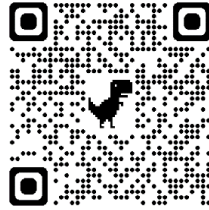


Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk



We've bought a 'Twitter Blue Tick',
so it's all got to be all true!

Run No.2010
20th November 2022
Venue: Moon & Stars
Location: Rushden
Beers/Cider Tim Taylor Adnams
Hare/s: Kylie
Runners: 16
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 2
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 17
Membership: Slip sliding away on Kylie's Birthday Trail!



Devices used to find water



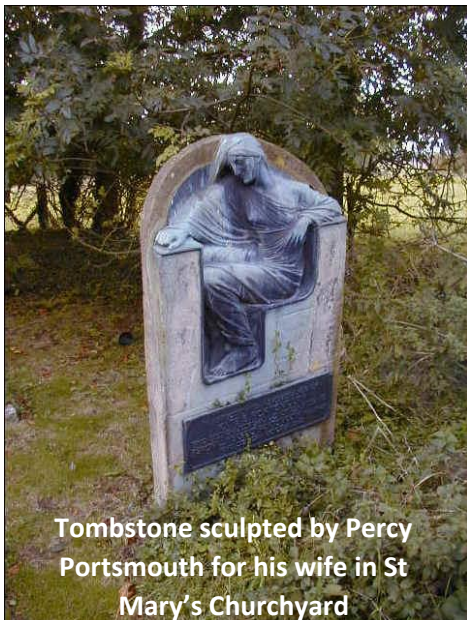
'Twas a lovely bright, sunny morning for this week's run in the Hertfordshire county-side. A somewhat remote location which insured no one could arrive by public transport. By 15 minutes to the appointed hour the small car-park attached to the Pub was already full to the brim with the cars of those early arrivals.

The regular RA (and Scribe) had taken the train to enjoy the 'Liquid Sunshine' in Scotland this weekend (was this just to avoid having to drive to a Hash?). So, the task of Scribe thus had to be delegated to some poor unsuspecting suspect. [In his defence, the RA had booked his train for the Friday 13th January Reconnoitre two months and three weeks before Kylie had revealed where his Trail was going to be from! - Ed]

Sharp on 11 some strange individual announced himself as 'Andy Clapp', the estranged Honorary Grand Master and then one 'Kylie' as the Birthday Boy and Hare. The trail according to the Hare was somewhat shorter than the ones he had laid previously and had just been re-laid in part because of heavy overnight rain.

The pack expressed some doubt over the validity of the claims of the statement about the length but nevertheless departed once the Hare had captured the obligatory photo outside of the Moon and Stars, to cross the road and over the infant River Beane with knowledgeable My Lil' leading the way.

This footpath lead into the sodden grassy meadow behind Rushden's St Mary's Church where a number different tracks offered themselves as opportunities as false trails. Sludge found the correct one through the Churchyard and the pack followed.



Tombstone sculpted by Percy
Portsmouth for his wife in St
Mary's Churchyard

Within the Churchyard is the ornate grave sculptured by Percy Portsmouth for his wife's grave. He also sculpted the statue of the Virgin Mary that is inside the Church, as well as many Scottish War Memorials.

The Church also contains the Meetkerke Memorial, Adolus Meetkerke was Dutch Ambassador to Elizabeth I, the family stayed in Rushden and owned a lot of the land, Adolus VI paid for the local school to be built in 1857.

Out of one of Milf's favourite countryside features, a 'Kissing Gate'! Designed to stop livestock from escaping their enclosure, it is sometime acts as a Hash Trap, and this would slow the Pack up as couples took turns to pucker up!

Across one wet field to the east a further three-way choice had to be made. A footpath along a row of trees to the left proved to be a false, whilst a similar one on the east leading to Bachelor's Wood the On! On! was found and taken by the pack. Straight across was the short cut option taken by Sludge, **TBT OBE** and Canny Cant.

The short cut ran across a second field and out onto a country lane, Bennet's Lane, by Southern Green Farm. Here the Hare had given a second opportunity to take a short cut on the criss-cross of paths over this open area, just like many of the poachers in the 1800's that the jovial Squire Meetkerke turned a blind eye too. **TBT OBE** opted for the long one

through the farm yard whilst Sludge took the shorter one up the road.

However, at the rear of the farm dust was found by **TBT OBE** but he decided not to follow it but to head directly across a meadow from where the pack was now calling. Having crossed the meadow he found a rather large ditch separated him from the rest of the pack. Southern Green has existed since the 1086 Domesday Survey, when Rushden was known as 'Risendene' (Rushy Valley) and rushes grow in wet areas.

Encouraged by the GM (with camera at the ready) that he could get across **TBT OBE** made the attempt. IT FAILED! Much to the amusement of those who saw it. For those who didn't, it has been recorded on video for posterity. It will be posted on face book in due course and I encouraged you to view it!

Eventually, after scrambling out of the ditch, a wet **TBT OBE** joined the main pack running along the side of Bachelor's Wood to the next Check Point. Three options were offered, straight across toward Friar's Grange a former Monastery, and tracks to the left and right. The right turn proved to be the correct one and half a kilometre further a held check was found by a small green Triangle where Bennett's Lane meets Broadfield Lodge Farm Road.

At this point the short cut trail re-joined the long one. The Hare had managed to leave the sweets in his car [Fancy losing your sweets! – Ed] but MILF saved the day with the Love Hearts that she had purchased for Kylie on his birthday.

After the break the trail continued down the road and passed Broadfield Lodge Farm and over another branch of the river Beane onto Lodge Farm. Once again the Hare offered short and long options. Fliptop, Sis and Teddy all took the marginally shorter trail to the west, whilst MILF, **TBT OBE**, Hash Test Dummy, Rose and No Eye Dear opted for a run along the long one down to an elbow on a track from the grade II listed Broadfield Hall to the southwest before crossing the eastern arm of the Y shaped Beane again.

Sludge, Tent Packer, Kylie and finally Canny Cant followed the runners at a somewhat more sedate pace, crossing the wooden footbridge then turning north-eastward along a long, then wooded plantation after which a northbound trot lay ahead. The short cut had been well judged by the Hare as the walkers from both trails all arrived at the re-join point at about the same time.

From here the trail ran through the elbow of a wooded area just below the wonderfully named Truelove's Farm. Then up onto Treacle Lane, into Rushden. The Doomsday Book records a population of 100 in this quaint village, in 191 the population had only grown to 220, which helps to keep its rustic charm. Amazingly the whole of Rushden was 'Sold' in 1920!

From this point it was a short trip back down the hill to the main road. Here the "On Inn" was found in the local Bus Stop and the Moon and Stars was just a couple of hundred yards up the main road to the left.

Most of the runners were only still changing when the walkers arrived back but My Lil was already in the Pub and downing his first and only pint and Does what she says, who was still recovering from his recent ill health, had returned successfully but not having made the full trail. A quick check on numbers proved all except Canny Cant, Mrs Mallett and Flanders were present. However, by the time the remainder had ordered their first drinks, the missing three had returned from the direction of the On Inn.

As most Hashers had arranged to have lunch at the Pub the GM called the circle rather earlier than was usual and kept it shorter. The Hash was toasted and the Hare given the normal Down-Down for setting the run which the GM said was most probably the best one set this year (to which the pack all agreed). **TBT OBE** was awarded his Down-Down for providing the entertainment mentioned earlier and finally Kylie got his second Down-Down to celebrate his birthday. With

this, the circle was dismissed and all returned into the pub. On On to next week in Old Hatfield.

Sludge



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