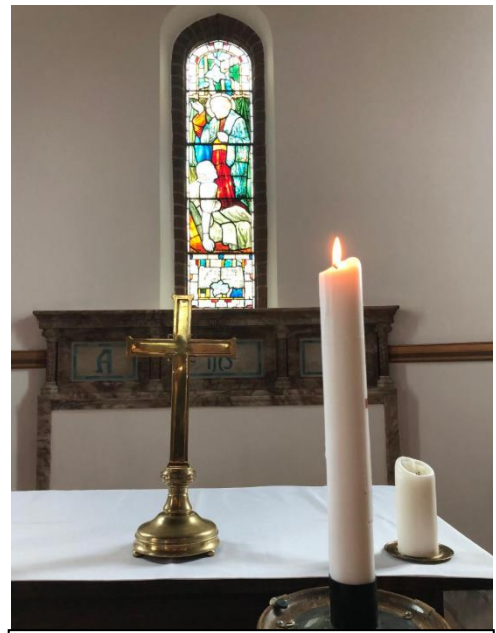


Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2202
Date: Sunday 22nd February 2026
Venue: The Rose Café & the Six Asbos
Location: Hertford
Beers/Cider: Titanic Plum Porter; GK Abbot; Oakham Citra,
Bishops Farewell, Adnams Broadside
Hare/s: My Lil'
Runners: 11
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 1
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 13
Membership: Breakfast Trailers



The Paschal Candle lit in Sparky's
Memory
By Rev Sarah in Buntingford

The RA arrived early in Hertford, so he popped in the local 'Spoons for a cuppa, while recovering from the previous day's dismal England Performance, which saw him take refuge in Hatfield's Horse & Gloom's Dark Ale Festival that culminated with a nice Pint of Death or Glory!

At the 'Spoons Bar, placing his order, the RA was suddenly accosted by a wayward crutch, that was being wielded by Paxo. Mr X asked if Paxo had done something to his leg to warrant the crutch, but it turns out that it was for Sis.

These two then awaited the Hare to arrive, which he did with around 15 minutes to go, & just like the RA the Hare alighted from the left side of the bus! Then it was a short walk around by the Beam Theatre, passing over the gushing weir to the back of the St Andrews Street Car Park.

The Pack gathered half an hour earlier than usual, even ~~Captain Slow~~ Kylie & Milf were there before time, then Milf exited her car with a couple more crutches! Anyone would have thought the Hash were in an A&E! The Hare was now getting a little twitchy as he wanted to start things dead on the advertised time. If Mr X thought that he felt a little weary, the sight of Waragi made him feel far better about himself, with Waragi electing to wear her Civvies around the Trail & sticking with the Knitting Circle. Both Waragi & Supertouper had just got back from a weekend in Belfast, taking in the Giants Causeway amongst the attractions.

Back to the Trail & Fliptop did the introduction honours, then the Hare stepped up to explain what was out there for the Hash. After the grumbling had died down, a cheer was raised as My Lil' informed those gathered that there were Short Cuts & that it wasn't a long Trail, for we were eating Breakfast in the Rose Café at a set time, after which the Pack would have a drink in the Six Templars.

So, the Hare then looked at this week's runners, all two of them, as he turned his attention to the Knitting Circle telling them to stick with him for Short Cut options, then it was out the back of the car park, through a gate in the walled grounds of Hertford Castle.

Mr X & Parsons Nose took to the southbound path, crossing another arm of the River Lea, where a large white swan was making a right racket as it flapped like mad on the short distance to the other end of the garden. The two Keenies embarked on a clockwise run within the Castle Walls, Parsons Nose was lured out through the gate by the back of the Beam Theatre & the Six Asbos, but he was soon called back as Mr X found the Dust leading up toward the red-brick Castle.

The Longer option then turned from west to south to lead out of the older southern wall, then via the sunken garden to Castle Street, here the Trail turned south-westward, here Mr X noticed that the Flags outside of the White Horse Pub, for the Six Nations Rugby, & that the Welsh Dragon was the only one to drooping down, not proud & erect [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]. Mr X was surprised the Cross of St George hadn't joined the dangling Welsh Dragon.

Anyhow, the Trail followed Castle Street around to the northwest & the start of the Water Street back-passage, running just below the A414 Gascoyne Way Daul-carriage Way, as it moves northward as the 'Castle Bridges' footpath to cross the River Lea & then on by the Castle Play Area of the Gardens. Here the Short Cut had joined this western footpath. Parsons Nose had dropped back a bit on this first loop, for he had stopped to do a bit of 'Wombling' & clearing up with a bit of litter-picking within the Castle Grounds.

Passing by the old wall with some ancient gravestones set in to it, Mr X would emerge out by St Andrews Church to turn westward, to pass by the large old stone carving of Willaim Caxton under the overhanging eaves of one of the oldest Hertford buildings. He now spotted the Knitting Circle & the Hare heading around from the CHK by the subway under the A414. They were now advancing north-westward on North Road by the new apartments on what was once Walters Garage, just after which the Trail crossed to the opposite side of the Road.

Once beyond the mini-roundabout, the Trail would change sides via a pedestrian crossing to pass by the entrance to the Hertford County Hospital, then by the bus stop a CHK was found with only two options, carry on toward Hertford North Station, or take to the dead-end & climb up Sele Road? Mr X reluctantly began the trudge up the steep hill & found the Trail, calling "On!" for those like Supertouper & Milf who were willing to follow on, others were offered a Short Cut back down on North Road.

At the summit of the Hill, it certainly felt like a mountain had been climbed as Mr X worked out the previous day's Six Nations Rugby session from his System. Here the Taril led through the small spur of Royston Close, where at the end of the few homes a west bound back-passage was found & up this the Keenies disappeared.

After 100 yards the FRBs crossed over the long footbridge spanning the multiple railway tracks below, surprisingly there was no CHK on the opposite side of the railway lines, for there was another branch of the Footpath that heads away to the southwest, instead the Hare kept the Keenies on the footpath for another 250 Yards to come down the hillside to the Welwyn Road.

It was going to be another long loop for Mr X as he followed the Trail down to the roundabout on North Road, just to the west of the railway bridge, here the Trail turned to pass under the railway bridge & on by other mini-roundabout by Hertford North Station to find double arrows directing the way, safely, over to the eastern side of the road.

Teddy & Fliptop had just crossed over, however there's always one who doesn't obey the rules, & that one was Parson Nose. For after Mr X had pressed the pedestrian button & as the lights went red to the traffic, Parsons Nose nipped across on the roundabout to be confronted by the long protective barrier around on to Beane Road.

The Trail ran below the River Beane nature reserve, passing over the river & the area for 'Private Fishing' before reaching a split in the Trail. Paxo, Kylie, Waragi, Juices Flowing & the Hare were all taking the shorter option, across the road & into the long park area between the River Beane & the rear of the Millmead Way homes, they would be followed by Fliptop & Teddy.

Meanwhile Parson Nose & Mr X stuck with the longer option, though the loop they would take was only a small one that went a little further along Beane Road before crossing & entering Millmead Way, then coming back around to the footpath through the centre of the Park. After some 340 yards around the dog-leg L-shaped path, though half of the Park, the Hash would make their way out of Millmead Way, again, here some noticed a Mini car with a Registration Plate the ended in MLF, but did Milf spot this?

Just as soon as the Pack had got back on Millmead Way estate, they left it to take to Pitteway Walk to the north-east & out of this 50 Yard cut-through to Port Vale. A quick turn to the northwest would lead just a short way to Balfour Street, where the Trail would begin to rise on the narrow back street, passing by the 'Little Theatre' where aptly they are performing 'Old Folks' on the 27-28th Feb! Later on, the Pack would find out that Supertrouper is appearing in this production.

The Trail crossed an old narrow bridge, that caused Kylie some excitement for below has the remnants of loop that was a part of the former Railway branch from Hertford East Station before Hertford North Station exist & there was no 'Loop line' to Stevenage, since the New Town didn't exist back then. The Trail stuck with Balfour Street as it turned to the northwest & then up nor-nor-east on Byde Street, the rise was steep & the Hash slowed on the way up to a CHK by the junction with the crossroads with Fanshawe & Farquar Streets.

The Hash now began to bunch up, but then nearly lost some as Paxo pointed out the options available & directed some off on what was a Falsie! Instead, the Pack advanced up Byde Street with chastising comments about Paxo ringing in their ears. Mr X popped over to the opposite side of the road to read the Blue Plaque, this stated that on this site was the 'Old Pest House' which in 1763 was a small Isolation Hospital, a place where Sir Thomas Dimsdale used the resident patients for inoculations against Smallpox.

As the Trail continued Supertrouper was overheard to say to Milf that she is not a Child anymore, she's now a 'Teenager', Kevin & Perry came to mind for those old enough to remember them. At the end of the bend to the east in Byde Street, the Pack crossed Farquar Street, to then be taken up the east bound back-passage to stop at a Held CHK on Port Hill for a sweet stop, of Fried Egg Sweets that were supposedly chosen to fit in with the breakfast theme.

The Hare was heard to moan that the Hash were now *FIVE* minutes behind Schedule as they hung around waiting for TBT OBE, who hadn't been seen since way back by the Castle. The Hare wasn't going to hang around for Teebs, as Mr X began to tentatively walked down Port Vale hill. The Trail found & it stuck with the raised footpath on the western side of the road. It was a nice down hill trot to almost reach what was the Reindeer Pub, now a Vets, then Taril would cross over Port Vale to the start of the long old drive up to St Leonards Church, definitely one of Hertford's oldest buildings.

Once though the ornate gates, which allow pedestrian access to the tarmac route, the Trail began to dip down to the level of Hartham Common to the right, but before this the Hash arrived at double arrows pointing away to the left, up the steep climb of steps cut into the wooded bank of 'The Warren'. Mr X had a double take, for he knew what



a clamber up it was to the higher path that runs along the top of the hillside to head north-eastward toward the Old Church.

Having earlier felt a twinge in one of his knees coming down the Welwyn Road, Mr X decided that he would miss out the route up through the woodland, this would come at the price of having to listen to the Hare belittle Mr X's choice to save his achy knee & miss it out! This left Parsons Nose as they only one to take on this 990 Yard loop on his own, as well as Run nearly all of the Trail!

So, having moved on along the drive, on the opposite side of the River Beane from the Tennis Courts, the RA picked up the Trail on one of the footbridges spanning the Beane, meanwhile the Knitting Circle now led by Supertrouser & Milf, were following behind the Hare on a short cut from beside the Hertford Lawn Tennis Club, now in this open valley it was the first time a cold breeze could be felt.

There were plenty of pooches out being walked to day, one took a like to the RA & began to follow him & the Hare as they passed between football pitches, a game was under way to the left. Coarse language emanated from some of the enthusiastic adult players, the type of thing not heard since Mrs Mallett lost at cards in Gibraltar!

The black lab was left behind after 220 Yards, where the Trail reached the Hartham Leisure Centre, Mr X was caught out as he suddenly side-stepped to the left when he spotted double arrows, but then was immediately called back as the Hare put in a Short Cut in, since the Pack were now *TEN* minutes behind schedule.

Having missed out on a loop around the Leisure Centre, Mr X was again recalled as he headed over toward the long weir in the River Lea, but there was no Trail there, instead the Trail would head south-westward on what was another section of the former branch line from Hertford East, passing below the old metal railway bridge then to a right turn to the edge of the Sainsbury's car park.

The Trail could have run right by Ketchup's Home on Thornton Street, but instead the Hare would take the Hash over another tributary for the Lea to the River Lea Navigation, to follow this through the long narrow section of the Little Hartham Nature Reserve, the after 260 Yards this turned out on to the bridge over the River Lea Navigation with Bull Plain to the south & The Folly to the northeast.

The Trail was coming toward its end, as the Dust led a few yards down Bull Plain, before turning off to run behind the new Bircherley Shopping Centre of Lea Wharf, which does look pretty authentic, even if it is not. It was here that the Hare thought that he spotted TBT OBE up head, but it turned out it was just an old guy with a very similar walk to Teebs.

Others now claimed that TBT OBE would be found in the Rose Café, with unfounded accusations that he'd get in a sausage & bacon sandwich before the Pack arrived & his 'Veggie Special' came out? Fliptop would not join the others for breakfast, not because of any diet but he was taking Teddy straight home.

The Hare was one of the First to come around by the Bus Station & on to Station Road, then into the Rose Café, sure enough TBT Obe was found in the Café & suspicions of bangers were aroused! The Hare ordered a coffee, just after the RA had placed his for a green tea, with their breakfasts.

Milf & Supertrouser came in, soon there was talk of the Giants Causeway, then it was mentioned that if you have a café named after you, you should foot that bill for all of the Hash, Supertrouser denied this was the case! After hearing of the trip to the Giants Causeway, Supertrouser told those gathered about some fund-raising she needs for an international Scout Trip to the Azores in 2027, all of which sounds like good fun! [We think we should give Supertrouser a hand to raise the money for this once in a life-time opportunity. – Ed]

Sadly, Milf would hand around a Birthday Card for Sparky, to be signed by the Hash, as Geoff (His Cousin) had asked if the we could go over to see him on his Birthday in early March, sadly with Sparky's Passing this will no longer be the case.

The Pack would tuck in to their breakfasts. Juices Flowing now became worried that Parsons Nose had still not arrived back, she had ordered his breakfast & it had arrived before him. Mr X said that he would go out & search for Parsons Nose, after he had finished his breakfast, the trouble was now he was woofing it down, that in his rush baked beans & black pudding were spilt down his top.

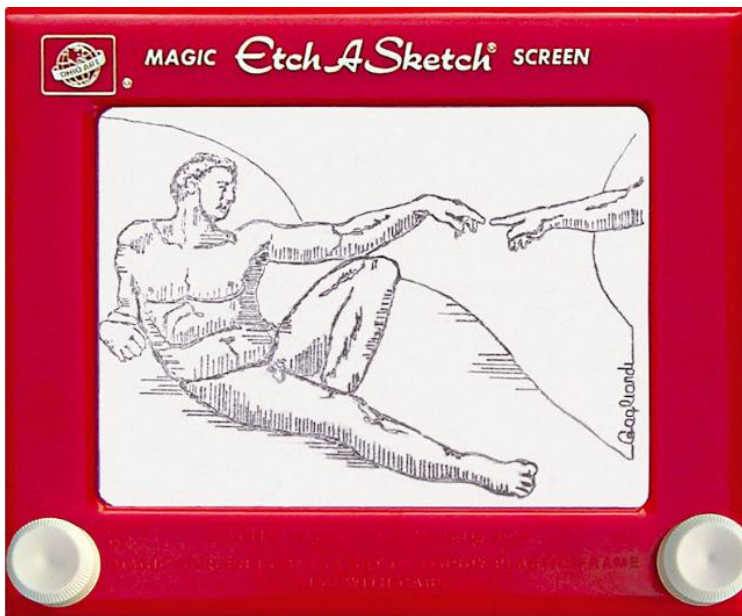
Parsons Nose arrived, unlike the Hare's coffee, but this may have been explained as Milf took a cup of coffee a waitress passing overhead, it had tones of Sparky taking My Lil's Breakfast at a Christmas Weekend a few years ago!

Adam arrived after his late start to join the Hash, some of whom had finished up, then it was time to move on, leaving Kylie to slowly consume his now cold breakfast, while the Hare was not in the mood to leave a tip, even though his coffee did arrive after the third time of asking. My Lil' was not amused as Mr X said he should leave a couple of quid in a tip!

On to the Six Asbos for a beer, but the Hare & RA seemed to be sat in the front for ages before any of the others arrived, some had gone trawling the charity shops, while Kylie was still chewing the cud. So, the Circle would be a bit later than expected. The RA changed his bean stained top, not wanting to fit in with the rest of the punters.

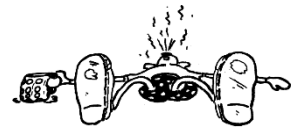
The Hare was now in the dumps, as nearly everyone around him had CAMRA vouchers to use behind the Bar, the sour-puss cheered up a bit later on, thanks to Kylie. Milf arrived back with some pressies for her grandson, in a bid to cheer up My Lil' Mardy, the RA abused one of Milf's pressies, an 'Etch-a-sketch' toy by drawing a Comedy Cock on it. [Very Childish & not up to Jeff Gagliardi's standards! Ed]

So, the Hare was rewarded for a great Trail [Plus a breakfast that was worth a tip! – Ed] then we had Supertrouser for being a Teenager, but she was a bit shy at her Down-Down, so it was passed to Milf for stealing the Hare's coffee! Paxo was out for accosting the RA, at the Bar, with a probing crutch! Waragi for looking Worse for Wear, 'jet-lagged' from Belfast to London flight? & Adam for being the last to arrive!



Afterward those gathered chatted about Sparky, how generous he was especially on his Birthdays, with the St Albans Organ Museum being a great time way back in 2017, with so much food had there & of course the cake that Psycho had baked for him!

There was some confusion that arose as to Sparky's 80th Birthday in 2020, which was at the Crown in St Albans. this was the one where Mr X set the Trail but had to miss the après Trail birthday party as he was still testing positive for Covid.



On! Up! Sparky, to Hash with 'G' on that great Trail amongst the Stars

