

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

Run No. 2181
Date: 12th October 2025
Venue: The Gate
Location: Bricket Wood
Beers/Cider: Dooombaaar
Hare/s: Des Res
Runners: 14
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 16
Membership: Newt on our Hash!



Five get salmonella after eating pies



Another lacklustre effort from Enid Blyton

The Pack gathered in the car park of the Gate, there were a few Hashers absent after the previous night's quiz, one being Paxo & the other TBT OBE. Mr X was surprised TBT OBE wasn't there, for the Gate is less than one click from Spielplatz, & with Teebs' love of getting his kit off at the drop of a hat, you'd expect him to be a member there?

As the time edged around to 11 O'Clock, the Hare called everyone over to the front of the Pub for the opening Circle. Zingalong mentioned that he used to bring his lawn-mowers for servicing at the shop opposite, but they may be having tough times as their signage now displays 'Universal Lawn o ers' Sales & Service.

Fliptop welcomed those present to the correct Run number, then it was back to the Hare who wanted to show the Trail markings, halfway through this demonstration a few groans were heard when Des Res drew out a Fish-hook on the ground.

The Hare said that the Pack should be wary of Tree Roots as trip hazards, then after a warning to watch out for the traffic on the busy roads, the Pack were sent off, straight over the curved Smug Oak Lane to follow Dust over a long & wide verge, heading beneath the trees in an almost due south direction on Station Road. On the way the Pack passed by the sight of a bench where a lot of litter had been left behind, then moving over toward the road as it turns to the southwest.



The Pack crossed over to run on by the strange squat square building, partially hidden by a green plastic webbing fence, this is the last remaining Standard District Control Type L Building from the Cold War Era, built in the 1950's the Control Centre was one of twenty-five atom-bomb proof built in the UK, the other remaining one is located in Scotland. With the idea of Government being gone, the country would be controlled via these bases.

The Trail then ran by the front of Bricket Wood Station, which was closed & boarded up for many years, but is now restored with very stylish Tea-rooms after it was reopened in August 2023, the station being scenic enough to have featured in several films & TV programmes. The Branch-line is a mere Six & a half miles in length.

The Keenies of Moss Key Toe, My Lil' Mr X & then No Eye Deer all followed the Trail down beyond the builder's yard on the long straight Station Road. After 570 Yards the first three would find the first Fisk-hook of the day. While Moss Key Toe turned & ran back to the last of the Pack, Mr X & My Lil' dithered, Mr X had a genuine reason to stop as a shoe lace came undone, plus he was in need of 'Hair of the Dog' but My Lil' had no excuse as he waited for No Eye Deer to run by the figure 3 by the Fish-hook.

The Trail would now follow the footpath as it moved slightly away from the road & in to a very small wooded section at the blind bend in the road as it turns to the northwest, passing under the Abbey Flier railway bridge, however, the Trail would pass through the wooded edge & cross over to the start of School Lane, which heads southward off of the end before the railway bridge.

The Hash were now entering the expanse of Bricket Wood, the total of all of the sections of the woodland is 212 Acres. The Trail started by gently weaving is way by scratchy holly bushes before heading deeper in amongst the broadleaf trees, including Birch, Oaks & Hornbeams.

Mr X discovered that he first CHK within the wood had been covered over with leaf litter, after he spotted a little Dust beneath, he gently kicked away the woodland detritus to reveal the CHK. Moss Key toe would now take over leading the way when he picked up the Trail as they advanced through the centre of the wood, it didn't seem far until the First Held CHK was located, again it was partially obscured by leaves.

Zingalong arrived, for he was assisting Moss Key Toe, it turned out that this section of Trail hadn't been laid that long ago, all of which left No Eye Deer, Mr X, Moss Key Toe, My Lil', DWSS, 3D, Slug, Milf & Kylie pondering on why someone would cover the CHks over, yet leave the Trail blobs alone & those placed on the trees?

Des Res arrived & informed everyone that this would be the first Sweet Stop, as the Pack awaited Sludge, Fliptop & Sis with Teddy to turn up. Sweets were handed around, with Jelly Babies & Allsorts on offer, then the option to continue was offer to the Keenies as they made their way further down through the woodland, moving to the west for a bit, then veering back over to the east.

At one CHk Moss Key Toe went wrong to the southwest, while DWSS did the same on a southerly path that moved over to where Moss Key Toe found a T! Heading back to the CHk, My Lil' now checked for Dust in to a hollow car was needed as the Trail descended around the leafy depression, then rising up again.

There was some concern from No Eye Deer, then Kylie about whether DWSS had missed the T & then got lost? He hadn't as Mr X had seen him turn back, but the RA did drop back for a bit to double check. The Trail would move on to a split for a Medium Trail option, but no one with the main Pack took the shorter option & all made their way up to the next Held CHk. Sally was enjoying the off-lead mooch around in the leaf-litter as much as the Hash!

There was another option of a Short & a Long choice, near to the edge of the open Bricket Wood Common, however after Mr X followed No Eye Deer into the 'longer option' they would discover that it was only a matter of Yards off of the alternative route, this loop was to take in the small pond that is home to newts, other wildlife & something known as bogbean, with white star-like flower, it had leaves that resemble those of the broadbean plant. It is also known as Boghop, due to it having been used as an alternative replacement to hops to flavour Ales in the north of England & parts of Europe.

The Trail would now take to the long, wide main path running through the common, taking the Hash under the remaining canopy of the falling broadleaf trees once more. The next CHk would have two options, another Medium Trail & a Longer one, with Moss Key Toe, My Lil' & Mr X taking to the longer choice, followed by No Eye Deer, Kylie, DWSS & Milf.

The loop around a couple of plantations saw My Lil' & Moss Key Toe both go wrong at a CHk, before the Trail

came out on to School Lane, here Zingalong was found waiting a little way down the Lane as the Trail led on to the last Held CHk, this one being a photo opportunity stop Des Res wanted the hash to take outside of the Picture House, in School Lane, it was built by philanthropic architect Frederick Wallen in the late 1880s – originally intended as a summer retreat from his London home. A fire in the early 1950s destroyed part of the building, which was then reconstructed to form two semi-detached houses with its



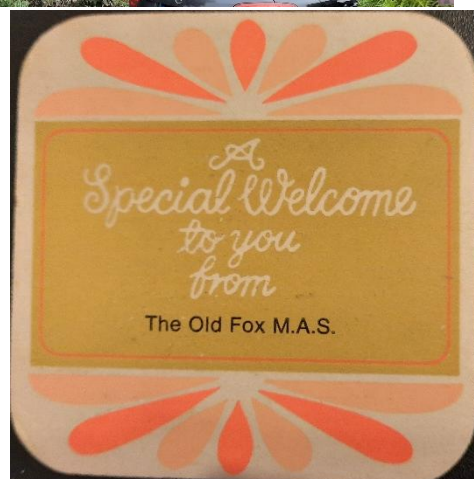
unique decorations on the outside walls of various Sporting Scenes.

Where those figures Runners or Hashers? No Beers were seen so must be the former!

Time to move on & the Trail would head down to the Old Fox Pub, which has recently reopened [August! – Ed], having been closed for years. Zingalong said he was going to stop there & drop off some beer-mats that were printed for him years ago, when he used to organise 'Car Rallies'! Some of which used to end up at the Old Fox, which brought him the nickname of 'The Old Fox'

The Pub was just opening as Zingalong handed over the Beer Mats he had promised to give to the Landlady, when he popped in on the reccie of the Trail. Mr X, My Lil' & Kylie thought it would be rude not to partake in an excellent Pint of Sidepocket, Kylie also eyed up the plentiful bar snacks of cheese & pickled onions on cocktail sticks.

Earlier No Eye Deer had mentioned that she had never Hashed though Bricket Wood, Mr X said that he had set Trails from the Gate, & the Old Fox which was closed for years, Herts Hash had even set a Trail from the Fox & Hounds that was run down in order to be turned into a house by Bricket Wood Railway Station. [The last Herts Hash was from there on Sunday 20th November 2005! – Ed]



Everyone had earlier said that the Woodland is an ideal place to Hash around, so the group discussed setting a Trail from the Old Fox, with Zingalong volunteering his services. The group sat outside to see if any other Hashers were to go by, Mr X had already seen Moss Key Toe nip around by the Pub, as well as No Eye Deer & DWSS after he sat peering out of the window. No other Hashers went by & so the group supped up, not before Kylie volunteered to take the empty glasses back in, placing on the Bar next to the bowls of Cheese & Pickled Onions, another group of which ended up in his mitts!

The Trail would lead around to the old footpath by the Pub, turning nor-nor-west up though the side of Coldharbour Plantation, moving on over toward the M1 before coming up to a boxed in footbridge over the railway, leading in to the western half of Mutchetts Wood, which is bisected by the railway line,

Zingalong went off toward the Motorway at this point, while Mr X followed My Li' on the correct Trail within the wood, the reason the Co-Hare went off on a tangent was that the Trail would move northward on long trail, with one slight left deviation before leading up to a CHK on Oaks Path at the end of the Aggregate Research Centre.

The Trail would head south-eastward, crossing the railway line, where Kylie was excited to see the tracks below, Zingalong now said that they were on the main route that the Hash had been on earlier, at the other end to the east of Bricket Wood.

It was up & down the wonky steps to the bridge, also on this section the back markers caught up with No Eye Deer & DWSS as they all came back on the eastern side of the woodland. Once down the slope to the level, the Trail would turn nor-nor-eastward, heading along parallel to the railway for 250 Yards to find the next CHK by a narrow railway footbridge. Mr X & My Lil' went wrong here by carrying on along by the railway fence, being called back by Zingalong to cross the railway line once more.

A nice 600 Yards on the wooded western side of the tracks, though there seemed to be more exposed old tree roots to avoid before emerging from the western side of Bricket Wood to Mount Pleasant Lane, here the Trail for the Keenies would turn north-westward, right up ahead, toward the centre of the populated Bricket Wood was a figure that must have been Moss Key Toe, Mr X bellowed out "On Back!" as he followed My Lil' around on to Hunters Rise.

It was on Mount Pleasant Lane that Zingalong dropped back & marked the Trail for Kylie, No Eye Deer & DWSS, but they were up for completing the whole Trail & not just go back down Station Road, which was the Out Trail.

Having obeyed the curved Hash Arrow, the Trail would move on 400 Yards through the urban street to reach the T Junction with Black Boy Wood, another god pub in this area we haven't Hashed from in ages. Some of us recall the death of Sludge's old Ford Sierra when we Hashed from the Black Boy Pub. [Which is one in the running for the that Regions Pub of the Year! Last visited by H⁴ January 27th 2008! – Ed]

The final leg was to turn right & followed the crescent shaped road to the northeastern tip, cutting through a gap in the tree-line to stagger up the edge of Smug Oak Green & then around a hair-pin turn to cross the railway bridge leading back down to the Gate.

Down-Downs were got out of the way early, as most were back late, so before the food came out! These went to the Hare & his Co-Hare

