

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

Run No. 2113
 Date: Monday 2nd September 2024
 Venue: The Goat
 Location: Hertford Heath
 Beers/Cider: Greede King IPA & Abbot; Kirkstall 3 Swords
 Hare/s: Ketchup
 Runners: 13
 Virgins: 0
 Visitors: 0
 Newies: 1
 Après: 0
 Hash Hounds: 2
 Total: 16
 Membership: Piggin' out in a well worn territory



The lowest I'll go is £500

Will you take £100 if I collect now?

Sure. My address is 51 Lavender Gardens. Be there in 15 minutes

Sounds good

Here now

Go inside

It's a comedy club?

Yeah. Head to the stage and tell your jokes to somebody else

Parking at the Goat was fun, some decided that they would pull-up outside of the car park. Even though it had EV chargers in the Pub car park, Kylie refused to park up there as he claimed he had over 200 Miles of charge left. However, he wasn't happy at the spot where he had dropped Paxo off at, so a lot of moving back & forth was accompanied with calls of "Park it on the Village Green!" from Ian, who was returning after a long absence, after he had spotted the small pegged sign alerting motorists to the fact there would be a £100 Fine for parking on the aforementioned green.

It's been a while since we have Hashed from the Goat, it's an old haunt & visited many, many times, especially in the early days when a lot of the Herts Hash lived around these parts, it seemed that we ran from Hertford Heath once every month or so. In those days there was also the Townsend Arms, while there is still the Silver Fox (The Crown) & the College Arms (East India College Arms).

This week also saw Hannah come along for her First Herts Hash Trail, so, if she expected to find a slick, well run operation, then she would be slightly disappointed as she joined the Pack outside of the Goat. Firstly there was no Hare present, while the RA was on the phone to the Hare to discover that Ketchup was still out finishing the Trail, adding that he would sweep around & meet the Pack somewhere out on Trail.

Secondly, the time was now on the hour & My Lil' was getting twitchy with not starting on time, a late arriving Des Res had to nip to the toilet before the off, delaying things further! Fliptop finally called the Hash together & the Pack weren't going to start on time! There is only one way that Herts Hash are a 'Well Oiled Machine' & that's at the Bar Après Hash!

Later Mr X & Hannah would talk about St Raddish (St Redegund) Pub, where Hannah Hashed with Cantabrigensis Hash. Mr X recalls it from the days of the late Terry 'Bunter' Kavanagh who was an erstwhile Cambridge Hasher & the Landlord, famed for staging the legendary 'King's Street Run' as well as offering a staggering four pence discount if you bought a four pint pitcher of Ale! Sadly it had now changed out of all recognition, gone are the Hash House Harriers Club names, smoked on the ceiling by visiting Packs, like Forces Personnel used to years ago, & the locals now call it the Rad.

Back to today, The Trail would head south-eastward along Mount Pleasant, a few yards along & to the left, on a wide green verge was a tree with a charming small shrine like gathering of toys at its base. Things were going swimmingly as the Keenies of Diamond Geezer, Where's Wally?, Ian & our Newbie Hannah completed the first 260 Yards to discover the first CHK in the north-western tip of the Hertford Heath Nature Reserve. Mr X chose to search the short, dead-end eastern arm of Mount Pleasant, but he didn't find any Dust on the desire-line into the wood opposite the single row of homes, he was soon back as "On!" was called on the south-eastern arm. Mr X found that the first CHK had been marked with plasterboard & now the Pack would try each & everyway they could, probably covering all points of the compass within the reserve to pick up Trail, but no more Dust was found on any option.

Having wasted many minutes in vain, a call of "On!" then emanated from way back on the dead-end eastbound section of Mount Pleasant where Mr X had nearly been upon, it was Fliptop & Paxo who called the correct way, but it was not the way the CHK had been marked! The RA pondered on who would falsely mark a CHK, especially after Kylie's bemoaning of No Eye Deer marking them on the first of his last two Trails, that were actually joined to form one Trail! Irony of ironies, it was Kylie who chalked the wrong direction.

Anyhow, the lost FRBs, led My Lil', Sludge, Flanders, Des Res, Mark E Mark & Lobby Lobster through the holly thickets & shrubbery on the north of a main track. There were moves over toward homing in on Paxo & Fliptop's calls of "On! On!" & having weaved through undergrowth, & after many yards they would finally find flour as it ran along the northern, inside edge of Goldings Wood.

It was now a slight, leaf-litter path underfoot on the descent heading through the bottom end of Much Wood, from a CHK there, the FRBs were soon cutting over south-eastward through Leafy Oak Wood. A CHK was picked up

claiming immigrants are stealing your jobs but
 having time to riot at 2pm on a Monday is crazy
 btw

on the southern edge of Leafy Oak Wood, this section of Trail had to be negotiated through the woodland gloom, a sign that the nights are now drawing in & that this is the last regular Monday Trail of 2024.

The Keenies were soon be split, with Diamond Geezer & Mr X searching east by north east on the stony track, which being below the level of the plantation acts like a culvert for rain water & this makes it resemble a stony old river bed.

Meanwhile Hannah had headed off in the opposite direction, following Ian & Where's Wally? even after Mr X had warned not to follow Where's Wally? as he often nearly always goes wrong. As Diamond Geezer called "On! On!" Mr X went to go back to kick the CHK through, but he left this to Paxo & Fliptop who had caught up & were now ahead of the returning Keenies.

The Trail would emerge out into the fading day-light, for a short trot down beside Woodhill Farm & on to a Held CHK near to the Stanstead Road, beside the A10. The Hare had made it around & had by this point caught up, on the way correcting Kylie's error of mismarking the first CHK, so if there would be any late comers they would not go astray in the gloom of the woodland.

As the FRBs awaited the Knitting Circle to arrive, Mr X & others would be left reeling when his enquiry about the location of the usual Confectionaries? He was not alone when Ketchup, like a chastising mother, said "There are no sweets, as you don't want to spoil your dinner!"

While awaiting Des Res, Mark E Mark & Lobby Lobster to arrive, some of the old heads amongst the Pack's pondered on the options to take next, the consensus was to head southwards, through the gate to a footpath between the horse paddock to the west & the A10 to the east.

When the Pack could search again, My Lil' was first up the narrow fenced-in footpath, which wasn't runnable as it had plenty of trip hazards, being overgrown with encroaching bramble runners, which snagged at Hash socks & a few bits of bare flesh!

It was 640 yards through in single-file, reaching the couple of uneven wooden duck-boards spanning a dry ditch into the eastern most tip of Goldings Wood, emerging briefly into the open by the lower football pitches of Haileybury College, no doubt due to being a common sport compared to those past-times plaid on the pitches near the college?

Once off the single track & out in the open, the FRBs suddenly sprinted by the leading Knitting Circle as if they were going through the store doors on Black Friday! The brighter open run was brief as it was soon back into the gloaming of the small elongated section of wood above the drop down to the A10/A414 Roundabout.

Out in to the twilight to a CHK by the Footpath up from the A10, common sense led the Keenies to head west by southwest toward the centre of the college grounds. As the Pack made their way up the wide hard-capped path, they could see that Where's Wally?, Ian, Diamond Geezer & Hannah had all bunched up at a CHK around 290 Yards ahead of them.

Ian broke ranks & headed out over the sports pitches to the north, the other Keenies decided to search further along the track & picked up the Dust, their indecision was enough to allow Mr X to catch up as they would discover a huge flour arrow pointing southward around the outside corner of Hailey Wood.

Ian was called back & had to make up ground on the other FRBs, as he did so the Hare also caught up, after setting the Knitting Circle off on a direct Short Cut out to London Road. A level trot of some 340 Yards would take the FRBs down to a CHK almost out on to Haileybury Lane. Where's Wally? Hannah & Diamond Geezer had gone as far as this lane but not finding any Dust, or footpath for any Trail to be on, had all turned back.

Ian now caught up with Mr X & both turned almost due west, on a route that runs below the few homes that make up the Meadow, emerging out on to a wide tarmac drive that runs north-westward up toward the Cricket Pitches & the Tennis Courts beyond.

The arrows kept the Keenies moving around toward the prominent Verdigris Dome of the large hall that makes up the Main College. The FRBs were stopped at another Held CHK, where Mr X for the second time asked where the sweets were, he then added that he wouldn't mention it again! [Ha! – Ed]

Mr X explained to Hannah that among the Alumni of Haileybury College were a couple of Prime Ministers, Lords, & other titled bods, several VC Winners, not forgetting one Jamie George of Saracens & England. The Building was originally built for the East India Company, before merging with the Imperial Service College, who had a lot more won plenty more 'gongs' amongst them, including William Hartnell (The first actor to play TV's Dr Who!)

Anyhow, back to the Trail & having come around the corner a CHK was found at the south-eastern corner of the Hertford Heath Nature Reserve, where this time it was Where's Wally? time to go off Trail as he headed straight over & into the darkness of the woodland, he would eventually realise his mistake as "On!" was called when Ian picked up the Trail out on the dry path that runs across from Highfield House on driveway of College Road to the west.

A long 600 Yard section of Trail would move around a gentle arc from west to northwest as College Road joins London Road, the Hash were soon back in to Hertford Heath. As the Keenies ran this part, ahead of them was Des Res after taking the official Short Cut to reach a CHK opposite the College Arms, a Pub that was the East India College Arms & has several name changes over the years.

From here Hannah & Diamond Geezer crossed over to pass by the College Arms, no doubt lured there by the sight of the green footpath 'fingerpost'

**WHY MUST I PROVE THAT I
AM ME TO PAY MY BILLS
OVER THE PHONE? DO
STRANGERS CALL TO PAY
MY BILLS? AND IF THEY DO,
WHY DON'T YOU LET THEM?**

a few yards down the Roundings to the southwest, they would be called back as Trail was picked up further along London Road. Plodding on down to the local corner shop, where the Trail turned north-east up Priors Wood Road to Postwood Green.

The Trail would lead on by General's old Childhood Home, as well as 'Chez Bullshit' that the Hare had deliberately set the Trail pass by, just in case Billy Bullshit popped his head out, but there would be no show from him tonight. A CHK by the back-passage to the Heath's Park caught out Mr X, as he was happy to search Woodland Road, the direct route back.

Mr X joined the others as they were taken up the back-passage [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] & out into the Hertford Heath Park, as they discovered that the Hare had a few last twists & turns, & another couple of CHKs for the Hash to run around.

Making their way around to Rushden Drive, formerly home to the Hare, then after series of cut-through, Mr X realised that the way back to the On Inn would be out of the northern arm of Rushden Drive, then on to Mount Pleasant once again to head back to the Green.

Back at the Goat within the hour, which was good as the food orders had to be in just after 20:00Hrs. The Knitting Circle were found already comfortably seated in the Dining room section, which has far better head room than the olde world low beamed bars. Where's Wally? commented that even he had to duck down to avoid whacking his bonce.

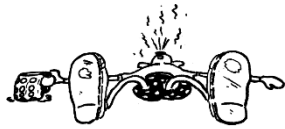
There's always one & that was Fliptop, who didn't duck & soon crowned himself, on seeing this Mr X asked Fliptop how many times he has been in this Pub, several hundred no doubt? Ales bought & the FRBs joined Flanders, Sludge, Lobby Lobster, Mark E Mark & My Lil' in the dining area to order food.

It came as no surprise to the regulars of the Pack that the Hare had only been in the Goat the day before to mention our annual pig out, which meant when it came to ordering there were only six beef burgers left [Had TBT OBE been eating there the day before? – Ed] So, a mixture of orders were placed before the GM called the Circle Early.

The Hash was toasted & then the RA stepped forward to ask what the Pack thought of the Trail, & not having any sweets at the Held CHK [He said he wouldn't mention it again! – Ed] Then, in no particular order the other Down-Downs went to Fliptop for crowning himself, then it was realised with other diners within earshot, at the other end of the dining area, it was hard to come up with 'clean' Hash Songs to sing quietly enough not to disturb the diners. This is when we could have done with our song-mistress Milf present.

Kylie was called out for marking the CHK wrong, especially after he complained after No Eye Deer did this on his Trail, with the exception she marked it in the correct direction! Ian was out for running the most Falsies & off Trail today. Hannah had her Down-Down for completing her first Herts Hash.

After the excellent half price burgers, Mr X would discuss the Saracens v Quins Match at Spur's Stadium for March, he would book her a ticket that evening! A great evening Hash & most excellent food after.



The Arabian sand boa never fails to amuse me, as it strongly resembles a small child's best effort at drawing a snake.

