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

Run No. 2141
Date: Saturday 15th February
Venue: The Brockley Barge
Location: Brockley
Beers/Cider: Twickenham Winter Star; Importance of being hopped with Earnest
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 14
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 24 in a Joint Run with London H^3
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 38
Membership: Paying our respects to the Hash founder! Who we never met, but brought us all together…

It was a pretty good turnout from Herts as it came around for another Gispert Remembrance Trail, especially with it being another return to the Brockley Barge, in Brockley, South London, originally a part of Kent. Before some set of they had issues wrangling for ages as to obtaining the cheapest train ticket available, you may have guessed that it was Kylie taking his time in his selection.

The Day's Hare had an early start this morning & was back from setting the Trail by the time Hash Test Dummy, Supertrouper, Paxo, Pebbledash, Lobby Lobster, Mark E Mark & Kylie had arrived. With such an early start, some of those first to the Pub decided that they would have a bite to eat, unfortunately for the Hare, he arrived back just in time to witness Kylie with his Eggs Benedict.

Firstly he wobbled the pair of eggs around, with some verbal comparisons to Milf, who was not present to hear them, however Pebbledash was & more innuendo would follow, especially when Kylie dribbled Hollandaise Sauce down his chin & the whole scene was like something out of a bad porn movie!

Next to arrive was Eejit, Waragi, & then Fliptop, with Pampers from Scarborough H^3. Making an appearance from Essex H^3 were Dr Doolittle & Vicky Vomit, who had been to see their Son & Daughter, the latter living just up the road, though Vicky Vomit was bemoaning the he had to drive there, where he could have gone on a Bus Ride from his home to join the F.U.K Full Moon Hash Trail over in Brentwood.

Juice's Flowing & Parson's Nose were also among the on time arrivals, being in both camps of Herts H^3 as well as regulars with London, then there were Mudplug, FLAR & Plank who Hash with Rutland as well as LH^3. Early arrivals from LH^3 were K4, Chi-Su, Blood Stained Clothing, Mouthwash & Scrumpy. Later, Africa Queen, Hands On, High-Jacker & Russell in the Bush would also make their entrance.

Supertrouper was hoping that that the start would get underway before noon, but a steady stream of Hashers made their way into the Barge after midday, London don't start until well after 12:00Hrs due to a lot of venues in London & the surrounding suburbs don't open any early.

When Thunderthighs made her appearance, she made a bee-line over to Mr X, asking if it was a joint FUK Full Moon Trail & could she boost her R*n numbers? Thunderthighs would be disappointed when Mr X said that it wasn't, he had committed to the Gispert Memorial Trail, adding that the Full Moon had been in Brentwood three times in 2024.

Eventually as the time ticked around to half past noon the Circle was called out the front to the Brockley Barge. The introductions were made by Slippery Comer, LH^3's GM, welcoming the Joint Pack to London's 2763 Trail, with Fliptop, Herts H^3, doing the same for Herts Trail No.2141. Then the Hare was called upon to explain what the Pack could expect out there?

Mr X began with a brief explanation of the Day's markings, saying that coming from the leafy Garden City he had adapted his normal markings in favour of the LH^3 Members, setting the Trail in discard vapes & Lime Bikes, pointed over to the group ugly green cycles outside of the Sainsbury's Local & describing them as a Check Point.

The Hare then mentioned being asked about whether there was much Shiggy on the Trail, explaining that it was out there, to be found in various states in brown, black, & even a white, cigar shapes on the pavements. Before allowing the Keenies to move on, the Hare mentioned that there were two Held CHKs, regroups that were two integral parts of the Trail, after which Thunderthighs asked if we would be stopping at the Memorial at the Gispert Family Grave & Memorial [Its good to know that Herts aren't the only Hash to have people who don't listen! – Ed]

Then without further ado, the Trail began, with the Knitting Circle being asked to stick with the Hare, while Sweetheart took a piece of plasterboard to mark the CHKs as the Keenies encountered & successfully dealt with them. Thunderthighs was all a quandary as questioned the Hare as to where the Short Cut would be! Mr X said she should be like Alice & follow the White Rabbit! [Well, a bright Orange one, in his Hares' Shirt! – Ed]

The longer Trail runners picked up the arrows by the Sainsbury's Local, crossing by the small Brockley Station Gardens, then away under the railway bridge carrying the Thameslink 'Sevenoaks to St Pancras' line above. Then the arrows followed the first junction off of the double mini roundabouts, taking the B2142 over the Brockley mainline below the criss-crossing train tracks. [Kylie was in heaven! – Ed]

It wasn't far until the first CHK was found at the junction with Mantle Road, which passes back under the Sevenoaks to St Pancras line. Back by Brockley Station, the Knitting Circle followed the Hare on the short cut on the footbridge right beside the station's platform bridge, emerging out on to Mantle Road, from where some of the Keenies finally spotted the Hare in his bright day-glo orange Hare's Shirt, something that Beetroot had complimented Mr X on, as he has similar one from that Norwich based UK Nash Hash (That they said we couldn't pull off again! – Ed].

Anyhow, the Trail moved southward, moving on to where it becomes St Norbert Road, crossing over to the western side, passing outside the small parade of shops & on to the next CHK across from these. While Eejit went wrong by carrying on further down St Norberts Road, the Trail was picked up on the right-hand of the wishbone split in the road, taking the FRBs off down an urban street terraced homes of Arica Road. There was one of these abodes that really did stand out, for it was completely decorated with some rather flamboyant & colourful Picasso inspired artworks!

It would be some 380 Yards to the other end of the street, where the a CHK was located on the T junction with Brockhill Crescent, meanwhile the Knitting Circle were following Mr X along St Norbert's Road, & having made their way around the slight bulge in the bow-like road they would soon spot the brightly coloured Hash Shirt of Sweetheart leading the way over the roundabout to pass under the Victoria to Sevenoaks railway bridge, he third set of different railway routes of the day.

There were those, like My Lil', who recalled a route from previous years that went tis way, as well as his local knowledge being utilized by Sweetheart who found the Trail running around by the Turnham Academy, with its brightly decorate 'Rocky & Wrighty Arena' an all-weather pitch at (Former Gooners) Ian Wright & the late David 'Rocky' Rocastle's old School.

Kylie's old grey-matter was also awoken, no doubt stimulated by all of the railways, as he remembered the way when the Trail was found over the crest of the footbridge, up from the CHK by the local Health Centre.

Kylie's inspiration in moving east by southeast over Howson Road Footbridge was the lure to cross two sets of railway lines as one passes over the other. Kylie now moved on like he had a third leg hindering his progress as he made his way along Dalyrymple Road, were there other semis there [Careful Pebbledash! – Ed] were the homes on either side of the street!

Around 300 Yards on, at the junction with Brockley Road, the Hash had to cross over to the eastern side, some by way of a short loop out to the Pedestrian crossing to the south, while others took a chance on dashing through the gaps in the traffic caused by the temporary Traffic lights a short up to the north.

The Pack would now make their way around to the north-western entrance to the Brockley Cemetery, a Cemetery that is still in use as the recent burials & new headstones lay witness to. Once beyond the gatehouse, the Trail turned on a hairpin to move along the western edge of the Graveyard, Mr X pointed out one memorial, for Claude a son who died while in the Kent Cyclist Battalion in World War One.

The Pack regrouped at the Gispert Family Memorial, in the Catholic corner at the west section of the Brockley Cemetery,

Here the old Royal British Legion Wreath was replaced for a new one by Fliptop, being the most senior in rank present (or believed to be). Then the Hash held a minute's silence in honour of the Man who is credited with founding the first Hash House Harriers, & the loss of his life when the Japanese invaded Singapore in 1942.

ASI Gisperts remains are more than likely in a mass grave at Kanji Cemetery Singapore, with just his name on a stone in a wall as any recognition.

Some who hadn't been here before, were also surprised to see that his older Brother died in the First World War, when HMS Monitor, he was serving on was torpedoed & sunk in 1917, then there is another dedication on the memorial to his younger brother who was 'Assassinated' in Manilla' due to bad blood between the Shipping Company he worked for & the local unions.

Time to move & the Hash made their way along the southern side of the Cemetery, which is a wildlife reserve with trees & shrubbery. Heading eastward into the Ladywell Cemetery, these originally two separate burial ground that were merged into one. On the way the Pack

reached a CHK by an open gate on to the Brockley grove Road, this is the first time in the last 8 years that it has been open. Sadly it had signs warning dog walkers about their pets fouling this nature reserve.

Not knowing if the gate would be padlocked up on his second trip around, the Hare decided to keep the Trail within the Cemetery, running on by the two open fronted, green wooden shelters, rather akin to the old, Victorian cab-man's shelters. Of interest on this route were another, smaller group of Commonwealth War Graves, as well as two huge slabs for two separate family plots, one must be 10 by 15 feet!

Before leaving the Cemetery, there was one short diversion over a small green space behind the hedges, this had a path of Shiggy that was all of five feet in length, however this didn't stop Blood Stained Clothing from turning back to take the slightly longer tarmac path around, on the way 'he protest greatly' about getting his hash shoes dirty!

Emerging out on to the curving end of Ivy Road, where it joins the Ladywell & Brockley Grove roads, it would here that the Knitting Circle would be sent on the longest of the day's Short Cuts, while Sweetheart & Eejit led the rest of the Keenies on a long loop, heading away to the south.

Having crossed the road, the FRBs disappeared down the gentle, 300 Yard descent of Arthurdon Road to cross over a slightly staggered junction, to enter a small Estate near to the distinctive Ladywell Water Tower, with contrasting red & green brickwork above, all topped off with a gothic slate roof that could have come off of the Addams Family's House.

Having weaved their way through the small twisting turning estate, the Pack were led on to a CHK by the north-western edge of Ladywell Fields Park. Those venturing further south over the slightly slippery earthen path worn in the green open space, would be rewarded with Trail Dust & "On! On! was called, now the Hash set off further southward to a footbridge spanning the Ravensbourne River.

A CHK was found on the bank of the water way, then once over the river the Trail was picked up once more, up to the northeast where the large corkscrew like ramp to a footbridge could be seen, the arrows led the Keenies around & around several times on the clockwise climb up to the bridge spanning the Train line from Catford to Lewisham. Of course there had to be a descent on the corresponding anticlockwise corkscrew ramp [That's Counter Clockwise for Sweetheart & those from across the Pond! – Ed] [You may have also noticed that we are using simple figurative words, like 'corkscrew' which all Hashers understand? – Ed]

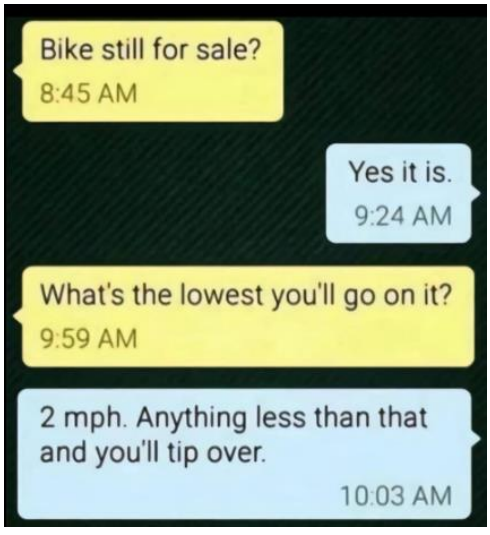
Anyhow, the FRBs found themselves by the north-western corner of the 'Alex Yee Ladywell Arena'. Now inspired by the Lewisham born Alexander Amos Yee, British World & Olympic Gold Medallist, Eejit & Sweetheart dashed away as the Trail was found heading out to the northeast, then turning almost due north after crossing the river once again. Now the Pack would trot along by the local Tennis Courts, which had some funky music playing when the Hare went around first time laying the Trail.

Up along the edge of the Ladywell Fields Park, on the opposite bank of the Ravensborne to the University Hospital Lewisham, after 300 Yards the Trail took to a diagonal path heading over toward Ladywell Station, crossing a tributary to the river. It was here that the Hare had noticed that the Good Hope Café, which he mistook for a Micro Pub, ~~sadly~~ turns out to be a youth based charity! [Come on the logo does looks like a corn of barley! – Ed]

Anyhow, the FRBs would emerge from the north end of Ladywell Fields Park, crossing over the railway via the main road bridge. The Hare had set the next leg of the Trail, away to the west, crossing the B236 Ladywell Road just before reaching the Ladywell Tavern, just to stop anyone with a thirst going astray too soon!

The Trail would now peel off of the main road & take to north-western Adelaide Avenue, the Keenies would now be following on in the wake of the Knitting Circle, who had turned this corner after the Short Cut down Ladywell Avenue for the west. By this point the Pack had been joined by White Trash, who joined the Knitting Circle

It was around this point, while setting the Trail, when the Hare accidentally trod on a dog's egg, all while trying to avoid several Junioresque splatters of vomit & he wondered if he had been around before him? [Thankfully, Junior was not there today! –Ed] Mr X made the mistake of telling Yorkie Porky that he spent some time in the next Park dragging his left foot across the grass, all to remove the offending waste! Adding that he didn't want to do this on the 'Spoons carpet or a barstool footrest.



The Knitting Circle were well ahead of the rest, arriving at the CHK by the southernmost tip of Hillyfields Park, here they all seemed to stall, hanging around at the CHK looking like lost Sheep, or was it the sight he grassy hillside that was a long high climb that left them dumbstruck?

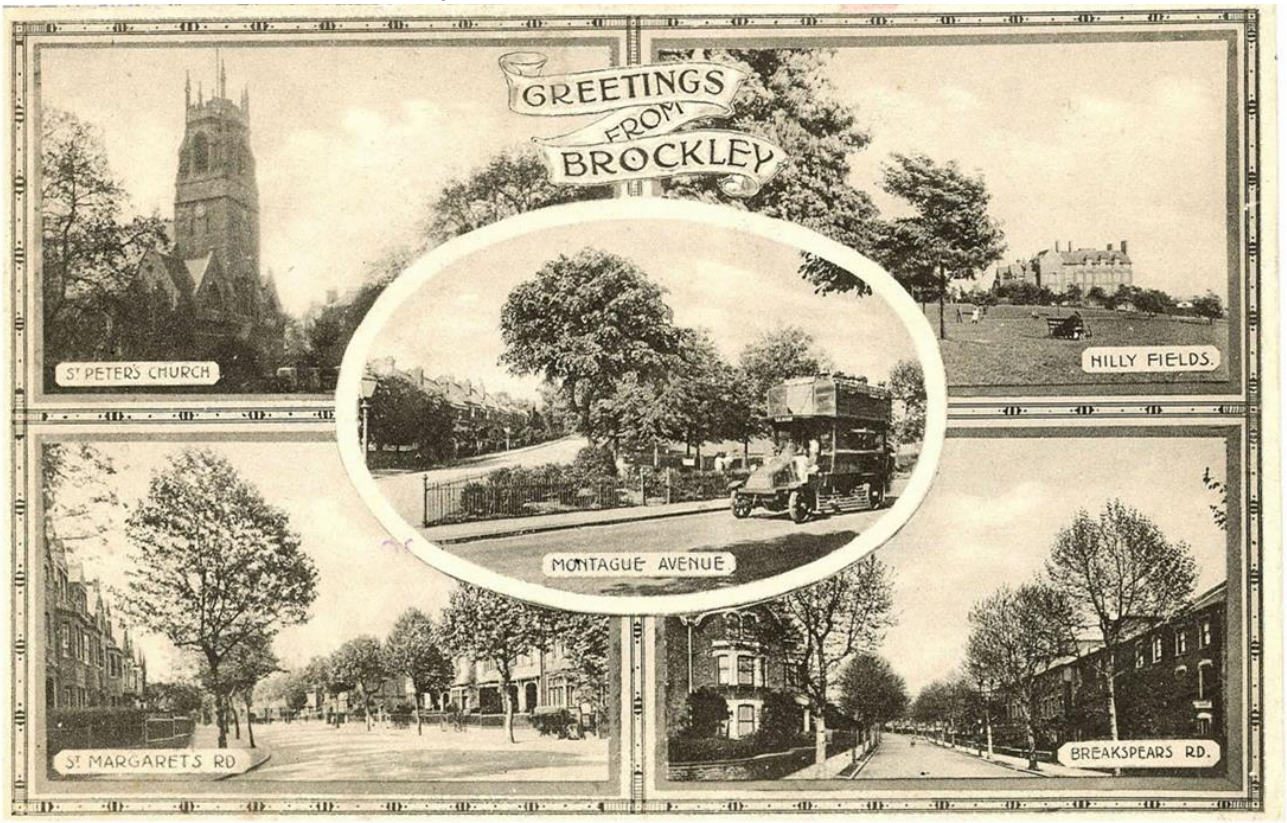
To get them moving again, the Hare gently reminded them all of his Chalk-talk & how the Trail was set in abandoned Lime Bikes! Supertrouper cottoned onto this, having spotted the abandoned Lime Bike up Eastern Road, leading beside the Pendergast 6th Form College. Here the Knitting Circle picked up Trail on the steady climb up to the summit, where traffic was stopped by various barriers.

On the way Kylie said that the Hare should have got someone else to step in for the Herts Sunday Trail, for Mr X was setting both, & on each day &

going around twice! [Perhaps Kylie should have a word with the Harts Hare Raiser to sort these things out? – Ed]

Now at the summit opposite the Hillyfields' Henge a wooden circle, next to which the local Boot Camp Fitness takes place. A CHK was found a little way on, by the Hillyfields Park Café. Lobby Lobster was relieved, in more ways than one at the sight of the Café, & used the facilities while the rest bunched up once more, taking in the sights on top of an area that 'G' would have known well & no doubt had run around from his nearby school.

Some of the Knitting Circle, like Mark E Mark, followed the trail around the counter-clockwise [That's anticlockwise for any Limey's reading! – Ed] path circling the Park, o a route used by the local Park Run before descending to Hilly Field Crescent & turning westward. Those like Vicky Vomit, Dr Doolittle, Supertrouper, Scrumpy, Juices Flowing & Thunderthighs followed the Hare straight down, & across the now vacant football pitches, which were bustling with kids training earlier. The Trail avoided the fenced off cricket wicket in the dell to reach the north-western corner of the area to be saved by Octavia Hill in 1896



In her article "Space for the People" (1883) Octavia records that when visiting tenants in Deptford one day, she noticed a vase of freshly picked flowers. On being told they had been picked on Hilly Fields, she set off to visit the area the same day and as a result became instrumental in raising subscriptions to save Hilly Fields from being built over. After lengthy and difficult negotiations the site of the park was bought and improvements were made by the London County Council. The site of the brick works was drained, levelled and marked out as a cricket pitch. A bandstand was also provided. The park was formally opened on 16 May 1896.

Octavia Hill would be one of the founders of the National Trust.

Sweetheart & Eejit were spotted on the outer path of the Park as they beat the Knitting Circle to corner of the Park, where arrows pointed the way over the junction & on to Tesslilian Road running for 130 Yards to a crossroads, then from a CHK there a northwest crossing to Harefield Road was taken to lead on down to the next crossroads, then over to the second Held CHK by the bright red Pillar-box on the corner with Breakspears Road, to have a sweet stop outside of No. 80, birthplace of ASI Gispert. By now Rambo had also caught up with the Hash.

Now there were the odd spits of rain in the air, so after the sweet stop, & photos taken, it was a simple trot or wander down Harefield Road, care was needed as the narrow footpath had many ridges & lumps in it caused by the tree roots, all made it safely back on to Brockley High Street & On Inn, though some decided to take a detour over to the nearby Brockley Brewery.

Others stopped for food in the Spoons, while Hash Test Dummy tested out the Spoons App, which in turn tested his patience as the order took a while to get to him, well it was busy with a lot of Hashers in there. Eventually, after K4 had finished his celebratory slap-up 'Spoons meal, the Circle was called out in the patio garden, where there was a very light drizzle in the air.

Neither Sweetheart, nor Mr X would get away without receiving a Down-Down as RAs. Mr X was due one for being the Hare, but he would be called out for more later on! There would be a lot of Down-Downs, so in no particular Order here are just a few:

Mr X was rewarded for setting the Trail, that very Morning, which everyone enjoyed, though there was some discontented at there being no Scotch at the Memorial Stop this year, especially after Scrumpy had brought alog & showed the Hare her metal Edinburgh TNT 2,000th Weekend Shot-glass . He did explain that he hadn't any left from the west coast where the Argyll & Sutherland Highlander are based, plus he was up on Nottingham on Friday Night, checking out this year's only Friday 13th Trail! [It's in June, before you ask! – Ed]

Sweetheart was London RA for the day, something he claimed he has not done before, which fooled most as he was a natural at it, he certainly had some energy as he moved around the circle & singing like a Panotmime Dame. After an elaborate song, Sweetheart called out K4, for it was his Birthday this very day [The things some people do for a free drink! Ed] & this explained why he splashed out on his slap-up 'spoons meal!

Kylie was out for his ~~skint-flint~~ scouring the web for the cheapest train ticket, while later on Fliptop was out getting such a Cheap Ticket, that he got stuck in the Train Ticket Barrier Gates, he was pushed through by Pampers, who was on the same Train in.

Dr Doolittle was called out [This Scribe can't recall what for?] Thunderthighs had to be invited into the Circle for asking if the Trail would pay a visit to the Family Memorial & ASI Gispert's birth place. Pampers was called out again, for travelling the furthest, all the way from Scarborough, t'up in't Yorkshire.

Mr X was once more in the centre of the Circle, as Yorkie Porky dobbed him in for treading on a dog's egg & then commenting on wiping it on 'Spoons carpet, or bar-stool cross bar! Blood Stained Clothing was out for his Shiggy avoidance near the end of the cemetery.

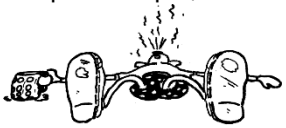
Being a day after Valentines Day we should have had a little poem,

Roses are Red
This meal crafted for you,
Where is my Scrumpy?
She's stuck in the Loo!
Mouthwash 2025

as Scrumpy & Mouthwash were awarded their Down-Downs after she claimed he gave her food poisoning with the Valentine's meal he had cooked her. Supertrouper gave the Pack a rendition of a song form Annie, which FLAR joined in with before she & Plank received their hits!

Eejit had his Down-Down for his First London Hash, having completed his first Herts Hash the week before, after arriving from Auckland H^3. Sweetheart & Slippery Comer had to hold hands between the back of each other's legs, like a reverse of the Toy Dolls 'Nellie the Elephant' dance, you have to be of a certain age to remember that one.

After the Circle, a few more popped over to the Brockley Brewery for a quick couple, to round off a great day.



Roses are Red

Violets are Blue

I fixed my Fiat

It's as good as n…

*For F*ck's sake now what….*