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

"Any holidays booked Mrs Goggins?"

"I should say so Pat. I'm fu[redacted]off to Barbados for a month when the compo comes through."

Run No. 2079
Date: 14th January 2024
Venue: The Chequers Ale House
Location: St Evenage
Beers/Cider: JHB Citra; GK IPA; Old Dog; New River Chadwell, Yardbird, & more!
Hare/s: 3D et Slug
Runners: 17
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 4
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 22
Membership: Tipping the Scales….

The Hares came ambling up to the Chequers, with Sally tightly on her lead, who, it was soon discovered went on a run the day before when she chased after a real life hare, who naturally get away as they have a top speed of 50 MPH & not get caught by a designer pooch.

Some of the assembling Pack were startled at the sight of what Kylie was holding out up in the air as he exited the car, the horrific torture device held aloft was a set of bathroom scales! My Lil' was not impressed by the suggest weigh in to lose a few ~~stone~~ pounds before Gibraltar! [A blatant show of someone being Fatist! – Ed]

On this chilly but bright morning, the Circle was called by the very slim Fliptop, who was still bemoaning that he had to drive to the venue instead of three Rail replacement bus services! With welcomes out of the way, the Hares were call forward.

Slug's Chalk-talk was exactly that, at least for the first section of street running was marked in arrows, then he got on to the Shiggy part, which included a footpath that was slightly inaccessible! A short cut was mentioned from a regroup, then the Pack were ushered away to the east, up the step in the low brick wall through the Millennium Garden. However, My Lil' was soon moaning that "It can't be that way, as there's a CHK by the footbridge in the opposite direction!

A grumbling My Lil' reluctantly tagged along, as the rest of the Pack made their way up through the Gardens to follow the path out on to the southwestern edge of King George V Playing fields. *Regular readers will recall that this is just one of the 471 around the UK to celebrate the King after leading the Country through World War I. Each marked with heraldic plaques.*

At the time of the King's death in 1936, it was increasingly recognised that urbanisation was limiting access to open spaces where the public could get outdoors and be active. During his reign the King had encouraged the development of playing fields to provide children & young people with spaces to learn & develop, it was thus considered the creation of King George's Fields would be a fitting memorial, which local authorities have to keep in perpetuity for recreation.

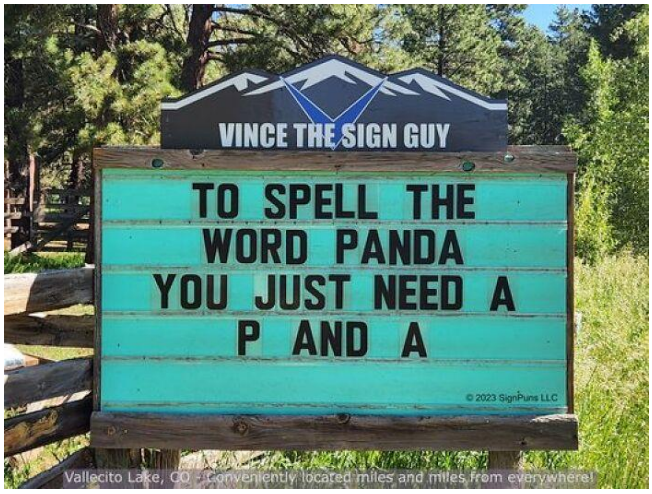
On by the adjacent fenced in kids' playground to the east, with the Stevenage Cricket Ground to the west, Mr X now led Moss Key Toe & Tent Packer down to a CHK by Ditchmore Lane. Mr X nipped off down the old uncapped way, behind the Cricket & Hockey Club Houses, since he too had seen the CHK by the footbridge while on his way from the Bus Rail Replacement service, but he didn't want to spoil the Trail for the rest of the Hash!

This also put the RA in good stead for searching from here, since he knew that there was no Trail over Fairlands Way by Tesco's. Arrows were found by Mr X at the bend of the down ramp to the footpath/cycleway that runs under the footbridge, these showed the Pack to head away from the bridge & down to the centre of the roundabout with Lytton Way.

Arrows would head on the south-westerly direction to a CHK on the green triangle in the connecting route, just out in the open. Here Mr X headed up the ramp to the level of Fairlands Way as it runs west by southwest, he now found a Bar CHK but at least he managed to drag Moss Key Toe, Tent Packer & My Lil' up that way to a T!

My Lil' was grumbling away again, as he turned back to spy Fliptop, No Eye Deer, Coucou, Paxo, FWB & Whatevershesays all moving along with the Hare on the cycleway/footpath that runs hidden for the main roads, leading away between the car parks & the railway line. The main-line to Kings Cross was quiet due to the ongoing engineering works.

The Pack began on a 700 Yard trot along this pathway, there was one token CHK thrown in by one of the gaps through to the Station stairs & car park, but since two of the Hash hadn't seen any markings out from the Railway Station Bus Stop earlier, this option was rapidly dismissed.



Having ran beyond the railway platforms, the RA could hear a rumbling, rattling sound, behind him & he thought that someone may be pushing the abandoned shopping trolley up behind him, since he had just run by an abandoned one, but it soon turned out to be She Wolf & Killer Queen on their scooters as they, & Flying Solo, passed him by.

Toward the end of the route the Pack passed beside the Stevenage Police Station & then dropped down to a CHK on Six Hills Way. Three options here, to head straight on under the Six Hills Way, like Flying Solo had opted for, or one of the either choices parallel to this section of Six Hills Way, a road named after the Six Tumuli by the junction with London Road.

Now a Scheduled Ancient Monument, these are Six Roman Barrows from around 100 AD, but local legend believes that one day the Devil was bored, sitting by the Great North Road, he decided to throw large sods of earth from the six holes in Whormerley Wood at passers-by, but he missed each time. Giving up, he threw one last sod, the seventh, over his shoulder & this hit the Spire of Graveley Church, knocking askew. To this day this holy erection is still off of the perpendicular. [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]

Moss Key Toe & My Lil' now picked up the Trail, heading away west by southwest, running by one entrance to the Stevenage Leisure Park, & soon the Pack were following on the 350 Yards to run under the Gunnelswood Roundabout. A CHK here didn't slow Moss Key Toe up as he ran up to the road level on the industrial side of town, to reach the start of Potters Lane, near to the Premier Inn.

A CHK was located by the single, rectangular red post-box on a pole, seems a strange place to have a post-box, but it could be for the local businesses? However, Moss Key Toe was already beyond this & his figure could be seen in the bright light shining through the opposite side of the dark underpass beneath the A1(M).

If Moss Key Toe thought that he would get away for Mr X, Flying Solo, She Wolf & Killer Queen, then he would be very much mistaken, for he chose the southern option of paths that rise up to join the opposite sides of the elbow in Chadwell Road at Norton Green, he would run on to the second Bar CHK of the day!

So, it was an about turn for Mr X & co, indicating to those just emerging from the subway that the Trail would most probably now take to the north-western path to that section of the Chadwell Road. Whatevershesays now found himself in the unlikely position of leading the Pack! [Yes it was true! – Ed]

On the start of the 230 Yards up the narrow lane, Mr X noticed there were two straw 'Sally like' dog, with Santa Hats sitting outside one of the dozen or so new builds of Pigeonswick Close, the Trail continued up the lane which was now littered with bits of cut off hedgerow, these had been flailed by a tractor, which was just a few more yards down the road & heading back toward the Held CHK.

As the Pack began to regroup by a long tree-trunk, Flying Solo & the Girls began to get out candy-cane sweets, which had come off of their Christmas Tree, for a Sweet Stop. This would be the part of the Trail where the Trail would split, with the Knitting Circle having to make their way by the noisy flails of the tractor, away in a nor-nor-west along the lane, while the Keenies would head off to the west.

Killer Queen & She Wolf made the right choice of taking their Scooters along the lane, with Doeswhatshesays, Milf, 3D, FWB & Mr X, who was still nursing his Achilles. Meanwhile Flying Solo, Tent Packer, Moss Key Toe, My Lil', Fliptop all set off for the other option. Coucou, No Eye Deer & Kylie joined Paxo's Knitting Circle under the watchful eye of Slug & Sally.

The footpath that is a bit less well defined as they headed off west by northwest along by the now fenced off area on Norton Green. This sometimes wonky route of 790 Yard stretch would turn nor-nor-west when it turned with the perimeter of the enclosed large area marshy & sandy area of the former Brick Works, as well as the many Chalk & Clay Pits, that are dotted around this area to the west of Stevenage.

A CHK on Dyes Lane, would see the Keenies mover a few yards to he southwest on the lane, then on to a north bound footpath over the farm land through the centre of the crop field to reach a CHK at the split in the footpath. Two options from here, one to the northwest & the other northward? Northward won out, so a 250 Yard trot now took the FRBs up to top end of the field & out on to Kitching Lane.

Back with the Knitting Circle & they had left Dyes Lane, passing under the A1(M) to head up Bessemer Drive, this industrial is named after famous British Engineers & Scientists. At the end of this they would turn beside Gunnelswood, to head a short way to the north, then the arrows turned a few degrees north off of due east, 3D admitted that she wasn't sure which way to go & had to resort to a map she had! 3D's map wasn't needed as Whatevershesays pointed out that they were heading back in the right direction, with a couple more similar looking underpasses through more of the town's many roundabouts to undertake.

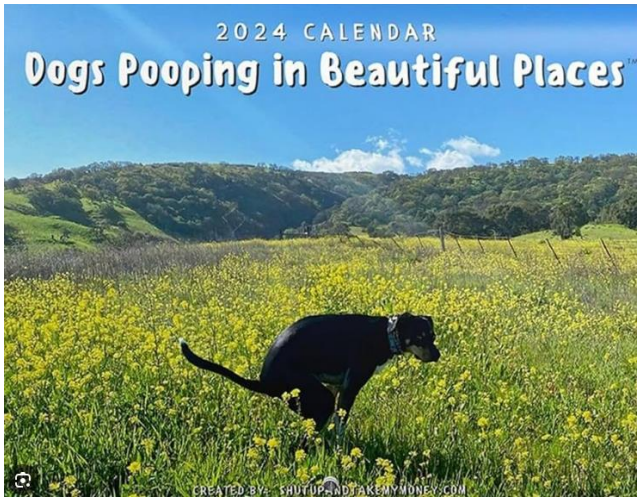
Meanwhile the Keenies had a few yards to run up Kitching Lane, before turning under the A1(M) on to Meadway, a road above the County Council Depot & below the cricket pitches to reach a CHK at the corner of the lane. Here the Trail would be picked up on the path to the south just a few yards to the elbow to head eastward for 370 Yards above the Costco Car Park, this section was slightly overgrown & could have benefited of a bit of flailing & eyes had to be protected against the long intruding twigs!

Out of the small wooded section above the cycleway/footpath Flying Solo, Moss Key Toe, My Lil' & Tent Packer came to take a turn to the south, which would be inevitable, to take them down Gunnels Wood Road, it would

be a long 520 Yards on the tarmac cycleway/footpath for the FRBs to reach the CHK by Fairlands Way junction, the one that Mr X told 3D not to mark & let the Keenies search for the Trail from here, [Very thoughtful of him! – Ed]

Both the Keenies & the Knitting Circle would follow the last section of Trail northward around form the Lytton Way Junction, on the Cycle Way on the opposite side of where the Trail went southward on the out Trail, very crafty Hares! The Trail now ran along by the blue hoardings where the old 'Icon' building once stood, before its demolition at the end of last year.

After 210 Yards there would be one last subway to make your way through, this one to the east, passing under Lytton Way to come out on to Gates way & the On Inn. The Short Cut Trail would get that Knitting Circle back with a few minutes to go before opening time, so Killer Queen & She Wolf had to wait outside with 3D, Milf & Mr X. Here they were joined by Sludge, who had driven back from the 'Dreaming Spires' of Oxford that morning & completed a couple of CHKs before coming back to the On Inn.



The doors were opened & the girls brought their scooters inside, but weren't up for a drink when offered to them, several times. Meanwhile Milf was surprised when she realised what the calendar behind the bar was about (See adjacent picture!)

It would take another 10 minutes or so before Flying Solo led the return of the FRBs, it took Paxo's Knitting Circle another 10 to 15 minutes.

A Nice warm Pub & a couple of nice Real Ales, or Ciders was most welcome for the Pack, what else did they need? Well, more good company arrived to a cheers, as Premature & Little Hole appeared, they had brought Skip along to meet up, since the Chequers is one of his locals. It was great to catch up with him.

Talk of what a great weekend the Herts X-mas Party was, especially the Cheese & Wine night but really the whole thing worked really well, considering the rain in the days before! This was killed off when the weighing scales were mentioned once more, thankfully Milf broke the silence with a rhyme about being a 'Pheasant Plucker' [Or words to that effect! – Ed] to take minds away from some Crimbo Fat-shaming! [Who needs Social Media? – Ed].

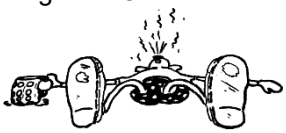
Kylie mentioned that Pepé le Pew had already weighed in, making it sound like pre boxing match event! Sludge then added that he once took part in a 'Sponsored Weight-loss, he won but confessed that he wore some diving weights to give him a head start!

The Hares only had the one drink, as they had to go off for some University stuff, Flying Solo & the Girls departed even earlier, but the rest made the most of the day. The Circle was called by Fliptop, the Toast to the Hash was raised, then it was over to the RA.

The Down-Downs went (in no particular order) to: Milf for complaining on Social Media about Easter Eggs already being on sale at Christmas, & so she was presented with a small Easter Egg by the RA, to accompany her Down-Down! FWB for lost property of her umbrella, she would later leave without her sun-glasses! Sludge was rewarded for putting in an appearance after driving back from Oxford! Skip was also out for his return to the fold; Doeswhatevershesays was out for one of the best impersonations the RA had ever heard, as earlier Doeswhatevershesays emitted a really loud sneeze, which had the others thinking TBT OBE was 'In the house!'

A good day spent with a good Trail & good company.

REME Fix Boeing 737 MAX (What did Paxo do in the Army?)



- new year, new goals. i might start the 'couch to 5k' challenge today. how about you?
- my goal today is to not puke my liver...