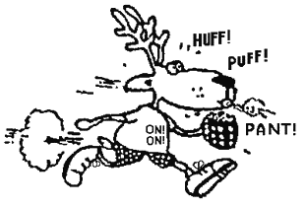

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2055
Date: 28th August 2023
Venue: Chez Milf et Kylie
Location: Puckeridge
Beers/Cider Hobgoblin & other bottles from Kylie's Beer-cave
Hare/s: Kylie & Milf
Runners: 13
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 15
Membership: Enjoying the Banging Bonus of Two Trails for On

Another week without the RA, he was still up in York where he had been talking to Beefeater, a Limey Harriette who now Hashes 'State-side'! Between €uroHash & UK Nash Hash, Beefeater had emailed her Friend Mike, she was trying to encourage him to join a Hash & he just happens to in Hemel Hempstead way.

So, after an email from Mike to the Herts Hash inbox, a reply was sent with all the relevant information for toady's Barbeque Trail, he would later receive emails from Both Mr X & Beefeater from where they both were up at UK Nash Hash in York. Seems all the information had worked as Mike arrived at the venue, where as requested by Mr X, Milf was keeping an eye out for this week's Virgin Hasher.

They may have not been the RA present, but this week we had Fliptop (Our HGM) on hand to call the welcoming Circle to order. One notable absentee was TBT OBE, who as we all know is a bit of a fiend when it comes to Barbeques & his 'rapid onset amnesia' when it comes to his vegetarianism! The food on a Bank Holiday did bring out Pepé le Pew along with Pebbledash.

Mike was introduced to the Pack, Herts Hash Markings kin of explained, followed by the usual make sure he doesn't get lost message, the Trail started in earnest with the Hash heading out to Park Lane [No not that one! – Ed] a humble side street where the First CHK was located. No Eye Deer was among those who fell for the Falsie away to the southeast, instead the Trail was picked up in the opposite direction, & soon the FRBs were heading out the High Street.

The Trail would head northward, up from the Crown & Falcon through the quaint old High Street to a CHK by the dead-end old lane to Braughing, that starts beside the White Hart. The Trail would take to the tree lined old tarmac lane, however the Dust would not go all the way to the end where it joined Station Road, a Bar CHK would put pay to that idea, about halfway long the Trail would turn off through the hedgerow & out into the fields that sit to the North of Chez Milf et Kylie.

The Path now headed south by southeast for 190 Yards, then it took an acute turn in to the tree-line, here this zig-zagging out Trail would turn north-eastward for 150 Yard trot up to a CHK on a T-Junction with another footpath. The right-hand, southwest option was the right choice as it climbed up the rising wooded bank for around 300 Yards until the Pack reached the 'Bunt' which was the former Railway Branch-line to Buntingford.

A simple north or south option from a CHK there, the likes of Tent Packer, Fliptop, My Lil', No Eye Deer & Mike all picked up Dust heading northward, a nice 430 Yards stretch lay ahead. The Trail crossed the old wooden bridge by the sluice gates in the river Rib to find a CHK up by the edge of the Gatesbury House grounds.

Eastward through by the picturesque former Mill, before the Trail started to rise some 120 Feet in Altitude with the contour of the ridge, a CHK was found by a southbound farm tack. From here the Trail would wind its way around a right-angle turn on the track from south to east the tip of the pinnacle of the mound.

The eastern arm of the track would now lead out to the reaching the Harcamlow Way on the edge of the Ash Plantation, where another CHK was found. Two options from here, head northish up toward Upp Hall, or south-westward as the Harcamlow Way drops away over farm land of Pockendon Field.

The hedged-in farm track would be almost a 1,000 Yards to bring the Pack down via Eleanor Cottage on the edge of the A120, from here

the Trail would be found running further downhill, as it descended with the main road to cross over to the start of Standon High Street.

For those of a nervous disposition & not wanting to cross the busy road, there was the option to go further on to the Trafic Lights where s press of the button, then then whe the Green Man appears to safely cross over & find the Trail running down the High Street, or, there was the option to carry on around the bend on a Short Cut up to the Heron Pub/Chinese Restaurant & miss out a loop.

The Keenies on the Loop would pass by the Bell, then on the gentle swan-neck of the olde worlde High Street to run by the Star, beyond St Mary's Church & on to a CHK situated by the Coronation Oak & the Puddingstone where Paper Mill Lane heads away to the west.

No Eye Deer was among those who were lured away on the Hadham Road as it turns to the east at the end of the Village, however My Lil' was keen on Paper Mill Lane & that proved to be correct as Trail led on the narrow tarmac lane, which went from the red-brick walls to large hedgerows & after 240 Yards the tarmac had been replaced by uncapped by-way which leads up to the long footbridge above the ford in the River Rib.

There were plenty of fish to look at on this wide stretch of water, made wider as the river's course has a diversion behind the former mill to feed the with waterwheel. There was time to kill at the CHK here, while awaiting Pepé Le Pew, No Eye Deer, Paxo & Tent Packer caught up with My Lil' & Mike.

When the Trail resumed, the Falsie further on to the next section of uncapped by-way was found, some even had a look in the meadow to the south toward Standon ???, but even for Kylie that would be just a tad too far for one of his Trails! [Perhaps not, as he's had the Pack out for a good two hours in the past! – Ed]

It took a while for the Pack to realise that the Trail was over to one side, on another footbridge, this one even narrower as it leads northward over to the island that the former Mill sits upon, this would lead out to the Meadow to the west of Standon.

300 Yards along the edge of the meadow on a straight as a die footpath & the FRBs would now emerge through the kissing gate to the southern side of the A120, here thy could use the crossing to follow the Trail over toward the Heron, where the Arrows would point the way up Station Road, if the Pack thought that the countryside running was finished with, they would be wrong.

After some 430 Yards, running an urban section across from the Playing fields & Community Centre to the west, the Trail would turn off from A CHK by Roger de Clare School, to run below this to the southeast, before reaching the elbow in the footpath that becomes an earthen track as it heads north-eastward to the meadow to the east of Puckeridge.

The Hares made sure that the Keenies & our Virgin Mike, would have another loop to accomplish, this one being a but shorter as it headed away to the southeast on a wide anti-clockwise lop following the bank of the River Rib, keeping with the waterway's course as it moves over to the tip of the open space. Ahead were some of the Knitting Circle, who had taken the more direct route of heading northward on the original footpath that runs beside the sports ground of the Ralph Sadlier School, which sits north of the de Clare.

A clamber up through the woodland, then down toward a turn in the Rib, before the Rollercoaster last leg of the Trail would rise up again, leading through the finger of woodland with plenty of hawthorn bushes & hedgerows to find a CHK by the south-eastern corner of the main section of wood.

There was only really one option & that was to clamber up through this bottom edge of the woodland, safely keeping the Pack away from the northern end of the plantation where the Out Trail ran! The Dust brought the Pack out into the open, to follow a dog-walking route out on to the end of Perowne Way, where on a short trot down to Gatesbury way would lead up though the estate to Park Lane & On Inn.

Time to settle in & enjoy the Barbecue, which Paxo wasn't allowed near as Kylie was guarding it like a dog with a bone, with a Beer in his hand! The weather remained fine, even though it was slightly overcast, the Pack could sit outside to enjoy the Barbeque, with some lucky devil getting TBT OBE's meaty steak-burgers.

The Hare/s were rewarded for both today's Trails, while Mike received his first Down-Down for completing his first Herts Hash!