trail as he crossed straight over to the footpath behind another set of modern railings directly opposite, off between the homes & this was the first section where a torch was needed as at the end of the short northbound section of the footpath, the Trail turned westward as it runs below the fenced off sports field of the Samuel Lucas School, named after the local Artist Samuel Lucas (1805-1870) whose Quaker Family had been Yeoman (A free holder, or someone who cultivates the land) but far more importantly Maltsters & Brewers in Hitchin for more than 300 Years.



Samuel Lucas' Hitchin Market Place 1840, the painting contains well known locals & dignitaries of the

time, & Sparky asking for directions to the Red Lion!

After a turn to the north, it was less than 100 Yards between the Sports ground & a small wooded area that leads out to the wonderfully named Gaping Lane [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] where the next CHK was found on the narrow old back street. Here No Eye Deer & Des Res led the way to the west, then after just a few yards would find the Trail turning on to Bedford Street.

The Trail quickly tuned to a few degrees off of due east, then after 150 Yards turned around to head north-west up Oughton Head Way, the drizzle still persisted as the Trail headed up by the darkness of the oval green space, but the Pack were back under street lights where Arrows & Dust markings were strategically placed.

In this area of Hitchin there is a myriad of footpaths & the Trail could have taken to any of them, but without a map the Hare had chosen to continue on up to Oughton Head Lane in the Northwest for 158 Yards, to reach a CHK up near one of the Mobile Home sites in this section of Hitchin.

Des Res was on form as he found the Trail away to the North on Lucas Lane, one of the old uncapped lanes that intersect the more modern estate areas. No Eye Deer arrived at the CHK on the neck to the Y-junction where Lucas Lane heads off to the northwest & Maxwell's Path runs away to the Northeast.

No Eye Deer saw a couple of torches heading down Maxwell's Path, but then saw someone waving their torch up & down, which was Des Res indicating that he had found Trail on down toward another of the Mobile Home sites on Fosman Close. The other torch turned out to be My Lil', who would catch up later as the other three came out to a CHK on Redhill Road.

A north-eastern wander along for 350 Yards took the Hash around to the roundabout junction on the Bedford Road, opposite the Angels Pub, here the Trail turned southward & by way of the pedestrian crossing moved to the eastern side of the Bedford Road to lead 300 Yards down by 'Top Filed' the home ground of Hitchin Town FC of Southern league Premier Central Division, turning on to Fishponds Road & over the crossing near to the front entrance to the 'Canaries' ground.

It was here that Mr X decided to change the Trail, he would cut out the loop down through the darkness of Butts Close Park [Calm down Pebbledash! – Ed], instead he changed the arrows to a different direction & head eastward to lit Elmside Walk on the eastern side of the Swimming & Fitness Centre. No Eye Deer was now concerned that Where's Wally? would be confused at the change in markings & picked up the Hare when he almost missed crossing out on arrow & changing its direction.

No Eye Deer needn't have worried about Where's Wally? But should have been more concerned about KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ, who was confused by the markings, as he, Flying Solo, She Wolf & Killer Queen all made their way around after a late start. Flying Solo corrected KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ & later reckoned that he deserved a Down-Down for his mistake!

On the route down by the Leisure Centre, Mr X encourage those with him to make an effort to at least trot along as they passed by the sight of lots of sweaty civilians working away on tread-mills & other exercise machines, the Hares encouragement fell on deaf ears, but My Lil', Des Res & No Eye Deer did hear it when Mr X said that they should turn left & head down the Bedford Road arm to Brand Street to the end of the High Street, then head to St Mary's Church where a Sweet & Drink Stop was.

At the Regroup outside of the gates to St Mary's, the largest Parish Church in Herts which was probably founded by King Offa near to the Hitchin War Memorial, the Hare produced a bag of Trick or Treat Sweets & a glass Skull filled with Tequila, Cranberry & Blackcurrant juice, which was a blood red colour. Then, as if by magic KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ, Flying Solo, Killer Queen & She Wolf all arrived, something that cheered up the Hare no end, as the R*n numbers & diners were boosted by four!

Mr X asked if any of the late arrivals had seen Where's Wally? & his Dad & Brother on the way around, the answer was "No!" Hopefully, as the Trail as well marked, unless you were KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ, Where's Wally? & his gang made around alright but just missed the Drink Stop? Where's Wally?'s Dad ended up damp & tired, so Where's Wally? jogged back to fetch the car & pick them up, before heading home.

The Rain had finally ceased, allowing the Pack to see the outfits & make up some of the Pack were wearing, KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ, Flying Solo, Killer Queen & She Wolf, like Mr X had all gone for the 'Day of the Dead' painted faces, but unlike Mr X by the time he was getting the Train home they probably didn't look like a Picasso painted Panda!

KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ now spilled the beans on Flying Solo, that she did go around the previous week's Henlow Trail much later on, after thinking that the Trail had been abandoned due to the rain! Mr X explained that we are not all like **TBT OBE** & Paxo, some are made of heartier stuff. As it seems is Flying Solo, who braved down pours of Biblical proportions & the ensuing lightning storm! When asked if going around afterwards counted as a Herts R*n, Mr X "Yes! That's £2 to give to No Eye Deer!"

At this regroup the Hare explained to the Pack that the Mexican 'Day of the Dead' is on the 2nd November, with the celebrations being over a couple of days from Halloween, which after the American Conquests was adapted from the Christian 'All Hallows' Days of Hallowtide. All Hollows' Eve, now abbreviated to Halloween is on the 31st October, while All Saints Day is 1 November & All Souls Day the 2nd November in the Christian Calendar.

In Mexico they celebrate this in a different way, with All Souls being the 'Day of the Dead' where they will go to attend Family graves, taking food & drink along where they talk & sing to their departed loved ones, celebrating their lives, hence the Held CHK at the Churchyard. Mr X said he knows what it's like communicating with the people on the other side, like when he sends out emails & polls asking which Hashers would be attending Hash events & meals etc, it only goes one way!

After the Sweets & Drink Stop, the Hare directed the small Pack over the Market Square, on the way he pointed out the narrow green & white painted Edwardian 'Cabman's Shelter' which originally stood outside of Hitchin Railway Station & used by Cabbies until 1976 when British Rail sold it to a local couple. It was eventually donated to the town & restored to be resituated in the Market Square in 1998.

Back to the Cantina Carnitas for some, Mr X, My Lil' & Des Res to enjoy some well-deserved Burritos in a Café full of girls, seems the Wednesday 2-4-1 Margaritas offer works! The Burritos were spot on, with Mr X going for the Ghost Pepper Mayo (Being the hottest of their sauces) Meanwhile KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ & Flying Solo helped

Killer Queen & She Wolf finishing off with their Vegan Chocolate Brownie & Churros!

Mr X was now in full Dias de Muertos mode, with a Skull Glass for his Modelo Beer & two glass Skull Shot Glasses for Tequila Shots. Mr X pointed out that **TBT OBE** would have loved the meu for the do Vegan versions of the popular dishes, as well as catering for Vareterian to Carnivores! The Down-Downs were put off until the following week, or when KOKKINOS ΔΙΑΒΟΛΟΣ is next at the Hash!

The three set off toward Hitchin Station & Des Res was happy to join Mr X & My Lil' in the usual visit to The Albert, since Des Res had heard of its reputation with Herts Hashers popping in for a quick pint or eight! Here the Barman wondered why Mr X was wearing a sombrero? Mr X said he was wearing it to keep the sun out of his eyes & as it was tipping down again at night he said it 'Worked!' Sensibly they just had the one before catching a Train home!



Parents please check your kids' Halloween candy. just found Hieronymus Bosch's garden of earthly delights inside of a peanut butter cup. Stay safe this Halloween.

