



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

 **James Melville**
@JamesMelville · Follow

"So Princess Anne, you have one mission. Just sit right in front of Harry with a massive red feather on top of your hat. Perfect. Nailed it. Mission accomplished."
#Coronation



Run No. 2040
Date: 21st May 2023
Venue: The Royston Club
Location: St Albans
Beers/Cider Side Pocket: Wadworths Kings Ale: Red Kite
Hare/s: Moss Key Toe & Mr X
Runners: 11
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 11
Membership: Devouring a good 18 Inches!



At last it seems that we may have reached the time of year when there should/would be some nice, clear & warm weather? When the two Hares set the Trail the day before it as warm & fine, but there was a slight chilly breeze on the day of the Hash, noticeable enough for No Eye Deer to go back to the car & fetch out a coat!

With many away this morning the numbers were down on the last few weeks, with only Hot 'N' Spicce representing the absent regular Goners, so it was a good thing that this week saw the return of Sparky, who was picked up by Milf, & in turn she was accompanied by a possible Newbie, some guy apparently called Kyle, or it could have been Kenny, Stan or Cartman?

As the Pack gathered, a helicopter could be heard flying not so far away, could it be the Police Chopper [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] up in the air in search of an unnerving sight of civilian onlookers some cause for alarm, as after No Eye Deer handed back some of the kitchen utensils, that were left at her home after the Eurovision Party, Moss Key Toe was less than discreet at ambled up to his vehicle while obviously clutching a 12 inch knife in his hand? The Chopper would be going up & down all day, [Stop it Pebbledash! – Ed] as it gave rides at the American Classic Car Show a few miles away at Oaklands College Campus.

The senior Hare, Mr X, welcomed the Pack on behalf of himself & his co-Hare Moss Key Toe, to the Correct Run number. Then he went through the Herts Hash Markings for 'newbie' Kyle's benefit, which had the rest of the Circle laughing. Mr X went on to explain that there were Short cuts & Two Held CHks, then without further ado the Pack were ushered away northward to the end of College Road, where on the opposite side of the slightly staggered crossroads with Cambridge Road a CHK was found.

Unlike No Eye Deer who went wrong at the start, My Lil' had the advantage of knowing there was no Trail where she was heading to the west, for he had walked that way with Mr X up from the bus stop. Carrying on to the north & down Maxwell road, My Lil' found the Trail right at the junction where Guildford Road starts away to the east.

The others were called back to follow on to the northward elbow in the road for a quick turn to the right & then the left to come out on to Ashely Road, where a CHK was found by the down ramp to the former Hatfield to St Albans Railway Line.

Milf checked it out across Ashley Road, to the steps down to the former Trail line but a T three quarters of the way down would soon put pay to any further progress on the east of the road. Meanwhile My Lil' with Tent Packer, Milf & then No Eye Deer had picked up Trail on the long down ramp through the wooded edge to the west, after 30 Yards, at the bottom on the Albans Way was the next CHK.

Milf had now made her way back to catch the other FRBs as they called "On!" again to the west, but this would be a Falsie on the way out toward the back of the Morrison's Store. They came back to see that Mr X had marked the Trail to head eastward, under the Ashley Road Bridge & beyond the steps that Milf made the halfway landing. The Trail now ran along under the shade from the canopy of established trees on this Cycle/Footpath route for 270 Yards until reaching the Next CHK.

No Eye Deer would find the Trail through the tree-lined, low embankment to the north, taking them out on to the bottom edge of Longacres Playing Fields, an open green space that was pretty busy, with families enjoying the warmest weekend of the year, especially as the park has two separate play areas. The Keenies headed up along the hardcore path on western side of the park for around 190 Yards until reaching the CHK opposite the local Scout hut by the Toddlers Paly Area.

Milf went wrong here by searching to the west on to the urban Oakdene Way, while Tent Packer & No Eye Deer were tempted away on a footpath that runs behind Pine Wood Close, which also had no Trail, & it was down to My Lil' & Kylie [Yes you heard right! – Ed] to stay with the obvious east bound Oakdene Way to run over to the opposite Long Acre Play Area, that now has lots of new play equipment, sadly for the Hash this is very popular & they didn't get to have a go on any of it, especially the Zip-line.

A CHK was found in the north-eastern corner of the Park, again Milf stopped to take a photo of the information sign, a sign which made Mr X think that they were expecting some of the Hash? As several paragraphs down on the advice for cyclists using the Park, it says "Remember that many people are hard of hearing or visually impaired - don't assume they can see or hear you!" But Sparky was safely out of the way with Moss Key Toe.

Milf began to search the wrong way, again, by carrying on eastward to the suburban street, but it was My Lil' who picked up the Trail as it now headed southward along the park's eastern side. Meanwhile Moss Key Toe had taken Hot 'N' Spicce, Doeswhatshesays & Sparky along the Short Cut back along the Albans Way, suddenly Mr X thought that he heard a blast from a Bugle, or hunting horn, & he wondered if it was Sparky, adding how he hadn't missed Sparky's off-key toots at all! [Steady now Pebbledash! – Ed]

As the Pack progressed back toward the former Railway Line, Milf replied to Mr X's earlier comments about Sparky's Horn, saying that she thought that he may have passed it over to someone else, before adding that she was surprised that "No one has wanted to get their hands on Sparky's Horn?" Mr X just came back with "Lucky Pebbledash is not here!"

With an unnerving thought in their minds, the Keenies made their way back down to the Alban Way, crossing straight over to find a Held CHK in the 'Hill End Garden of Rest', however Moss Key Toe & his Knitting Circle had moved on & where not Holding the Held CHK as expected.



For the rest there was a chance to read up on the Gardens origins, being the place of rest for the Patients & some of the Staff from the Asylum. Although their remains had been reinterred elsewhere, the grave markers still remain, sadly these consist of just metal plaques with a short number & with no names or dates associated with the person who was laid to rest there.

Time to move on, then once over Hill End Lane the FRBs found the Trail would now head eastward. Mr X marked a Short Cut away to the west & around on to St Edmunds Walk, through the estate that has grown up around the Former Hill End Hospital's Chapel, which is now home to the Trestle Theatre, however no one would be on this option as Moss Key Toe had encouraged Hot 'N' Spicce, Doeswhatshesays & Sparky to keep with the Trail, which was a lot more scenic than

the SC.

A little dull bit to run along the road to the east, though one of the home owners was out painting her fence, perhaps to make things a little less drab outside the line of older homes on the way out to a CHK by the start of the old Hixberry Lane. Only No Eye Deer seemed to have any thoughts of heading the short way north, to the former Level Crossing on Hill End Lane, but "On!" was called as Tent Packer, My Lil' & Milf all took to the old lane as it passes by the NHS buildings on the site of the old Hospital grounds.

Mr X was happy to see that all of the senior members of the Pack managed to get by the Lambourn Grove Elderly Assessment Unit & the retirement home oppsite, then as the FRBs made their way down toward the 'Dragon's Teeth' concrete anti-tank obstacles that restrict access to the uncapped section of the old lane, there was a sudden halt when the Knitting Circle of Sparky, Doeswhatshesays & Hot 'N' Spicce all came back toward them after falling for the Bar CHK down beyond the bollards, tank-traps & the Earthworks Depot.

My Lil' had been tempted to go & search off to the right, he now capitalized on this as Mr X marked the route off into the Orchard area of the old grounds for Hill End Hospital, with some trees still in blossom this parkland is quite relaxing, as it was probably was for the residents of the Hospital. There are sculptures, woodland walks & it's also home to a colony of Parakeets, who were spotted by No Eye Deer as they flew overhead & calling out with their distinctive chirps.

The Trail followed the arching tarmac path to the south of the new estate & the old established building of the old Hospital hidden away behind the trees & hedges, there was a chance to look at the original red-brick Hospital by popping in to the Garden of remembrance.

The Trail carried on back out to the 'Village Green' open green area within the Park, a place where Cricket was played, as well as the modern court of the Five-a-side Pitches & the YMCA Community Gym, here a CHK was found. My Lil' went wrong as he headed out of the park gate, only to find the Short Cut Trail coming back toward him, so he turned back as the rest made their way southward by a section with wooden park equipment for the kids to climb over, swing from & sit on, here Mr X was found sitting on one seat that is carved with a large Hare against a Full Moon.

With his photo taken, it was time to move on around the shaded path at the top of the Football Pitches with flour on the trees showing the way around to the southwest. On the way a lot of the Hash had the same idea as they made their way through the Park, that there are a lot more options to run around here that can be Hashed, as well as a possibly a Picnic Trail?

A quick short north-western section, then through the metal gate & out to Highfield Lane, double arrows pointed the way straight over to Monks Meadow, another park & this one has the Millennium Maze within, here would be the place for the second Held CHK & the Hash were told that they could have a sweet on their return if they reached totem pole within the Maze.

Mr X relented as some said that they would need a wee bit of sustenance to take on the complexity of the Maze, which last time the Hash were here, was a low green immature Copper Beech Hedge, but now it has thicken



out & the distinctive shaped leaves have now turned to a splendid bronze hue, its also a lot taller as No Eye Deer & Hot 'N' Spicee disappeared from out of sight, Tent Packer & Kylie were pretty much obscured as well.

Mr X was slightly bewildered that after he & Moss Key Toe set Trail into the totem the day before, that Moss Key Toe would find himself going wrong & that Mr X would have to go in & mark the way out for him. At least he didn't go as wrong as Kylie who made his way around the furthest dead-end point out, he would eventually extract himself [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] while the Hare offered some Jelly Babies to mum & her two kids who had make it in & out of the Maze without issue.

Thankfully Mr X didn't allow Sparky to venture too far into the Maze, as enough time had been taken up with the natural 3D puzzle. As the Trail resumed, to beyond where Doeswhatshesays was sitting on a bench, a quiet spot where he was well away for the fun

of the Maze, the old humbug!

With a glance at his watch, Mr X confided with his co-hare that with only 15 minutes to go, that without enough FRBs to run & search for the Trail, the Hares agreed that they would drop a loop of around an extra half a mile, all of which would mean that the Pack would be back at the Royston Club in around an hour.

The long Trail arrows for the loop were crossed out, fresh double arrows pointed the way westward & out to the Hill End Road were laid down, here Dust would head off down an old footpath into an enclosed back-passage [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]. It was along here that Moss Key Toe told Mr X that while he was waiting for his 724 back, after setting the Trail, a waiter from Nonno's Pizzeria came out & asked if he wanted a free Pizza. At first Moss Key Toe declined, but his interest had been tweaked so he crossed over the road to look at the restaurant.

The waiter then came out again, handing Moss Key Toe two Pizzas & a box of Garlic Bread [It's the future! – Ed] & Moss Key Toe felt that he should give the guy some money toward the order that someone had failed to come & collect! This would be mentioned later on back at the Club.

Once at the end of the alleyway the Trail crossed Drakes Drive, leading the Pack into Drakes Open Space, another green area between the newer estates below the Camp Area of the City. The 280 Yard serpentine brick path would weave its way westward, along this section the RA spotted a Common Blue Butterfly that fluttered by & he pointed this out. My Lil' then mimicked the scene for Only Fools & Horse where Rodney wades in to a park pond to collect a rare & very expensive butterfly, only to come out of the water & have Denzil high-five his hands when he tries to show it to Del Boy!

Turning to the northwest along the hedge line splitting the footpath & the Cycle route by just a few feet, then the Trail crossed the bisecting Windemere Avenue. It was along here when setting the Trail, that the Hares were invited by the kids of a family picnicking outside of their home, to a kick-about game of football, the kind offer was turned down as these Hares were on the last leg of the Trail & there was an Ale or Two with their names on it just around the corner.

The Senior Hare now informed Tent Packer & My Lil' that they could be back at the Royston Club before midday! My Lil' doubted this but 290 Yards later, & by the outside edge of the Camp Allotments, the Trail would now head Northwards over the green sports pitches of the Camp Play Area. After running over the grass to the northern corner, the trail would take to the access track, maybe for the allotments or for mowers to access the public space behind the fenced off Camp Primary School pitches?

Anyhow, at the end of this short track the On Inn was found, just before it drops down to Camp Road, there it crossed over & just 80 yards to the east the Trail would turn on to College Road. While Mr X & Tent Packer ran this last bit to prove someone would be in the club by Noon, My Lil' slowed up running, then tent Packer stopped as well as he reached his car & stopped to get out his change of clothes!

The Pack would all be back by ten past, which was good considering they never set off until five past, where they could join Mrs Mallet in the club. Sparky came in & he was now decorate with a few large strands of Goose

Grass, or Sticky Willy [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] those sticky plant all kids used to pick the balls off of & flick on to their classmates clothing, it was something to show Hashers never really grow up!

The Hash settled in to the function room bar, though Doeswhatshesays was uncomfortable & worried as he wasn't a CMARA Member, nor one of the Club. But he did have the choice of 'going & sitting in the car' so he stayed as after a couple of lovely Ales.

Hot 'N' Spicee & Mrs Mallet could now talk about their experiences of work & visiting Cell Barnes, Mrs Mallet recalled as a child visiting the Theatre, Mr X mentioned that this was shown on one of the information boards the Pack passed by around the Trail, he also added that Sis trained at Cell Barnes at the start of her career. Later they would meet up with a Club Member, we Scot's lass who Mr X &





Moss Key Toe met the day before, she too used to work at the Hospital. Something that would take Hot 'N' Spicce's mind off of the Arsenil result!

At least the talk of how some of the patients were better off in the local Psychiatric Hospitals than out in the 'Care in the Community' for Doeswhatshesays, it was that or for him to wince at the sight of Sparky's x-rays of his broken elbow, with a dozen or so screws & a pate keeping it all together, of which Mr X said he'd like the number of Sparky's Surgeon so he could put up some shelves in his home.

The Pack were going to have a couple of the local TGF 18 Inch Pizzas, the Club Staff recommended & that their Football Teams have delivered. Of course this led to a lowering of the tone, that Pebbledash would have enjoyed, as No Eye Der ordered 18 Inches of half Veggie, Cheeky Chicken, with another 18 Inches of half Spice Sausage & half Meat Combo were ordered. TBT OBE would have enjoyed the veggie side of things, if he'd been there. Suddenly Kyle received a cryptic txt from TBT OBE about having the wrong day & he was Hashing tomorrow?

After a couple of the excellent Ales, the Club have just won another CAMRA award for Social Club of the Year, Moss Key Toe & Mr X walked around the block to collect the Pizza, which worked out at less than a pound an inch & all agreed Pebbledash would have got some mileage out of the fact!

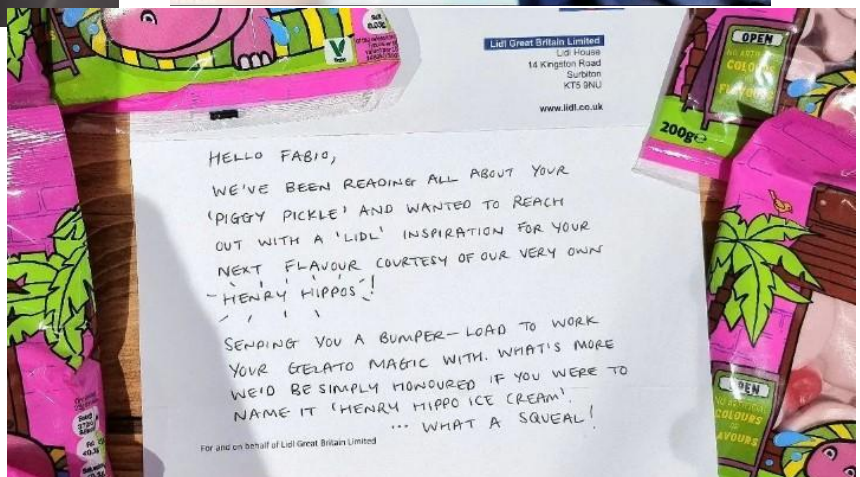
The Pizza was just right, especially as Mr X could add his own amount of home-made chilli sauce that Hot 'N' Spicce had brought along, the Club members & Staff were friendly, the Hash were welcome to come back at any time, something that we will have to take them up on, making it a great end to such a good day.

With a couple of slices each eaten, Mr X called the Circle together, as he & Moss Key Toe took their Down-Downs for being the Hares, Sparky was awarded his for being a returnee, while Miif was out after the RA had read an article about how badly fitting Bra can make a woman exert more energy than man on a long run, that would be the equivalent of running an extra mile, he added that Miif must have completed a half marathon? Miif's hit was nominated to Kyle, the new guy.

After the third Slice of Pizza, the Pack got to view pictures of Sparky's footwear, which must be his 'Sunday Best' as both pairs were Holy, yes after paying out for knee surgery, you'd have though Sparky would buy some comfy supportive shoes?



After a gruelling 2hr car chase, the paparazzi finally managed to lose Harry & Meg.



Henry Hippo Ice cream on our next Hitchin Trail?