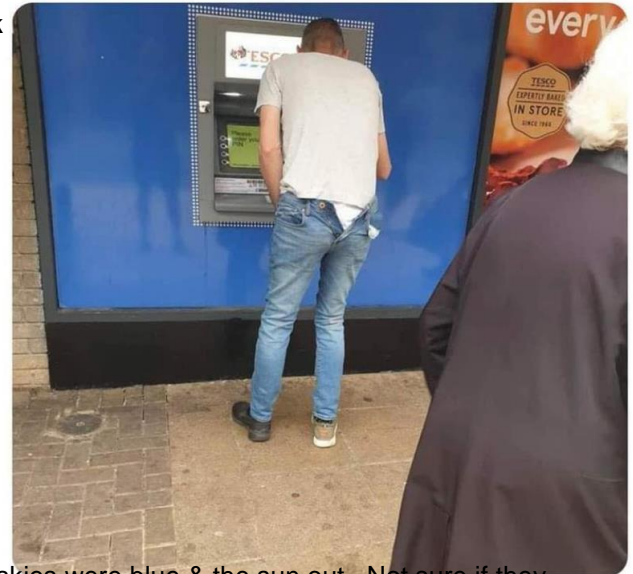




Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Checking your balance on a Sunday morning

Run No. 2126
Date: Sunday 17th November
Venue: The White Lino
Location: Walkern
Beers/Cider: Nadah, Zero, Ziltch
Hare/s: No Eye Deer
Runners: 19
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 1
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 22
Membership: Walking over Walkern!



Considering who the Hare was today, most awoke to find the skies were blue & the sun out. Not sure if they were still dreaming, the Pack would make their way to assemble at the White Lino under still blue skies, with the weather being warmer than expected, though there was a slight chill to the breeze.

This week saw our Newbie of Pepper Pig Porker, or P3, who is another ex-Qatar Hasher make his Herts debut [We do seem to collect them! – Ed] he's just moved back to Blighty & now living in Hitchin. He would join TBT OBE & Tent Packer as our other two ex-Qatar Hashers who were present that day. [Best we save his meeting with Sparky for a later date, a little at a time & we don't want to scare him off! - Ed]

The nice weather brought out a few more than expected, however we knew some would be absent as they were supposed to have been to the D'n'B Grandad session up in Hackney the day before. Hats off to Ketchup, for not only did he Hare the F.U.K. Full Moon Trail of the microbreweries in Brixton, but he made a valiant attempt to meet up with Where's Wally?, Kathy, Lobby Lobster & Mark E Mark at the Gig, but unfortunately he fell asleep on the Tube & woke up in Walthamstow. By which time it was too late!

Mr X & My Lil' did the Full Moon Brixton Trail, but weren't in a right state to make the D'n'B Grandad event & they wanted to make this Sunday's Trail. These two were in need of a bit of the 'Hare of the Dog' early morning, these prayers were answered at the brief stop en route to the venue, as they had half an hour to be killed in the Stevenage Spoons, here they had an offer that couldn't be turned down of Portobello Porter (4.6%) at 99 pence a pint!

The Pack were Circed up by TBT OBE, the Hash were welcomed to the correct R*n number, then the Hare called forward to explain what was out there. Standing a way behind No Eye Deer was Doeswhatshe says, who adamantly denying any involvement with the Trail. Was that some kind of portent as to what lay ahead?

Short Cuts, Cattle & Horses were amongst the possible encounters mentioned, then when No Eye Deer mentioned a 'Sweet Stop' DWSS, as 'Non-Hare', added there could also be the chance of encounter with a Mad Woman at the regroup. The Trail would start with the Long Trail runners going one way, while the Knitting Circle had to remain with DWSS.

Before the Hash could set off, Pepper Pig Porker was introduced to the rest, Herts Markings were a quick mention in passing. Then it was time to head away, out of the car park & around the front of the White Lino to turn south-eastward at the end of the Pub building. So began a trot away down Winters Lane, a narrow single track way that runs between the few homes to the hedged-in fields below these, on a gentle descent to the Triangle with Totts Lane, but there appeared to be no CHK point here.

While the rest of the Keenies split up on to either tarmac option, Mr X looked back & saw a footpath sign post behind, this was pointing into the cattle field east of the Pub Garden. Here he picked up the Trail, with dust being prominent on the dark cow pats dotted around, yet there was no sign of any bovines, so far.

Mr X raised his arm to indicate that he was 'On Trail' & called for a "Hash Hush!" not that this prevented TBT OBE from bellowing out "On! On!" the Trail would turn from nor-nor-east to due west, moving up over a raised level of the meadow & over to the northern side the cattle were seen, large bullocks laying down, so Mr X reiterated a Hash Hush as not to arouse these slumbering beefy beasts, as cow-pat landmines were negotiated.

The Trail led the FRBs out of a kissing gate, right between the side of the Pub garden & newish small Yew Tree Place estate, to emerge back on the High Street, where double arrows pointed the way over to Dovehouse Lane, an old by-way heading north-westward.

Starting off by the old red-brick wall of Manor Farm & then rising up through the farm fields behind. Out into the wide open space of the rising slope of cropped fields, the Hash would pass by one set of tractor tracks, complete with wheels inside the caterpillar, then further up they would pass the tractor unit its self, Mr X stopped to look at the machine that was propped up on the side without the tracks. He was cheered up to see the unit was named on the doors as "I love my pussy" [Where was Pebbledash when you need her? – Ed]

After some 750 Yards up the wide track, some of the Knitting Circle were found loitering the 'Non Hare' at the next CHK. By this point Diamond Geezer & P3 had caught them up with Walkers. Diamond Geezer was spotted searching over to the seemingly diagonal footpath, off in a north by North-westerly direction down into the shallow vale, this leads up toward Halls Green in the distance. Unlike the civilian walking that way over Churchend Common, Diamond Geezer had to come back to the Dovehouse Lane Track.

Milf & Juices Flowing all hung back at this CHK, & My Lil' was not to be seen as he had already been directed off on the Short Cut! Parson's Nose, Diamond Geezer, Port & Mother were among those who headed out on the sou-sou-west (Short Cut) path over the raised field away from Churchend Common.

Mr X wasn't as keen as the others, even as "On!" was called by Diamond Geezer & Co. on what would be a Falsie, so, Mr X persevered up the hillside, picking up the Trail on the way & was first to the CHK by the farm track down to Boxbury Farm. Using his Hash instinct, Mr X would find the Trail continuing on by the small copse of Jack Palletts Spring.

The serpentine Track would weave from side to side, enough bends for the front of the Hash to be obscured from the likes of FWB, Karlo, Tent Packer, Cou-cou, Sophisticated Lady, Lemming with Buster & 3D with Sally. One bonus now was the climb eased a bit, as the Hash progressed up the rise of some 130 feet in altitude, a second bonus was a splendid vista could be seen all around on this nice clear morning.

Diamond Geezer caught the RA when he slowed to cover his face, it was at a point the Trail led by a burning pile of old straw & horse manure, the smoke from which was drifting in the air over the course of the farm track. These two reached another CHK, this one being by a footpath to the northeast over the top end of Churchend Common, neither were tempted by this.

As the Trail carried on, Port, P3 & Mother caught up on the way to the next CHK, the latter two of the quartet would search to the southwest by the end of a small plantation, toward Sheepleys Spring, but that was a Falsie. Mr X also noticed that there was no Footpath Sign by the farm track to the springs, so he followed on through the deep Shiggy ruts behind Diamond Geezer, who would call "On!"

This was some decent Shiggy at the top of the plateau, then the Hash passed through the tree-line at the top, by the Warren, to head over one more smaller field to reach the Held CHK at Dane End Farm. There was a lot of activity going on up here, with some cleaning out of the stables, as well as some noisy work going on in one of the barns, perhaps it was their very own 'The Repair Shop'.

TBT OBE arrived at the Held CHK, along with P3, Parson's Nose & Tent Packer, amazingly Kylie was up there pretty quickly & soon taking pictures. FWB, Karlo, Cou-cou & sophisticated Lady were next to arrive. All were waiting on the Hare with the sweets, but when No Eye Deer came through the gap in the tree-line she would make a bee-line to the girls who were doing the horse mucking out over by the large pile of dung, this was to explain what the Has were doing gathering on the farmyard.

Mother was preoccupied with wiping the scratch on her ankle, after getting caught by a bramble, meanwhile Lemming was looking after Buster, who with Sally were going to get spoilt with their treats before the rest of the Pack had theirs!

Finally the Allsorts & Jellies were handed out to be opened, but the Hare made a faux-pah by handing the Allsorts to Tent Packer! Mr X had to wait until he even had sniff at finding an Aniseed Button in the packet, but he needn't have worried as there were a few in hidden within & no My Lil' either to scoff them.

The Non-Hare arrived, bearing gifts of Marsh Mellows, as the Hare made comments on the fact that the Pack had already gone through the other packets of sweets as if they have never been fed! Anyhow, out of the wind & it was a pleasant stop at Dane End.

There are a couple Dane Ends in Hertfordshire, the names derives from the Battle of the River Lea in 895, when the Vikings sailed from Mersea Island, up the River Lea to raid around the Hertford Area, creating a fortress 20 miles north of the Thames.

King Alfred eventually had the River Blocked to enclose their ships, then the Danes would be cut off & with the arrival of his army they would be beaten & forced to abandon the site, after which many of the Danes decided to stay & settle the areas that locals would name Dane End, marking as far as the invaders encroached.

History Lesson over, back to the Trail.

The Hare told the Pack to check it out, there were options of north-easterly behind the barn, a north-westerly path & one away to the southwest. Mr X decided he would take to the track leading down by Newbury Grove wood, although it was 100 feet drop in latitude, it was a nice & easy decent in a west by southwest direction on another serpentine route of an old stony by-way to reach a CHK by a wide concrete farm bridge over a stream.

Options here were westerly, on one of two footpaths toward the Great Ashby area of Stevenage, thankfully mostly hidden away behind the woodland in the west as not to spoil the view. The other choice was to head southward on one of the two footpaths that run south-eastward on either side of the stream.

Mr X searched the western side by the open fields, while Mother searched the wooded eastern side, Mother would win out & called "On!" which prompted Mr X to 'Sludge it' & carry on regardless, for he knew there would be an opportunity to cross over to the east further along.

And suddenly, Bob found himself the topic of all the office gossip.



Sure enough, Mr X could cross the stream by another concrete farm crossing, he emerged in to the wooded side just as Mother came up to the CHK, located at the end of the earlier Sheepleys Spring Farm Track CHK, but now this one was at its western end.

Utilizing his knowledge of previous Trails, the RA was up for continuing along by the stream, following the wooded strip down toward Boxbury Farm. Mother did fall for a Falsie at a CHK before the Farm, heading out to the west & Box Wood.

Mr X was not for turning as he continued southward, on by the Farm yard & buildings until reaching the point where there would be an elbow in the footpath's route. The turn to the northeast would take in one last ascent, this time it was steepest of the Trail, rapidly rising some 60 feet in a short distance.

One last snaking path lay head, Mr X looked back behind him from the top of the ridge, to see Mother, Diamond Geezer, Parson's Nose & P3 were all back down heading toward the Farm. The RA pressed on what he knew was the route back, so he ignored the CHK by the footpath down from Dovehouse Lane, the one the very short Trail Knitting Circle took.

So, it was on through one last wooded section as the underfoot surface became tarmac that was mostly hidden by the fallen russet leaves, this route soon became Froghall Lane, leading back into Walkern by the local School. The On Inn was reached quite a way from the High Street, but it was all marked.

Mr X arrived back, where he would find Juices Flowing, My Lil' & Milf already in the Bar, he would soon be interrogated as to how he was the first one back? As if he had short-cutted! This was a real blow to a man who was still reeling from being told by the Landlady that the Pub had no Ales available! [In their defence there had been a chimney fire the night before, though how that stops the sale of Ale is a puzzling question? – Ed]

I feel like this might be a bit much, even for East London



6:00 AM - 17 Apr 2018

Mr X did admit that he may have had some turbo assistance, for he had three vegan, unfiltered, Putrid tasting, Ale on the Brixton Crawl & this had a distinct windy result.

It took a while for the inquisition to sink in as he sat in the corner to cool down, for out of the breeze, it was pretty warm out there. Over a pint of fizzy Cider, he tried to relax, but when the rest were back, Mr X would come under some RA Abuse from Lemming, if they wasn't bad enough Mother offered him one of Busters Lamb twist chew!

A group of Ramblers entered the Pub, it was suddenly Packed out! As Hashers had also ordered food, the Down-Downs were going to be held inside in order not to lose seats. But by the time the Beer Master had the bottles of IPA in, the walkers had all moved on, perhaps the lack of Ales was a contributing factor? Their departing left just the Hash in the Bar!

Due to food sill coming out, including TBT OBE's Vegetarian Chicken Burger, the Circle remained inside, tough No Eye Deer didn't appear too keen on some of the Hash Songs being sung.

3D & Port had to leave early, before the Circle was called by TBT OBE & the Hash toasted, then it was over to the RA who not only had to award No Eye Deer for this week's brilliant Trail, he also had to award

last week's Hare for his Remembrance Day Trail, due to the 'spoons being packed out.

DWSS was quick to get in that he wasn't a Hare, his defence being that he wouldn't take the Hash to a Pub with No Beer! As Juices Flowing said earlier, there was a song about "A pub with No Beer" by Slim Dusty in the late 1950's.

So, in no particular order we had: Pepper Pig Porker for his First Herts Run; Lemming for RA Abuse; My Lil' for complaining that the Short Trail was *Too Short!* Tent Packer for supplying dodgy Haberdashery that has stained

the RA's backpack & his Gibraltar T-shirt! The last Down-Down, & his second of the day but thankfully only halves, went to Kylie for it was his big birthday the following day.

