

Herts  
Hash  
House  
Harriers  
**Herts official Website: [hertsHash.co.uk](http://hertsHash.co.uk)**

Run No. 2056  
Date: 4th September 2023  
Venue: The Six Templars  
Location: Hertford  
Beers/Cider Windsor & Eton Guardsman; Greede King Abbot, IPA  
Hare/s: Ketchup  
Runners: 11  
Virgins: 0  
Visitors: 0  
Newies: 0  
Après: 0  
Hash Hounds: 0  
Total: 11  
Membership: End of season pig-out



And so another 'end of season pig-out' came around to end the Monday Running as the nights draw in. A couple of early arrivals took advantage of sipping a beer before the Hare arrived & the Trail got underway. With No Eye Deer's arrival, the two early birds could now stow their kitbags, on the walk around to the St Andrews Street car park they would spot Trail & now assumed the Trail started from there.

This week also saw the return of the RA, who had managed to survive back to back weekends of Euro Hash & then UK Nash Hash, the latter resulted in many coming down with the new strain of Covid, with FWB, Where's Wally?, Mark E Mark & Lobby Lobster among those who were effected, turning out tonight would also bring his Herts Hash Tally up to 1498!

Ketchup came around to the Six Asbos, just in case anyone was confused as to where the Trail would actually begin, with Mr X having been away for a couple of weeks he hadn't had the time to update the Website with full details of the Trail's starting point, & as we all know, some of the Herts Pack almost have to be led by the hand to the start of Trails.

Anyhow, the welcoming speech was soon out of the way & the Hare could explain as to what the pack could expect out there in & around our County Town. Normal Markings, Short cuts & a mystery co-Hare were mentioned before the back were sent back down the Wash toward St Andrews Street, passing the hoardings behind which the new Hertford Theatre is being reconstructed & also prevent the short cut access through from the St Andrews Street car park via the weirs on the river Lea.

Mr X stopped to mimic the pose of the Rev Samuel Stone, as he points upward to the skies over the Woolpack Pub across the road. Born in Hertford in 1602, the Puritan Rev Stone was one of the Founders of Hartford Connecticut in the USA.

The first CHK was found on the south side of the Traffic lights at the St Andrews Street & Old Cross junction, with the pedestrian crossing button pressed, the Pack had to wait for the green man to appear, then it was northward on to Old Cross & up to Cow Bridge where the Trail seemed to disappear until the eagle-eyed amongst the FRBs spotted the Dust over on Hartham Lane.

The Trail led the Pack by the old red-brick Victorian McMullens' Brewery, taking the right fork in the lane to head north-eastward up by the new Mac's 'Riverside' Brewery & out by the front of the local Sainsburys, where the figure of Lobby Lobster was waiting for the Pack to arrive. The identity of the Mystery co-Hare was now answered.

TBT OBE was keen to run on by Lobby, continuing through the supermarket car park via the two sets of zebra crossings & out to a CHK in the Hartham Common Car Park. Here the Trail was a little elusive, with Mr X & My Lil' searched westward through the car park toward Port Hill, nothing could be seen, then eventually a call of "On!" came from the east as the Trail was picked up on the footpath above the Skate Park & Play Area on the southern end of Hartham Common.

Arrows would lead up toward the smart renovations & new extensions to the Hartham Leisure Centre, on the elbow of the tarmac path was a CHK, from here the Trail would be picked up as the tarmac route heads away over the extensive playing fields toward the Tennis courts up by the River Beane.

Having crossed over the water, by way of the wooden footbridge, the Hash would find a CHK on the wide tarmac access road that runs below the wooded hillside of the Warren. There were only two option from here, head left & down toward Port Hill, or take a right & head up the long steady climb toward St Leonard's Church, the Holier route would win out.

About 100 yards along the rising path & a CHK was found, the options of heading back down on to the common proved fruitless & "On!" was called further up the tarmac lane of old St Leonard's Road. It would be a 450



Yards up the hillside to reach a CHK up before St Leonard's Church, the southbound zig-zag path running from by the picturesque Thatched Cottages would be False, but there was a nice panorama out over the Lea Valley!

The Trail was picked up through the grounds of St Leonard's Churchyard, taking the Hash by what is possibly the oldest building in Hertford. The Grade 1 listed Church's origins were of a Saxon build, which was built upon over the years firstly by the Normans & later the Georgians, it features a Mass Dial, a carved 'Knave Guard' as well as 13th Century Wall Painting of the Crucifixion & its distinctive Bell Cote upon the roof.

St Leonards served as the parish church of Bengoe until the larger Holy Trinity Church was opened in 1855, after which it was stripped of its fittings before being unused for some years. The Gosselin family of Bengoe Hall commissioned John Thomas Micklethwaite to refit the church between 1884 -1894 to be used as their own private Chapel.

The Trail would come out on to the St Leonard's Road as it heads north-westward by the old red-brick wall, behind which Bengoe Hall & its ornate gardens sit. When Mr X reached the T-junction with Ware Park Road, he was greet by the sight of TBT OBE over by a back-passage off of the swan-neck bend, he was pushing against a telegraph pole to try & stretch his calf that he had just pulled. Like No Eye Deer, Mr X's thinking was, unless its cramp, why would you do stretches after the event, surely this can only make things worse? [Best TBT OBE checks it out in his Home Doctor Book! – Ed]

Anyhow, Mike & Mr X began searching away to the southwest on New Road as it leads above the Bengoe Cricket Pitch but they would be called back as Trail was found back in the opposite direction on the Ware Park Road. The Trail would not be on this road for long, having passed by the start of Watermill Lane & after a matter of yards the Trail turned off on to Rib Vale & would follow the urban street up to the swan-neck end to come down to Watermill Lane.

The FRBs would see Lobby Lobster & the SCBs of Paxo & Co walking up toward them as the Trail came to a halt at a Held CHK beside the small park area, it was on the way to this Held CHK that Zingalong caught up with the rest of the FRBs.

By now Mr X had noticed that on his way around he kept hearing a computerised female voice, which was giving out the distance & direction travelled, as well as how many steps had been completed, all of which seemed to be emanating from Mike's pocket!

Ketchup handed around the sweets, then had a warning as he produced a packet of Chilli-liquorice sweets! However, Ketchup's warnings turned out to be in vein as no one could taste the chilli & the packet eluded to the fact that they were only very low 500 on the Scoville Scale, which is used to measure the 'heat' of chillies. The most ardent of heat lovers were left disappointed.

Again Mr X could hear the soft dulcet feminine tones declaring how far she had travel, the average speed & time taken, this was a puzzle & deductive powers would be needed to detect who was using Technology on the Hash?

When the Trail resumed, Mr X, My Lil' & Paxo were all keen on heading up the uncapped end of Watermill Lane, as it leads out into the open fields to the north, but there progress was soon curtailed as T was found out in the corner of the wheat field.

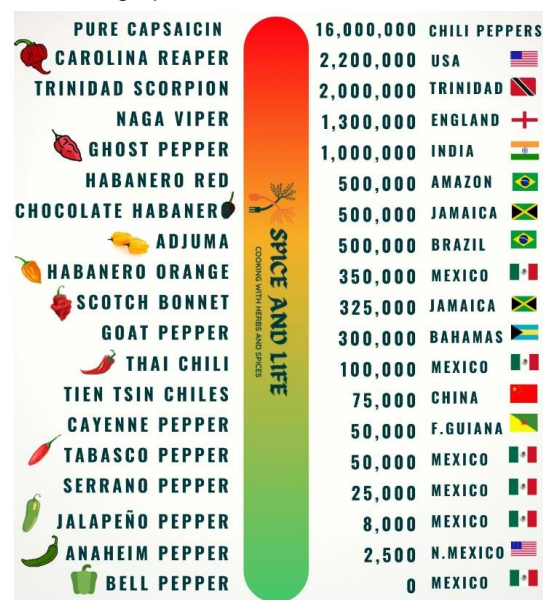
There was no need to worry about having to regain lost ground on the SCBs or the other FRBs who chose the different option, for back at the park there were some like No Eye Deer, Milf, Tent Packer & Zingalong, who had stopped to have a swing on the large rope swing there which TBT OBE gave an enthusiastic push to get them swinging! [These things happen when the Pack are left unsupervised by the RA! – ED]

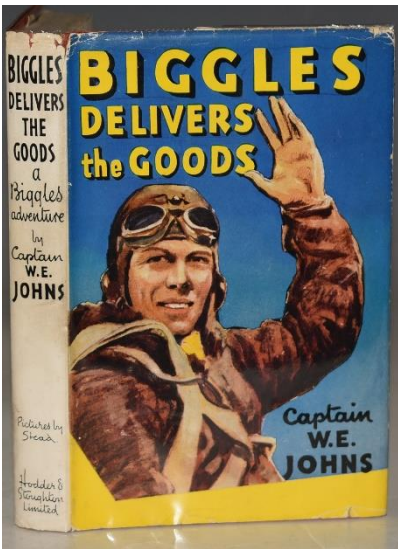
Once they had enough Frivolity, the Trail search resumed up the grassy bank & on toward the local Chinese in a small shopping precinct on Crouch Field, however the Trail would be found down a short back passage, where to would turn off to almost due west on Grove Walk, which would lead out on to Bengoe Street.

Mr X, with Mike in tow, was keen on heading southward through Bengoe on the eastern side of the street, down toward Port Hill, but there was no dust down that way! Instead, the Trail was found by Zingalong & TBT OBE on one of the many back-passages to the west, this one heading through to Duncombe Close & on to a CHK where this short dead-end reaches the bend in The Drive & Duncombe Road. It was the very ginnel Mr X had pointed out to Mike a few minutes earlier!

Zingalong would not get too far ahead, for he went wrong & had to come back as Mr X headed down Duncombe Road, a route that would keep the Pack away from the White Lion & the Bengoe Club over to the east on the parallel Bengoe Street. It was a long 330 Yard stretch along this nice Victorian back street, to reach a CHK on Church Road to the west.

Mr X wasn't tempted with the westward option, instead he fancied an alternative some 50 Yards down to the left, but after searching right to the end of Cross Road, he would end up disappointed as no Trail was found, even





around to the south near the end of Bengoe Street. Having retraced his steps, Mr X now met up with Zingalong after he had gone wrong again back at Church Road & was now back on Track.

Zingalong doubted that the RA had managed to reach this point by searching for the Trail, he wrongly & unfairly suspected that Mr X had been 'Sludging it' when he had actually been relying on local knowledge. Mr X knew that there was one more back-passage to explore [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] that was just 60 Yards further along this road. Mike, Zingalong & Mr X set off & sure enough Trail was picked up & it would take to the jigger to the east, this would lead out to the very top of the steep Port Hill, from here it was a downhill trot.

The Trail seemed to peter out as it moved over to the original side road to the west of the busy main Port Hill road, again there was some disbelief that Mr X knew where he was going as the Trail led over what was the disused section of Railway line that linked Hertford East to Hertford North, & axed well before the Hertford North section went on to Stevenage.

Down to the bend to come around on to Cowbridge the FRBs now ambled, where the On Inn was found not far from Biggles House. These flats were the place First World War Pilot & Author Captain W E Johns wrote at least one of the

Biggles Stories, & one time residence for today's Hare!

The Trail simply made its way back around Old Cross, to St Andrews Street car park. Light was fading quickly, for No Eye Deer & Mr X there was some luck as they fetched bags from her car, as the guy locking up the Hertford Castle Ground allowed the two to walk through to the 'spoons, cutting off a corner. The RA decided to get the Down-Downs out of the way pretty quickly, but being 'spoons, the food was already coming out as he finally had the Beers sorted!

So, while some sat & munched away, the two Hares of Ketchup & Lobby Lobster were rewarded for setting an excellent Trail that got the Pak back before the sunset; TBT OBE was out for post injury aggravating stretching; Mike was out for the use of technology on the Trail. All in all a good end to the 'Summer Season'!



I'm not sure they looked hard enough.

