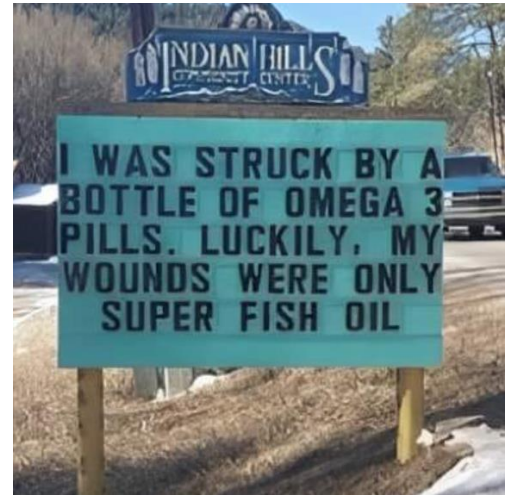


Herts
 Hash
 House
 Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2115
 Date: Sunday 15th September 2024
 Venue: The Tally Ho
 Location: Barking
 Beers/Cider: Side Pocket; Doombar
 Hare/s: Fliptop
 Runners: 10
 Virgins: 0
 Visitors: 0
 Newies: 0
 Après: 0
 Hash Hounds: 1
 Total: 11
 Membership: Barking in Barkway!



Well, despite the weather being a lot better than last week's downpour, there was a lower turnout than normal due to the "likely" lads being away on a Friday 13th weekend, Paxo away with the cubs, and the other absentees away with the fairies. Still a good turnout for a nice morning.

The Hash set off just after 11am, with Fliptop promising a sweetie stop and a couple of shortcuts for the walkers.

Now, I have to let you know that I was only "nominated" to write these words as I made the mistake of admitting to having an English O Level (yes, I am that old!). As I have no sense of direction, despite laying a Trail from this same pub a few years ago, my recollection of where the Trail went will be pure fantasy [Surely it rained though? – Ed]. However, the Pack turned right out of the Pub and crossed the High Street to a footpath on the other side, which led by Ashgrove to one of many fields the Pack would traverse.

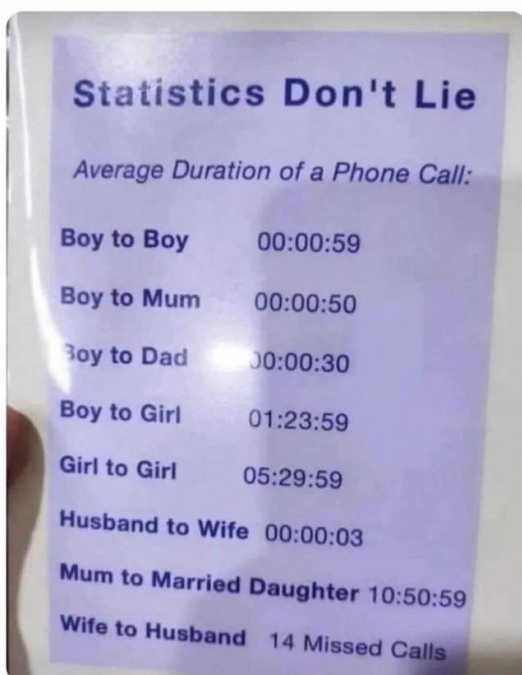
The Pack spread out as the runners (Where's Wally?, Kathy, Tent Packer, Canny Cant and Moss Key Toe) quickly found the Trail and sped on. They were soon to be seen returning as they had come across a T away to the west, by which time the rest of the Pack had caught up.

The Trail went through some lovely countryside, above the Wisbridge Solar Farm and some woody bits, as the Trail went westward along the bottom of Rokey Wood, then turning northward up in Bushwood, site of an ancient moat. Hashers did have to be careful with the brambles and some nettles [They don't sting this time of year! – Ed].

After a while the Hare gave the walkers a short cut, so Sis with Teddy and Coucou took advantage of this and were not seen again until the hold stop.

The rest of the Hash continued eastward along the well-marked path back above Rokey Wood, to the south of the remains of the Motte and Bailey on Periwinkle Hill. Legend has it that this was called Shonk's Field and there was a fight over the land with Shonk's and a man named Tadmus, the great loss of blood is supposed to have led the an abundance of periwinkles to grow. Shonks is believed to be buried in Brent Pelham Church.

The accuracy 🤔



There were some False Trails to keep us all on our toes, then at the half way mark (I guess) the Pack caught up with the short cutters on the bend in the Royston Road, where under the shade of a large tree a good selection of sweets was gratefully received. [No doubt Tent Packer nabbed all the Aniseed Buttons as My Lil' & Mr X were away on Friday 13th? – Ed]

If the Hash looked to the northwest they could see the prominent metal skeletal like Radio Mast for the former, small RAF Barkway base. This would later become a part of the United States Artifice in Europe's communications Network, which is now redundant but didn't stop a Base-jumper from climbing it and leaping off!

The Pack then set off again, eastward on the Royston Road, passing by the graveyard ringed-in with old iron railings, an Elderly People sign was thought to have been put in by the local Council to warn passing drivers of the Hash being out on the village streets!

Eventually coming back to the main road through Barkway, opposite the War Memorial, where an arrow sent us over the road, through a footpath next to the Barkway Congregational Church. The Trail was then picked up again leading through some more fields, up through the edge of the local sports fields of Barkway Community

Hall and Pavilion, there some, like Canny Cant, would have play on the cable-slide that the eastbound footpath would pass

The Trail seemed as if it would head over to Earl's Wood Cottage, but turned with the southbound course of the River Quin, eventually be bringing the Pack back down a footpath where the ON INN was seen, leading back via Burr Lane on to the main road, just a short distance from the Pub.

The Front Runners of Tent Packer, Where's Wally? Kathy and Moss Key Toe were already back and were rather concerned that the Pub had told them they had no power, so the beer pumps were not working and they had no card machine, so would only accept cash. Hash cash was more concerned that the Hashers would use all their cash on drinks and have none left for the subs.

Fortunately, Real Ale relies on gravity of hand-pump and doesn't need electricity most Hashers still live in the dark ages and do carry cash with them so all was well. The Pub did not do food, so the group enjoyed a few shared bags of crisps and spent an hour chatting. Despite the traffic noise, it was nice sitting outside after a very cold week.

The Hare was awarded a Down-Down for a great trail, but due to the lack of a beer master, Fliptop had to get the Beer in himself but omitted to get his Co-Hare and good Lady-wife a Down-Down too, so they ended up sharing one between them.

You can all work out the route from the map below. Trail 3.66 miles in old money.

No Eye Deer

In a week when NASA have successfully changed thrusters & fired-up decade old ones to keep the Voyager 1 in contact with earth, to continuing transmitting information from some 15 Billion Miles away in the Heliosphere after its launch in 1977

"Humans! Please don't send us any more unsolicited nude pics with instructions on how to get to your house. It's creepy." - Sincerely The Aliens

