

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

Run No. 2043
Date: 11th June 2023
Venue: The Chequers
Location: Stotfold
Beers/Cider TT Landlord
Hare/s: No Eye Deer
Runners: 11
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 11
Membership: Being careful in Scorchio conditions



Without a doubt this was the hottest day of the year, so far. So, no one was sure of what the turnout would be like, but what those who were gathered did know was that whoever the Hare Raiser is would be absent again & the Beer Master was too busy ramming Sea Scouts [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] over the weekend on the lake at the Yachting Club. With the first heat arnign of th year, no one expected any pooch owners to turn out, & nor did they.

The first thing that most did after getting out of their cars was to apply various levels of Sun-block, ranging from the factor 15 clear sun-bathing spray-on liquid to factor 50 emulsion, but whatever it was it was the safe thing to do, as was to take a bottle of water the Hare was offering for free! Yes, drinking water on the Hash was definitely a good idea from No Eye Deer, especially for the two who had a beer with breakfast earlier in the Three Magnets before being picked up.

So, Coucou, Sparky, Paxo, Mr X, Flanders, Sludge, Hot 'N' Spicee, Moss Key Toe & My Lil' Circlred up around under the shade of a scruffy, litter strewn smoking shelter, to listen to No Eye Deer's Chalk-Talk. There were mentions of plenty of Short Cuts, there was a regroup & sweets stop [If they hadn't all melted? – Ed] but of most importance was that the Trail may be cut short with one loop being dropped if the few FRBs weren't up for it? But this could be replaced by a wander around the nature reserve around the Mill.



No Eye Deer mentioned what could be seen, especially the birds & other animals, Sludge asked if they had seen any Kingfishers? Which was his way of trying to find out if the Trail would head over Kingfisher Meadows, where there is a large wooden carved Kingfisher, but nothing was given away on that one.

Without further ado, the Hash were ushered away to the sound of Sparky blowing his Horn [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] around on to Chequers Close, a small cul-de-sac, from here Moss Key Toe, My Lil' & Mr X would take up the FRBing & were straight up the back-passage of the day [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] as this short route would lead out to a CHK on the edge of the grounds of St Mary's Church.

St Mary the Virgin is dates from around 1150, when the previous wooden Saxon structures were replaced with Flint & Ashwell 'Clunch Stone' - Clunch Stone is a limestone iron infused rock used in Eastern England & Normandy, usually these are set out in squares of the paler limestone & opposing darker flint to make a Chequer Board pattern in the walls.

My Lil' went off to search to the east, while Mr X chose the western option on the footpath, both would be calling on at the same time. While My Lil' followed his Trail all the way around the outside of the Church, Mr X's option led on to the western edge of the Church Grounds & out on another ginnel, this one being beside the old School House to come out on to Church Road & a CHK point. Mr X chose the correct southwestern option, but he was the only one to go on & fall for the Bar CHK at the end of this urban road.

My Lil' & Moss Key Toe both benefitted as they followed on to see Mr X indicate, with one arm outstretched that he had found a Bar CHK, so they were soon after him as the Trail utilised another fenced in jigger [Yes, the Trail

would have so many Alleyways at the start, this Scribe may as well use as many regional colloquiums as possible! – Ed]

Anyhow, this north-western passage turned a sharp southward to lead the Keenies out by the High Street Shopping parade, it wasn't too far beyond the Indian Lodge that the next CHK was located. Mr X was tempted over the road junction to search away to the south, but he was soon called back as My Lil' & Moss Key Toe picked up the Trail further around the High Street to the west.

It was pretty plain with the start of the Trail that the FRBs would be only running in short spurts, especially when there was some shade & in points that would be in short supply. After 100 Yards the Keenies arrived at a CHK on the junction, to the south a footpath sign looked tempting for Mr X & My Lil', but before the Green Man lit up on the lights to head south, Moss Key Toe was calling "On!" in the opposite direction, up the Northwestern section of the High Street.



Moss Key Toe led the way for the 320 Yards to the Junction with the Hitchin Road & Regent Street, he crossed over to continue North-westward on the Arlesey Road, but like Mr X early, Moss Key Toe would fall foul of a Bar CHK which allowed the other two to pick up the Trail on the northeast bound Regent Street, this also benefitted Sludge who had made up ground to make up the quartet leading the way, albeit in spits & spurts.

To occupy Moss Key Toe, Sludge, Mr X & My Lil', there would be a nice loop starting on Church Road to the east, then about 200 Yards on, the Trail would take to Oliver's Lane, an old footpath starting off to the north, then bending a few degrees to the east, on the way it

was noticed that creeping over the top of one of the wooden fences to the back gardens were some cucumber plant runners & these were in flower with their little white blooms.

Moss Key Toe was the first one to complete the 300 Yards up to the end of Oliver's Lane, where he found a Bar CHK, [Crafty Hare! – Ed] his second of the day & he would have to make his way back to find Mr X was disappearing off on the small side passage that would take a couple of sharp turns to lead out on to Mowbrey Crescent, which in turn the Trail would follow around to lead out on to Regent Street once again.

With the option of a Short Cut straight up Regents Street, Paxo, Coucou, Hot 'N' Spicee, Flanders & Doeswhatshesays with Sparky meant by any of them taking this they would not be too far behind the FRBs, not only that but the four FRBs flounder at the next CHK on the crossroads junction by the 'Green Play Park'.

Mr X & My Lil' didn't find any Trail down by the Coach & Horses, Moss Key Toe didn't fare any better over on Common Road, it was down to Sludge to call "On!" under the shade of the broadleaf trees lining the western edge of the park, having heard Sludge's calls Mr X & My Lil' cut across the grassy green space, while trotting over the norther tip of the park they were questioned by a dog walker if they had lost something? Mr X explained that the calling was to indicate the Trail they were following had been found.

The Trail now headed away opposite the Crown Pub to make its way up Astwick Road, then from the next CHK, it would change direction from Nor-nor-west to northeast as it was found on Taylor's Road, leading the Hash up through the centre of the new Housing estate at the northern end of the seemingly ever expanding Stotfold.

Sludge & Moss Key Toe would go wrong at the end of the new builds & were seen coming back having run out of Dust on the road as it heads out between the fields to Watermill Green. They had missed the blobs of flour beside a sign requesting people 'Do not walking on this area' & on second go they spotted the way into the corner of the crop field & a CHK there.

By the time Mr X & My Lil' had followed the other two into the crop field, they were cheered by the sight of Sludge going wrong to the north on the edge of the field behind the hedgerow to Taylor's Road, as Moss Key Toe called the Trail away to the southeast, after a couple of hundred Yards a CHK was found. From here the options were to head north-eastward along the end of the crops toward the River Ivel, or head sou-sou-east toward the 'Taylor Wimpy Play Area'?

Moss Key Toe was spot on once again, for he found the Trail up toward the Ivel, where the direction would now lead southward beside the river's edge, Mr X followed on, as did Sludge, but Mr X made sure that Sludge knew My Lil' was on a separate path cut directly through the fallow grassy area, while they were going the extra few yards with the contour of the river. My Lil' was happy to be 'Out Sludging Sludge' on his Short Cut.

As the out path came back around toward the tree line all the routes seemed to head toward, Mr X spotted Doeswhatshesays lurking behind the hedgerow, here the regroup & sweet stop would be. A nice shady Spot under a large old Tree was a most welcome break, plus there was a large selection of different sweets to sample.

Doeswhatshesays had taken Sparky on a Short Cut, he could be seen coming up from the western end of the parkland after a cutting through from the Green Park. He also wanted to get there before the FRBs as the consensus between him & the Senior Hare was to cut out a road loop due to the heat.

Coucou, Hot 'N' Spicee, Flanders & Paxo all arrived with No Eye Deer, who was surprised how Doeswhatshesays had got there ahead of her? Simples when you know the area. It was a miracle that no one at the Sweet Stop choked, for Sparky uttered "I think these shoes have had their day!" as he looked down at his toes poking out of his Hash boots!

These meadows were important when the cattle drovers would break their journey down the Great North Road, from when it was an ancient track, Stotfold derives its name from Stot (Old English for Bullock) & Falt for a Halt, in the 1086 Domesday Book the village is recorded as Stotfalt.

With a nice respite, the Hares now gave instructions to avoid heading out to the main road, but instead to follow the contour of the Ivel further southward & then once at the next CHK they could carry straight over ignoring the T's. So, the Trail resumed southward, accompanied by a rather flat & pathetic little toot from Sparky's Horn [Whoa there Pebbledash! – Ed] now there was some shade with more trees on the nature reserve. Once over Mill Lane, to run a path that had a few nettles encroaching upon it, but as the RA said "They don't sting in weather over 28 Degrees!" [Never a truer word spoken! – Ed]

For those who had more than an inkling as to where they were, it would be a trot down through the Millennium Green on the western side of the Ivel & out on to Rook Tree Lane, the route Doeswhatshe says was taking & arriving at the back of the Pub, the two who were out on the previous day's Full Moon Hash Shed Party, with Junior & TC. there was no other choice as they were out late the night before & finally they were being sensible.

For those not so desperate for an Ale, the Trail would continue over on the eastern side of the river to take in the scenic grounds of the Stotfold Watermill & Nature Reserve. In the grounds of the Stotfold Mill Meadows, Paxo, Flanders, Coucou, Hot 'N' Spicee & No Eye Deer stopped in one of the hides, giving great views out over the expanse of reed beds, ideal for taking pictures of the ducklings & the growing cygnets that a residents at this time of year in the crystal clear waters of the Ivel, view some of the many insects that are attracted by the meadow flowers, or you could take a picture of the vintage Triumph motorcycle.

The Grade II listed Mill dates back to the 1500's with Peter thorp & Richard Page named as the 1st Millers, in 1516 a Richard Lorymer was the Miller, that last Millers were the Randell Family there from 1873 until its closure in 1966 when milling animal feed just wasn't viable.

AN ITALIAN IS FORCED TO WATCH THE FIRST TIME PINEAPPLE IS ADDED TO A PIZZA

BROOKLYN, NEW YORK 1924



Garden.

Flanders, Sludge, Mr X, My Lil', Hot 'N' Spicee & Moss Key Toe all sat on one bench, then once they had just settled they were told it was Reserved, which was a bugger but then if they stayed outside it would be at an expense being amongst all of the footballing kids were coming for Pizza dinner.

A trudge back inside & then the Hash found out that they had a table reserved inside, however, with all of the Kids being driven to the Pub in Chelsea Tractors & dropped off, the car park was like a school run, the food orders were going to be around over an hour, unless you wanted a roast.

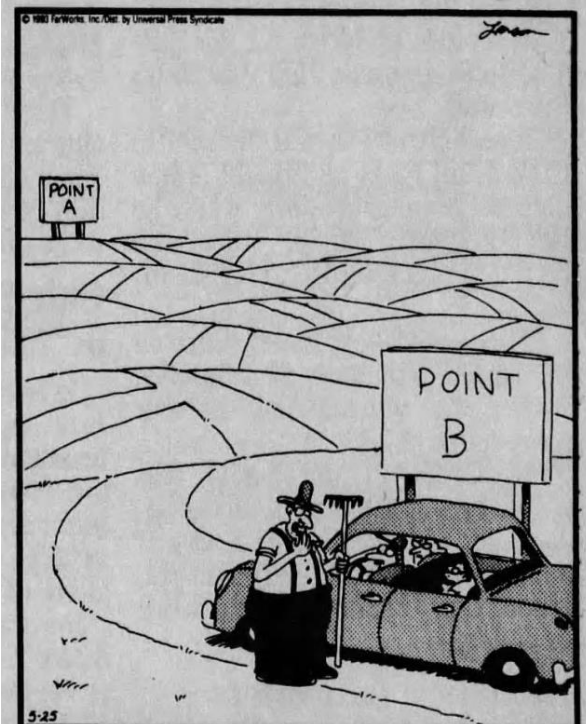
Three did go for the roasts, but for most it was too much on this hot day. So, the Down-Downs were put on hold & as the Pack moved on.



The Mill was only opened to the Public in the 2006, a charity was set up after the 'Great Fire of 1992, fortunately the over-shot water wheel & the Iron hursting frame survived, the latter was powered by a Steam Engine & later a Diesel Generator when there was insufficient water to power the wheel. A Trust was set up to undertake the repairs by local volunteers (Some 165 at present). It is worth a day out, especially when they one of their events there

Meanwhile the rest back in the Pub by the hour, just the right length & time for the weather conditions, the choice of Ales was just the TT Landlord, but it was fairly cool in the old Bar, the after Moss Key Toe was bothered by a real Mosquito, which brought deriding calls from My Lil' as she was swiped just in mid-bite by her namesake, it was decided to go & sit under the large tree in the Pub

The Far Side by Gary Larson



"Well, lemme think. ... You've stumped me, son. Most folks only wanna know how to go the other way."