

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

Run No. 2108
 Date: 28th July 2025
 Venue: EHMR
 Location: Van Hages
 Beers/Cider: Dooooombar & others
 Hare/s: TBT OBE
 Runners: 20
 Virgins: 0
 Visitors: 0
 Newies: 0
 Après: 1
 Hash Hounds: 1
 Total: 22
 Membership: Chuff-chuffed!



Despite, the absence of a number of Herts Hash regulars, who were otherwise engaged at an alternative hash event [Isca Roman Away Weekend! – Ed], there was a good turn-out at the Van Hague Garden Centre, Great Amwell, on this sunny July morning.

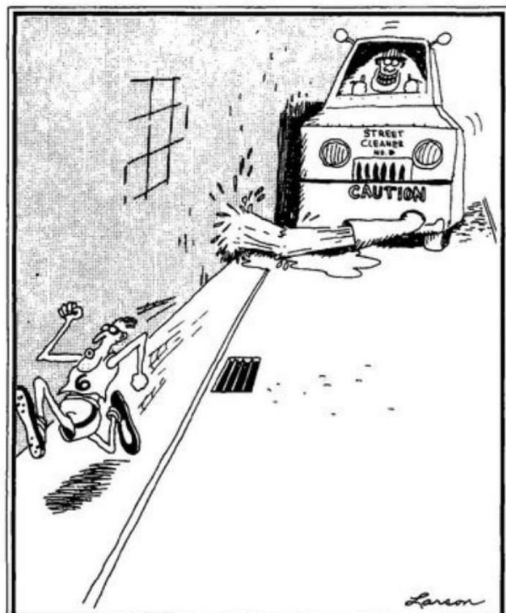
The East Herts Miniature Railway crew had hosted a splendid lock-in the previous evening, with several Hashers, Hash family and friends benefitting from their hospitality and good cheer. Underlay, Lynne, and Backpack were just a few of the extras that had joined the shindig.

The annual EHMR event always provides for a magical and nostalgic evening, with a unique opportunity to drive and ride the steam trains and take in the heady aroma of coal smoke combined with steam. Slug, 3D, Port, Starboard, Fliptop and Sally had camped overnight and were a little worse for wear the following morning.

The Hashers slowly assembled, with No Eye Deer and Does What She Says being the first to arrive, closely followed by the Hare, who lives not too far away. It was good to see the return of Moss Key Toe, accompanied by Hot 'N' Spicy, despite having turned up the day before, due to getting the wrong end of the stick about the run there! [It was clearly stated on the website & paper Harelines 'No Run on Saturday! – Ed] It was also good to see I.E. who was back in town for the weekend and who had decided to pay us a visit.

Fliptop called us to order, the Hare said a few choice words and off we trotted across the car park and out of the gates of the Van Hague Garden Centre. Mrs Mallet and Flanders did not however, make the exit having got side-tracked for some retail therapy. The rest of the Pack turned left along Amwell Hill and the first check was spotted with much anticipation.

Soon after, the Pack took a footpath on the left on to Walnut Walk but soon hit a false. Shortly after, disaster struck when Tent Packer tripped over a speed hump and landed on his side with one almighty crash! There were grazes observed to the lip, knee and back of the arm, but the main area of concern was the right shoulder! Despite being shaken and not able to move his arm, Tent Packer assessed himself as fit to go and carried on. He did, however, join the knitting circle at the back of the Pack! [Bet TBT OBE was happy that Tent Packer canee play the pipes? – Ed]



This left Diamond Geezer, Where's Wally?, Cathy and possibly Sludge to sniff out the trail!

At this point, MILF and Hot 'N' Spicy ducked out to source beer and nibbles for after the run, having made the decision to stay at the garden centre rather than decamp to a local Pub. Although there were some soft drinks left from the previous evening shenanigans, the hard stuff had pretty much all gone!

Anyway, the trail continued northward down the Amwell Hill when the Pack then took a right turn over the New River waterway at Lower Road, which has been supplying London drinking water since 1604. There was a long stretch along a scenic footpath down to a level crossing, with a slight detour for the Keenies that went through the wooded strip to the southeast and 240 Yards around the three sides of the almost square Yearling Close. This was very close to the Hare's Home!

Over the railway we puffed, with an excited Kylie, and came to the Lea Valley Navigation. We then turned right along the Lea Valley Walk next to the canal. It was a lovely route with an opportunity for a nose of the houseboats and meander in the sun on the way down by Harmead Lock No.3.

The Knitting Circle then spotted some of the front runners, returning over the Amwell Walkway footbridge having been routed appropriately off course in an attempt to keep the Hash together. A bit further along the path there was another check. The trail took a turn to the right, away from the canal, back over the railway level crossing and up north-west along Amwell Lane.

The laggards then turned to go over New River to St John the Baptist Church, where a Held Check was strategically placed. Here, we found the Hare, and Kylie and we gratefully polished off a good selection of sweet treats.



Harold Abrahams
at the 1924 Olympics

A brief history lesson was provided by TBT about the 100th anniversary of Harold Abrahams winning the 100 metre sprint in the 1924 Paris Olympics, in a time of 10.6 seconds to beat the American favourite. He is buried at St. John the Baptist Church alongside his wife Sybil and his grave was respectfully examined. The story of Harold Abrahams was depicted in the 1981 Oscar winning film, Chariots of Fire, together with the story of Eric Liddell, his fellow competitor. No such speediness for the Herts Hash. While the runners continued through the graveyard, the rabble went back to St John's Lane, up the hill and located the short-cut footpath, re-joining Amwell Hill for the final pootle back to the start. It should be said, that while there was no Onn Inn as such, the big Van Hague sign was a give-way and a welcome prompt at this stage of the run.

For the Keenies, their extra loop would lead them on the wooded footpath that runs below Lines Farm and above the New Rover to the northeast. They would head out toward St Margaret's, passing through the fallow end of the crop field to the southwest.

After nearly 700 Yards they would be led out by the homes on Gilpin's Gallop, named after John Gilpin and this road is said to be a part of the route his wayward horse took him on.

Gilpin was said to be a wealthy draper from Cheapside in London, who owned land at Olney, Buckinghamshire, near where Cowper lived. It is likely that he was a Mr Beyer, a linen draper of the Cheapside corner of Paternoster Row.

There is a famous poem that recalls how Gilpin and his wife and children became separated during a journey to the Bell Inn, Edmonton, all after Gilpin loses control of his horse which bolts and carries him ten miles farther to the town

of Ware.

Back to the Trail, after a check they would follow the u-shaped Gilpin's Gallop anti-clockwise to Scott Avenue, a straight road that heads due west to end on Hillside Lane. The FRBs would then find the Dust took to Hillside Lane, where it becomes a footpath track from the northern tip of the tarmac end. The off road track would end by Swift House, becoming tarmac again as they passed by the St John the Baptist School, then the Parish Hall, where the lane snaked from northwest to north by northwest.

After 700 Yards they would reach Cauthery Lane, where the Knitting Circle had come up from. The Trail, now marked, would now take to the rustic, single track Madgeways to continue north-westward for last 300 Yards to reach the A1170 once more and On Inn.

Mindful not to disturb members of the public, who were enjoying the miniature railway, the Hash convened down the track towards what was the old unofficial camping field, for those of us old enough to remember? Two trollies with Beers and snacks were taken down to where this provided a shady spot, which was ideal for an impromptu picnic and post- hash circle.

Very bizarrely, our vegetarian Hare, declined the egg sandwiches, opting instead for delicious *Meaty Ham!* [We all know that our Hare is really a Veritarian! – Ed]

Our Après Hasher, Mrs TBT, joined at this point and regaled us with stories of Great Amwell. 3D's birthday brownie was soon polished off together with other supplies.

Down downs were awarded to TBT OBE for a magnificent trail; Moss Key Toe for being premature; and I.E. for eventually finding her way back to Herts. On! On! 3D



TBT OBE bolts off to the Butchers for a ham
John Gilpin's Horse bolts off to Ware

