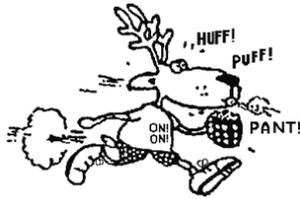


Herts Hash House Harriers



Herts official Website: hertshash.co.uk

Run No. 1945

3rd October 2021

Venues: The Green man

Beers: Tring Mansion Mild, Side Pocket for a Toad;

Southwark Brewery LPA

Location: Leverstock Green

Hare/s: Mr X

Runners: 12

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

Newies: 0

Après: 0

Hash Hounds: 0

Total: 12

Membership: Reserved Runners?!



A later than normal start, due to the 302 Bus not arriving at the bus stop across from the Pub until 11:13Hrs, this was the bus the Hare was supposed to be on, but due to the previous day's almost continuous rain Mr X had chosen to set the Trail first thing Sunday morning instead. The only benefit was that he got to see a vintage bus, which was the 724 Relief Bus, shame Kylie wasn't there to see this sexy green beast.

This week saw the return of Happy Feet & Door Mat who had brought Mother & Lemming over. The Hare arrived back, just in time for the Pub to open & he could have a well-deserved Pint before the off, as well as using the facilities, he was not alone in that!

My Lil' did alight from the 302 bus, which was spot on time, no doubt its route was not hampered by queuing motorists as all the Petrol Stations along its route had no fuel. As the Bus drove off, a taxi pulled up & out got Des Res, whose bus was on a diversion so he elected to get a cab.

Finally the circle was called, even though Des Res was in the 'Little Boys Room' doing a Mexican Hat dance! The usual Herts Markings were announced, as well as that it would be all marked in flour, as the Hare explained when he boarded the bus he realised it was without any plasterboard or flour, so the local corner shop came to the rescue but at a price, & that price was £1.60 for a bag!

The Pack would finally get underway around 11:20 to leave the Pub, & with a sudden dash to cross the busy road to find arrows pointing the way north-westward on the road to the western edge of Hemel Hempstead, it wasn't too far beyond the single row of old cottages that the first CHK was found.

Three options to choose from, Happy Feet chose wrong here but things were better for My Lil' as he searched down the long, green space where Dust was found on the spaced out line of trees toward the southwest, some stuck to the adjacent tarmac footpath, while others followed the Dust out on the damp wet grass to reach an elbow in the tarmac footpath, there the next CHK was found.

My Lil' was still on form as he found the Trail heading further down the green area, where it runs by the side of Longfield Road, the Dust moved away for the road & headed over more damp grass to reach a CHK on the tarmac footpath that was on a hedged-in tarmac footpath that runs beside the Leverstock Green Tennis Club's courts.

Happy Feet & Milf both went wrong, but once more it was My Lil' who found the Trail over on the junction where Northend meets Peascroft Road & over to a CHK at the Junction with St Michaels Road to the north. Here My Lil' would make his first mistake of the day as he searched the wrong area on the wrong side of the street by a local School.

Milf, Mother, Lemming, Door Mat, Des Res, & Happy Feet all found the Trail on an alleyway up onto Goldcroft Road, Lemming led the way down to the southwest on this urban street but he was abruptly stopped by a Bar CHK, which had No Eye Deer thinking the Trail would be back out on Peascroft, missing out that there was a side street of Flatfield Road behind the red plastic utilities cordon to the northwest, so the Hare indicated for her & the rest to turn around & look again.

The Trail was now picked up on Flatfield Road & half way up this short road an arrow pointed the way through a passageway to the southwest, this short hedged-in entry led into the delightfully named The Beer Garden, though why it's called this it's not known by the Hare, could be the remains of the Brickmakers Arms Pub? The area was known for.

While the Pack made their way through the green space & out to Robins Road, Whatevershesays was on the short cut the Hare had put in back down Goldcroft. The Pack were now heading into the Bennett's End of Hemel Hempstead, named after Roger de Beneyet from around 1269, it was swallowed up by the New Town. There was one odd shop, on the short spur of a couple of units sticking out from the parade, this was John & Bzzz a Hardware

shop that has some real oddities, it's the place to go to if you want 5 foot tall Star Wars statues/ornaments for your garden.

The FRBs would come back out on to Goldcroft, where up ahead of them they could see Whatevershesays heading over the crossing on Bennet's End Road. He was "On!" down the long parade of shops, so the CHK back at the junction was kicked through.

After 120Yards the Trail came to the end of the row of shops & out over another crossing, to pass by the Bennet's End Community Centre to enter the Belswains' Playing Field, named after the Farm that used to be at the western end of this area, there the next CHK lay in wait.

The Hare stopped off at one shop to purchase some wine gums for the later Sweet Stop, by the time he reached the park the rest were now making their way down the south by southwestern path as it gently drops down the hillside, No Eye Deer had stopped & was talking to some dog walkers about the Hash Trail.

High up in the park, there was a great view of the opposite side of the valley, with the Shendish Manor Golf Club, scene of BT OBE's epic Trail where he lost all of the Pack, also to be seen on the west side of the valley was Cock's Head Wood [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]

The Dust led on by a couple more tennis courts to reach the southernmost tip of the Coronation Fields green space. A CHK was found over the road on the bend in Great Elms Road, "On!" was called by Lemming & Door Mat on the long back-passage beside the set of bungalow. [Ther you go Pebbledash! – Ed]

This rough tarmac route started out being narrow & fenced-in before coming out into a long wider green space at the end of Bennetts End. The open space became even expansive as it came down to its southern end, where at the end of the treeline on a short, sharp drop down, a CHK was found by a couple of sets of steps to the end of Oak Street, where an arrow pointed the way straight over the junction to a small park.

A sign by the little green space proudly declared "Welcome to Nash Mills", it was pointed out to Kylie & Whatevershesays that the swings had proper seats & not car tyres, then they followed on behind Lemming, Mother, Happy Feet, Des Res, Milf & Door Mat as the Hash began the steady climb up through the treeline & up on to the level of another green area.

Hemel & the surrounding area has a lot of green spaces to enjoy, after 140 Yards a CHK was found on the edge of Chambersbury Lane. My Lil' was among those who were tempted by the continuation of the footpath over to the south, but Happy Feet was on the correct route toward the roundabout to the north, but Happy Feet had chosen the Market Oak option from the mini roundabout, whereas Lemming & Mother fared better on the Chambersbury arm to the northeast, "On!" was called by those two.

Dust was spotted on the back of the trees on the long rectangular green, the Hare's original plan was to take to a footpath that runs from Chambersbury Lane through to Longdean Park, but his plans were thwarted by a gate at the start of the footpath, that has had its footpath sign removed & the gate has a sign that declares "Entry for Key Holder Only" which raised the question of whether this was a legal thing to have been done?

Anyhow, the Hare placed a CHK for the Pack to stop & look over through the wood at the gate in a the fenced-off back gardens of the Homes of the High & Mighty, so plan B was to continue along Chambersbury Wood Lane. For reasons only known to themselves, Lemming & Des Res decided that they would run by the school grounds on the opposite side of the road from the rest of the Pack, it was a long 470 Yards until reaching the next CHK by the white wooden gated entrance to Silverthorne Drive. It seems that the local residents like to keep the hoi palloi out?

Happy Feet was almost on the Trail further along the lane as it narrows, but she turned back & this had the rest of the Keenies also coming back as to search off through the white wooden gates on Silverthorn Drive, where there was no Trail at all.

Back to the lane & 150 Yards on along Catsdell Bottom a CHK was found by the entrance into Catsdell Bottom section of Bunkers Hill Park, the hedgerows around the Park date back to the 10th Century. While the rest chose the correct route here, My Lil' & Whatevershesays were set on a Short Cut up the northern edge of the park, on the footpath that runs parallel to Chambersbury Lane.

Trail was quickly found up to the grassy hillside, more dog-walkers were informed about the white powder being flour as the Pack climbed up on the south by south-eastern path along the tree line on this triangular enclosed area of wild grasses known as Bottom Field. The weather was now hot & the Sun was out, a complete contrast to the day before, it was a lovely day for a Hash!

Just up a 100 Yards & the Trail changed direction to head eastward through a gap in the Broadleaf tree-line & then out to the southeast on the wide fire-break route between the established Oaks of the tree-line & the newer plantations at the southwestern end of Bunkers Park Open Space. This area was acquired by the Decorum Borough Council from the former New Towns Commission in 1995, since then it has been developed with new plantation being planted by local school children in the 1998.

A CHK was found by a bench in an open triangular area, here most searched the wider more walked routes where there was no Trail, it was down to Mother & Happy Feet to pick up the Trail on the 200 Yard south-eastern downhill trot through the long wet grassy path to arrive almost on the edge of Bunkers Lane, there the Trail led up a short set of steps to the east & a CHK up on the top.

Happy Feet now went wrong as she followed Lemming into one of a series of small fenced-in enclosures of the 'Mattens' which are the original Tithes land farmed in strips, she was sent back by the Hare to the gate she entered the field by, to then get back on to the path the Trail was on, the one running up along the edge of the park next to Bunkers Lane & to follow on behind Door Mat, Milf, Des Res

However, Lemming thought that he could leave the enclosed field further up, but he was wrong when he found the barbed wire fence barred his exit, it was far too high for him to straddle! Lemming was in luck, or so he

thought, as he found the Hare was marking the short cut through this section of the 'Mattens' enclosure, then through the next one to the northeast & come out to the treeline on the north-eastern edge of the enclosure that was being grazed by a herd of Belted Galloways.

Back on Trail & the FRBs found a CHK by the eastern tip of the Black & White Coos' field [Coo is Scottish for Cow! – Ed], the distinctive rare breed cattle are brought in since 2016 to help encourage the growth of rare flora.

While Doormat looked over through the gate in the hedgerow on Bunkers Hill Lane to Bunkers Farm, Milf fared better, for she had already been tipped off by the Hare as to where to search for the Trail, this was to help avoid disturbing the bovines. Milf was on her way down the outside of the tree-line for the Belted Galloways current home, she reached the opposite end just as Lemming & the Hare came out to the northern end of the tree-line.

The Hare got to mention that when he was setting the Trail at this next section, he had a Boxer dog eating the Trail, so he had to stop & wait for the pooch to go off after its owners, the Hare did pop over & explain what their powder-nosed pooch had been up to & the Trail was just set in flour.

The Trail led down a small flight of steps, the bottom one had an arrow pointing north-eastward & the Trail turned to head out along a section of tree-line before coming out across the wide open grassy expanse of the 'Top Field' section to the reach the small Bunkers Park car park, where lots of dog walkers had parked up.

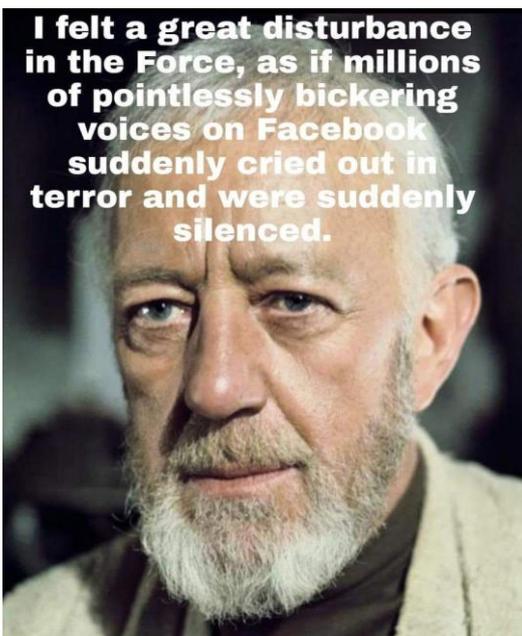
A CHK there was soon dealt with here, as the more observant Lemming & Milf noticed that the Hare, in his bright orange T-Shirt, could be seen cutting diagonally across Top Field to the norther tip of the Park, this was in order to hold the Next CHK on the edge of Chambersbury Lane for the sweet stop. There was some relief from those who Hashed the week before, as this Hare had chosen to purchase normal Wine Gums, no the sour ones!

When an impression of My Lil's sour faced reaction was described to Lemming, he couldn't resist that Mother has that facial expression many times & without needing the sour sweets! [How Lemming likes to live on the edge! – Ed]

Milf & Lemming now led the way on the grey gritty path for 280 Yards to the CHK, here there was a photo shoot as Happy Feet, Des Res, Mother & Door Mat arrived at the CHK. The rest set off once again, while Mr X waited for No Eye Deer, who had now dropped behind due to still feeling the effects of having the 'Super Cold' that's doing the rounds, as well as Kylie who was now the back of the Runners Trail. The Hare greeted No Eye Deer with a cheerful "They don't sting this time of year!" as she was rubbing her arm after passing the nettles near the end of the path.

Door Mat & Lemming were soon calling "On!" toward the end of Chambersbury Lane in the northeast, but their progress was soon curtailed by a T! So, the whole of the FRBs came back to search the lane to the southwest, where after 50 Yards Dust was found behind a short brick wall, this now took the Hash on a footpath alleyway that ruins between The Horseshoe estate to the northeast & Autumn Glades to the southwest.

The narrow footpath ran between the backs of the homes on either side, there was a gap out to the left, but the Trail stuck with the narrow path for almost 200 Yards, though it was not a direct route as it turned a few degrees a couple of times before reaching the final CHK of the Trail, where the path split in tow.



The Hare was pleased to see that the Falsie to the west on a path running beside a local School had been run, the break in the CHK showed this & another break to the northeast on the cut-through to Missden Drive, a 140 Yard road that bisects The Horseshoe, a road that is shaped like (Guess What?) a Horseshoe shape. At the end of the road the On Inn was found opposite the southern tip of the Leverstock Green Cricket Club ground.

Now it was simple case of heading out around the cricket ground, where some stopped to gather Horse Chestnuts for the upcoming Conker Contest at the Half Moon, however, others had different plans for their conkers [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] as Lemming decided to place his in the RA's Hash bag! The Pack arrived back at 12:21, which wasn't bad timing.

The Pack soon made light of the tables that had been "Reserved for Runners 12:15" signs on the line of tables reserved for the Hash.

My Lil' was smug as anything as he was handed one of the two trashes, since the rest will be in PDF format & you'll have to strain your eye looking at little screens.

The Circle was called inside, for there was only 10 of the Pack left by this point. The hare was rewarded for a good Trail, then Mr X

resumed with the 'honours' Happy Feet & Door Mat were awarded their Down-Downs for their return, with Mother & Lemming joining them for making them come.

