



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

Run No. 2099
Date: 27th May 2024
Venue: The Old Potato Shed
Location: Symondshyde
Beers/Cider: Three Brewers
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 15
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 16
Membership: In the Potato Shed



Not a bad turnout for a Bank Holiday, but those on their way to the Old Potato Shed must have wondered where the heck they were going, as they drove down the really narrow & somewhat over grown rustic lane, at a few points on the way the route was lined with a lot of parked up cars. The lane was seemingly leading to the middle of nowhere.

Eventually they would reach the drive to the Stables & Farmyard, where Mr X was found loitering around by the gate, for he was on hand to open the electric gate & allow the Hash in to pass the stables & then park up safely by the horse boxes opposite the Brewery

This week saw Kathy join in for her first Hash, being brought along by Where's Wally?, which left some wondering if it was a good idea for her to go around the Trail with someone who can 'Run Blind' & miss important Hash Markings? Also TBT OBE was back, after suffering from a PMT* headache the week before which prevented his appearance. *Pre-Missus Tension?

Just in case of nay straying on the Trail, the Hare made sure that Kathy had a quick, if somewhat rough description of what the Herts Hash Markings were about, leaving it with a "You'll soon pick it up!" as he went on to mention there being Short Cuts & a Sweet-stop at a Held CHK.

Out of kindness for My Lil', the Hare had not begun the Hash from a CHK in the farmyard, instead he had marked the Tail out of the drive & then to the southwest, on to Hammonds Lane & opposite a north bound footpath. Up this hedgerow lined footpath Moss Key Toe, Mother & Ketchup found a T up there to make them return to the lane.

Just a few yards on the wet tarmac, Dust was found by the edge of Symondshyde Great Wood, here the Trail could be seen beyond the Five Bar gate to the wide forestry track that heads away west by south-west, & as the Hash made their way along through the woodland the Clouds began to gather overhead, it suddenly became a wee bit gloomy.

A CHK was found after some 300 Yards, by where a narrower path meanders through the denser woodland, here TBT OBE went off to the northern section, while Mother, Lemming & Buster decided to search the opposite side, neither were correct as "On!" was called further along the wider, central fire-break of a track. My Lil' now took advantage of heading into the trees to 'Scare the Squirrels'.

As the Pack progressed a further 200 Yards on the main track, TBT OBE was seen short cutting back, carefully picking his way through the branch & twig littered forest floor, some held their breath as they knew the odds on him tripping over one of the fallen branches would be very low at Labrookes, however he managed to extract himself for the denser wood, aa unscathed!

A CHK was located where the main route reaches a north to south running footpath on the western edge of the woodland. A Falsie lay up the northern option, while the TBT OBE, Moss Key Toe, Ketchup, Mother, FWB, Where's Wally? & Kathy were soon on to the Trail which was picked up to the sou-sou-west.

Here the going was slowed by wide tracts of Shiggy covering the wider route, some avoided this by crossing over to the eastern side of the raised old tree-line that was once the boundary between the Great Wood & the adjoining, smaller rectangular Hammonds Wood to the west. Those running slightly off course would have to cross back once the long water filled ditch had

Another actor ruined by drugs and alcohol.



levelled out & to reach a CHK by the Track leading into smaller, rectangular Hammonds Wood.

Meanwhile the Hare had marked a Shot Cut back at the previous CHK, so My Lil', Milf, Sludge, Lemming, Fliptop & Sis with Teddy could the north by north-west, narrower path, leading along the edge of the wood, then turning to northwest, the way was best walked for there were plenty of old knurled roots on the way out through the Tree-line to reach

Back on the main Trail & after 260 Yards Mother, Moss Key Toe, TBT OBE, Where's Wally? Kathy, FWB emerged out of this woodland to run the edge of a field that had a couple of 'Private Land' signs, they were soon down to the next CHK, which was located down by the back of the paddocks for the isolated white home of Fairfolds.

The Hare & Paxo were following on & Mr X was happy to see that the FRBs had been slowed up, after fruitlessly searching out to Woodcock Hill, near to the farm house & the converted Fairfold's Farm farmyard with its small bespoke retail units. But from the CHK there the Trail doubled back, when it was finally picked up on the second arm of the V shaped of paths to head away, over the very Stoney & flint littered, harrowed field to in a north by northwest direction to a stile in the corner of the fields hedgerows.

Once through the green corner by a small box-wood, the Trail would continue for 230 yards over the fallow field. The Trail pass through another hedgerow & would follow a due north footpath over the larger field of maize, or a tallish green crop that soaked the Hare when he went around setting the Trail in the early hours of this morning.

Care was needed when entering & leaving these fields, for there was a slight depressed ditch running along the edges, but all managed to avoid any ankle-twisting to finish a 290 Yard trot to emerge out by May Cottage on to Hammonds Lane by Meadow Lodge.

Arrows directed the Pack up to a CHK where Tower Hill lane heads away northward from Hammonds Lane, the Trail would be picked up around another 70 Yards on Hammonds Lane. It was planned that around here that the Keenies would meet up with the Knitting Circle, up by the footpath between the Stables & the larger detached house with its ornate gates.

However, FWB would go wrong as she failed to spot the two one-side arrows pointing to the old, slightly rickety wooden kissing gate, the very one that Sis & Fliptop smooched at while passing through it! FWB had come back by the time Mr X & Paxo arrived here, it was while on the footpath out by the Stables that a Helicopter took off from the 'Private' field behind. Mr X said it seems odd that on three of the last four weeks there has been Helicopter activities on the Trail, he added that it was "Lucky Pebbledash wasn't here with a Chopper going up!"

The Trail would now take to the north-easterly path, away from the large House & up along the edge of Titnol's Wood, it would be around 640m Yards until the next CHK was located, at the crossroads with a north bound footpath from out of the woodland.

The Trail into the wood, & straight back over the next Filed to the Stables was a Falsie, as was the nor-nor westerly track heading up over the rising crop field & out over to Coleman Green, but the Hare had changed this too to a Falsie after setting the Trail & seeing the time he'd been out.

The Trail would be found running north-westward between the separate woods of Fletcher's Wick & Wet Grove [Careful Pebbledash – Ed] another CHK was found by another path off over toward the John Bunyan, this was quickly dealt with & the Keenies carried on north-eastward for a further 130 Yard to reach Cromer Hyde Lane.

Arrows direct the Pack for off of the uncapped Track, to take to the tarmac end by the large property of the end of the lane, a few yard on & the Held CHK was found, here the Hare arrived to see that the Keenies seemed at home sitting on the large tree-trunk by the side of the crop fields & enjoying the now sunny & warm weather.

The Hare now produced bags of sweets, getting out his Blue Balls [Steady Pebbledash! –Ed] They were Raspberry Tango Blue Balls, Bon-bon sweets. At the regroup the Blue Balls were proudly held out for the obligatory Photo-shoot, all for Pebbledash's benefit!

There were lots of options from here, but the Hare now wanted to keep things simple, & it was now coming up

to the hour. So he now offered up two options, the correct Trail, or an easier option beside this tree-lined path? For those who were carrying injuries, or small pooches, should follow him.

TBT OBE question why there was Dust behind the nearby farm house? The Hare said that it was a Falsie & he should ignore what he had seen. So, TBT OBE joined Ketchup & Moss Key Toe on the slippery Shiggy south bound footpath, that runs between the fields & then along the western side of Long Grove Plantation.

While the rest ambled along the drier edge of the cop fields to the west of the Tree-line, the FRBs would be slowed up trying to get around the large patches of mud. This being a meander route would have one last CHK point, where TBT OBE was thinking of joining those out on the field, the ones who had dry feet, but he was convinced to carry on.

The Hare was now going to have run outside of the tree-line, if he wanted to get a picture of when the Keenies reached the flooded but section that he had to wade through, when setting the Trail! Although Mr X arrive too late to see Ketchup's gazelle like run around the couple of inches of dry area on one edge, he managed to get there in time & take a photo of Moss Key Toe & TBT OBE wading through the deep muddy pond like puddle.



The Hare said, to those around him at the time, that while he was setting the Trail a that a guy out walking his humungous pooch saw Mr X wading through the deep puddle, he said "I always go around the outside of the hedge mate!" as it's a lot drier. Mr X added that he may take that option on his second trip around, but he would be happy if the Keenies had to go through this, since he had to wade across.

After the watery pond, the final leg of the now run up a slight ridge as the underfoot conditions were dry on a stony surface that would drop back to Hammonds Lane & back around to Synmondshyde Farm, on the way someone at the back did very good Peacock impressions, which certainly caught the attention of the farms resident, large & colourful birds, that there were several loud calls back.



The main pack returned to find Hot 'n' Spicee had been out to do her bit of the Trail, since she is still carrying an injury to slow her up.

The weather was now fine enough to sit outside, at a farm in the middle of unspoilt countryside. Life doesn't get much better than that. Mr X explained that he spotted, Red Kites & Fieldfares amongst the birds out & about first thing, not to mention the noisy resident peacocks at the Farm, plus the Sparrows that nest each year under the eaves of the Old Potato Shed.

TBT OBE went around collecting the subs, on his piece of paper he had the venue written down as the Spud Shack!

The Circle was eventually called & the Hare rewarded for a Great Trail of an hour & 10 minutes, with his Down-Down out of the way, Mr X then turned his attention to his RAing duties. He called out Sis for completing 400 Herts Trails, though it must be more if it wasn't for someone's old Hard Drive, plus the book not always being filled in!

Ketchup was out for his extensive ornithological knowledge on 'Fat Sparrows' while TBT OBE was next for a Down-Down as he earlier mentioned the size of the racing pigeons, which was actually a white Peahen! More twitching related Hits were finished with Mother being summoned forth, as she had told Mr X that Buster, who now seems to be known as 'Babe Magnet' [He certainly is! – Ed], that he killed a Blackbird out in the back Garden as she was hanging out the washing, Mr X said that he was saving her from having her nose pecked off by the Blackbird!

Our Virgin Kathy was welcomed & awarded her Hit for completing her First Herts Hash, & making it aropund without getting lost on Trail with Where's Wally? Has was then called out for 'Making her come' today!

It was the first time for the Hash to visit the Old Potato Shed, home to the Three Brewers Brewery, where the Hash could sup ales from straight out of the barrel. With plenty of other Trail options we certainly will be back.



Back when Luke Littlers Dad took him down the boozier to practice darts, aged 6

