

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

Run No. 2168
Date: 28th July 2025
Venue: The Six Ashes Templars
Location: Hertford
Beers/Cider: GK Abbot, IPA, Ruddle's County; Purple Moose Dark Mild
Hare/s: Mark E Mark
Runners: 15
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 19
Membership: Pining away!



Most of the Hash had read the email about parking in Hale Road (not the usual parking venue for a Six Templars Hash) but there was some confusion at the start of the run with P arrows leading back to the pub and normal arrows for the Trail.

Paxo and My Lil rolled up just before the start having been away at the Isca weekend, a great time had by one and all. Paxo rounded up the Pack with the correct run number and the Hare (Mark E Mark) told the Pack there were some short cuts for the walkers and some loops for the runners. Lobby Lobster was to mark the Trail for the walkers. Ketchup arrived just as the Pack were about to set off prompt at 7pm. Flying Solo led the way with a flying start but followed the P arrows leading to the pub, but was soon called back to follow the correct Trail.

The Trail went down Hale Road and turned left onto Queens Road, then looping back through parkland of the All Saints' Graveyard with all its memorials, eventually leading out to Hagsdell Road. The Trail continued South East to join back onto Queens Road past some very nice houses. The runners, including Tent Packer and Moss Key Toe, had caught up and overtaken the Knitting Circle by this point but most of the Pack had kept nicely together.

Pimp and Well Laid put the rest of the Hash to shame as they streaked past and checked out most of the checks. At the end of Queens Road arrows led the Pack down the wooded footpath of Morgan's Walk and then skirted West round a playing field and Cricket Pitch. The path then went South down another arcing footpath backing onto a row of houses of Mandeville Road, eventually coming out onto Brickendon Lane.

Arrows directed the Pack over the road down another, 590 Yards long, but pretty footpath. Dust had been placed on the fence posts which some of the Hash completely missed seeing. A couple of "muggles" seemed very bemused at hearing "On! On!" calls but were reassured after No Eye Deer explained what was going on. The Trail led to a bridge over the railway line, which excited Kylie.

A slight shortage of Dust caused the front runners to take a longer than should have been false, eventually being called back to the follow the correct Trail through Bayford Brook and onto Pinetum, Bayfordbury.

The Pinetum was first planted in 1767 by the Baker family who owned the Bayfordbury Estate and now holds a magnificent collection of conifers.

With around 200 species (about one third of all conifer species in the world), Pinetum provides examples of nearly every possible feature important for conifers identification. This makes it a popular destination for wildlife walks. The site is maintained by the Friends of Clinton-Baker Pinetum since 1994 with regular work parties. See their website for more information and how to join.

A Pinetum is a collection of conifers as opposed to an Arboretum, which include deciduous trees, such as oaks and ash and sycamore. To begin with, you have to remember that all pines are conifers, but that not all conifers are pines. Conifers include Pines, Firs and Larches and Junipers [Gin can't be Gin without Juniper Berries! – Ed!] amongst others.

The Pack noticed the Pinetum seemed to be fenced off but were reassured that it was fine to go in. Lobby was a member but not sure that counted for all of us. Sally enjoyed running through the trees whilst the Pack took their time to admire the Redwoods in particular.

The Trail led through the Pinetum and out East (Great Escape like under a barbed wire fence!!) for 560 Yard to reach the Hornsmill Road (B158), turning North-eastward back under the Hertford Loop-line railway bridge. Mark E Mark made a quick diversion back to his house to put on some comfy shoes, while the Pack were disappointed there was no beer stop!! (Also no sweetie stop, what is the Hash coming to?).



The Trail continued North down Hornsmill Road past Scoffy's Patch (whatever that is?) The way was marked to go through this small corner nature reserve and back up the hill to take to the long Wallfield Alley for the runners. The FRBs followed the narrow footpath in the wooded strip high above the fenced-off, rising back gardens of the terraced homes on West Street.

After 300 yards the FRBs turned from North-east to northwest to descend down by the Black Horse Pub, meeting the Knitting Circle who had continued down to Horns Road from where it turned to the northeast and had become West Street.

Everyone were now on West Street eventually coming to the double, slightly off-set crossing on the main A414 road. A lack of Dust would have confused any newbies but most of the Hash have run this area many times before so knew to go over the road, moving on anti-clockwise through the Hertford Castle grounds.

Hertford Castle dates from 913, first fortified by Edward the Elder, a Motte and Bailey were built by William the Conqueror, later it would be used to hold prisoners, including David II of Scotland and King John of France, not to forget the local Knight's Templars, which the On In is named after, when they crossed the Pope Clement V.

From Stewart times it fell in to disuse, eventually being granted to William Cecil, the Spy Master General for Elizabeth I and then James I (VI of Scotland). The main castle that exists today is built around the remaining Tudor Gatehouse.

To the north end of the walled gardens and the Trail led out of the old gate by the Hertford theatre and the Six Ashes Templars.

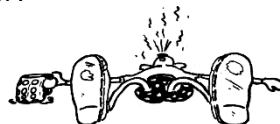
Unfortunately the pub seemed to be devoid of any fizzy drinks on tap, or lime juice, soda water or tonic which didn't actually affect anyone except No Eye Deer who settled on a bitter lemon. Drinks bought, subs paid, conversation flowed. Kylie announced that it was 10 years to the day that he and Milf met, doesn't time fly! [Where is her medal? – Ed]

Ketchup and Mark E Mark recounted stories from the past when they had been locked out of their hotel on an away weekend and had to scale a drainpipe to gain access to Junior and 19th Hole's room who were woken up by a knocking noise. 19th Hole remarked it couldn't be anyone outside as they were on the 2nd floor!! Luckily Junior checked anyway to find 2 bald blokes outside his window.

My Lil had the honour of not only being beer master this week but also acted as RA in Mr X's absence. Down-Downs were awarded to Mark E Mark for a super Trail, to Milf and Kylie for their anniversary and to Pimp and Well Laid for completing another Herts Hash. Hash Cash was pleased as the down downs were so cheap and remarked that all the Hash could have had one.....but no one heard her?



Trouble brewing



New Study finds: 99% of VPNs downloaded with trousers around Ankles!

