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Hash  
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Harriers

Herts official Website: [hertsHash.co.uk](http://hertsHash.co.uk)

A rare picture of the duke of Wellington in battle



Run No. 2085

Date: 18th February 2025

Venue: The Wellington Arms

Location: Watford

Beers/Cider: London Pride;

Hare/s: Moss Key Toe

Runners: 18

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

Newies: 0

Après: 0

Hash Hounds: 1

Total: 19

Membership: Dazzled by a bit of Bien Lien



Today's Hare was busy out resetting the Trail early this morning, all due to the overnight Rain which had obliterated most of his efforts from Saturday. All of this info had been posted on the Herts Facebook page, something that was picked up by Mr X as he & My Lil' were in the local Spoons.

An amble along to the venue would have the two early arrivals having to dodge the traffic while negotiating what is one impossible junction for pedestrians to cross, it also confused drivers like Canny Cant, who almost drove up the one-way streets but realised his mistake just in time, but it left him having to reverse back to a chorus of frustrated car horns of the drivers approaching behind him.

Parking here isn't the easiest, the Hare had done his best to post the options available, but there are only a few street space weren't under 'Permit Holders Only' zones near to the Pub. So, some had to go a little further than expected to Park Up, or like Kylie you could use the nearby Watford Junction Station. Even Sludge couldn't get parked right outside of the venue!

On arrival the Hash could see fresh Trail markings outside of the Welly (As the locals call the Bar) & once Fliptop had welcomed everyone to the Trail, the Hare was called forward to explain all. Moss Key Toe said that he had been around the Trail again, that there was a Short Cut that would run along the hypotenuse of a Triangle, which sounded a tad to technical for this time of the morning for most.

Going through some different markings, there would be a CHK with a small arrow that represented a 'View Point, there would also be a 'Lemming Stop' represented by full, two-sided arrows & not the normal one-sided ones, but more of that later.

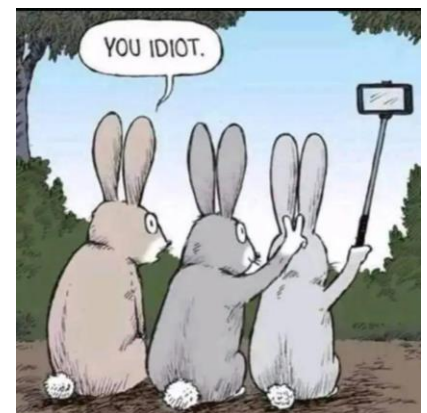
The Circle was held up long as possible to allow 3D & Slug, as well as Canny Cant & Gen & Tonic to catch up, but with them still not insight the Hare would allow the eager Keenies to set off toward the nearby Railway Bridge, on more dodgy road conditions.

Somehow the Hare didn't lose any of the Hash as the Trail was marked on the side of the bridge with no footpath. While Moss Key Toe encouraged the rest to join him, those with more sense stuck with the footpath on the opposite side & in doing so spotted a Bar CHK with an arrow pointing back under the bridge.

It was realised that the Bar CHK was to prevent the Pack from heading over the roundabout & stumbling upon the Inn Trail, instead the Hare had set the Out route to veer off of the roundabout at the first exit to enter the Reeds trading estate, home to Sir Spoon's Headquarters & here there would be a photo stop but without our Hashflash, who was too far behind for the impatient Keenies to hang around for.

An employee of Sir Spoon, who must be proud that the company is 'Employer of the Year 2024' [Which is pretty good as its still February 2024? – Ed] She had popped out to see what the gathering Pack were up to outside of Spoons HQ. Snaps taken & it was time to move on around Reeds Crescent where the new builds had new apartments built in a sympathetic style to that of the original, large, old brick buildings & Chapel of the former London Orphans Asylum.

The Trail would make its way around in a clockwise direction, it would be about the 300 Yard mark that the next CHK was found by a cut through to a footpath running between Reeds Close & Monica Close. No Eye Der was concerned that Moss Key Toe had forgotten to mark the way on the fenced-in footpath, she only had a small piece of Blue chalk, but Mr X came back from further down the Trail with a handful of flour from the rather ostentatious amount of fresh Trail making the Hare was liberally chucking about.



Diamond Geezer was away on the footpath to the south, as the Trail led some 140 yards to reach Orphanage Road, where a turn to the east by southeast to run down below the road bridge that connects the two small, divided north & south housing estates.

At the end of Orphanage Road the Trail would turn around to due north, leading some 200 Yards up The Radlett Road to a Pelican Crossing, there the FRBs were seen waiting for the lights to change & then they crossed to come back down the opposite side of the road. Having spotted the change in direction up ahead, Mr X 'Sludged' it & cut across during a break in the traffic. Having seen the RA 'Sludge it' Parsons Nose was now confident to attempting the same himself, but his option was from the top of the step-end of the grass embankment & these actions led to a car to steer away to the other lane, just in case Parsons Nose toppled forward in to the road.

Thankfully the Hash all got over without being hit & then began the move to the east on Link Road for about 50 Yards, where arrows were found pointing the way northward, here the footpath the Trail was on ran up between the Allotments to the west & the River Colne with its nature reserve to the east.

There has been a lot of working going on in the Nature Reserve & the piles of pollarded branches were blamed on Beavers [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] making their Lodges, resulting in the Hare saying surely it couldn't be the work of Beavers, not in Watford? Mr X then explained it wasn't, for Beavers would have gnawed the branches to a pointed end.

A 400 Yard trot on a serpentine like path, which matches that of the contour of the Colne's route, to reach the next CHK up by the side of the Timberlake car park. Options were to pass under the road bridge the Colne flows below, or search up road above, however some came back from below the road & claimed it was 'Flooded down there!'

Having looked above the river's course, the only way to continue would involve a long diversion to the northwest, so there was a return to the lower level of the river & with a bit of trepidation for some, a bit of wading through a large puddle was undertaken to come up in the wooded end to the Knutsford Playing fields & try follow on in Diamond Geezer's wake!

My Lil' emerged & commented on the fact he could have gone up to the Watford Rugby Club & then come across to the gravel Path the Trail was found on. Mr X happy not to have gone the way My Lil' wanted, for he had to break off in to the woodland by the river, Fliptop was questioning his motives to search in the nature reserve before he headed off with the rest into the park.

Mr X was joined by Kylie, who was insistent on talking loud enough that it could have alerted the two women out dog walking a two large German Shepherds to some Squirrel Scaring going on in the undergrowth. Thankfully it went unnoticed.

The Trail would follow the eastern side of the playing fields, where mini-rugby was taking place, this path would come around the bend at the end to reach a Held CHK off of a circular spot in the gravel way, & then down to the edge of Colne, where a former boathouse used to be.

Here there was a long carved wooden panel featuring the local wildlife to be admired [Its amazing what the Beavers can do! – Ed] While enjoying the confectionary, which included the very popular Maltesers, some of the Pack looked back over the playing field to see that 3D & Slug were on their way, with Sally, at the other end of the grounds, somehow they failed to noticed those calling out & waving their arms. There was no sign of Canny Cant or Gen & Tonic.

The Colourful FRBs all set off before 3D & Slug had arrived at the Sweet Stop, exiting the park by way of a yellow gate to run some 275 Yards up to the next CHK by the roundabout in the Radlett Road with Bushey Mill Lane to the east. From here Mr X, My Lil' & Tent Packer were among those who went wrong by checking out the footpath of the remnants of the old Munden Lane, a narrow byway that existed before the homes or the American Golf complex.

"On!" was called over to the east, up the rising Bushey Mill Lane to cross above the A408 Stephenson Way, it was here that the CHK with the View point arrow was found, looking back over toward Watford in the distance. It was also here that the two normal, double sided arrows for the Lemming CHK were found & these pointed out over the long drop to the dual carriageway below, however there were no Lemming here today to take such a leap!

The Trail would now drop down the hill & at the northern tip of the Estate by Bushey Mill the Trail would split, with a Short Cut marked on urban street of Mill Way, away to

the southwest, which Kylie, Does What She Says & Milf would all take to.

Meanwhile the rest of the Hash would continue on the 'Hypotenuse' of the Trainable, which would be correct if the road as straight, but it was concaved curve! Now the likes of Sludge, Tent Packer, Fliptop, No Eye Deer, FWB, Mr X, My Lil' & Parsons Nose all followed on behind Diamond Geezer as he passed by the local Royal British Legion, which has two footpaths on either side. My Lil' commented on the fact that the Hare didn't put a CHK by either, as he would have done.

Some began to slow up, since the Trail was now really sparse, perhaps there were CHKS by the Royal British Legion? But like the rest of this section the Trail had been washed out? The Hare had mentioned, earlier in his Chalk Talk, that he had been around this section to relay the Trail. All of which would lead Diamond Geezer to head off over the roundabout by the small arcade of shops & continue over to the next leg of Bushey Mill Lane, where there was no Trail at all.



Diamond Geezer was called back as Mr X & Tent Packer took the Park Avenue exit from the Roundabout where there were the odd, very battered remaining blobs of flour spotted on the grass verge. On the way the FRBs would pass by Pinfold Lane, which led to Tent Packer to wonder how it derived its name, Mr X explained that a Pinfold was a Sheep-dip from days gone by.

No sheep around these parts now days, just a lot of homes that continued 630 yards to reach the next CHK opposite the Raj Garden Restaurant. Diamond Geezer had regained the lost ground & had sailed through to turn southward off of the bend from the Link Road Roundabout, the next Hasher to reach this part was Milf, after coming off of Mill Lane where the Short Cut ended behind the Indian Restaurant.

Tent Packer wondered how far the Long Trail was behind the Short Cut Knitting Circle, to which Mr X replied "A long way by the looks of things, as there's Kylie & DWSS just up ahead!" after these two emerged out ahead of them.

Arrows would take the Hash on down beside the start of the Fisher Fields open space, but the pack weren't going to explore that, for double arrows pointed the way over Park Avenue at a spot where Police Vehicles are 'Authorized' to park up, as the signage pointed out. Then everyone was led into the wooded edge along the Stephenson Way.

Within the long roadside spinney, the footpath would take to the long, flight of steps up to cross over the high footbridge spanning the dual carriageways, no doubt My Lil' could be heard groaning at each step along the way, & then again as they had to descend the corresponding long flight of stairs to the path beside the Nature Reserve of the River Colne.

Mr X now mentioned to Tent Packer that somewhere around these part, by the Colne, there was a chance to see a 'Corporation of the City Of London' Tax Post, where Coal & Alcohol were taxed coming into London, one reason he claimed Saracens could keep the London Club tag when they played out of Watford! He also added that it wouldn't have surprised him that this old boundary would be feebly used as any excuse for the extension of the ULEZ Zone?

Anyhow, the Trail would make its way around & under the railway bridge for the mainline in to Watford Junction. While looking across the river here, Mr X spotted a CHK with a 'View Arrow' by the obelisk commemorating the Corporation of the City of London Tax.

Once across the river Colne by way of a footbridge, Mr X had to call back Diamond Geezer from running south-westward on one side of the triangular Waterfields Recreation Ground. A quick stop by the Obelisk & a read of the plaque about the 1861 Wine & Duties Act for the taxation of the passage of coal & wine [Two staple essentials of the day! – Ed] at the price of One Shilling & One Penny a Ton, until 1890.

It was time to follow the Trail over to the path that heads back under the Railway Bridge & follow it around to the North, along the eastern side of the Radlett Road Playing Fields were a group were out having what looked like Wedding photo's taken.

After 640 Yards parallel to the Colne on the route back to the Link Road for one last time, here the On In w as found, then it was westward, to follow the out Trail backwards to Orphanage Road & On Inn. It was right at the end of the Trail that a little precipitation began to be felt in the air, but the Keenies were soon safely inside the Welly & in the dry.

There was a Soul Disco taking place in the Welly a little later on, so the Pack moved seats from where this was going to be set up. Resettled at the other end of the Pub & No Eye Deer was approached by one of the DJ's who waved & called out to her. For a bewildered No Eye Deer it was a case of mistaken identity, he apologised & showed a picture of his friend, seems that No Eye Deer has a doppelganger, something that made the Hash laugh.

When it came to the Down-Downs, the Hare was rewarded for a good Trail; then Juices Flowing & Parsons Nose were out to be presented with their 10 Run Bumbags & a Down-Down to go with them. Canny Cant was out for blocking the junction, which led to a lot of honking of horns like we were in Noooyawk! 3D & Slug were out for not spotting the regrouped Pack at the Sweet Stop. Of course No Eye Deer was out for a Hit, thanks to her Doppelganger.

Time for the Pack to move on, with some heading home, while those heading to the Chinese Cultural Show split in to smaller groups, the ravenous went for an Italian, while two successfully searched out the Micropub on Vicarage Road before all meeting up again in the 'Spoons.

Tine came around to make their way around to the Palace Theatre & meeting up with Hot 'N' Spicee, for the Chinese Cultural Show. It was a great evening of song, music & dance, not to mention the outstanding demonstration of Bian Lian (Face Changing) a mysterious art, over 300 years old, with each face representing a different emotions in a dramatic story, with the 'Man of a thousand faces'.

Click on link below to watch a Bian Lian Act:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qPBkegjjPSQ&t=8s>

