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

Run No. 2138
Date: Sunday 26th January 2025
Venue: The Victoria
Location: Hitchin
Beers/Cider: Dark Mild & some others
Hare/s: 3D & Slug
Runners: 19
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: o
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 20
Membership: Gooday Cobbers!

After yet another blowy storm hit the UK, the weather became a lot colder & there were plenty of frozen puddles to side step first thing this morning, although the temperature did rise slightly & the ice disappeared, the wind-chill factor made it feel much colder than it really was. For those who had to endure two Rail Replacement Bus journeys, the wind-chill only compounded the start to the day, so these two took shelter in a nice warm café.

The Pack huddled up outside of the Queen Victoria like penguins in the Antarctic, where they were exposed to the bitter winds as the awaited the RA to stow his bags in TBT OBE's car. Fliptop, our HGM, called the Circle together & then the Hares were introduced, Slug told the Hash it was usual Herts Hash markings & there would be short cuts, adding that the Trail would be in the shape of the outline of Australia! Mr X asked if "It was the map of Tassie?"

Before setting off, 3D wanted to make sure that everyone knew that there would be a final regroup over by the Bandstand in the nearby Bancroft Recreation Ground, visible from the Pub as 3D pointed it out the covered octagon construction. This was for some authentic Aussie Treats!

The Pack were sent off up Fishponds Road to where Bunyan Road peels off to the northwest, after 180 Yards the first CHK was found by the Kids Nursery at the junction where the road end as it meets York Road to the north & Dukes Lane to the east, as well as two alleyways. One snicket heading westward above the local School grounds, while the other runs due south by the eastern edge of the Wilshere-Dacre Academy.

Mr X went wrong by searching the southbound back-passage, from which he would extract himself [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] upon to hearing "On! On!" called by no less than Doeswhatshesays, who, with No Eye Deer, Sludge & Tent Packer were on their way westward on the longer of the two back-passages, stretching out for 260 Yards [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] above the School playing fields to reach a CHK by the back corner of the Ramgarhia Gurdwara, the oldest Sikh Temple in North Herts.

No Eye Deer was the only one to search on the narrower passage running behind the Temple & she picked up arrows just as it emerges on to Lancaster Road. Mr X followed on, as did the others, as No Eye Deer now picked up more arrows as they indicated the way slightly over to the right & across the road to where another long ginnel started.

130 Yards were run between the wooden fenced-off back gardens on either side, so there was nothing to see until emerging out on to Bearton Road, where the next CHK lay in wait.

No Eye Deer's luck was still in as she would again pick up the Trail, this time away to the west along Bearton Road, it was now that Diamond Geezer, Tent Packer & TBT OBE caught up. TBT OBE was held up slightly, as he took a picture of Mr X kneeling down & making out, in a Rocket Man style, he was playing a kids toy keyboard out in the street with some other kids play things & a few Pepper Pig books [Where was P3? – Ed] to be taken for free.

Picture taken & time to follow on as No Eye Deer's rich vein of form continued as the Keenies ran westward to the end of Bearton Road, where a CHK was found across from the Angels, known as the Angles Reply back in the day. Mr X knew the ex-Landord. It used to be used once a year for an SAS reunion!

Now No Eye Deer would finally go wrong, as would TBT OBE as they searched & found a T way

down around on the southern arm of the Bedford Road from the roundabout, while Diamond Geezer also went wrong by searching on the northern option.

Coming back, & on his second attempt, TBT OBE found arrows to lead on the southwestern choice of Redhill Road opposite the small local shopping parade. The FRBs were led a short way to a CHK at the entrance to Beaumont Close. Mr X chose the wrong option of the narrow path to the back of the homes, it was so overgrown by the hedge that he gave up his search & came back. It was TBT OBE once more who called "On!" from the bottom of the Beaumont Close cul-de-sac to find an alleyway.

The passage between the homes changed direction of an obtuse angle to reach Symonds Road, crossing straight over to take to the next section of passageway, this changed direction on an opposite obtuse turn to head almost due south for 160 Yards, passing behind a small Industrial Estate & the Firs Hotel, coming out on to the T junction on Maxwell's Path.

Arrows pointed the way to the west & the Keenies would be moved on by the start of Chalkdell Path, which had a path closed triangle sign by the start. These are very old route, with Chalkdell having a row of terraced homes facing the path, dating for the days before people had cars & they worked locally, so there was no way you could get a car to the front or the backs of these old homes.

The Keenies now turned southward on Lucas Lane, reaching the crossroads with Oughton Head Lane after a few yards. Here another turn was clearly directing them to take to the northwest uncapped route away from the tarmac section of the lane & homes to the southeast. It would be a steady rise over the 370 Yards behind the homes to the north & the patch of scrub-land, then worked farm land dropping away to the south.

The Held CHK was found at the point where Redhill Road ends by Oughton Head Lane, which the Knitting Circle of Milf, Lobby Lobster, Paxo, My Lil' & Hares, had all walked up, & on the way they had been joined by the late arriving Juices Flowing & Parsons Nose, after they too had also utilised this Short Cut option.

Here the sweets, which included the themed bananas & shrimps, were enjoyed as the rest awaited No Eye Deer, Fliptop, Sludge & DWSS to reach the regroup. During this respite, there was a chance to view any of the Aussie Gear, mainly it was Juices Flowing in her Guinness Aussie cork-hat & Mr X in his tasteful Hammersley Hash 'Takes it up the Ar*e' shirt'. There was also a great vista looking north-westward out over the roiling farmland for mile below

It was time to move on & there would be an option of the Short Cut or take the Longer option with Shiggy. Here the Pack split in two with Mr X searching down from the regroup at the crest of the hill, but he didn't see any Dust on Oughton Head Lane, so he crossed through a gap in the hedged-in by-way down to the start of the river Oughton.

Out in the field on the opposite side of the tree-line, the Trail was picked up as descended the hillside crop field. Behind Mr X were No Eye Deer, TBT OBE, Diamond Geezer, Tent Packer & Parsons Nose. At the bottom of the Hill a CHK was found & Mr X was to the first one to search southward toward the Ducklands Cottage, here he found Dust & just before the Cottage the remains of what appeared to be an arrow pointed the way back up the hillside to the southeast.

On his way up between the farm fields, Mr X could see ahead of him the Knitting Circle as he made his way up to the wooded area running around the west & south outside corner of the Hitchin Cricket Club & the Hockey Club, but the Trail disappeared.

TBT OBE also joined him & he too couldn't find the Trail, after an encounter with a passing muzzled grumpy old dog on the way, TBT OBE carried straight up. Perhaps they should have born in mind that the Hare had said that the Trail would be an outline of Australia, surely it couldn't be?

Having tried several other options, & not even finding the Knitting Circle, there was no calling from any direction & Mr X's only possible sighting was of a red & blue Hash Christmas woolly hat was far away in the distance on the floor of the valley, but surely it wasn't a Hasher as they were being accompanied by a woman & a girl on a bike?

Like TBT OBE, Mr X decided not to lose any height & it was best to cut back through the streets of Hitchin to try & catch up with the rest. Meanwhile back on the Trail, it didn't turn that way at all, it carried on beyond Ducklands Cottage then turned from south to southeast on the track from Oughton Head Farm back to Grays Lane along the far end of the field, this would lead back in to Hitchin.

The Knitting Circle we escorted through the streets before being sent on a direct route to the Band Stand in Bancoft Recreation Ground, while the Keenies pursued the arrows from Grays Lane, through to Upper Tilehouse street, then over the busy B655 at the lights to pass from West Alley through the Arcade & out to the Market Square, complete with the historic green Railway Cabbies Shelter.

The Trail would lead through the scenic grounds of St Mary's Church, then making its way up Winbush Road, crossing the Hiz before entering the eastern side of Bancroft Recreation Ground, by the Play Area. Here the Keenies would find the knitting Circle waiting for 3D to return from the Hares' car, by now the weather had become colder & the rain had gone from just threatening to an actual slight mizzle. Lobby Lobster & Milf decided that they would head off to the nearby Pub & bag some seats in the warm.

Those who waited under the cold open bandstand, would be rewarded with the Aussie treats of some Fosters, Vegemite Sandwiches & more shrimps, which went down well with most as Vegemite isn't a strong in flavour as the superior Marmite & the bread was really classy! It was here that one riddle was solved, it was a Herts Hash blue & red bobble hat, the woman & girl on a bike were Flying Solo & one of the Girls, who after a late start caught up. They also had to dash off early.

DWSS wondered why we weren't celebrating Rabbi Burns? This was explained as today was Australia Day & Saturday was Burns Night! [Mind you, Haggis is a bit like Marmite, you love it or hate it! – Ed] It may have been a better choice to have a wee dram of Scotch than a time of tasteless Skippy P*ss?

After catching a photo of Fliptop going for a Vegemite Sandwich [Which was staged, honest Sis! – Ed] the RA received a phone call from Lobby Lobster to say that we would only have seating until 13:30Hrs in the barn, due to all of the Sunday Lunch bookings at the Victoria. The prospect of another dull Fosters was too much for most, one of the four cans stayed unopened, the chance of a proper Ale led to the Pack moving back to the Pub.

The Pack settled in to enjoy an Ale, noting the times the table were booked for & what time to vacate them, however this didn't go down well with the waiter, who could play Basil Fawlty in the current stage play, bemoaned the Hash sitting there as he had already warned them they had to vacate the places, even though the Pub were more than happy selling more Lunches to the Pack sitting there.

Just as the Pack thought that no more would arrive, Des Res opened the door as he was the last one to start the Trail. He would be in time for the Down-Downs, which would take place outside, under the exterior heaters. The Hares were rewarded for the Trail & the scrumptious Vegemite sarnies.

Other Hits went to TBT OBE for his going off Trail, of course the RA had to take his hit for also getting lost & having to cut through the town in his bright lime green 'Hammersley Hash take it up the ar*e!' top, to reach the Fosters & Vegemite stop.

Finally Parsons Nose, after finishing his Sunday Roast, was called out for being the name sake of the Sound man at the Hertford Dick Whittington Panto, that Waragi & Supertrouper were in.

As for the Trail being in the shape of Australia, we let you be the judge from No Eye Deer's route map, apparently she missed out a section of the Northern Territories, it is also noted that Perth, home to Hammersley Hash House Harriers & the Perth Harriettes was also cut out.

Some moved on to the Angel Vaults, the local Spoons for more food & seating. While he went to get changed in the spoons, Mr X noticed the 'Fire Door' in the cubicle & he realised he was grateful he wasn't in need of using it! [Talk about squeezing one out! – Ed]