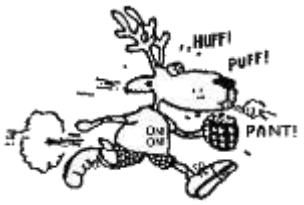

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2196
Date: 11th January 2026
Venue: Chez Sis et Fliptop
Location: Royston
Beers/Cider: a mixture of Bottles (Where was the Crimbo Cider?)
Hare/s: Fliptop
Runners: 17
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 1
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 21
Membership: Joining the Flat Earth Society [Who have members in all four corners of the globe!]

Inside the warmth of chez Sis et Fliptop, the early birds discussed how much food Sis had prepared, the short answer was she didn't bother asking the Hash on any of the Social Media platforms, emails etc as hardly anyone ever replies, yep usual Hash!

This week a cold wind brought the temperature down a few degrees, so there were a lot of Red & Blue Wooley Stamford Weekend bobble-hats on display, amongst the rest of the warm head-gear on show, even the RA was wearing gloves today as Hashers reckoned it felt colder than last week's Christmas Weekend.

The Keenies of the Pack soon gathered outside, while others were still faffing about inside for what seemed like an age, even My Lil' gave up on tapping at his watch as the Hare was still languished in the warmth of the house. Mr X called upon Paxo to go through the honours, as many outside were keen to get on with things, but Paxo was reluctant to pull rank. Eventually the Hare was winkled out of his abode to call the Circle together.

So, Fliptop informed the Hash that the Trail was set in flour & chalk, there were no Short Cuts per say, but the Hare could add these when & if they were required, there was no Sweet Stop with food après Trail, then the Hash were finally set off out on to an already marked H4 CHK on Green Drift, where the Trail advanced a few degrees off of due west.

It would be 125 Yards to the First real CHK of the Trail. There Waragi & our Hash Virgin, Adam, would head away up a Falsie down Tannery Drift toward the Fire Station to the south, they were called back as real Trail was picked up further along Green Drift for another 300 Yads to reach the next CHK, which was temptingly placed opposite the start of Mackerel Hall, a side street with a footpath at its end leading out to the Baldock Road & the Royston heath beyond.

There was no Trail on Mackerel Hall, markings were picked up for a further 130 Yards on Green Drift, three options from the CHK here, carry on along Green Drift, search the long sou-sou-east footpath down toward the Heath, or finally the short north bound footpath to the Railway Line level crossing, a route less likely to be searched by more experienced Herts Hashers as its only ever been used a couple of times over all of the years of Hash Trails in Royston, always being neglected for the Seven Hills of ~~Rome~~ Royston to the south of the Town.

Trail was found over the tracks, but after all of the waiting for the Circle to get under way, this would mean that the tail of the Hash would be stuck on the southside as one Train was approaching Royston from London Kings Cross, while the 14 minutes past service was about to depart from the platform 2, resulting in a cacophony of two loud Train horns signalling their approach to the foot crossing from both directions as Sludge decided that he could beat both engines.

After a slight kink in the footpath, the fenced in narrow route led up some 250 Yards between several of the Factory Units in the south western section of the main Royston Industrial estate. My Lil', Waragi, Adam, Parsons Nose, Diamond Geezer & No Eye Deer were all over Orchard Road & on to the next section of enclosed footpath leading 255 Yards between more units to emerge out on to York Way.

A right turn led around opposite Costa Coffee, Screwfix & Greggs as the road followed the curve from northeast to east by northeast, the next CHK being found by the start of the dead-end Beverley Close, signed as being the location of the Royston Recycling Centre. No Eye Deer & Diamond Geezer

had marked the CHK, as per the Hare's request in the Circle, it was down by the Recycling Centre to find a footpath off to the left, this cuts through to elbow on the suburban Orchard Way.

The FRBs were now getting pretty stretched out, Diamond Geezer pulled away from No Eye Deer & Mr X as the Trail ran along Rock Road toward the Old North Road, a CHK was found on the western side of the Old North Road & Diamond Geezer had marked this down toward the Town Centre, yet clearly across the road an obvious white arrow was visibly directing the way up a back-passage [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed]

I'D just like to inform any husbands reading this that if your wife asks you how much do you love her on a scale of 1-10, the answer is 10, and not 7 as I had originally assumed.

Stephen, Birmingham

Diamond Geezer was called back, he was soon on his way as there was no Trail where he had gone, No Eye Deer corrected Diamond Geezer's wrong markings & then they all crossed over to start on the staggered footpath on the back-passage out into Kings Way, advancing through the estate to turn southward down the Serby Avenue.

Here only My Lil' had found the correct Trail & was out of sight, shame there was no calling from him, as Waragi & Adam went wrong straight over the crossroads on Lower Gower Road, while Parson Nose came back from Serby Avenue to the west.

Milf & Juices Flowing caught up, just as Mr X picked up the Trail away to the east, where at the dead-end the Trail took to the cycle-footpath by the Serby Avenue Playground. Mr X was spotted heading off through the hedge to ~~Sludge it~~ see if there was a double-bluff with Dust on a hair-pin turn from further up the hedge in the Park? There wasn't & so he had to follow on as Trail head up to the north end of the 'reverse L-shaped' Park.

Mr X did wonder if any of the Hash would have a go on the playground equipment, as normally happens, but being as nippy as it was, no one wanted to hang around too long, not even for a go on the zip-wire! Instead, the FRBs arrived at a CHK on the bend in Burns Road.

Diamond Geezer went wrong, as did Parsons Nose, Waragi & Adam as they search on different options of a multitude of options from the CHK, it was on their second search, on the only path not covered first time around, that the markings were picked up on the cycle/footpath heading a few degrees north of due east.

Having run some 220 Yards, mostly below the south side of the 'Royston Rockets BMX Park', at the end of which the Next CHK was found on Burns Road once again. Mr X encourage Waragi & Adam to search the south-easterly underpass dropping below the Railway tracks. Sure, enough that's the way the Trail went, rising up on the eastern side of the tracks as Coombie Hole Road runs by the large area of Royston Allotments to the right.

There was still no sighting of My Lil' on the 300 Yards or so to reach a CHK out on the Melbourn Road, some heeded the Hare's Chalk-talk about using available crossings, Mr X cut through the short section of a triangle of paths & managed to reach the crossing just before the Green-man began flashing, safely reaching the eastern side of the Melbourn Road after Parsons Nose, No Eye Deer, Daimond Gezer, Adam & Waragi had crossed before him.

The Trail headed sou-sou-west but those ahead of Mr X must have taken their eye off of the ball, for they crossed over the Maple Way junction to carry on where there was no Trail on the main road, it dawned on Mr X that they had gone astray & he called them back as he headed toward Maple Way. Here Dust was spotted over to one side of Maple Way. At least this hiatus allowed Juices Flowing, Milf & others to catch up with all but My Lil' of the FRBs.

About 90 Yards on to find the Trail would turn from almost east to head southward on Cherry Drive, where a distinctive green footpath finger-sign pointed down this urban side-street, however, the actual footpath would not be found until after some 165 Yards around the houses, then beyond the right-hand elbow for another 60 Yards.

The old Finger Post Footpath signs had a fade early example of a 'Neighbourhood Watch sign below, as the Hash would take to a 240 Yard back passage wedged between the back of homes on the right & the playing fields of the King James Acadamy to the left.

Emerging out on to Garden Walk the Hash turned southwest, passing by the Royston Town FC ground, where the Crows played Bury Town at Home the day before. 330 yards to the end of Garden Walk, here it joins the A10 (Melbourn Road) arrows showed the way northward to the nearby crossing.

The FRBs were now ahead of the Knitting Circle of Jules, DWSS, Paxo, 3D, Slug, Flanders & Sludge as Fliptop guided them around, though Jules & Paxo would fall further behind, but more of that for the après Circle.

A few yards on & the Trail would take a turn off to the west, taking to Butcher's Baulk. The lumpy old tarmac footpath runs behind ivy-clad railings of Royston West Cemetery. It was a long old undulating 440 Yards running between the St Thomas of Canterbury & English Martyrs School ground, then the Stagecoach Performing Arts Centre to the south.

After the graveyard on the north the Trail passed by a School of Dance in the small trading estate to the north. Mr X's progress in catching up with the other FRBs was hampered by a

woman, child & buggy on this narrow footpath, he eventually passed them by not far from the end of Butcher Baulk where it emerges out on to The Green.

The Trail made its short way up to the dead-end of the Green, turning on to the cordoned off Mill Lane for another short section out through the red plastic barriers around the closed end, where they were carrying out gas repair works. At the end of the Royal Mill from the days of King James I (VI of Scotland)

Now, Mr X arrived at the crossing & had to press the button & wait for the green man, that Juices Flowing could have pressed for those behind the small group who just dashed across when there was a break in the traffic. The last leg was to head along Kneesworth Street from the Palace Gardens, again from King James I (VI Scotland) time spent hunting in Royston, to head away for the town centre & on to Green Drift, passing by a seemingly abandoned car on the not overcrowded street.

Back at the On Inn most of the old heads were amazed to have finished a flat Trail in Royston, My Lil' was found already there & he was like the cat that got the cream, all cocky that he got every CHK point correct & never went wrong once [Yes, it sounded really competitive! – Ed] However, the cocky wasn't completely happy, as Sis didn't know where Fliptop had hidden the Beers, nor did the Christmas Cider appear!

Luckily there was an open bottle of Port on the table (which Paxo was not in charge of!) that some had to make do with as a temporary *fix*, the Port would not last out the afternoon! Finally, the Hare arrived & an air of relief was felt as the Beers were revealed from their hiding place! Most were back within a reasonable time, Slug even had time to drive Sally home before Jules & Paxo finished the Trail, but it turned out they had stopped off at the Cemetery as Jules has a connection to it, so visit was paid to her respects.

The Hash Haberdasher wasted no time in hawking displaying his latest wares, these being a limited edition, retro, canvas school type rucksack. Get your orders in before these quality items are all gone!

The Circle was held before the food, so things started slightly differently with two Birthdays this week being up first, before the Hare was summoned forth for what was a good Trail, though Mr X did point out to Adam that we normally have off-road Trails! On the subject of Adam, he received his Down-Down for his First Hash Trail & he was joined by Waragi for making him come [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] Tent Packer for his latest Haberdashery, which seems to be selling well.

My Lil' was called out for bragging about not getting a CHK wrong & being first back! [Far too competitive! – Ed] Jules for dobbing herself in about having to stop to 'Scare the Squirrels' unaware a car full of kids were watching from not far away from the hedge, though being able to support herself against a fence made things a wee bit easier!

There was talk of the Next PUPs meanderings from Welwyn Garden City to Hertford, perhaps the Hare Raiser can liaise on this, as well as fill a few gaps in on the Hareline?

Time for the food, starting with the excellent Leek & Potato as well as a Cauliflower Cheese Soup, which surprisingly most had brough a vessel for, before tucking into a load of sausages before eventually reaching the sweets, with Flanders' Brownies & raspberries being a favourite with the RA!