

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

Run No. 2048
Date: 16th July 2023
Venue: The Admiral Byng
Location: Potters Bar
Beers/Cider Greede King IPA, Abbot; Wild Card IPA, Pale Ale
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 8
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 2
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 10
Membership: The curse of Sparky's shoe strikes again!



The prospect of overnight rain & Saturday's blustery winds, combined with the fact the Hare spent most of the day attending the Potter's Bar Beer-festival the day before, Mr X elected to set off early Sunday Morning & lay the Trail, but it ended up as a case of "The best laid plans of mice & men!"

As the Hare came staggering up to the Admiral Byng around five to the hour, he was spotted clutching a bottle of fizzy water, [Yes, you heard it here first the Hare was drinking water!] But it was very noticeable on his approach, he had a strange gait, he was walking in an offset manner

It was a disappointing turn out this morning, with some away at Norfolk Hashes low-key 2,000 weekend, while others just sat at home studying the Hare line & spotting some glaring mistakes. However, this week saw two Newbies in the Guise of Kevin & Mimi, who had come along with Moss Key Toe & Hot 'N' Spicee, to boost the numbers. It would later transpire that the latter pair were celebrating their 40 Wedding Anniversary. Hot 'N' Spicee added that it was dedication on her & Moss Key Toe's part to come out Hashing on their Special Anniversary Day.

Waragi & Supertrooper arrived, then the Hare set about explaining the Hash markings to Mimi & Kevin, the Hare added that there would be Short Cuts & that the Knitting Circle should stick with him as he was now resigned to walking himself, since he was now sporting a Sparkyesque shoe with the soul of his right Hash boot clearly detached from the upper, this happened as he was three quarters of the way around setting the Trail.

Then without further ado the Hash were directed over the road via a traffic island toward the Dreams Bed Specialist Centre. Of some relief to the Hash was the sign that the Revive Gym, that used to overlook the Admiral Byng, has now gone & is being replaced by apartments, so know need to put in an extra athletic effort to impress.

The Trail would head away up Darkes Lane, on the eastern side of the road which would keep the pack away from the civilians going to & fro from the Potters Bar Farmer's Market, which would later be paid a visit by Hot 'N' Spicee, Mimi & Kevin. My Lil' & Zingalong led the way up to the north east for the 330 Yards to reach the first CHK point of the day, this being located by the alleyway running beside the Potter's Bar United Reform Church.

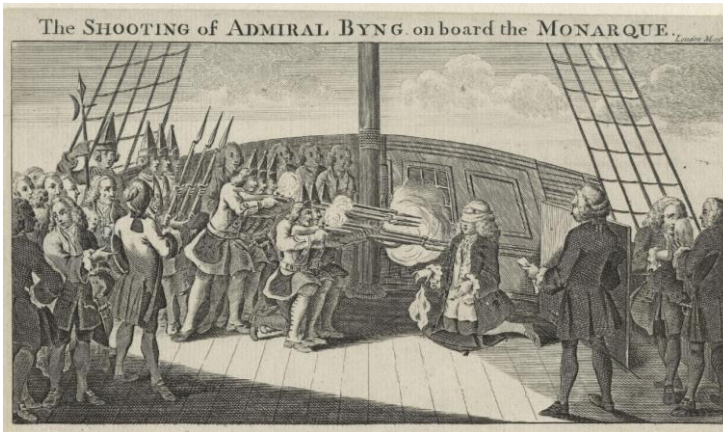
Mr X was surprised that Zingalong & My Lil' would carry on searching up Darkes Lane, while Moss Key Toe disappeared off down the Church-side alleyway to the southeast, no calling of "On!" was heard as the Hare marked the CHK, where the Knitting Circle were taken up the back-passage of overhanging fig trees, for a few yards before it takes a 60° turn to the south by the Kindergarten & out by a small green on Mount Grace Road, there the Trail turned to due east.

About 80 Yards along by the hedge at the southern end of the Mount Grace School Playing fields, a CHK was found. Moss Key Toe was still out of sight as Waragi searched along the urban street to the east, but she would be called back when My Lil' crossed over to look at another ginnel, he would soon be calling "On!" & the rest followed on.

Waragi's return was met by a "I knew it was that way!" from Supertrooper, as they too joined the Knitting Circle in taking the 130 Yards, turning a few degrees with the kink in the wooden fenced-in snicket to emerge out on to the roundabout on Billy Lows Lane. By the time the Knitting Circle had arrived, they finally could see Moss Key Toe for the first time in a while, as he, Zingalong & My Lil' rapidly picked up the Trail heading southward up Park Drive, until it reaches Byng Drive.

Like the Pub, Byng Drive is named after the late Admiral Byng, who through no real fault of his own, was in Command of a hastily gathered flotilla to try & relive the besieged Garrison on Minorca. Many of the ships were in a poor state & the French secured victory in the ensuing battle. John Byng then headed to Gibraltar to repair the Ships, on his return to Britain he was Court-Marshalled for 'Failing to do his utmost!' & was executed by firing squad on the deck of HMS Monarch in Portsmouth Harbour after being found guilty.

John Byng's family owned Wrotham Park, a Mansion that is within the area now covered by Potters Bar, it is still in the Family, hence the connection. As to his execution, there were many who blamed the Royal Navy for the poor state of the ships he had to command, hwoever even with Admiral John Forbes refusing to sign the Death



Warrant, attaching a letter to it to explain why, the sentence was still carried out. Some 22 Year later & Byng would be the last of his Rank to be executed & the 'Articles of War' were amended to allow "such other punishment as the nature & degree of the offence shall be found to deserve" as an alternative to capital punishment. His family have repeatedly asked for him to receive a Posthumous Pardon, as late as 2007, but the MOD have consistently refused.

For My Lil' this route was looking distinctively familiar, as the Trail turned eastward to advance the 220 Yards up to the roundabout, where the next CHK was found, after the Falsie up toward the dead-end Parkfield open space was found, My Lil' would take to searching the southbound Highfield Way, a route he

took up to the Potters Bar Beer Festival the day before.

So, for Zingalong, Moss Key Toe & My Lil', they would embark on a 302 Yard rising, southbound trot, passing over the roundabout on Ladbrooke Drive & up to its termination at a T junction with the Walk. Sure enough the Trail would turn eastward to rise to the top of the urban plateau, where they would head eastward & up to a CHK by the Tennis Club, opposite the Potters Bar Cricket Clubs, running below both of these is a footpath that is split by the Walk road, this road is named from once being the single footpath down from the village to the new Railway Station which was out on its own in farm land with no housing around it. The Trail didn't go as far as the Football Club, home to the 'Scholars', instead the Arrows were found on the tarmac footpath running beside the tennis courts & out to the southern end of Parkfield Open Space.

Having dropped down a few feet, the Trail would leave the tarmac path & cut through the wild grass on a track worn by the locals walking over to the tree-line to the east of the Park, it was here that the FRBs would see the Knitting circle of Kevin, Mimi, Hot 'N'Spicee, as well as Supertrooper & Waragi with the Hare as they came up the opposite diagonal path from a short cut beginning at the end of Byng Drive.

The Knitting Circle were first to find the Trail leading the around a section of the Queen Elizabeth Millennium Walk, this was a little loop around the Japanese Gardens to see the stones & flora that sit to the south of the duck pond. It may have been a short loop, but it was enough to keep the Knitting Circle & the FRBs from the loop together. Then the Trail headed eastward out toward the High Street, passing the Duck Pond, complete with mallards & a few fluffy ducklings, also a young moorhen who all thought that the Hare's bag of flour may have been food!

The Pack now regrouped at the Held CHK on the duck-boards surrounding the giant Lebanese Cedar Tree, here was the sweet stop, it seemed pretty early but no one was complaining! Having regrouped, the Pack were now ready to restart the Trail & the majority went out to search the High Streets & even over toward Oakmere park on the opposite side of the main road, none of which would be successful.

Zingalong was on the right track when he said "We haven't had a CHK Back for a long time on the Hash, so he started searching the old path that cuts back into the edge of eastern wooded edge of Parkfield Open Space, sure enough he picked up Trail as he reached the wire fencing barriers & cones where there was earthworks for the new cabling to the Central Potters Bar Substation. The Trail would take to the concrete access road & the Pack could hear the distinctive loud power-hum of the substation as they passed by to come back out on to another section of the open space.

When the Hare was setting this section, there were a couple setting up a 'Dog Agility' course of the Potters Bar Dog Training group, which has successfully been Training pooches since 1947, so he warned them about the flour, but the event would be finished by the time the Pack would come through to this enclosed field. However the dog trainers were still finishing up, the other pooches had all moved on. [Shame Fliptop & Teddy weren't there, they could put the Hash to shame with the agility course! – Ed]

Des Res caught up as the FBS made their way to a CHK which was found by the gated entrance on to Richmond Court, but two T's would stop any further progress to the Hatfield Road, if they had gone beyond this then they would have seen the chunky glass cubes of the remnants of a Potter's bar Beerfest Glass that someone failed to get home.

As they made their way back, the Keenies found the Hare was now marking a fresh CHK, for the original one was too close to the running water leaking out of a hose pipe, which was being used to create a Vulcan Bomber slide on the grass for the picnicking kids to use.

COLIN THE CATERPILLAR FACING THE SACK AFTER NUDE PHOTOS APPEAR ONLINE



The Pack would now pass by the picnic table, thankfully Sparky wasn't present to dip in there, as the Trail continued heading north-westward through the tree-line separating this smaller open space, once beyond the trees the Trail would turn northward & on to Billy Lows Lane again, where it would head 200 Yards to the end of the lane. On its way up to where it joins the Hatfield Road, Zingalong decided that he would circle each of the Trees lining the roadside verge before turning with the Trail around by the BT Building to head northward, for a just a few yards until reaching a CHK on the end of Quakers Lane.

My Lil' & Moss Key Two were quickly on to the Trail as it ran the length of the dead straight suburban Quaker's Lane, no turning off on to any of the adjoining side streets, just a straight run for 560 yards as it dips down then rises back up to its end on Church Road. On his way Mr X was serenaded by Waragi & Supertrooper with a few Disney Songs, namely "In the Military Style" from the Jungle Book.

Mr X looked at his watch & realising the time, he shouted out "Hold the Next CHK!" Supertrooper joined in with calling out to Des Res, Zingalong, Moss Key Toe & lastly My Lil', but all was in vain as the shouts fell on deaf ears. These two would continue calling as the Trail turned westward on Church Road & then over to take to Mountway. Though still just within sight, those ahead were oblivious to the Hare's request & at the end of Mountway they found the CHK under a large Oak Tree on the elbow of the road of desirable detached homes.

Mr X now offered up a Short Cut, which he too was going to take as his foot was aching with not being able to walk properly with the flapping sole. So, he marked an SC down Manor Way, explaining to Waragi, Super Trooper, Kevin, Mimi & Hot 'N' Spice that they should go through the T's just before roundabout, then carry on down to turn left on the Avenue, which would come out onto Darkes Lane, named after the farm that pre-dates Potters Bar as a town.

The town grew up around the Potters Barr, a gate on the road leading from the Wyllyotts Manor into Enfield Chase, for this area was once a part of Middlesex until the boundary changes.

Then with a right turn the Knitting Circle would pass the Farmer's Market & Back Inn. Meanwhile for the Keenies, Mr X attempted to catch them, but they had gone through the CHK on the footpath that runs behind the homes at the north eastern end of Potter's Bar & tree-line along the open farm fields rolling away to the north, notably the fields that Zingalong fruitlessly searched, had cattle within it its far end, this was the same spot that the 'Atom Heart Mother' album cover of a cow was pictured for Pink Floyd.

However, the FRBs had been through & were now well ahead on the footpath behind the fenced off rear gardens, crossing over the strips of wood laid out in a normally wet patch to emerge out on to the old Potter's bar Golf Course, since its closure it is now like a nature reserve of a large area of wild grasses, which is utilized by the local dog-walkers. The Hare couldn't catch up & not within earshot, so he turned back to the easier tarmac route, not tempting fate with his loose sole on the long grass, plus now the gusty wind had dropped the humidity had risen.

Des Res & Zingalong, with Moss Key Toe & My Lil' would find a CHK down by the old Ponds & the solitary WWII Pill Box, a Falsie was located up the grassy hill as the footpath runs up & over to descend to the underpass beneath the Main line from Kings Cross to Edinburgh.

So, the FRBs would now embark on a long old loop, taking a clockwise trot around the southern end of the old course, though Moss Key Toe, Des Res & Zingalong they would take the water crossing down in to the Potters Bar Brook where the footbridge has now been removed to leave just two old girders.

The mile long loop would take the Keenies around through the undulating course, for Moss Key Toe it was a sad sight of the fairways he once Caddied on as a kid, no bunkers, greens could be seen, just a few of the tees are recognisable with steps up to the rectangular raised areas. Eventually the Keenies would make it around to the underpass & out to a CHK on the tarmac footpath by Cranbourne Road Industrial Estate.

The CHK didn't hold any issues for My Lil', for he was straight up the rising tarmac footpath that runs beside the railway line, starting below it & eventually reaching the same level as it runs behind homes at the east edge of the Cranbourne Estate. The On Inn was found just before the entrance to Potters Bar Railway station, where the Keenies would pass through & out to Darkes Lane bus station & back up to the Pub.

When the Hare arrived back at the Pub, only Waragi & Supertrooper were sat there & Mr X would later hear of a Kitchen Sink of Ice Cream, which is a large stainless steel bowl of ice cream & goodies! Meanwhile Hot 'N'; Spicce, Mimi & Kevin were on a slight detour as they perused the stalls at the Farmers Market, where Hot 'N' Spicce was purchasing some Chilli sauce! [Not surprise there then! – Ed]

Mr X had almost finished his pint by the time My Lil' got back, at least he didn't have to queue up at the Bar for his drink, as Mr X had already got one in for him. However, the Pint wasn't enough to appease My Lil's moaning about the length of the Full Trail, without the short cuts & Falsies it was approximately five miles.

The Circle was called inside, with the Hare being rewarded with a nice Pint, then Mr X continued with the Down-Downs, awarding the Newies their hits for completing their first Herts Hash, then there was a 40th connection, with Waragi

completing 40 Herts Hashes to be joined by Hot 'N' Spicce & Moss Key Toe for their 40th Wedding Anniversary. Zingalong also received a Down-Down which he talked himself into.

