

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers

Herts official Website:
hertsHash.co.uk

**Exclusive: Woman saw
neighbour crying after running
out of fabric conditioner!**

**Housewife claims “I managed
to offer her a small amount of
comfort!”**

Run No. 2231

Date: Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2026

Venue: The Heath Club

Location: Royston

Beers/Cider: Doooombar; Twin Coast

Hare/s: 3D & Slug

Runners: 18

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

Newies: 0

Après: 0

Hash Hounds: 4

Total: 22

Membership: Chilling!



For a Bank Holiday Monday there was a good turnout, & what a difference a couple of weeks make, when people were moaning about the overcoming heat, now many were wearing light jackets, Isca Roman Away Day waterproofs & now grumbling about the chill on the wind! The Pack gathered by the Heath Café Bar changing room side.

Fliptop called the opening Circle to order, then, after the welcome which included the fact that this was the 'last day of meteorological summer', the Hares were called forward, with 3D informing the Pack of what they could & would encounter out there. Short Cuts, a regroup & then an 'additional loop' for the Keenies, the latter had a few faces looking on that appeared that they had already made up their minds.

So, without further ado the Hash were sent off over to the southwest of the stony & pot-holed upper car park, which made some wonder why a group of lads had brought their classic Volkswagens, including a Karman-Ghia Coupe there, for three of the classic vehicles all had lowered suspensions?

Eventually the Dust was found within a small hollow on top of a wooden bollard before the corner meeting of the desire-line footpaths worn in to the longer grass. Diamond Geezer, Where's Wally? & My Lil' led the way 90 Yards up the western route, with Mr X & Soggy Butt following on to find a CHK at a split in the paths. It was noticeable that after a bit of rain, how the grass had begun to green up, though there were still some brown flora that was less verdent.

The option cutting back down in to the valley of the heath wasn't really entertained as a serious one, with the other choices receiving attention & Trail was picked up on the main wider chalk track, heading west by southwest up the rising hill.

Moving on for another 127 Yards & another CHK was found by what appeared to be a concrete Trig Point, with an etched metal map of directions of local landmarks in the surrounding area on top, it also included point a lot further away, like Lands-End, John O'Groats & Stone Henge Mr X didn't need this to point out the lovely almost pancake flat fields over to the north, just beyond the railway.

the FRBs had a brief look at but no one was sure if they had their bearings as to

where the Trail would go? Here My Lil', Where's Wally? & Diamond Geezer all went off Track, over the grassy lynchet* to the south to a Tumuli behind a couple of the Golf Course's Greens.

*Lynchets were an ancient system of terraced farming on hillsides, the ones on Therfield Heath being altered by the later addition of the Golf Course.



Great advice for the Hash....

"It costs a lot to look this cheap."

-Dolly Parton



By the time the three had come back from the falsie, Mr X & Soggy Butt had caught up, with Waragi, Milf, Supertrouper & Sludge also gaining ground as the Trail was found sticking with the white track, crossing the ridge & having reached the 200 Yard mark a CHK was found. Only Where's Wally? began a brief search down to the north before "On!" was called on what was a long descent of almost 400 Yards.

The way passed by the neolithic Long Barrow, followed by five more 'Bowl Barrows' (or tumuli) a little way to the south, & Mr X explained to Soggy Butt, who was impressed with the views so far, that the earthworks were connected to the Ancient Britains who lived on the heath a couple of millennia ago.

Milf found the rock-hard chalk tracks a little uneven, almost slipping as the way turns gently twice before coming down to the next CHK, however this didn't stop her & Supertrooper, without stretched arms in the breeze from performing "The Hills are alive!" from the Sound of Music. Another option toward the North that was quickly ignored by the FRBs.

207 Yards before the Therfield Road the First Held CHK was found. The FRBs patiently awaited for 3D & Slug to arrive, along with Mark E Mark, Lobby Lobster & Paxo to catch up, some may have been disappointed that there was no Sweet Stop here? When the Trail resumed Mr X was called back for searching southward toward one of the Golf Holes, as the rest had found Trail a few yards out on the Therfield Road.

The Short Cut was marked southward up the Therfield Road, while the main body of the Hash crossing the narrow Therfield Road to pass beside a small car park on the western side. Diamond Geezer, Where's Wally? & My Lil' led the way, also tagging along on the long option were Mr X, Soggy Butt, Waragi, Milf, Supertrouper, Mark E Mark, & Paxo with Slug & Sally.

While 3D led Lobby Lobster, Pebbledash & Pepé le Pew on the shorter Therfield Road option, the rest stuck with the southeastern footpath would lead on a 625 Yards, to the north the distinctive white painted rails could be seen over by the Baldock Road, these are for the training of race horses on 'The Kings Gallop', while on the south there were more of the Golf Club's rising Fairway.

The Trail had reached the lowest point as it turned to the south passing by the furthest hole of the Royston Golf Club, to the west, after just under 200 Yards the next CHK was found, by the ridge of trees by the 'Hopscotch' Where's Wally's distinctive red & white top was clearly seen coming back down out of the trees to the level track heading due south, with two sections of the ridge of Pen Hills on either side.

Later in the day it was discovered that Soggy Butt had some issues with not recognising Where's Wally? up ahead, even with his distinctive red & white top, seems he could only spot him when he had his fluorescent yellow top on, but now out of the wind, like the others, he had removed his lightweight jacket.

170 Yards due south on a hedge-in track that had a couple of depressed patches of wet Shiggy hanging on, something that Soggy Butt pussy footed around before a CHK was found by a five-bar gate, a Falsie was found straight on, eventually the Dust was searched out on the curving path heading up the very steep end of the chalk ridge of Church Hill, something that took its toll on the RA's knee.

Some parts of the course fairways have a sharp 115 Feet climb that could leave some a bit closer to God after such an ascent. This may account for the legend of Royston Golf Club having the most heart-attacks of any course at one point, thankfully Golf Buggies have brought this statistic down but still a fact that was something Soggy Butt took notice of.

The first recorded game of golf in England was played in 1624, on Therfield Heath, by George Villiers, Earl of Buckingham, who was one of the King James I (VI of Scotland) favourites, whose account book from the time documents the purchase of clubs & balls, as well as a lost wager:

'Paid to the Goffball keep[er] for clubs and balles at Roiston 4th October. £1 11s 0d. Lost to Sir Robert Deale at Goff the 4th October. £2 0s 0d'

Having reached the second of the Bactrian camel's back like humps of Church Hill, the Pack could look back down at the fairways below. At the end of the open ridge, there was a solitary gate, just there on its own with no fencing on either side as the Dust led into Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Wood, situated in the northern section of the larger Fox Cover nature Reserve.

Taking a path heading north-eastward, to start with, then turning eastward to come some 670 Yards to the Therfield Road once again, where 3D was waiting at the second Held CHK, which was the Sweet Stop & regroup of both Trails. Though as Supertrooper would claim Liquorice Allsorts aren't sweets!

When the Trail resumed the Hash would cross over & enter a smaller elongated section of woodland, now heading north-eastward the Pack would be kept away from the Buntingford Brewery that sits a little way to the south. The meandering desire-line would make its way back toward the Royston Golf Course, where at points the footpath comes out to run along the edge, & when it did there were warning signs about being aware of wayward golf balls. [Must be when TBT OBE plays with the Herts Hackers there? – Ed]

As Milf, Waragi, Supertrooper & Mr X followed the footpath back behind a thicket, a golf ball suddenly popped though the foliage beside them & rolled on beside an abandoned plastic bottle. As they weaved their way back out beside the next Tee, they met up with then a group of golfers, who held off their teeing off to allow this section of the Pack to safely pass.

The Golfers asked if the Hashers had heard their calls of "Four!" Milf said that the Hash hadn't, the calls being lost on the cold breeze whipping through the valley, she added that one of the guy's golf ball had popped out by then & he pointed in the direction to where it was.

The Trail would then move back into the shelter of the Valley Plantation, edging away from the Golf Course as the Plantation woodland turns, but as they Pack moved deeper in amongst the trees they were suddenly confronted with a very steep drop down into a dell, the surface of this slope was a little loose underfoot & this put Milf off! So, she & Mr X took to the alternative, & less steep, side path option, though it was easier, Waragi did use some of the trees to safely aid her descent to the valley floor.

Now the Pack would discover the second official Split, with the Short Cut option heading due north up through the 'Golf Practise & Training area', while the longer option would head southward & up around the horse-shoe shaped wooded ridge as it climbs back up due north. It was in the section of Trail that some of the CHKS had been kicked out, something that confused those taking the longer option.

After 600 Yards round route, the Keenies came out on to the top edge of the ridge running around the Common, as well as butterflies on the heath there are six rare species of plants, including Pasqueflower, Wild Candytuff, Perennial Flax, Taraxacum, Acutum, Field Fleawort & Bastard Toadflax!

Below the wildlife haven is what which used to be the Herts Militia 700 Yard Rifle Range, built in 1855, with the 'Butt' being in the southern end. The Keenies would make their way on to the plateau above, moving around to the west of Wicker Hall, where there was a good view of the Café & Club House some 370 Yards below to the northwest.

Some came down the central, main 'Icknield Way' footpath, while with no CHKS up high still intact Where's Wally? ended up heading along the eastern edge of the common before correcting himself. Where's Wally? was concerned about Soggy Butt, who along with Supertrooper, Waragi & Milf had taken the longer option, but eventually they were spotted way up on the ridge & making their way down the central footpath.

Even Soggy Butt & co were back within an hour & ten minutes, perhaps it was the steep climbs that made it feel a bit longer than the average Trail? Time for a well-deserved drink as the Hash caught up with Pebbledash, Sludge & Pepé le Pew, as Lobby Lobster & Paxo too came in via the Golf Practice area, perhaps they had a little practise on the way? The Pack sat outside enjoying the glorious afternoon.

The final Circle was called by Fliptop, then after the toast to the Hash, it was over to the RA, who admitted he didn't see that much in the way of misdemeanours on this Trail, as the Hares were rewarded their Down-Downs for the excellent Trail encompassing at least three of the seven hills of Royston. Kylie was called out for lost property from the previous week's Hash. The RA did consider My Lil' being called out for a Hit, for his moaning about the Ale on offer being a weak Sharpes Doombar or Twin Coast, but he reconsidered as Mr X wouldn't have like to down a pint of either!

Waragi & Supertrooper followed on behind My Lil' & Mr X to the local Spoons, where Haloumi Style Cheese* wraps were the order of the day for Supertrooper, while Mr X & My Lil' hit the GK Abbott Reserve! *Its called Haloumi Style as it does not originate from Cyprus, 'Protected Designation of Origin' regulations prevent it being called Haloumi!

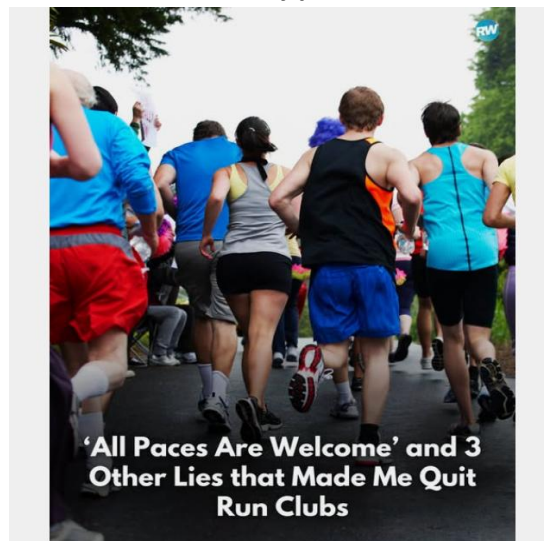
My Lil's Favourite Beer?



RIP Dolly Parton 🥹



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