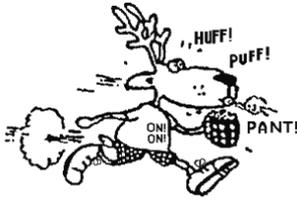


# Herts Hash House Harriers



Herts official Website: [hertshash.co.uk](http://hertshash.co.uk)

Run No. 1942

13th September 2021

Venues: The Ruby, Old Cross Tavern

Beers: Tring Maison, Side Pocket; & three others

Location: Hertford

Hare/s: Ketchup

Runners: 15

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

Newies: 0

Après: 1

Hash Hounds: 1

Total: 17

Membership: End of season pigout '21



So, it came around to the last Regular Monday Trail of 2021, which meant it was the end of season Pig-out Trail, hosted by Ketchup before he goes into semi-hibernation as winter draws on. This time around he was actually setting the Trail, something he was rather negligent with the last couple of Pig-out R\*ns.

No Eye Deer was waiting outside of the Restaurant, while the rest were meeting up in the St Andrew's Street Car Park. While Fliptop had a pressie of some Chilli Sauce for Mr X, Mr X in turn had brought Skip's knee brace, or his Arab Strap as Mr X called it, back after he left it behind at My Lil's Barbecue. Mr X then had to explain to Skip what an Arab Strap was, he never knew Skip has led such a sheltered life?

As more arrived they were advised to get a ticket from the ticket machine in the car park, there was no payment due, but you need to get a free ticket to put on display for any overnight stays. As the Pack began to gather there was surprise as Ewok arrived for her first Herts Hash in a long time, being a Full Time Carer is not an easy job. It was good to see her & there were plenty of hugs from Milf, Sis & the rest.

Sparerib arrived & he was soon on the phone to Amanda as she was on her way to the car park, she arrived just as the Circle was about to get underway. The Hare wanted to know who was going for an Indian after the Trail, then there was a strange game of raising hands & putting them down, then raising them again if they wanted a Curry, then No Eye Deer wanted to take the count on who was going for a Curry & so it was up arms again! Mr X then added that TBT OBE would not be here today as he was with someone test positive for covid on Friday, so he was self-isolating [Is that what they call it now? - Ed]

The Hare explained to those with aching arms, that it was normal Herts markings, the Trail wasn't that long & would take about 40 minutes to run, obviously for the walkers it would take longer, he said that the Indian was booked for half past eight & that there should be time for a pint in HQ (Old Cross tavern).

The Pack were then shown the way out of the 'In' route to the car park to St Andrews Street, where Amanda, Sparerib, Mr X & My Lil' were all fooled into looking for Trail westward toward the junction at the end of Old Cross, where there was no Dust. A call of "ON back!" had them turning back to head westward on St Andrews Street, passing by the old Antiques Shop that has the carved figure of what is believed to be William Caxton, then on to the end where the dark red coloured Indian restaurant sits.

A CHK was found by the footpath at the corner of St Andrews Church & right by the Ruby. A few carried on around the bend in the road to search where St Andrews Street becomes North Road, which confusingly heads away in a north-westward direction, there was also the option of the underpass beneath the A141 by-pass road of the bend.

The y would all be called back as Paxo, Fliptop, Milf & Kylie all took to the tarmac footpath beside the Church, Mr X & My Lil' caught up & then had to pass by Skip, who stood to one side on tis narrow path with Gravestones set into the wall away from the iron railings of the churchyard.

Away from the morbid & the path crossed over an old black wrought iron bridge over a mill stream arm of the river Lea, then a few feet further on the Hash would pass by the full river Lea as it runs into the end of Hertford Castle grounds, near to a kids' playground on the other side of the black railings.

A CHK was found by an open gate in the black metal railings. While My Lil', Fliptop & Tent Packer searched in the Castle Grounds to the northeast, Kylie, Paxo & Mr X continued along on the footpath as it left the river Lea & then around outside of the Castle grounds & hemmed in beside the A414 By-pass.

There was no sign of any Dust as they came around by the cottages that back on to Water Lane, then as they came on to Castle Street they saw the others were 'On Trail' by the red brick Castle & heading through the ornate grounds that were famous, according to the venerable Bede, for staging the first General Synod in 672, which achieved unification of the English Churches.

The Breakaway Pack could see the rest were now going to emerge out by the end of the Stone & Flint walls to come out through small sunken gardens that sit near enough opposite the White Horse. There was a CHK on the White Horse side, right near to the subway leading under the A414 Gascoyne Way.

Ewok, Kylie, Tent Packer, My Lil' & Fliptop all tentatively looked on down the steps to the subway after Paxo had already started off on his decent of the steps to the south, meanwhile Mr X thought more of it & went to the search the end of Castle Street, there he picked up arrows pointing the way over the southern end of Parliament Square Road to run by the former Victorian Police Station & then on to the path beside the A414 that leads to a ramp down to another subway.

Arrows pointed the Trail away from the centre of Hertford & on beneath the A414 by way of the urine smelling underpass, fresh air soon hit the nostrils of those who couldn't hold their breath, & the quickest way up was by the set of steps to find a CHK on the end of Queens Road by the entrance to All Saints Churchyard.

Mr X was soon within the grounds of the large rouge stone Church, he knew that there are a few footpaths within the grounds & he started to search the one on the western side of the grounds. Apart from throwing back a football that came over the wooden fence from the houses that back on to the grounds, there was nothing else to for him to find up there.

Looking back the RA could see there was a lot of milling about (again) by the CHK, then eventually No Eye Deer found the Trail as it lead around the side of the Church & then around to the tarmac path leading between this & St Johns Hall. When Mr X heard calls of "On!" he did a 'Sludge' & cut across the first of interconnecting paths to the south of the Church.

The RA was actually running this way as he thought the others had picked up the Trail on the path out to Church Fields to the east of the Church, but to his surprise he accidentally picked up the Dust just as No Eye Deer was making her way up to the southern end of the Church Grounds.

No Eye Deer questioned the RA on how he managed to come out on to the Trail in front of her? Mr X replied "Sludge taught me well!" in Star Wars manner reminiscent of when Darth Vader says to Obi Wan Kenobi "The Circle is now complete, when I left you I was but the learner, now I am the Master!"

Once at the end of the eastern avenue of trees, they arrived at the south-eastern corner of the graveyard, through the gate in the iron railings to find a CHK out on Hagsdel Road. While Mr X searched up the north-eastern option, No Eye Der looked in the opposite direction but neither would find any Trail, Mr X was at the summit of the hill & briefly looked either way on the Rookes alleyway that crosses the road but it was all to no Trail, so he turned back.

Milf, Ewok, Tent Packer, Amanda & Sparerib picked up the Dust as they looked off down the dead-end Valley Close, it was only a short way through this cul-de-sac to find a narrow footpath at the bottom, now the Pack took to crossing the dry brook below by way of a short footbridge with black metal rails to find a CHK on Hagsdell Lane, an ancient footpath existing before any of the houses here, this runs from west to east that now has a tarmac floor as it runs behind the wooden fenced off back to back homes.

No Eye Deer went wrong here as she searched westward, she was called back as "On!" called to the east on a rising alley that leads all the way out on to Mangrove Lane, which is named after the now demolished Mangrove House. On the way up the climb Milf took some action shots & video. A CHK was discovered outside of the Simon Balle School, named after Simon de Balle, one of two deputies (MPs) sent to Parliament to represent the Borough in 1298. He also owned the nearby Balls Park, a former stately home with ornate gardens that was once under the Little Amwell area, this would later become Balls Park Teacher Training College, this was sold off & has now been turned in to housing, & with some sympathetic new builds being constructed there in the last few years.

While nothing was picked up either way on Mangrove lane, My Lil' had better luck as he went through the gap at the side of a metal five-bar gate on a wide drive beside the school, that runs deeper in to Balls Park.

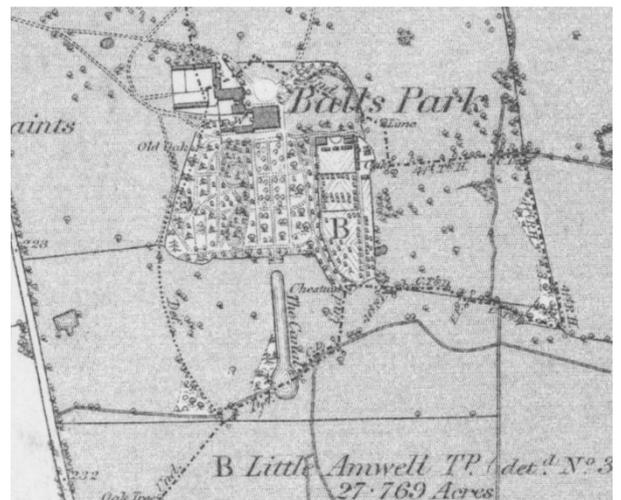
The Trail led along the north of the College & then by the adjacent Stately Home, to reach a CHK on the drive to the Willis Grove new builds, the choice over the grassy plains to the old London Road Lodge was the option that got most attention from the established members of the Pack.

Mr X was suddenly not so keen, for he thought that it was far too quick for Dust when the Trail was picked up, indeed he was right to be a little sceptical, as Amanda passed him by, Mr X said watch out for the ghost of Freddie Mercury, for Balls Park College was the very first stop of Queens' First Tour way back in 14th November 1970, the line-up were Freddie Mercury (lead vocals, tambourine), Brian May (electric guitar, backing vocals), Roger Taylor (drums, backing vocals), Barry Mitchell (bass guitar) during their transition from Smile to Queen. The Support band were Full Frontal Nudity!

Mr X should have known better & stopped as this grassy route turned out to be a Falsie! So Fliptop, Amanda, Sparerib, My Lil' also had to turn back with him. Others had gone off toward the 17th Century Graded II listed house & Trail was picked up by Milf & Tent Packer, who were now leading the way southward on a convoluted Trail around by the new homes, there were a few concerned residents looking on from out of their flat windows as the Pack followed the Dust on the route of the marked footpath to the west of the buildings, which wasn't straightforward as to sticking to the gravel drives.

A slight detour on to the well-kept lawns, then the way led over to a series of trimmed box bushes [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] that formed a hedge with castellation's, this ran west to east for 42 Yards, then after emerging from the hedge the Pack were taken southward to leave the topiary behind. Now the Pack were on a path that would run down the eastern side of the original rectangular gardens, before turn eastward to reach a CHK near the top of the 'Canal' which is just a phallic looking elongated pond.

From here Amanda would have a good run of being on the correct Trail as the it headed out eastward, then after around 250 Yards the grassy path would turn to the north & had the Pack



running for a further 270 Yards to reach Harrison Lane, one of the park's internal drives this one running through the north end of the Park.

Sparerib had mentioned to Mr X on how Amanda had managed to get the last series of CHKs correct, but the old commentators curse struck as at the next CHK here Amanda was caught out on the eastern option of Harrison Lane running out toward the London Road. She turned back & soon caught up with Milf, Tent Packer, My Lil', Fliptop & Ewok as they searched a footpath over into the southern section of Ballshill Grove, they would soon be coming out as there was no Trail in amongst the trees.

The Pack would now advance along the western section of the drive, a civilian guy out walking looked on at the Hash as if we were trespassing, it wasn't a TBT OBE Trail so we should have been on the right track? The daylight was now fading as the FRBs covered 200 Yards to the triangle at the junction drive to London Road Gate House. Dust was found heading that way & after just 60 yards the Pack were led out by the old Stone Gate House.

No CHK here, as the Hare knew no one of any advanced Hashing Years with Herts would look any other way but up the old cut off section of the original London Road to the northwest. The path rose up & came out of the cut off remnants eastern section of the Ballshill Grove wood to the edge of the busy new London Road.

It was a 450 Yards along by the noise of the A414 London Road dual carriage way, headlights were now on & thankfully there was less dazzling illuminations when the Trail peeled off to the left & onto the start of Mangrove Road & the next CHK was found at the apex of this small triangle of roads.

No one searched further along Mangrove Road, instead the popular choice was to take to Churchfields where the northbound lane meets up with London Road after 90 Yards, Milf was just still in sight as the Hare & RA reached the Triangle & so Mr X set off after her, but then she disappeared out of sight before reaching the London Road. The Trail had broken off down Greencoates, named after the Old Green Coats School for Boys\*, whereas the girls went to the adjacent Smiths Memorial School. \*Not to be confused with Bluecoats School further along in Hertford.

The slightly curved westward road led the Pack above the Royal Mail Delivery Yard, then after 139 Yards the Hash reached the Rookes Alley again, here it was a turn to the northern, downhill section of the alleyway. It was dark to start with but then running became easier as lampposts lit the way between the Postal Depot to the right & the School to the left.

At the end of the alleyway was a CHK, only two options there, left on a path below the school playing field & in to the grounds of All Saints again, or right to the start of the subway ramp at the end of Gascoyne Way, it was the ramp where arrows pointed through the subway that smelt a lot fresher & is decorated with various bits of artwork.

Emerge up on to ground level on the northern edge of the by-pass, the Dust led around on to Fore Street by the local Iceland. The Pack now found it as case of heading 'West by South' all the way along Fore Street for 300 Yards, seemingly there were no more diversions as the Trail led out around on to the Wash, where the Trail made its way northward to the crossing just beyond the Six Asbos, then to go by the Hertford Theatre & then over the bridge spanning the River lea, to find the On Inn just off over the weirs by the Theatre, then on over to the corner of the car park.

The Pack had time for a quick Pint in the Old Cross, Paxo, Sis & Skip all made it back & they too had time for a drink, even though the Trail took longer than the Hare's claim of 40 minutes, since it caught all of the Runners out.

No Eye Deer was impressed that the Scribe had managed to do a write up for the Derbyshire weekend, Ewok said she was going to cherish hers & read it in bed that night, though she did seem rather smitten with the Cliff Richard Joke!

The RA was ready to get the Hare a Down-Down, but Ketchup said that there was not time for a Circle! So once Hash Cash had done her collections, those who weren't easting were left in HQ!

A few said that they would have remained for another Pint in HQ if they knew that others would be having poppadums & then starters, they had to endure a very long hiatus before the mains came out. Perhaps they should have got the owners to drive them in the Restaurants Tut-tut up to HQ & then pick them up when the starters had been devoured?

Anyhow, it was good Trail, & the Curry was well worth the wait, but as Amanda pointed out, that because the Circle was put off until the next week due to time restrictions, she's only been witness to just one Circle so far! [I am sure there will be plenty to come! – Ed]

