



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

Run No. 2039
Date: 15th May 2023
Venue: The Chequers
Location: Stevenage
Beers/Cider Old Growler; 4XT; Black Wolf; Riverbed Red
Hare/s: My Lil'
Runners: 19
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 20
Membership: In & out of the back passages of St Evenage



A nice sunny afternoon may have lured a few of the Pack out, it certainly wasn't the latest results from one of the nearby Football Teams, never the less a couple of Gooners did make an appearance, prepared to take the stick & ridicule, their presence was certainly not to take their minds off of the chance of winning any silverware this season.

Early arrivals found the Hare & RA both sitting in the Chequers, imbibing as they watched from out of the small bay window. While enjoying an Old Growler [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] one thing the RA did noticed was Lemming's car arrive & Mr X spotted there was just one solitary person in that car & that was Lemming, no Mother! The two in the Bar now laughed as they said he was only here to get one extra Herts Run on Mother & they both agreed that Lemming would be relishing this Trail, no matter what it was like!

Lemming popped into see the two in the Pub, he had a grin across his face like that of the 'Cheshire Cat' & it would be an understatement to say that he was cock-a-hoop with his current position [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed], but the RA pointed out he still had to get around a Trail in St Evenage first!

Then it was outside to have an obligatory photo of the Pack outside of the Pub, but not before there was one of TBT OBE pushing away at the Pub Sign in order to stretch a few sinews, Mr X said "One day he'll push against a rotten one & it will keel over!"

Time to Circle up & just as Fliptop was going through the motions of the introductions, from the footbridge at the end of Ditchmore Lane the figures of Ketchup & Lobby Lobster could be seen coming toward the Hash, but the proceedings weren't held up & the FRBs would set off as the two experienced late comers had the bags stowed away.

The First CHK was only a matter of a few yards away, where the High Street ends at a junction with Ditchmore Lane & Gates Way, a contentious point of view with Sludge disagreeing with the RA saying that the Pub is on the very southern end of the High Street, he even ignored the clear street signage with '← High Street - Ditchmore Lane →' dividing the two!

Anyhow, No Eye Deer chose to search down to the underpass at the end of Gates Way where it joins the Lytton Way, this would be a falsie resulting in No Eye Deer & Mr X being called back to follow the rest of the Hash toward the START of Ditchmore Lane.

Where's Wally? checked it out over the high arched bridge over Fairlands Way & down to the local Tesco Store, while Moss Key Toe searched down the side ramp to the cycleway that runs below & parallel to the Fairlands main arterial route, both were wrong.

It was Sludge who picked up the Trail as it heads eastward where Ditchmore Lane turns to run behind the Stevenage Cricket & Hockey Club, now on the gated single lane up to the car park for the King George V Recreation Ground, just one of the 504 of these Green Spaces in the UK making up the National Memorials to the King who led the Country through the First World War.

King George's Field in Sonning, Berkshire was the first space approved under the scheme & was legally protected in July 1938. Construction of the new playing fields remained at a standstill throughout the Second World War, which led to a number of schemes being abandoned, however after the War things began again & the 504th & final field to be approved under the scheme was King George's Field in St. Donat's, Vale of Glamorgan, this was legally protected in November 1965.

Each is marked by two plaques by the main entrance, with a Lion on the left & a Unicorn on the right hand gate pillars to represent the Royal Coat of Arms, the plaques for this park are found right opposite the Pub on the small terraced (Now renamed) 'Millennium Gardens'.

Dust was seen on three trees that led the FRBs to take their eyes off of the grass & go beyond the arrow in the south-eastern corner of the largest of the parkland fields, having overlooked this, they would spend a few minutes aimlessly searching the cycle-way beside Fairlands Way until someone picked up Dust on the diagonal path straight across to the opposite, north-eastern corner of the Recreation Grounds.

A somewhat of an amble over the 340 Yards on the mown strip between the pitches, which have been left with uncut longer grass, most of the Pack couldn't get into their stride just yet. Here some searched over to the cut-through toward the back of the small shopping arcade on Popple Way, while Mr X chose to search down the eastern edge of the Park, neither were correct as they had missed another arrow pointing westward along the top, northern end of this green space!

Mistake rectified, the FRBs of Where's Wally?, Milf, Sludge, Tent Packer, No Eye Deer, Ketchup, Fliptop & Teddy, Mr X & Moss Key Toe all began to head back to almost from whence they had started the Trail! But, as they approached the solitary Pavillion at the southern dead-end of Sish Lane in the centre of the Park, the Trail passed by the group of old guys out playing tag-rugby, then the Tennis Courts to find the Trail took to another diagonal footpath, this tarmac one leading to the back of the Millennium Gardens.

From the back of the Gardens the Hash were to be taken up the first back-passage of the day to emerge out on the main Sish Lane & to find arrows directing the way behind Holy Trinity Church to find the arrows leading on to Church Lane.

Mr X followed on behind Milf, Tent Packer & No Eye Deer on the road that runs parallel to the old High Street, passing behind the many restaurants on the eastern side of the centre of the Old Town, here there were plenty of intoxicating aromas wafting in the air, these were of pleasant food & not the same intoxicating 'exotic tobacco' ones back in King George V Recreation Ground that took Milf's breath away!

This town centre section was going to be a loop for the Keenies, utilizing the various cut-throughs between the flats & bungalows dotted around Southend Close, here the Trail turned back in a southward direction to come out of the dead-end Inn Close, here Mr X caught up with No Eye Deer, Milf & Tent Packer!

The other three were found all in a semi-squatting position behind a short bit of low box-privet, was it a yoga pose like 'Downward dog'? Mr X got a quick "Sssh! Sludge is about to start the loop!" so he too assumed the 'Silent Sludge Squatting' pose & ducked down to let Sludge run a bit of Trail he would never have if he had seen these four.

Meanwhile the Knitting Circle of Paxo, Sis, Flanders, Hot 'N' Spicy & Lobby Lobster would all take this & the next Short Cut, as the FRBs followed on up Letchmore Road & then off at a now marked CHK from the mini-roundabout junction with Haycroft Road to the nor-nor-west, as this route turned more toward due east & a further 200 Yards an arrow was found to direct them up another back-passage.

The fenced in footpath turned after 30 yards, from a few degrees west off of due north, to lead north-westward between the back to back rear gardens & back out on to Letchmore Road once again, it was here up by the Dun Cow Pub that FWB caught up with the Pack as she cycled along from here late start. [Dun is an old English name for a greyish brown! – Ed]

However, FWB had to be called back after she carried on peddling beyond the Arrow directing the Pack over the road, & then on to another long enclosed footpath, this one being a long 240 Yards between the homes of Basils Road to the west, with Letchmore School & Nursery to the east.

Emerging out on to Walkern Road, a CHK was found & this slowed some of the other Keenies when they went wrong, but once across to another footpath between two residences, the FRBs would pick up the Dust & run the 100 Yards on the serpentine like back-passage to find themselves out at a CHK on the end of Church Lane. Here the likes of Flanders, Paxo, Hot 'N' Spicy, Lobby Lobster & TBT OBE were all found milling around with the Hare. Was it a regroup? No!

Mr X, like Sludge was keen on searching the footpath path as it runs up by the Playing fields of the Thomas Alleyne Academy, which was behind the solid steel upright fences, Trail was found this way, then after a northward turn the Pack had the Barclay Academy to their right. After 270 Yards, this footpath with its maximum security fencing emerged out on to 'The Avenue' Path, where the next CHK was found.

With FWB on her bike, she could shoot off ahead of Ketchup, Milf, No Eye Deer, Tent Packer, Moss Key Toe & Mr X, then after FWB called "On!" they all headed away to the northeast, on the tree-lined path as it graduates away from the school ground on Bury Mead for some 360 Yards to reach the curly footbridge that crosses the A1072 St Martin's Way.

Once up by the bridge things would stop for the FRBs, with FWB heading down the cycleway/footpath running below the main road to the west, she would not be seen again until back at the Pub. It took a while for some of the Keenies to realise that as they had found a T just before the Curly Footbridge.

As Milf correctly pointed out, this meant it was all the way back to the CHK for the Keenies, if it was a Bar CHK then the Trail would be somewhere off back between the CHK & the Bar! So, the FRBs now began to retrace their steps for all of the 360 Yards to the CHK, where they last saw a dithering TBT OBE & his aching knee [No doubt caused by pushing against the Pub Sign earlier? – Ed] TBT OBE was all a fluster as whether he should do the Long Trail or take the Short Cut? A Short Cut which was now the Trail & the CHK had been marked through so.

The Kitting Circle had already been shown the correct way to go, so they had an advantage of being well ahead by the time the FRBs & now out of sight having completed the further 300 Yards by Millie Spinny Park & 'Billy no mates' playing with his mobile, on a bench opposite. The Trail took to the down ramp to the under pass on the North Road & the top end of the A602 ring road.

The next section of Trail was a bit of a tease, for it came around to almost touch the High Street, near to the War Memorial, something that some thought would be too tempting for Sludge, but he would prove all the doubters wrong, for Sludge had carried on along to the southwest & then under the western arm of the A602 to the other side where there was a CHK which the Hare had made into a Held CHK.

This was the 'Sweet Stop' but there was no sign of the Knitting Circle, instead just the Keenies were found here, with the exception of TBT OBE who was occupied in munching away on the packet of 'Henry Hippo' Sweets, which to all intents & purposes is Lidl's copy of M&S 'Percy Pig' Sweets, which contain the same rendered down

So I walked by the vending machine yesterday at work....



animal products for TBT OBE's Veretarian delight. Mr X asked him to keep some for Moss Key Toe & No Eye Deer who were the back of the FRBs.

No Eye Deer arrived & was quick to mention the topical 'Percy Pig' Ice Cream retraction from Fabio's Gelato Hitchin Restaurant this week, after M&S sent a letter requesting them not to associate 'Percy Pig's' name with their Ice Cream Treat, but they can keep adding the sweets to the Ice Cream, which ironically led M&S to include a pack of their porcine sweets with the letter! Mr Vincenti has now renamed the dish 'Fabio's Pig', we may have to stop by & try this on our next Trail in Hitchin?

Anyhow, there would be no sign of the Knitting Circle, or FWB, which was lucky as there weren't many hippo's left in the packet, as they went down quicker than a banger at the Chipping Sausage Tossing. The Trail resumed with Sludge leading the way up the nearby steps in the small triangular park, where he disappeared down the alleyway leading south-westward through to Orchard Road, he would not find any Trail but then that wouldn't stop him when "On!" was called as the rest went back to the cycle/footpath heading southward down by the A602.

While Sludge made his way down to Orchard Road, the others now turned on to the very same road, where the Trail would move over to Orchard Crescent & one last back-passage, for most, between two homes & then over to run beside the eastern side of the railway lines to come out on to Bridge Road. Here, to the east, the Hare could be seen waiting near to a set of steps down to Ivel Road, Mr X & Moss Key Toe followed on behind Sludge as he scuttled down these few steps in the tree-

line & out by a garage block.

There were a few laughs as Sludge now made his way around the curving end of Ivel Close, on another loop to rise back up to Bridge Road. Ketchup & Where's Wally? now led the way back on to the Cycle/Footpath running down by the A602 Lytton Way. Mr X now said that the Hash couldn't have been more than half a mile away from the Pub for most of this Trail, since it utilized the myriad of footpaths & back-passages in the Town Centre.

The Hash would pass by the last remaining section of the 'Icon' building, which was only constructed in 1989, well some would, for Mr X, Sludge Tent Packer & a few others there was a more important 'up-standing' stop they needed, which could be found a lot quicker after short cutting through the underpass to Gates Way & back to the Pub.

For the Keenies who did continue along with the rest of the Trail, they would head down to Stevenage Station, then over the Lytton Way & then make their back up Inn to the Pub, though when the hare questioned those who did the last loop it seems they may have adapted the last bit to suit their own needs, or in common parlance they 'Slugged it!'

Where's Wally? had reserved a Table around in the darker end of the Pub, but all of the girls had commandeered the one in the window the RA & Hare had sat in, being far more illuminated.

Of course Lemming was beside himself after successfully getting around Stevenage in one piece to complete one more Trail than Mother, which meant he was first to grab the book & sign in, of which he took a photo to send to Mother, then he was soon putting his hand in his pocket to pay the Hash Cash with 40 Bobs worth of the Kings Shillings to 'seal the deal' with Hashcash.

Time to get the Beers in, then there was an issue with TBT OBE not recalling that he had offered to step in as Hash Beer if no one else was up for the job at the AGPU [Guess what? Nobody did! – Ed].

Time for the Circle & the RA's busy weekend, plus a couple of strong Ales would later catch him out, but not until after Fliptop had toasted the Hash & then both Today's Hare of My Lil' & last week's Hare of Mr X had dispatched their Down-Downs, both setting excellent Trails, then it was normal service [To a degree! – Ed]

Mr X began saying it was a great Trail around 'Silkingrad' as Stevenage was nicked named after its grey concrete appearance of being a New Town resembling something akin to a 1950's Eastern Bloc City. Then he went on to explain that Lemming [Who had left early to gloat! – Ed] was now beside himself at being one run ahead of Mother, but then he slipped in to what was going to be his second Down-Down award for Where's Wally? for coming over to the Chequers to put a poster up [Which wasn't seen in the Pub, not even on the back of the Gents toilet door! – Ed] as well as joining a Stevenage Community Page & that he was still awaiting permission to have his post about the Hash to be granted permission to be uploaded!

Where's Wally? was surprised to be confused with Lemming, then the RA removed Where's Wally?'s cap to show that there is a more than a slight resemblance. At least it had the Circle laughing away as Where's Wally? accepted his Down-Down. Also called out to the Circle was FWB, for arriving on her bike & then cycling miles around Stevenage's Cycle routes, many without any Trail on!

Other Down-Downs included Ketchup who had reached a Beastly 666 Herts Hashes & Lobby Lobster who had completed a full house of ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY! Sludge for his 'GOING TH EXTRA Mile' be completing the extra loops, which included a re-enactment of Mr X, No Eye Deer & Tent Packer hiding behind an imaginary Hedge!

