



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

Run No. 2122
Date: Sun 20th October
Venue: Orange Tree
Location: Baldock
Beers/Cider: GK Abbot & IPA; Titanic Plum Porter
Hare/s: 3D & Slug
Runners: 7
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 9
Membership: Bimbling around Baldock



NORTHERN LIGHTS



A small but perfectly formed Pack gathered outside The Orange Tree, Baldock on this wet and blustery Sunday morning. Which may have put off the 'fair-weather' Hashers off and also with some regulars away playing at gangsters on the peaky Blinders Weekend, the numbers were dented.

The Hares were relieved that the weather was relatively kind, having got saturated the previous morning when laying the trail. There was however, some anxiety regarding what would be left of the trail and the severity of the Shiggy. That aside, Fliptop called the Pack to order and off we set.

The Pack headed to the left, and promptly found the footpath through the narrow tunnel under the railway. It was extremely dark, particularly in the middle of the tunnel, but thankfully we were too early for Halloween! The Check at the end of the tunnel was strategically placed under cover, so no one got lost and we were off to a good start. The Pack soon picked up the Trail that went around the edge of the Ivel Springs Nature Reserve.

It was On! On! to the next Check, at the bottom of the wooden steps. Diamond Geezer, No Eye Deer and Karlo went enthusiastically off to the right and just kept going! Unfortunately, for them this was the wrong way. And even more unfortunately, the T had been washed out. Anyway, Karlo was in safe hands with the savvy Geezer and No Eye Deer, so thankfully, they were not lost for long.

The rest of the Pack and the Hares headed out and down the side of the field, through a small wooded area and out onto Norton Mill Lane. It was somewhere along here, Flying Solo made her first appearance. She confirmed that she had found the Trail easily however she had not seen the three lost amigos, but they soon came into view.

The Trail headed westward as it went under the A1M until a bend in the road where it becomes Nortonbury Lane. 3D happily marked the short cut which carried on down the road, but bizarrely, nobody else chose to go that way. Even Port, who was checking this route, decided to make his way back to the Check and accompany the Pack on the main Trail. Slug and Sally also followed the pack into the field, which went along the edge of the River Ivel.

This was a bit of a loop, at over a kilometre which circled back through a field. Happily, the cows were hiding today and it was therefore only their pats to contend with. This was the stretch that Sparky go lost on, when Herts had a joint R*un with Cambridge Hash on the last time we passed this way.

Flying Solo was the first to arrive at the Held Check at the end of the field, and near the car park at Radwell Meadows Country Park. There was some discussion as to whether the Hash had once picnicked in the car park, which they have, but memories failed! Sweets were made available to anyone who had concerns regarding hypo-glycaemia.

Once, reassembled, the pack took a step to the right, it should be said, not as well coordinated as the cast led by Jason Donovan at the recent trip to the Rocky Horror Picture Show. The Hashers trundled down the road past Nortonbury Spa and found the footpath on the corner, which lead up past the horse paddocks. Alas, just horses in the one at the end which meant Sally had no reason to bark.

The Pack missed the sneaky footpath on the right, and headed up the field further, eventually finding the large and still



This bridge was designed to have shadows that reflect the pianists who work nearby.



A very similar theme was also used here.

present Bar Check. Fliptop and Teddy, at the back of the Pack with the Hares, happily commented that he was confident that the Trail would veer off to the right!

Crossing carefully over Norton Road, the Pack headed through a small field that led to St. Nicolas Church at Norton. A bit early for Christmas but nonetheless.

In the Churchyard, the Hares admired the handiwork of volunteers who had been de-weeding the graves the day before. This time, it was a step to the left, with more synchronicity, down a close which on first appearance seemed to lead to a dead end.

The Pack looked very confused, but less so than the Hares the previous day! Without further ado, the Pack found the footpath which went through a private driveway and around the end cottage. As the walkway entered the field, the ground turned into Shiggy.

Des Res, not fazed by the Shiggy, meandered on, enjoying the view over Baldock, where the prominent Church spire of St. Mary's Parish Church could clearly be seen. He commented to the Hares that he could see why they had chosen to return to Baldock that particular way. The Hares both nodded in agreement, but did not let on that the view had been their last consideration when laying the Trail the previous day.

North-eastward for 580 Yards, down past the sheep field on the right hand side, took the pack to the second Held Check which was on the Garden City Greenway. Flying Solo had already done a reccie for the Trail but without much luck. More sweets were handed out. 3D dropped a tangy one [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] which Sally somewhat surprisingly, gobbled up. Teddy, sensible chap, preferred the dog biscuits served up by his Alpha, Fliptop.

There was time for a few photos, ably taken by No Eye Deer in the absence of Hash Flash. It was then On! On! southwards down the side of the A1M, before looping into the industrial estate and the Letchworth Recycling CENTRE, at the eastern tip of Letchworth and re-crossing the railway, now heading eastward in the direction of the Icknield Way path footbridge over the A1M. Once over the bridge, the Pack happily found the On Inn and wiggled back down West Avenue to the Pub.

The staff at the Orange Tree made us all most welcome. Drinks were served, subs were collected, and the usual social discourse took place. In the absence of the register, book signing was put on hold; and as a number of people needed to make an early exit, Down Downs were also deferred. All in all, a jolly good trail and well done (and thank you!) to those hardy few that turned up.



Elderly Scouse Comedian opens new shop?



LIFE HACK

Turn any sofa into a sofa bed by telling your wife to calm down.

