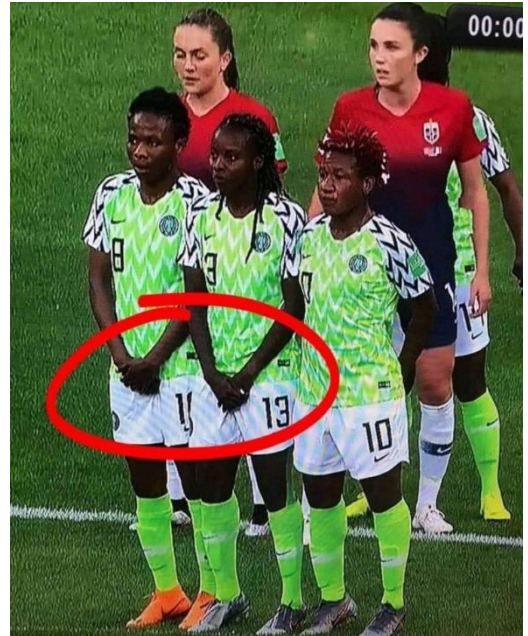


Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website:
hertsHash.co.uk



Run No. 2054
Date: 20th August 2023
Venue: Chez Mrs Mallett et Tent Packer
Location: Harpenden
Beers/Cider Bank's Amber (Skippy Piss for Down-Downs)
Hare/s: Tent Packer
Runners: 16
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 16
Membership: A Sparkyless Pack Wishing Sludge a Bangers Hippo Bidet!



Now, this Trail was due to start at the usual 11:00Hrs Hash time, but since the Lionesses of England's Women's Football had reached the final of the FIFA Women's World Cup, there was a group census on Herts Social Media that the Trail should start at 10:00Hrs in order for those that wished to, could catch watch the soccer on TV when they got back for the 11:00Hrs Kick Off. However, there was one problem with this, it all confused Sparky!

Before setting off on his early morning Eurostar to EuroHash in Holland, near the German Border, Mr X thought that he ought to call Sparky to warn him of the earlier than normal Start. The conversation went like this: "Sparky, its Mr X here, sorry for the early phone call but I am St Pancras International about to catch the EuroStar through to Brussels!"

"The annual Sausage Sizzle Run has been moved forward to Ten o'clock, due to the women's football kicking off time being 11 o'clock!" Says Mr X. Sparky replies with "What's a Sausage Sizzle?" The Barbeque was explained to Sparky & he said he tom Mr X that he knew where Tent Packer' place was. Mr X thought that it was the end of it! Oh! No it wasn't! For while in Holland Mr X received a phone call from Sparky, a voicemail message was left, but Mr X wasn't going to call him back until he was back in Blighty!

The voice mail message from Sparky asked if Mr X could give him the house number to Tent Packers humble mansion, which for obvious reason to prevent burglars knowing when your property is empty we do not publish on-line. By the time Mr X had picked his voicemail up on the Sunday, it was far too late to reply. In the end, after all of his giving the relevant information to him, Sparky never showed up.

At least the rest of the Pack managed to decipher the emails & Farcebook posts about start times, as a fairly decent crowd gather earlier than they are used to, perhaps this was due to this Trail also being Sludge's 97th Birthday? [That's what the numbers upon the cake! – Ed] Anyhow, the weather was fine & the Hash were called to order.

With the welcoming speech out of the way, it was down to the Hare who was promising a short half an hour walk, with the rest on a three-quarters of an hour scenic trot out & the Chalk-Talk was dealt with, the Pack were ushered out to Townsend Lane, where the Trail would lead up the residential hill to the southwest & up to the first CHK with the crossroads with Salisbury Avenue, from here the Trail was picked up straight over & heading further west by southwest.

It appeared as if the trail was going to take to a well Hashed route, up & around to Townsend Nurseries, but a Falsie beyond the junction with Alders End Lane put pay to that idea, as the Knitting Circle of Paxo, Whatevershesays, Milf, Lemming, Flanders, Hot 'N' Spicee & FWB were setting off down Alders End Lane to the northeast.

A dip in this road & the Trail turned as the road becomes Moreton End Lane, a CHK here saw Moss Key Toe, TBT OBE, Mother, No Eye Deer & My Lil' follow the Trail as it nipped through to the former Harpenden to Hemel Hempstead Railway Line, where a CHK awaited them. Three Options, right or left on the line, or straight over?

Kylie was now in ecstasy as the Trail headed westward, to the left, & this would lead on over what was a level crossing & then by the remaining single platform from when this was the Roundwood Halt on the former railway line, his excitement was compounded by the sight of the white, tall, erect & intact signal post standing proud. [Whoa there Pebbledash! – Ed]

Up a further 450 yards to run beyond the pig sties hidden behind the tree-line on the left, there was a CHK in the usual spot by the footpath that crosses the former railway line, coming over from the Townsend School & southbound on to the Rothhampstead Estate's working farm land. Sadly for Kylie the old interactive 'Playskool' like information-board that used to have a wind up talking unit, which had former residents & workers talk about the old Railway. It has been replaced by new but very plain & non-interactive information board.

Apart from loss of the interactive info, for Kylie the Trail was a good one, staying on the Nicky Way as it heads along the arcing bend of the old railway's route, before the line was finally axed from the main line in 1979's after it finished transporting Hermalite Bricks with a Drewery Locomotive. The Track was lifted in 1982.

A CHK was found by another footpath that crosses the line, this one being from the edge of the Redbourn Golf Club & on to the Rothampstead working fields.

The Trail continued around to reach the shade of Knott Wood, from a CHK by the corner of the woodland, the Dust was picked up heading south-easterly along the edge of the plantation, then a short easterly bit before returning to a south-easterly track that leads on by the world's longest experiment. There were lots of new signage to explain all about these.

Between 1843 and 1856, Sir John Lawes and Sir Henry Gilbert established several long-term field experiments at Rothampstead Research Centre. Some failed or were discontinued because of poor soil structure and/or crop diseases. When Lawes died in 1900, the remaining experiments continued more or less as originally planned and are now known as the 'Classical Experiments'

They are the oldest, continuous agronomic experiments in the world, No other long-term experiments have such an archive of material. Successive generations of scientists at Rothampstead have continued to add to the collection & the resulting Sample Archive now comprises about 300,000 samples. This unique resource is of immense scientific value.

Moss Key Toe, Mother, My Lil' & No Eye Deer & TBT OBE were among the Keenies who led the Pack on down to Jacobean Rothampstead Manor, where an old information board told of the manor's History & that this being one time home to John Bennet Lawes who started the soil experiment in 1843.

Having gone by the ornate red-brick frontage of the ornate Manor House, the Trail would head from the CHK there & by the enclosed grass fields to take to the north-eastern tree-line avenue of a drive, which offered shade for part of the way. It was a long 620 Yards up to the next CHK, & even many of the Knitting Circle elected to take the longer route around, as it was such a fine day & a scenic route.

Here a path heads off above the research centre, but the Dust would carry on to reach the open space within the park, home to the Cricket Club, Harpenden Football Club & a Skate park to the north. The Hash would find another CHK before the start of old tree-lined by-way that runs behind the Tennis Courts & out to Leyton Road, this would be a falsie.

The Trail was picked up down the main drive, it was a nice gentle slope of the 400 Yards of drive, reaching a CHK well before the main Rothampstead Gates, the Pack would be turn northward to head up by the recently constructed Eric Morecambe Centre, built in honour of one of Harpenden more famous residents, then by the Lawn Tennis Club & courts to reach the dead-end of Hay Lane.

Out of Hay Lane & then there was a kink in the Trail as there was a quick left & right to the start of Avenue St Nicholas, no doubt set by the Hare in honour of Sludge being the Birthday Boy? Not content with one kinky section, the Hare set another for the FRBs to follow, this time it was a right & then a left to take to the footpath running up beside our Lady of Lourdes Church to reach Kirkwick Avenue, & the final CHK of the Trail.

The final leg was to come out on to Salisbury Avenue, where the Knitting Circle were making their way along, the Trail would follow this tree-line suburban road to come back on to Townsend Lane & On Inn. The Pack could settle in, well not so for TBT OBE as the 'Skirl of the Pipes could soon be heard as Tent Packer was to Pipe out Sludge's Birthday as if it were a confectionary Haggis!

TBT OBE was not happy to see the '97' on the Cake as it brought back memories of his own 80th a couple of years ago! Sludge was taken aback at the sight of it, & just like the addressing of the Haggis, he took a large knife to the Cake! Paxo stood in for the absent Mr X, as RA. The Down-Downs went to the Hare, the Birthday Boy, My Lil' & TBT OBE would join him for number of [Cough! – Ed] Park Runs they have completed! [The Latter for also having a Birthday Cake with the wrong Numbers? – Ed]

There was plenty of sausages to sizzle on the barbeque, bacon fries for TBT OBE to munch on & even time for a game of Boule for those not watching the 1-0 loss in the soccer.



Just an idea for TBT OBE's next, 81st, Birthday Cake?

