

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

Run No. 2074

Date: 23rd December
Venue: The Crooked Billet
Location: Ware
Beers/Cider: Butcombe Chris Moose;
Hare/s: Pepé le Pew
Runners: 18
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 3
Total: 21
Membership: Crumpled Crumble Jumpers



A bright, if not somewhat breezy morning awaited the Pack this Saturday morning, & that was before the Christmas Sprouts! A Saturday morning Hash was chosen for a change as the regular Sunday would be Christmas Eve, there were thoughts that the turnout maybe low on the 24th?

Would the advancement one day affect the turn out? Well, it seems not, as after a game of musical parking in the tight streets at the top end of Ware, the Pack began to assemble outside of the Crooked Billet, which sits right near to the prominent White Water Tower. Soon the RA was counting a Pack of 17, not bad at all & each Hashers was donned in a Festive Hat, some of which supplied by Milf from her Christmas Pudding decorated bag.

The Hare was seen walking up toward the Pub, which was surprising as Pebbledash & Paxo both came from the wrong, opposite direction after a getting a lift some 700 Yards from where they live. With no HGM or GM present, the welcome was down to Paxo to carry out after the time had ticked beyond the hour.

The Hare was called forward & now began a masterclass in misinformation from Pepé le Pew, firstly there were claims that it wasn't a long Trail, it was totally dry out there with *no Shiggy* & just a possible water crossing that could be avoided by use of a footbridge! However there were some truths that were told, with a Port Stop being mentioned & an 'S CHK' for a Short Cut in aid of the Knitting Circle.

The Trail started by heading the 220 Yards north by northeast down from the crest of Musley Hill until reaching the T junction with Fanham's Hall Road, with Mr X, Where's Wally? leading the way to this first CHK on the junction. While Where's Wally? was lured away up Fanham's Hall Road, Mr X crossed over to find the 'S CHK' on the small triangle in the bend, where Fanham's Hall Road becomes High Oaks Road to the southwest.

The Trail was picked up by Mr X, over the brook & up along the north-eastern hedgerow of the green space to the north of High Oak Road. Once up on the level of the open space, a CHK was found 200 Yards on by the uncapped Farm Track to the Round House, hidden away behind the hedges sheltering its ornate garden. Here Mr X hedged his bets behind the hazel & searched the track as it crossed the tarmac drive to the large house, he was correct.

Where's Wally? followed on as the Trail led 170 Yards on the enclosed track to reach a T Junction with another track that runs all the way up to Moles Farm high up on the hillside, it was here they met a couple out walking with their young daughter, who was overjoyed to see the Santa Hats on the Hashers.

It was on that way toward Moles Farm that these two would find no more Dust, just a lot of deep Shiggy that almost sucked off Hash Boots! [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] Mr X reached the gate out to the Moles Farm crop field, there was no Dust & so he turned back to indicate to the approaching Where's Wally?, Ewok, Tent Packer, Port, Starboard & My Lil'.

They all turned around, with Mr X & Where's Wally? having to pass the couple back by the CHK again, which seemed to amuse the civilian family, but this gave Where's Wally? the ideal opportunity to advertise the Hash to them!

It was now a game of catch up for some of the FRBs in following on behind Slug, 3D, Sally & Mark E Mark as the Trail began heading southeast to reach a CHK by the ancient tree-lined path.

A nice 240 Yard trot in the shelter from the wind would twist from northeast to north by north east, & then back again to reach a CHK by a path coming up through the fields from the southwest, but there was no Trail out there & the Hash continued on to the short northern section then emerge out on to the exposed farm land once again, taking to a 200 Yard 'straight as a die' slippery path of Shiggy up to a raised farm track that runs down from Northwest to southeast, a CHK was located on this higher track.

Trail was picked up running back down the top of the field to reach the brook, & another CHK by a split in the path. The options were away north by northeast, or to head down in the opposite direction to the southwest, back toward the noise of the Ware Youth Football Club where the kids playing soccer were making a din.

firstly, i've figured out what happened to the blue tinsel.
secondly the cat is currently doing the most festive shit i've ever seen...



The Dust was found by Ewok toward the Football, it was around this point that Des Res caught up with the FRBs as the Trail turned to cross the farmland & rise back up to Fanham's Hall Road. Arrows directed the FRBs up the road toward the Stables that sit on the southern side of this old road.

However, on approaching the distinctive rounded walls of the stables the suspected choice of taking to the footpath alleyway down beside the stables & into the top end of Ware had no Dust leading away at all, instead the Trail would stick with the road as it approached Fanham's Hall for a further 120 Yards.

While most of the Keenies were now following in the footsteps of the Knitting Circle, except Where's Wally? who had different ideas as he took to continue, straight up the old Tradesman's Entrance [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] in to Fanham's Hall. Mr X had to call Where's Wally? back as the Trail followed the bend in the road around until reaching the main driveway to the Hall & Four Star Hotel.

On the way it was noticed that several trees had large clumps of Mistletoe hanging from the boughs, Ewok did mention 'Kissing beneath the Mistletoe', but there was enough lurgy going around from playing 'a Round on damp golf courses' to put most off of that idea, no one wanted to end up like TBT OBE & miss several weeks. Especially with the Herts Christmas Weekend coming up! Having said that, the main crop of Mistletoe was hanging from a large bough that as directly in the centre of the rural lane & potential a spot to flattened.

The Port Stop was found on the drive way to Fanham's Hall, were merriment was already being enjoyed by Sludge, Milf, Lobby Lobster, Pebbledash & the Hare. The festive Port was plentiful, warming & appreciated, as the Pack could admire their Festive wear. Where's Wally? wore a new, reindeer faced, red & white striped 'Where's Wally?' style top, which his grandkids had, he then had to go to the Children's clothing store & purchase one for himself. Others had more traditional Nordic Festive knitwear, while Ewok had a cartoon pussy on her top, which was noticed to have either a very saggy bust of funny little paws? [The jury is out on that one! – Ed]

Anyhow, the Hare announced that the Trail would resume, there would be no more Short Cuts as he wanted the Pack to become spread out on the last section of Trail, as not to inundate the Bar on our return, for the Landlady would be on her own to start with.

The Keenies were directed over the road & onto the wide farm track leading away to the southeast, here the going was far easier than parts of the section of farmland on the Out Trail, for there was less Shiggy & those the tracts of wet Shiggy that were about could be easily dodged, or avoided by taking to the higher grassy centre track between the worn stony sections on either side.

Port, Starboard. Mr X, My Lil', Des Res, Tent Packer & Where's Wally? were soon down to the next CHK in the bottom of the valley where the Fanham's Tributary runs. Here Mr X went wrong when he took to searching the footpath out by the tributary as it run in to crop fields to the south, he would do a Sludge to run beside the watery ditch as he heard "On!" being called up in the wooded ridge, he could see the other Keenies darting between the trees & he could now see they were starting their descent & that they would soon be coming down to his level. [Not that the Hash have much in a way of a higher level! – Ed]

Sure enough, the Keenies descended from the trees on ridge, via the footpath that crosses the arm of the Fanham's Tributary as it flows south-eastward to join the River Ash away in the distance. It was here that the Trail would cross the watercourse the Hare mentioned in his Chalk-talk, which to the left-hand side had a small wooden bridge the offered to keep Hash feet dry for those who could not leap the shallow stream in a single bound.

The Dust would advance around & through Newhole Farm, to come out on to the narrow single track lane to Swades Farm, here there was a CHK with just two options, one was sou-sou-west or the other to head westward on the old Wood Lane track.

Again the Pack would be out of the wind within the Trees of Jackson's Grove, a CHK would be found around 450 Yards along this, but this was just there to try & throw the FRBs off of the scent if they searched out into the fields to the north.

The Trail stuck with Wood Lane track until it reached the farm field to the east of Ware, were a CHK awaited Port & Where's Wally? & they searched the option to the south, but when Mr X arrived at the CHK he had other ideas & picked up the Trail to the north, where Dust was found running around to the west below Tree-line with Beacon Park behind it. 130 Yards later the Trail would come out on to the western end of the kids play area & then out on to the dead-end of Beacon Road.

The Trail would now take to the streets of the top end of Ware, for some it was a well-run route to take the Pack on down by the Hare's home, not to mention Paxo's house which had the words 'Humbug'

**Big morning. One shot – .
243 100 yds. out – 5 AM in
neighbor's yard. 6 pt./16 lbs.
100 plus lights.**



written in large letters outside! But there would be one last cunning trick the Hare had up his sleeve, for the Trail would leave Parnel Road, via an alleyway through to Cundells Road, then out on to Fanhams Road. You couldn't really get lost on this section of Ware, not if you had the sense to look out for the Water Tower

It was a direct route over the crossroads with the end of Tower Road, then over to where it becomes Homefield Road & the On Inn was located by the grey junction box before the Junction with Musley Hill, where after a right turn the Pub was in sight, where Starboard was found waiting outside for the rest to arrive.

The Hash pretty much took over one section of the Pub, enjoying the Ales, there may have only been three Ales on, but they were good, with one IPA, a nutty Christmas one & there was also superb darker one.

Mr X was sure he heard My Lil' seasonal quote Dickens' a Christmas Carol with "That's a fine excuse to pick a man's pocket every 23rd December! Firstly Where's Wally? Had to leave, though those remaining wondered if it was the cloudy, Scotch-broth like Craft Beer he was drinking made him have to up-sticks?

3D, Slug, the Boys & Sally were next to leave, & with this being a relaxed Saturday, Paxo was in no hurry to call a circle, the RA was not much better as he too was getting carried away with the very raucous jollity of the day in the noisy side of the bar. Collecting Subs was also an effort, a joint one with Mr X & Milf writing down names as Paxo feebly attempted to prise the hard-earned from Scrooge like grasps.

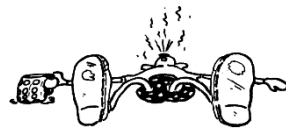
The RA now had a lot of Down-Downs to shift. So, the Pack were allowed to remain seated, mainly as the RA was stuck behind the large table. For the Down-Downs the RA asked the Beermaster to "Get whatever the Hare wants to drink for such a fine Trail!" On My Lil's return there was a collective groan as the Pints were the light IPA! The Hare was rewarded for his Great Trail, which was almost [Thankfully! - Ed] the complete opposite of his Chalk Talk, though he wasn't impressed with the Ales that the Beer Master had procured!

Paxo was awarded his for the leisurely time he had taken to call both Circles together, with some having moved on by the Après Circle was announced!

Mark E Mark was out for being a returnee to the Fold; There was one, real wishy-washy [Wash your Willy! – Ed] Pint, which as everyone had guessed by now was going to the Hash Beer, he struggled with the mostly water Pint, all of was compounded by the jeering ringing in his ears!

The Circle was stood down, now the large rounds kept coming, each time Pebbledash reminding Pepe le Pew that he had Chores to do around the house, which prompted Mr X with the old "What chores? A pint please!"

After the Circle, one interesting thing was discovered & that was the most of the Pack prefer to read the Trash in a hard-copy format, seems that navigating a PDF on a hand held device isn't that easy [for the old folks! – Ed] , so there will be a few more printed copies for those that want them, since Sparky, Bus Stop, 2-1-2-1 Maureen & My Lil' receive Hard-copies in the post, as they aren't on the t'internet or can't read what's on a screen.



1950: "In 2023 we will have flying cars!"
2023:

