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



Run No. 2137
Date: Sunday 19th January 2025
Venue: The Robin Hood
Location: St Albans
Beers/Cider: Harveys Best, Old Ale; Wantsum
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 13
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 2
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 14
Membership: On more twists & turns than a twisty turny thing!

A chilly morning was in store for the Pack, & especially so when the Hare went around first time, for he had elected to set the Trail first thing in the morning after getting bogged down in work on the receding Hareline for the two previous days. Anyhow, the Hare arrived back from marking the streets of St Albans, Hertfordshire's only true City, but he saw that the Pack were pretty thin on the ground & this may have been down to the fact there are a few nasty seasonal bugs going around at the time? Having said that, TBT OBE was present!

TBT OBE & Milf had been to pick up Sparky on their way to the Robin Hood, they were missing Paxo from their passenger manifesto as he was really under the weather & wasn't venturing out today. Those who did put in appearance had some issues as to parking on Victoria Street, even though it was a Sunday & there for the regular parking restrictions did not apply. [But always read the accompanying signage! – Ed]

*'Single yellow lines are enforceable on the days and during the times as stated on the sign. If the sign states Monday to Saturday then the restrictions apply on a bank holiday. Most restrictions apply on a bank holiday as they are some of our busiest days of the year as shops and other businesses tend to stay open which often results in an increase in local traffic'.*

TBT OBE asked what the Run Number was just before he called the Circle to order, he then announced to the gathered Pack a Trail Number that was a complete work of fiction, being over 100 behind the real total of Herts Hashes! Then after being corrected, he called the Hare forward.


Mr X told the Hash that it was usual Hash Markings, there would be Short Cuts, it would mainly be a Street Trail & there would be a Held CHK with Sweet Stop. Then without further ado, the Pack were sent across to the north side of Victoria Street, where arrows would lead a few yards down to where two arrows pointed the way up a back-passage beside the last shop on the parade.

Doeswhatshesays led the way out of the ginnel & the Hash were on to the dead-end of Marlborough Gate, on the southern side it is lined with homes, where the northern one is chain-link fencing & behind this are the sports courts of Loreto College, somewhere that Moss Key Toe recognised as he knows it well, being a former alumni there.

The Trail would take the Pack along Upper Latimore Road to the north & then eastward on Hatfield Road, which meant the Pack were led around three sides of the School Grounds, the latter two being lined with old red brick walls, set with intricate red tiles & some imposing gates, as well as some narrower padlocked up iron gates that are obviously no longer used.

After 600 Yards, the FRBs of Moss Key Toe, Tent Packer & TBT OBE all patiently waited for the lights at the Crossing to change for the green-man to appear & allow them to cross over to the start of Lemsford Road, however, one of them lost patience & flight of madness the figure of Moss Key Toe made a dash across while the east-west traffic had the priority!

Thankfully there were no accidents with the Pack or passing motor vehicles, as the RA shouted out "Don't play with the traffic!" at the scene up ahead of him. Everyone else used

common sense & awaited for the lights to change in their favour, though the Hare did say that when out setting the Trail, a woman drove through a red light as he was crossing the next junction down, over the railway bridge.

A CHK was found by the George V pillar box on the T junction were Manor Road heads away just a few degrees north of due west. Here No Eye Deer called back DWSS as he started off up there after Tent Packer, he came back all because My Lil' had continued up Lemsford Road & unlike Moss Key Toe who gone a lot further up, he had crossed over to find Trail on the footpath to the footbridge over the Bed-Pan Line (Bedford to St Pancras) & this brought Moss Key Toe back from where the real Trail would be.

A disappointed My Lil' found a T down the steps before the corner of St Albans FC's ground in Clarence Park. So, he turned back, with those who had followed him, to find that the Hare had now marked the Trail further up Lemsford Road & was being accompanied by Karlo, 3D, Slug & Sally to where the resumption of the Trail should have begun again with double arrows on the junction with the dead-end Althrop Road!

In less than an hour & a half of being set, the plasterboard had been washed out, no doubt by uneducated busy-bodies wrongly guessing that a group of ne'er-do-well burglars had been around casing the joint? [Surprisingly it's not been noticed on St Albans Social Media, as yet! – Ed]

Anyhow, the Hare was there before the Keenies & could reinstated the double arrows! While the FRBs sceptically searched up the dead-end, the Hare marked the Short Cut for the Knitting Circle of My Lil', Hot 'N' Spicee, Milf & Sparky off further up Lemsford Road, with instruction for My Lil' to cross the next footbridge over the Bed-Pan Line.

Meanwhile, the Keenies had found the arrows were still intact a couple of yards up from the washed out ones, those who were doubtful of this being the correct Trail would have their fears calmed as they found a footpath on the northern arm of the small, T shaped Estate.

The east-bound ginnel would lead out on to the next CHK on Hillside Road, here it took a while for the Trail to be picked up, due to the fact that the road was searched in both directions but the almost hidden footpath to the south was passed by, before a second look revealed that behind the hedges Dust was on the tree trunks.

An uncapped tree-lined route between the homes of Ramsey Lodge Court & Rowlatt Court, would turn south-westward & then north-westward as it makes its way out between two sections of the local Schools on Townsend Avenue, here the next CHK was found.


Moss Key Toe went away to the southwest, but this was fruitless with no Trail down that way, while Tent Packer & TBT OBE were too busy gassing to notice the Trail on the opposite side of the north-western section of Townsend Avenue. It was No Eye Deer who picked up the markings, just beyond the zebra crossing, on the way up by the St Albans Girls School.

These two continued gassing as they strayed on beyond the car park entrance, where large arrows were clearly standing out on the fresh, dark black tarmac, these were spotted by No Eye Deer again. The Pack would discover that the Hare was setting a Trail of twists & turns, utilizing the many footpath & back passages in St Albans. Karlo asked the Hare if he was from the area, but he replied with a "Nope, just spent a lot of time in St Albans!"

The Pack crossed the small Townsend Avenue car park, which is almost hidden by the trees from the view of passing motorists on the junction of Stonecross & Avenue Road, it was the latter road that the Trail would take the Hash along, now heading due east. Less than 200 Yards later there next CHK was located by Raymer Close.

Moss Key Toe almost went wrong, but was saved as the Trail was picked up on the few steps leading on to a wider cut-through, leading northward out to Sandpit Lane, where the Pack immediately crossed the Pelican crossing & began heading eastward once again.

The Hash crossed over the start of Heath Road, then after some 120 Yards a CHK was found at the Junction with Walton Street, a road of terraced homes that heads away to the Northeast. No Eye Deer was one who must have born in mind the Hare current tricky ways, & she had crossed back over via the nearby Pelican crossing just back a few steps from the CHK & found the Trail.

As the Pack took to a hard capped path weaving between the large trees, Dust was spotted on the back of the trunks, on the 270 Yards strip of green space. On the way, some noticed the line of younger & unplanned trees were marked with bright green crosses. The notices pinned to them stated that they were to be removed, perhaps they were underpinning the wall they were emerging from beneath, the brickwork marking the back of the homes behind them?

The Hare had marked a Short Cut from back on Avenue Road, & when he came back to Lemsford Road he could see that Milf, Hot 'N' Spicee & Sparky were on their way to the CHK at the end of the road, where it drops down to join Sandpit Lane. As No Eye Deer & Moss Key Toe appeared, the Hare called the Knitting Circle back & marked the CHK back down Lemsford Road to the second footbridge over the Bed-Pan Line.

On the way back, Milf explained that the Knitting Circle were on the opposite side of the road from the *FOUR* arrows directing the way on to the footbridge over the railway & there was no sound of any calling by My Lil'. No harm was had as the Pack now crossed over the railway to the dead-end of Jennings Road. Around 100 Yards on the road with large, desirable detached homes, a CHK was found & this had been kicked through in the direction of the short, uncapped section of Blenheim Road to the south.

While the Keenies went on a loop pot-holed uncapped section with a couple of garages on either side, through to Ginasborough Avenue, heading eastward & then northward back up Clarence Road to the staggered Crossroads by the Edward VII Pillar Box, by Jennings Road, the Knitting Circle followed the Hare down to the crossroads to the next section of slightly offset Jennings Road.

My Lil' was way ahead on the dead straight 630m Yards of suburbia, a nice mix of more desirable, detached homes, there was a CHK at the crossroads with Park Avenue & Sunderland Avenues, but by the time the middle order arrived here it had been kicked through & up ahead was the distant figure of Moss Key Toe heading toward the end of Jennings Road at the T-junction with Woodstock Road North.

As well as passing by the nice homes, there was a section along the back of the Veralum School, which at one point No Eye Deer had to call Doeswhatshesays from wandering off into, via an entrance hidden behind a large thick hedge.

By this point the Hare had decided that Sparky, along with Hot 'N' Spicee & Milf had done enough & needed to be turned on a Short Cut to reach the Held CHK before the FRBs did. 3D decided that she would tag along, leaving Slug to take Sally on the long route.

Before No Eye Deer set off after My Lil' & Moss Key Toe, the Hare explained to her where the Trail would go, even showing her a map to explain the next couple of CHKs the Keenies would encounter just needed to be run straight through to continue On! He did have second thoughts as he left her & set off to mark the short cut.

So, in Paxo's absence, the Knitting Circle were escorted by the Hare down Hamilton Road, just after the end of the School grounds, they would head southward to meet Brampton Road where the SC would turn westward. Eventually meeting up with the Trail when it joined Brampton Road from Sandfield Road.

Meanwhile the FRBs had made their way back up to Sandpit Lane for the second time this day, but this time it was a far shorter eastward trot, as arrows directed the FRBs off through to the southeast, weaving its way through St John Court to cut off the corner before emerging on to Beaumont Avenue.

It would be over 300 Yards to the south before reaching the next CHK, which was placed opposite the tempting un-adopted, uncapped old farm drive to the east, but as previously mentioned the Trail would continue straight down for a further 360 yards to reach the five junction double roundabouts on the Hatfield Road.

Two very obvious arrows pointed the way straight up the fenced-in, neglected alleyway to the west, however some may have not seen this & continued down to pass opposite the local Morrisons' Store. Those who did keep their eyes on the Trail had no issue, once they had avoided the broken glass beer bottles [No they were not the Hare's! – Ed], as they embarked on the 330 Yards between the back of rear gardens & a small industrial estate to reach the dead-end of Arthur Road, where arrows directed the way on to the next back passage to shoot up. [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed]

After a mere 60 yards the Trail came out to a CHK on Woodstock Road, here the Trail wasn't too far away on the western choice of the crossroads options to each of the cardinal compass points, it was set in order to prevent the FRBs getting too far behind the Knitting Circle.

Again the Keenies need to be vigilant & look out for double arrows, as after 50 yards the Trail would cut-through a short & narrow ginnel to emerge on to Royal Road, here the Trail would head up into the small park behind the Fleetville Community Centre.

A trot along the northern end, then a 90 degree turn to the south around the western edge of the playing field & the Keenies were back on Hatfield Road, for just a short way again to turn northward by the Oasis Mediterranean Café [You'd have thought that the Gallagher Brothers would have made enough out of their upcoming tour not to keep the Café going? – Ed]

Anyhow, the northbound back street would lead up to Brampton Road, turning west opposite the imposing front entrance to the Veralum School, with Iron gates with rampant Stags motifs on, also it has an impressive Verdigris clock & bell tower. Reaching this point the FRBs would now be behind the Knitting Circle, who had already reached the end of the road & had crossed the junction with Clarence Road to enter Clarence Park via the York Road's south-eastern entrance.

The timing of the Held CHK couldn't have been better placed, for Sparky was feeling a bit tired & needed a sit down & there were plenty of benches near to this regroup & sweet stop. However Sparky did have an issue trying to open the sherbet lollies, but so did others.


The Knitting Circle were given clear instruction as to the way back & off they went, for the Keenies still hadn't arrived & it was now a balmy two degrees but he didn't want Sparky hanging around. Whine he did get to his feet, Sparky set off with gusto, in the company of the Harriettes.

There was still no sign of any Keenies at the Held CHK, the Hare wondered if something had happened to the rest of the Pack? So, after several times of peering out over the fence, he decided to go back down the Trail to see what had happened & once on Brampton Road again, he would finally see Tent Packer & Moss Key Toe running toward him. They were offered sweets on their way to Clarence Park.

Karlo & Slug did make it to the Sweet Stop, now it came to light that while the Hare was enjoying the to degree weather, that No Eye Deer & DWSS had broken off of the Trail to go shopping at the Morrisons' Store! [Hope it was for

Alcohol? – Ed] Also Missing were TBT OBE & My Lil', but it turned out that they had done a bit of 'Sludging' to get ahead of the Knitting Circle, missing out on the sweets & were back at the Pub when the Hare returned.

The final section of Trail was to follow the arrows around Clarence Park, following the outer path in an anticlockwise direction, before cutting through to the southwestern corner behind the Pavilion to run through by the Kids Play Area. Once in the partially wooded corner, the Hash would have to scale the metal steps up to Hatfield Road for one last time, where after a left turn the Trail would lead over the railway bridge to reach the pedestrian crossing at the Traffic lights on the junction with Station Way.

*Sir John Blundell Maple, whose property Clarence Park was, wrote to the St. Albans council on 19th September, 1892, to inform the corporation of his intention to present the park to the local citizens.*


SPECIAL ILLUSTRATED NUMBER
OF
THE HERTFORDSHIRE STANDARD
A MEMENTO
OF THE
OPENING OF CLARENCE PARK, ST. ALBANS
MONDAY, JULY 23rd, 1894.

*Sir John had obtained the park from the estate of the Earl of Spencer during 1891 at a cost £10,000, although he also had to purchase some land adjoining the park from Henry Frederick Conrad Sander, a well-known German-born flower grower and exhibitor. In his letter to the council Sir John made plain the point that he saw Clarence Park as the ideal ground upon which Hertfordshire should play their county cricket matches. He spoke of part of the park being a Recreation Ground and the remainder given over to the Cricket Club.*

It takes an age for the 'green man' to light up, then it was over to the Private Road of Station Way, to pass by the car parks, passing the 'On Inn' on the way. After this the Hash followed P-Arrows along by the station front to clamber one last flight of steps, emerging up on the Victoria Street Railway Bridge. The P-arrows were set by the Hare, as Lobby Lobster said she was looking at taking the 724 Bus over to the Day's Hash & these markings were to guide the way over the next set of lights to the Robin Hood, but she failed to appear.

TBT OBE & My Lil' were found in the Pub, with the Knitting Circle. Then eventually the shoppers arrived back [Wonder if they have an Aisle 11 in Morrisons, like Tescos? – Ed]

The Circle was held inside, with the Hare receiving his Down-Down for setting on what all agreed was a splendidly different Trail. There were also two anniversaries to be awarded, one was post-dated for No Eye Deer's 400th, for which she received her engraved hipflask & a bottle of Rhubarb & Ginger Gin, the other was Hot 'N' Spicee for completing her 50th Trail.

Hot 'N' Spicee was also given a packet of the Black Country Ghost Chilli Pork Scratchings that Mr X liked so much. She admitted that she found they were actually too hot for her, which surprised everyone.

Then the final Down-Down went to TBT OBE, for on Friday at the Dick Wittington Panto, with Waragi & Supertouper in the cast, he ordered drinks & food via the Whetherspoons' App at the preshow drinks. But the payment for his order came back on the Spoons App as 'Declined!' so he went & ordered again, this time physically at the Bar. Just after his Jalfrezi & Butter Chicken meals came out, with the drinks, a second order was brought to the table. In the end it turned out that the Payment had gone through & TBT OBE had paid twice!