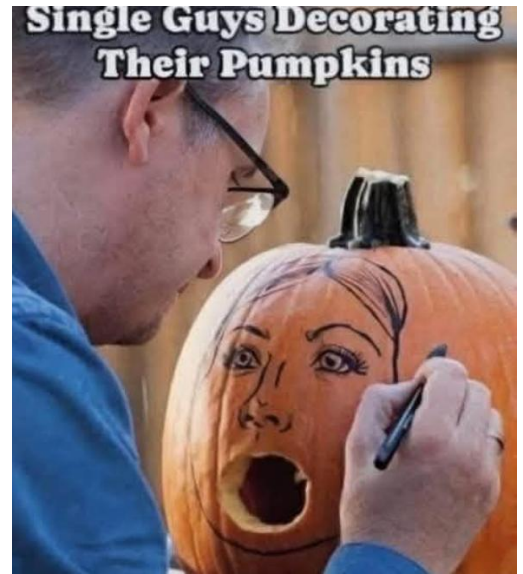


Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk



Run No. 2184

Date: 2nd November 2025

Venue: Chez Flying Solo

Location: Letchworth Garden City

Beers/Cider: Hobgoblin, Golden Ale, Mulligan's Stout

Hare/s: Flying Solo

Runners: 20

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 9

Newies: 0

Après: 1

Hash Hounds: 3

Total: 32

Membership: Putting the bejasus up Letchworth Residents with Lonomia Obliqua the Assassin Caterpillar!!



A later than normal start for the Hash, with Killer Queen & She Wolf having been out to their Ice Skating first thing that morning, which meant today's Hare had been extremely busy as the overnight rain hadn't done the Trail any favours, the old tennis ball in the flour trick was going to be implemented. [You can bounce a flour covered tennis ball to leave Hash markings as you run along! – Ed]

Today also saw a few from the London Hashers come along to dress up including Kenny, Hot Box, Airhead as well as Dipstick from further afield, as the advertised 12:30Hrs start was put back further so sugar-skull face paints could be applied to top off some of the 'Day of the Dead' outfits. The Circle was finally called by Fliptop, then the Hare explained what the Herts Markings were for our visitors, before adding there was a short cut & a Held CHK [A regroup! – Ed].

While most were preparing to start in Letchworth Garden City, Runs2eat & Kermit were awaiting the next Cambridge bound Train up north, from Welwyn Garden City to Letchworth Garden City! Yes, they had alighted at the world's second Garden City, mistaking it for the first one! They were not alone in a late start, for Juices Flowing & Parson's nose had mislaid their car-keys & spent some time searching for them before they located them & could set off.

Mr X had an extra delay to his start, due to the two pints in Mr Spoon's Letchworth branch had worked their way through & the Dia de los Muertos body-morph suit had to be unzipped & partly removed, so he thought he'd have some catching up to do when he finally got under way, leaving Mrs Mallett back at base.

Mr X needn't had panicked as the colourful Pack could be seen not that far ahead of him, up Eastern Way, with the FRBs of Diamond Geezer, Moss Key Toe, Port, Kenny, Hot Box, Dipstick & Tent Packer had been lured beyond the cut-through to Cashio Lane & Croft Lane, they were coming back from a Bar CHK to meet with 3D, Slug & Sally, Milf, DWSS, Jack'all, Fliptop, Sis, Hot 'N' Spicee, Paxo & Jules!

With the Pack were all together as the Trail now took everyone to the east, coming out on to the elbow of Cashio Lane to the south & Croft Lane to the northeast, the latter direction was the one for the Trail to be found, heading out toward Norton on the semi-rural road. The FRBs began to pull away on the 500 Yrds to the CHK, located just before the lane joins the Norton Road, here the Trail would leave the tarmac & head out beside a hedgerow over the fields to the north.

The next CHK would be found at the end of the hedgerow a three-way junction of footpath/tracks, again the Keenies were slowed up as the Trail took to the northwestern of the options, leading up along the outside hedgerow of the area of orchards that were a part of Ebenezer Howard's original 'Garden City' design.

After 250 Yrds another CHK was found, by a footpath away to the southwest, those regular Herts Hashers used their experienced local knowledge to rule out that option & to carry on a further 350 yards to reach the corner of the Grange Recreation Grounds.

The Dust would lead the Pack on by the front of the Club House, where a local Football Team were just finishing their Sunday Soccer match, the Hash were a sight to behold for the footballers. Unlike on a previous Herts Hash here, when we had a Held CHK & Sweet Stop, there was no Police presence this time around.

The Trail would turn 90° at the western corner to head northeast, some cut off the corner by the kids play equipment, joining the path after the 'Skate park' where the group passed by the starting point for the Saturday joggers. Mr X was surprised that the Hash managed to get by the swings & slides without having a go on them!

The Keenies of Diamond Geezer, Port, Moss Key Toe, Dipstick, Hotbox, Kenny & the Hare all left the Sports Ground, passing through the corner of the meeting hedgerows, to head back out into the farmland on the route used for the Letchworth Park Run. 250 Yards to the next CHK, here there were three options, with the northwest track being the correct one.

Mr X, Airhead, Tent Packer now formed a part of the middle order, Airhead & Tent Packer now had a chance to catch up on things Qatar Hash, as they followed just behind My Lil' & Hot Box on the 610 Yards wide stoney track to reach a sou-sou-west turning off point, where the next CHK found.

The narrower footpath was picked up as the correct route by the Keenies. On the way, looking over to the west, in the not so far off distance, were the distinctive 'French Chateau' style towers, these are now surrounded by housing at what is the Fairfield Park housing estate on the former grounds of the Three Counties Asylum originally built between 1856-60, the last Mental Health Institute there closed in 1999. During World War I it specialised in treating Male & Female patients suffering from Shell-Shock (Now days its known as PTSD)

A 900 Yards down a gentle slope would now sort out the FRBs from the Knitting Circle on the way to the next CHK point, here there was an option over in a due-west direction to Pix Brook, or the alternative was to carry on south-westward, Dust was found on the latter option.

A further 730 Yards along the footpath at the bottom of the fields stretched the distance between the members of the Pack even further, as the path moves over to the tree-line where the Pix Brook runs behind, here the Held CHK was found. A slight wiff drifting on the breeze on this fairly clear day, gave away the fact that the Hash were not far from the local sewage works

Time for some spooky themed sweets as the FRBs of Noisy F*cker, Kenny, Hot Box, Moss Key Toe, Daimond Geezer, Dipstick, My Lil' & Mr X awaited the rest to catch up. Moss Key Toe disappeared through the hedgerow, some wondered if he was topping up the Pix Brook? Angelai & Karlo the Jack'all made up the middle order before the Knitting Circle came in to sight, with 3D, Slug, Milf leading them along, leaving DWSS, Paxo & Jules at the very tail of the Hash.

Mr X was impressed with some of the work on the outfits, though with the number of Skeleton outfits that were on show, but he was also surprised that the Hash weren't chased by dogs with the bones on show? [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]

This regroup was also the split between the short & longer Trails, the Hare was keen to get the FRBs away. The expression of 'FRBs' had to be explained to Jack'all before he joined the Keenies on the longer option. The Hare entrusted Dipstick to mark the longer option, while she ran the shorter version to get back to get the Chilli prepared.

For the Keenies, they would carry on southward through the woodland beside the lake to the west of the Pix Brook, following the stream's course down to Stand Alone Farm where the path became a wider, hard-capped route as moved south-westward for 300 Yards toward the Stoffold Road, the Dust didn't go as far as the road as it turned a few degrees east of due south to run along by the Stand Alone Farm grounds, eventually coming out to the Wilbury Road.

The Long Trail would cross over to south of the Wilbury Road before the housing began, then it would make its way on through the arcing green space with the Pix gently flowing through the centre, this route would lead up to Cowslip Hill & then over it to enter the Norton Common.

The Dust would lead around through the woodland, behind the homes on Hawthorn Hill, through the woodland of the Nature Reserve, crossing the Pix turning from east to northeast, to emerge out on to the Wilbury Road once again, emerging via the iron-gate at the end of the main, wide path running from the south through the centre of the common to the northern end.

Along the way the Hash had to explain the costumes, one guy even believed they had been wearing them for two whole days, since Halloween! He was reassured that these were fresh clothes & *all* of the Herts Hash now have running hot water! It was noted that there were still a few carved pumpkins outside to the local homes, some where pretty inspiring as well.

Moss Key Toe & Diamond Geezer both appeared from out of the iron gate just as the Shorter Option Trail came out of Grange Road, it was along the last section that Moss Key Toe told Mr X that he was impressed with the Hare's floury Tennis Ball Trail marking, something he will adopt for a future Trail of his own.

When the Knitting Circle had left the regroup they had been joined by Airhead, My Lil', Fliptop & Mr X, the latter having a full bladder to deal with! They headed eastward up by the hedgerow, they passed through a scrubby copse upon the plateau, to follow a desire-line path within & then out through a gap in the fencing that would lead them out on to the end of Western Way, below Stone Hill School.

The SCBs were led on a zig-zagging route, starting off on the southbound green space by the back of Sax House, leaving the flats to come out on to Southern Way to the east, after 300 Yards around on down Western Way, which runs south! Only a short way before the Trail crossed on to Ashdown for 260 Yards to the opposite end of the link road.

DWSS was now using his local knowledge to direct the Knitting Circle on to the 100 Yards of the southern half of Sherwood, a turn to the left on Midhurst would lead around 80 Yards on to Woodhurst. Now on the east-west Orchard Way & things were looking familiar to most of the Herts Knitting Circle to the end T-junction with Grange Road, after a turn to the south the two Trails would meet again.



The Hash would follow the Trail to the end of Wilbury Road, passing two On Inns on the way back to Chez Flying Solo. Here the returning Pack found Runs2eat & Kermit had finally made it up from Welwyn Garden City! Meanwhile the Hare & the FRBs set about putting up the gazebo to allow the Pack to sit outside.

The Pack had only just returned when Juices Flowing & Parsons Nose arrived, they were in time for some excellent Chilli, not to mention the puddings that followed. The Circle was called by Fliptop, here the Hare/Hostess was rewarded for an excellent Trail, food & drink (Especially the Mulligan's Stout).



Other awards went to Tent Packer, who at the start claimed he "Hasn't got that many years left to be dressing up with scary make up!" Yet, was happy to run around with Lonomia Obliqua, the South American 'Assassin Caterpillar' under his top lip!

Kenny was called into the Circle, joined by Mr X for 'wardrobe malfunctions on the Trail, Mr X's being a lack of fly-zip* resulting in him having to take to the shorter version of the Trail, while Kenny wore a striking Red Ball Gown, which some wondered if she felt cold in it? Her reply was that "Warm farts rise!"

Our other visiting London Hashers, who haven't run with Herts before also received a Down-Down, amongst them also included Runs2eat & Kermit for getting off the Train at Welwyn Garden City & not Letchworth Garden City!

The Hare/Hostess produced some lost property from the last Herts Día de los Muertos Trail, there was a Pyrex dish, which was 3D's, & a plastic Skull drinking vessel which was Mr X's, this explained why he couldn't find it that morning!

Mr X went on to talk about the Ceremony of the Kyes, spuriously linking to the events that morning in the Juices Flowing & Parson's Nose household, where they 'challenged' each other over the Keys, "Who goes there?" said Juices Flowing, "The Keys" replied Parsons Nose! "Whose Keys?" was Juices reaction, as Parsons clarified "The Kings Keys" before he heard "Advance & be recognised the Kings Keys!" & they could open the car & set off to the Hash that morning. The last hit went to DWSS, for be so jolly!

Later on quite a few of the Hash, Mr X, My Lil', Hot Box, Kenny, Airhead, Runs2eat, Kermit & the Flying Solo all wandered down to the Garden City Brewery, though one had a push scooter & the Hare on her bike. All successfully passed by a bunch of Garden Gnomes, then the local Sally Ackers** as none could have signed 'The Pledge' due to the après Hash drinking.

There was even time to have a very slight detour to show the visitors 'The Settlement', Letchworth's first purpose-built Bar, which being a Quaker Town meant that to only sold milk & other non-alcoholic beverages!

The remainder of the Hash reached the very busy Garden City Brewery, handily placed near to the local Spoons & conveniently on the way to Letchworth Garden City Railway Station, Not Welwyn Garden City Station some 14.5 miles away.

Still wearing fancy Día de los Muertos gear the group raised some curiosity with more locals, even to having their photo taken by the Landlady of the Brewery. All in all, a great day was had by all!



*A fly-zip has now been added ready for next time!

**The Salvation Army



Siri kept calling me Shirley this morning and I was getting really annoyed, but I realized I had left my phone in Airplane mode.

