

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



DÍA DE LOS
**SANTOS
INOCENTES**

Run No. 2192
Date: 28th December 2025
Venue: The Orange Tree
Location: Baldock
Beers/Cider: Titanic Plum Porter, Titanic Cherry Grand Reserve Porter
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 18
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 16 Hare & Hounds (H5)
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 4
Total: 38
Membership: On a Día de los Santos Inocentes Trail!



A reverse-#Hanukkah miracle happened to me.
I had 8 days supply of doughnuts and they lasted for 1 day.

Well, it's been a while since H⁴ have had a joint Trail with another Hash, so it was good to finish off the year with H⁵ joining us for the post-Christmas Hash, a time to get out & about, to stretch the legs after the Festive frivolities & feasting. With Herts turning out all resplendent in their Christmassy Attire, which thankfully had been washed since the previous week's Herts Hash excursion.

No overnight rain meant that the Trail was in very good nick on this fresh but clear morning, the markings even survived the Herbert's that followed the Hare on the final section he was setting [Actually the Start on his way back to the Station! – Ed]

Paxo arrived in his new car, yes, he has plumped for one of the UK's most stolen models, as some stowed their bags in his boot, he wrestled with a yellow sledge-like frame to fit over the steering wheel. You spend all that money on an expensive motor & then have to pay out even more for the privilege of having a roof-rack locked on your steering?

Rob the Landlord was generous enough to open the loos for Hash use, looking at the motely crew outside he probably deduced that some may have weaker bladders these days! Meanwhile the Hare went around handing out stickers of little cut-out paper men, he would explain all about this later as the gathering Hash placed one on each other's backs.

The Circle was called dead on time, for the Herts Hash TBT OBE announced the correct Trail number, after Mr X reminded him of it just a few minutes earlier, while his stand-in H⁵ equivalent was slightly flummoxed as to their number with the absence of their Hash stathematician, in the end Old King Cole's phone came to the rescue as he looked up the H⁵ webshite to declare it 1822.

Opening Ceremonies out of the way & the Hare stepped forward to explain what the Paper cut-outs were all in aid of, well it was the 28th of December, it was the Innocents Day, or the Feast of the Holy Innocents, which is a Christian commemoration on December 28th (Western Churches) or 29th (Eastern) honouring the baby boys massacred by King Herod in Bethlehem while he sought the infant Jesus, making them the first Christian martyrs. [Though, you'd have thought that TBT OBE would be celebrated as a martyr for all of his maladies? No wonder Rob opened the loos up early! – Ed]

It's a solemn day of remembrance for lost lives, but in Spain, Día de los Santos Inocentes is also celebrated playfully as a day for harmless pranks, similar to April Fool's Day, where having Paper Cut Out men placed on your back with a funny phrase is the norm for some Spaniards.

However, there was some confusion as to whether the Hare & RA'S facts were correct, or were they just his mindless ramblings? As No Eye Deer Questioned if he was getting the facts confused with Pharaoh's order to drown all Israelite baby boys in the old ~~Testicles~~ Testament? [Sure sounds like a load of old Balls! – ED]

Perhaps it's a bit of both by the sounds of things, as the Massacre (or Slaughter) of the Innocents is a story recounted in the Nativity narrative of the Gospel of Matthew (2:16–18) in which Herod the Great, King of Judea, orders the execution of all male children who are two years old and under in the vicinity of Bethlehem. It is modelled by the story of Pharaoh's attempt to kill the Israelite children in the Book of Exodus.

Now that's all cleared up, or not, enough of the religious stuff & the Hare then moved on to what lay out there for the Pack. Normal Herts Hash Markings, there would be marked Short Cuts if the Knitting Circle stuck with him, plus a regroup with a Held CHK & some sweets.



Be sure to leave Beretta mags and shoes in your air ducts for John McClane tonight.



the Pub [A Kindly Hare if there ever was? – Ed].

Some tried looking the short way back on the Icknield Way, others toward the centre of Baldock, but they would be called back as the Trail was picked up on the continuation of the shuttered-in footpath, for around 120 Yard to come out on to Football Close, opposite the now closed & board up Engine Pub.

Arrows now took the Keenies up & over the Icknield Way Junction on Station Road to cross over to the northeastern side of the road, via a pedestrian crossing to find the second CHK of the day. Trail was soon found on the north by Northwest road, passing under the Railway bridge, after marking the Short Cut for DWSS, Bangers, Paxo, Milf & others on the western pavement along what is now North Road, the Hare made sure that the Keenies had all gone up the southeastern hair-pin turn on a rising footpath for a couple of yards to turn again, then emerge out on to dead-end of one arm of Larkings Close.

The FRBs would head eastward, with My Lil', TBT OBE, 5-Baah, Rapid, Edwina, Abettin', Zingalong, lastly followed by No Eye Deer through the small estate before a northern turn to lead them up to the Bygrave Road, where a turn to the east would have them arrive at a CHK by the start of Salisbury Road away to the north. It took a while for the FRBs to realise that the Trail would lead on down & around the right-angle bend in Salisbury Road, on the way along the 380 Yards back to North Road the first of the FRBs got to hear & see a supped-up old BMW decorated with Christmas Tinsel on its rear spoiler.

Care was need with the traffic to cross back over to the western side, where the Knitting Circle had advanced up to the entrance to the BALGA North Road Allotments on the Ivel Springs green space. Zingalong was now perplexed as to how the Knitting Circle was ahead of him, as he questioned the Hare, who simply said that they had taken the earlier short cut, no trickery, smoke or mirrors were involved in keeping the Hash together.

100 Yards down the drive to find a CHK by the information sign, with map, where there were 5 possible options to search. The Pack would seemingly look at all the options, the majority favoured the diagonal path heading north-westward over the open green space to reach the woodland some 230 Yards across from the kissing gate by the car park.

Supertrouper, with mum Waragi, had caught up with Milf & the Kitting Circle, as a big bunch of Hashers gathered & waited to pass through the large kissing gate, was extra Christmas Pudding slowing the passing through metal swing gate? Another late arrival was Des Res, who also made-up lost ground as the majority of the Hash crossed the open space.

Those who had searched off to the west now took to a northbound footpath, ell, they could be seen bobbing along the behind a fenced off path that leads up to the next Kissing-gate, the Hare would now have some brownie points in the bag from Milf with all of the Kissing Gates!

Just beyond the metal gate a CHK was found in a wide gap between the roots of an old Oak tree, it was here that one of the H⁵ Harriettes met up with her daughter, who was happy to go for a trot around today, as the Knitting Circle began to bunch up at the CHK.

A climb up a few steps, where on the wooden rails on either side had warning signs for dog owners to be aware of 'Broken Glass' in amongst the shrubbery beyond the wooden fences. Once upon the raised ridge, the Hash would turn southward to run amongst the long line of the woodland, a faux CHK was placed around halfway along opposite the Equestrian Centre.

Mr X would now ask No Eye Deer if she could mark a CHK later on in the Trail, as he was missing a loop out, so he handed her a piece of blue chalk before moving on to complete 370 Yards & reach the Norton Road, another Kissing

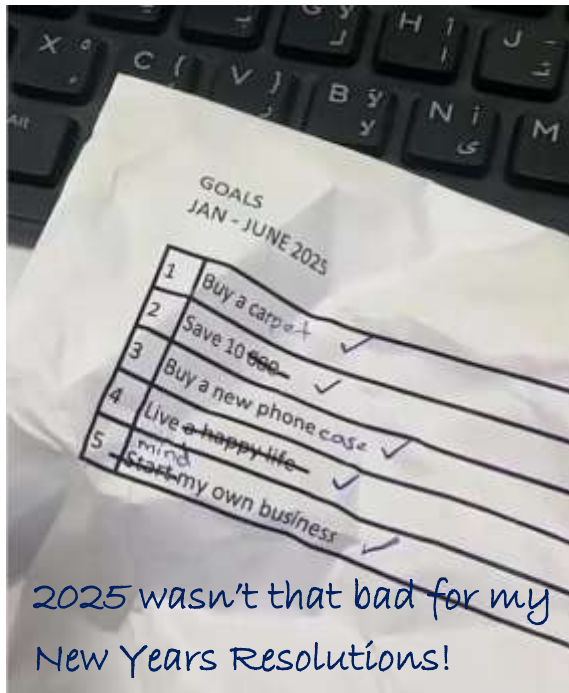
The Pack were ushered away down the Icknield Way as the old route bends around to the east. Having clearly mentioned the very obvious one-sided arrows, the Hare was still not surprised to see a breakaway group heading off into the narrow footpath tunnel to the north, Pebbledash, Paxo, 3D, & Slug amongst the others who couldn't resist the pull of entering the small dark back-passage.

Even more fresh chalkings were put down as the small group found no Trail through the tunnel. The wayward of the flock came back to find that those FRBs like My Lil', Parsons Nose who were more on the ball were now up to a footpath where arrows directed them southward, off by the side of one of the newer homes that sit in the small cul-de-sac of Farriers Close.

After a matter of yards, the narrow footpath turned to the east, leading the Pack between the wooden fence panels of back gardens on both sides until emerging out on to Jackson Street, here the First CHK was found, it was noted that My Lil' was running from the off & not being debilitated by a CHK outside of

Middle-aged man tries to explain to wife how he just watched forecast but has no idea what weather is going to be.





Gate allowed access out by a memorial & flowers tied to the roadside fence, sadly in memory of a road crash victim. A turn to the northwest would lead the Hash by the Equestrian entrance & then over the A1(M) to find a CHK by a farm access gate to the right,

Some crossed over the Norton Road, but were soon scuttling back after failing to pick up any Trail on the western side, Dust was found, & "On!" was called down the track that descend around to run parallel to the motorway, but this would only result in a long old Falsie!

By the time the Keenies were back, the Hare had already marked the Trail, just before No Eye Deer was about to do the very same with her blue piece of chalk! Over the road to the western field, where he pointed out the white marking on the rolls of hay to the northeast.

400 Yards along by the Norton Road hedge of the crop field, moving over the low crest of the ridge to drop to the northern corner, the FRBs discovered that there was no CHK there, just arrows as the Hare didn't want to take the Hash over the busy road to the east, & while the Keenies turned the 90° to the left, the Hare marked another SC over the corner of the field to allow the Knitting Circle to not fall too far behind.

This was the first section of Shiggy as the Track run behind the tree-line for the sheep field that lays to the north-east of St

Nicholas Church at Norton. The Trail rose up, passing more rolls of hay to reach a CHK by a crossroads of footpaths.

One option was to carry on south-westward on the track, another lay eastward out into the fields, the last option was to the west on the short end of the footpath that runs beside a cottage & out on to Church Lane, the latter was the correct one for the Keenies, while the Hare marked a Short Cut on the first choice of carrying on along the track.

The FRBs ran through the rustic, small Church Lane, passing picturesque cottages, then the stone walled grounds of St Nicholas Churchyard & its lichgate to follow the shallow bend around on to the Norton Road on the periphery of Letchworth Gardn City.

Sticking with the Primary School side of the road, the Hare sensibly kept the Hash away from the Three Horse Shoes on the bend, as the Trail would head south-westerly around & down on to Green Lane, it would be some 630 Yards from the last CHK to the next not far from where the old Post Office used to be.

No Eye Deer would now get to mark this CHK in the northeast direction, on the footpath heading between the homes & then out by the northern end of the Norton Allotments & the southern back of the Norton Hall Farm housing estate, the allotments gave way to a fenced off rectangle of former farm land, now earmarked for more housing. At the outside corner, the FRBs reached the end of the track the Knitting Circle of Juices Flowing, Paxo, Lady P, Bangers, Milf, Sludge, Pebbledash, Slug, 3D, DWSS & had used to cut out the long loop.

Arrows directed the Hash southeasterly along the eastern fenced off site to be, taking some 340 Yards to reach the slight elbow in the footpath's route along the tree-line, another 240 Yards & the Trail would veer off through the trees to emerge out into the end of the Industrial Estate, right by the Letchworth Recycling Centre.

Port was now confused as he reached a CHK on Blackhorse Road, right by the junction with the dead-end Knapp Close, for this very large CHK had CCCP written within, many were puzzled by this & the Hare explained that across the junction was the old boarded up Umo House.

It's the former home of the UMO tractors of Belarus Tractors (made by MTZ Minsk Tractor Works) that were imported in to the UK, especially in the past (1970-90s), at the plant in Letchworth, known for being robust, powerful, simple, somewhat affordable, but often crude with work-horse engines, basic cabs, they were popular despite some quality control issues compared to mainstream brands. But of more significance is the fact it was used partly as a front for Soviet Spies of the era, something that DWSS edumacted the Hash on a few years ago.

The Trail would now take to the short dead-end Knap Close crossing a diagonal footbridge over the railway below the industrial units on either side. A turn to the northeast would lead along parallel to the railway, now out of sight on a gravel track that gives a semi-rural appearance as it makes its way around the outer perimeter of the end section of the Jubilee Trading Estate, turning acutely to head southward with a wooded buffer as it runs parallel to the A1(M). It was some 570 Yards to reach the Held CHK by the footbridge over the A1(M).





Being the Día de los Santos Inocentes Trail, Spain's April Fools Day, the Hare handed out the sweets, & it explained that it was a lucky dip, for he had mixed up the various bags so some sweets were nice sugary ones, while the others were sharp sour sweets.

Sludge bragged that the Trail would cross the Motorway, but his confidence dropped when the Hare marked the Held CHK Sludge was almost standing upon away to the south & not to the east! Once the Keenies were underway, the Short Cut was then added to take the Knitting Circle of Sludge, Bangers, Milf, Paxo, southward, over the A1(M) on the Icknield Way, running down to Coachmans Lane, then a slight turn to take to Hopewell Road. Meanwhile the FRBs were on a loop down through the edge of the wood to Hadrian Way, as it drops below the level of the motorway.

The Keenies loop would cut under the high & wide motorway bridge, leading north-eastward up the old Letchworth Road, that runs almost beside its busier & newer incarnation. After 580 Yards the Trail reached the dead-end with the homes on the northern side, set back from the main road into Baldock. Arrows pointed the way off of the Cycleway along the bottom of Avenue

Park, taking to the Pepys Way path running into the housed street on the west of the park.

It would be a grand total of 750 Yards around the loop until the Keenies met back up with the Knitting Circle back where Hopewell Road becomes West Avenue by the north-western entrance to the Park. The Knitting Circle were now well on their way on the very last 230 Yard leg, running by the Avenue Play & Splash Park to the end of West Road, where the On Inn was found right before the left turn on to the Norton Road.

The real Keenies like Starboard, & a vast majority of the Kitting Circle were back for opening time. The Hare was straight in the Bar to order his first couple of [Well deserved! – Ed] Pints of the Titanic Grand Reserve Cherry Porter, also he knew that Landlord Rob was working on his own. There were plenty of pooch snacks going around, which got the attention of the Pub Dog

The Circle was called out in the covered back of the Pub, where Count Roadkill said it was like being in a Court with a Jury of Hashers lined up in front of him! With two RAs there would be plenty of Down-Downs, but firstly the Hare had to dispatch his Pint before Forking Dickchair continued with other Hits, allowing Mr X to regain his composure,

Mr X would call on Count Roadkill to stand Trail, as he survived an encounter of H⁴'s Dr Harold Shipman look-a-like of Kylie, just to add some authenticity to the proceedings Mr X donned a black cap as the Jury declared these two guilty as charged!

Port was out for being the zippiest of the FRBs, but he would not drink alone as Waragi joined him after Mr X interjected with a "If one Red Head drinks, all red heads drink!"

Zinglaong was called forward for being bamboozled as to how the Knitting Circle got ahead of him, & on more than one occasion. The Grand Reserve Cherry Porter was working by the this point & the scribe's mind has become a bit vague! Bangers was called out by Forking, as were H⁵'s P3 & Power Pants, Lulu, Abettin' & Edwina, not sure what the charges were

After the Circle, more Ale were enjoyed & there was even some Sprout Racing for Mr X & My Lil'! Some of Herts would set off for the Adult Panto [Oh yes, they did! – Ed] later in the evening for a very hilarious & enjoyable night, where Paxo was mentioned in Dispatches, but not picked on this season!

Still there's the next year's offering of some Dick Whittington *Unzipped!* [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]



After all the excitement of the Panto, Paxo sorts out his New Year's Eve celebrations!

