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

Run No. 2142
Date: Sunday 16th February
Venue: The Orange Tree
Location: Baldock
Beers/Cider: Titanic Plum Porter; Abbot, Abbot Reserve; Tring Mansion Mild
Hare/s: Mr X
Runners: 22
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 22
Membership: Revolting Eager beavers!

For the Hare it was another early start, the second in a row! However, unlike Saturday's journey to set the Trail in the south of the Smoke, Sunday was a different kettle of fish. Firstly his 07:45 Hrs planned Rail Replacement Bus never arrived at its appointed time, due to the driver not turning up for his shift!

So, plan B was to catch the first Train out at 08:38 Hrs would be his back up, which should have got him to Baldock at 09:04Hrs, & 'should' was the word, as once on Welwyn Garden's Platform 3 he heard an announcement that the Train was now held up due to over-running engineering works at Hatfield, it was over running long enough to make his journey over 30 Minutes late!

However, the Railway journey was still far from over, as the Train driver announced at Hitchin that it was going to come out of service at Letchworth, meaning the follow up Train needed to be boarded to get to that one extra to Baldock. Finally arriving in Baldock, the Hare trotted along from the Station to the Pub, then immediately set off to lay the Trail. Having to take his change of clothes bag with him, & run around with it on his back!

The Hare's original choice of where to Run was now changed, not having time if he wanted to get back to the Pub in time for the Opening Circle. Even running the Trail, time was getting close as he neared the venue, but would be late by a few minutes, so he called Paxo to hold the start up. Paxo said that this would be no problem & the call ended.

Paxo hadn't counted on the Pack being very restless, wanting to get on with things, as DoesWattTylershesays started a revolt & demanded the Pack got underway! So, Paxo phoned the Hare back, who was only a couple of shakes away [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] & just about to purchase the confectionary for the sweets stop, but that would now have to wait, as the Hare listened to the restless Pack in the background.

The Hare must have sounded like a grumpy old Hector as he said to Paxo that the Hash could "Bloody get on with it!" end the call & now began to run again to the Pub. Thankfully Canny Can't & Gen 'n' Tonic were still in the car park, while the rest of the Hash were now out of sight. At least the Hare could stow his bag before being joined by Paxo, as Mr X marked the first Short Cut of the day along the Icknield Way toward Station Road, while crossing out a mysterious green 'Hash style' arrow pointing the wrong way.

Meanwhile the revolting Hashers had passed through the low & narrow, unlit & dark brick foot-tunnel in the Railway embankment, it was long enough for the two tracks above. The Pack arrived at the first CHK at the southern end of the Ivel Springs Nature Reserve, this had plenty of options to search, making the Pack look in all different directions away from the embankment.

Back on the Short Cut & Paxo received a call form Pepé le Pew, who said he was waiting for him, out in the middle of the common land on the opposite side of the tracks, but Paxo gave this a miss, sticking with the Hare walking along Ickneild Way.

The Trail was picked up on the path leading from below the sewage treatment works, & that runs eastward below the bottom of the railway embankment out toward North Road. Before reaching North Road there was an enclosure of cleared land with water toughs set up in it, is it to be a piggery, Donkey Sanctuary? No doubt we'll discover what livestock on our next visit to Baldock?

The Trail passed out through a gate & down to North Road, turning south-eastward to head back under the Railway Bridge, then crossing over at the temporary Pedestrian Crossing Lights on the busy road, to move on up to the start of the drive up to Baldock Station. It was here that the Hare caught up with the vast majority of the Pack & he received a rousing *condescending* Cheer.

Arrows directed the Keenies of Hash Test Dummy, Moss Key Toe, Tent Packer, Diamond Geezer, Parsons Nose, No Eye Deer & TBT OBE up Icknield Way East, while Mr X & Paxo mingled with Cou-cou, Kylie, Hot 'N' Spicee, Milf, Kylie, My Lil', Juices Flowing, DWSS, Pepé le Pew, Pebbledash, Karlo & Sludge.

My Friend quit his job at the BMW Factory...

Of course he gave no indication he was leaving!

Mr X was surprised that Parsons Nose was present, for after the Gispert Memorial Trail he said that Juices Flowing & He weren't going to be at the Orange Tree, perhaps the talk of the excellent Ales at the Orange Tree proved a game changer, or was it that they knew who the Hare was (Again)?

The Hash would follow the old side street around to the Royston Road, where some thought that they were 'On' off over the bend in the main road, but the Hare had to call them back from this 'False Calling' & it was now apparent to the Hare, especially when setting the end of the Trail, that the Hare & Hounds had trespassed yet again in to Herts without warning us, this time for their Gispert Memorial R*n on Tuesday.

Enough of being maungy, as the Hare marked the CHK to direct the Hash across the main road, but in a direction to the southwest, surprisingly back toward the High Street. Kylie spotted this but misread the direction & shot off up an alleyway through to Sale Drive, where there was no Trail! He was also called back! Those with more sense, & better eyesight spotted the finger-post sign further down the road, showing the way to the southeast up the uncapped, dead-end road of California.

Dust was found & a 120 Yard trot on the potholed, puddle strewn right of way on this 'private' road brought the Pack to a CHK by a ginnel off to the southwest, here there were two green finger-post signs, with the southwest one pointing toward the High Street & this lured DWSS & Canny Cant off that way, but there was no Dust at all down that way. They came back as "On!" was called straight on to the southeast, where the uncapped route becomes a smoother tarmac footpath that runs along behind the Hartsfield School.

After a kink in the footpath, the FRBs found a CHK at the opposite end of a partially fenced off green space, here Diamond Geezer would fall for the Falsie carrying further along the bottom of the Clothall Estate, he came back as Moss Key Toe called "On!" after he picked up the Trail up the edge of the rectangle of greenspace, which the Hare was spotted moving diagonally across on a short, Short Cut to Yeomanry Drive.

The arrows continued eastward, between the bollards preventing access out on to Wynn Close, carrying on to a CHK near to a long green with an avenue of trees heading out eastward. Dust was found on other side of these trees & the Pack advanced to the other end of the greenspace & on to a CHK

The Hare was cheered up by the sight of No Eye Deer, TBT OBE, Diamond Geezer, Tent Packer & Parsons Nose all going wrong, either up the eastward back passage [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] or along the green strip to the south, no one considered to look on the start of the dead-end of Bush Spring.

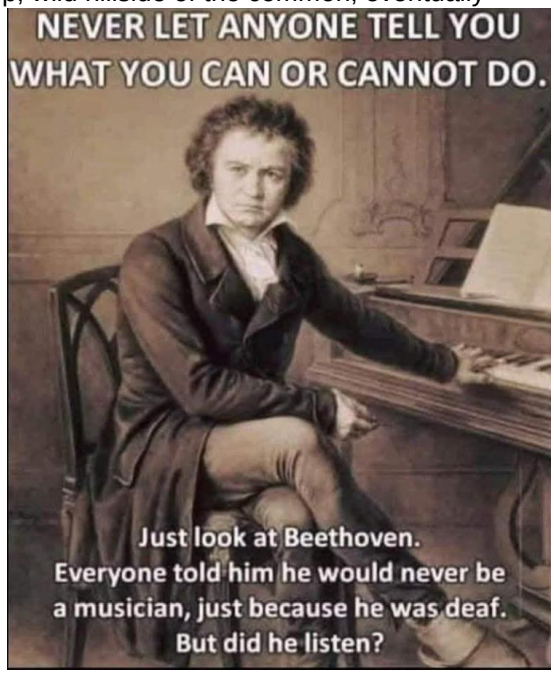
If you ever date a Dominatrix, never, ever suggest it's time to hit the sack!

Bush Spring it was, this delay kept the Pack together pretty well as they now advanced through more of the Clothall Estate, moving through the backstreets to come out into the southern end of the Clothall Park, near to the playground. Over to the north of the green space, & across east to west earthen path, the Trail would lead on to a parallel tarmac footpath & here it was marked to the east. Entering more side roads the Trail would twist & turn from Rivett Close around to a CHK on Iredale View.

The Hare utilized more of the snickets linking these small side roads, Mr X was sure that Reg "I'll be back" Holdsworth once lived in one of these cul-de-sacs? But he hasn't been seen in the last ten years or so. The Trail was now taking the Hash all the way over to the eastern arm of Yeomanry Drive, here the Hare advised the Knitting Circle to hang back a bit, as Tent Packer, No Eye Deer, Parson Nose, Diamond Geezer, Moss Key Toe, Hash Test Dummy, Karlo, TBT OBE & Kylie tackled the options from the CHK point at the end of the housing & over a small footbridge crossing the ditch forming a boundary with the back of the homes & the rising scrubby open hillside to the northeast.

The likes of My Lil' Paxo, Supertrouper, Milf, Cou-cou, Hot 'N' Spicee, Pebbledash, Pepé le Pew, Juices Flowing, were shown the way along the grass, verge like strip between the rear of the houses & the ditch to walk along to the first Held CHK at the southern end, here they would wait on the tarmac track between the estate & the farm land to the east.

The Keenies were slowed to a walk, as the clambered up the steep, wild hillside of the common, eventually reaching CHK on plateau, by the three steps of the concrete Horse Mounting block. Here there were three options to search, one to the north on the common, another to the southeast over the long footbridge spanning the Baldock By-pass below, or lastly head southward along the edge of the common?



As he sat on the concrete blocks, the first time the Hare had stopped for the last couple of hours, he was cheered to see all options were being searched, with Diamond Geezer crossing the by-pass & Parsons Nose off to the north, but it was No Eye Deer's search that intrigued him most as she turned back just feet away from the Dust. No Eye Deer would let out sigh of "Ohhh nooo!" when she saw the Hare mark the CHK down toward where she had come back from!

On her second attempt, No Eye Deer would pick up the Dust on the stony drive way down beside the top western edge of the cutting the by-pass sits in below. After 180 Yards the track would turn direction to the west, moving away from the main road & down to the Held CHK, where Pepé le Pew was found to be sitting on the low metal barrier to stop vehicular access.

When the Hare arrived at the Held CHK, it was like the Spanish Inquisition, [And nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition! – Ed] as to where the sweets were? There was a distinct air of disappointment as

the Hare explained that the Sweets were in the bags, which are still hanging up in the corner shop, as the Hare was going to pay visit right before being interrupted by Paxo's return phone call about revolting Hashers & there the sweets stayed.

So, the Pack set off with little sympathy for the Hare, moving on along the spine like track as it arcs one way & then the next, moving along the southern end of the Clothall estate for almost 500 Yards, until reaching the Wallington Road, where a CHK awaited across the road from the wide barred access point.

It didn't take long for the Trail to be picked up again, since there were only two options, with Dust being found by Diamond Geezer on the back of the small avenue of trees running down to the southwest on the Wallington Road, reaching the next CHK a short way down by the same footpath the Hash were on earlier as it runs all the way from the end of California.

Diamond Geezer was first way to the northwest, up the alleyway running along the western edge of the Clothall estate, he would go wrong when he reached the next CHK by a footpath heading out to the southwest, through the remaining crop fields between the Housing estate & the Clothall Road. Tent Packer, TBT OBE & Parsons Nose had no such issues as they started off through the gap in the tall hedgerow & tree-line to the southwest.

After a dead straight 300 yards on the track separating the two sections of crop fields, the Trail came up the grassy bank, where an arrow pointed northwest-ward, across to the opposite side. Unlike Roadkill, who tripped over here a few years ago, this time around all of the Pack crossed the sunken verge in one piece.

Heading northward on the Clothall Road for another 300 yards, the FRBs would eventually reach the penultimate CHK of the day, not that the Hash knew this, as they found it by the corner of the Buffs Football Club field. The Hare said that the game was under way when he was setting the Trail, it was still being played on his second trip around, perhaps they were on playing 'Fergie Time'?

While Diamond Geezer, Moss Key Toe, Hash Test Dummy, Tent Packer & TBT OBE all went off 'On Trail' over to one arm of Thurnal Close to the west, the Hare marked the Short Cut straight on along the Clothall Road to the White Horse Junction on White Horse Street, the Knitting Circle would pass through a T on the way to where the Keenies would emerge ahead of them.

Before meeting the Knitting Circle again, the FRBs were led around Thurnall Close to the west, & then northward on to the Twitchell, the old name for a passage way, & that it was, a narrow winding route that made its way between the back of many homes, then the Baldock United Reform Church to emerge back out from under the newer coaching style buildings. Out on to the Clothall Road & with the Knitting Circle close on their heels, the Keenies followed the arrows as they turned the corner.

The Hare had broken off by this point, on a short cut to the High Street, he was running again to make his way to the Corner Shop & purchase the sweets. As the Hare approached the Costcutter store, he spotted Hash Test Dummy making his way in there to buy the confectionary. Mr X was tempted to shout out "Something for the weekend Sir?" at Hash Test Dummy, but had second thoughts when he saw the age of the other clientele.

Hash Test Dummy said it was better buying the confectionary, than standing at the Held CHK by St Marys Church. But, & it was a big BUT, as he forget to purchase any Liquorice Allsorts, the Hare had to finally fetch these from the nearby corner shop.

Hash Test Dummy & the Hare made their way over the two zebra crossings on two sections of the roundabout, to reach the Held CHK by St Mary's with its distinctive chequered 'Clunch work' around some of its stone walls. The day was saved with the sweets arriving, another bonus was that it had stayed dry, & even the breeze had warmed slightly from first thing this morning, when it was the only thing whistling down the tracks.

Having delivered the sweets, had the Hare earnt another Bonus Point? [Nah! – Ed] but Tent Packer was happy as only he & Mr X seem to like the aniseed buttons, & there a more to go around now My Lil' isn't eating them.

With sweets enjoyed, it was time to move on, & Moss Key Toe certainly wanted to get moving again as he had wandered away. Everyone started the last leg, after the CHK was marked toward the back of the Church & taking to the old footpath through the graveyard to the west.

It was 300 Yards to reach the Norton Road, though Pepé le Pew did try to throw Milf & Supertrouper off of the Trail by calling out 'Left Turn!" where there were remnants of the Hare & Hounds invasive Trail still lingering on. But they weren't bluffed & continued

Lego now do a Tent Packer & TBT OBE set to build!

unfazed on to the end of the path, where a piece of well-worn plaster board was found. It was the one the Hare left on the bench when he stopped to adjust his bags & scrawl the On Inn.

The Trail simply ran up the Norton Road to the Orange Tree, where the Pack settled into, especially near to the nice warm real log fires at either end. The Pack Squeezed into the main bar, with the restaurant end having a family party, some of whom wandered through looking a little bewildered at the sight of the Hash filling the place! The smaller Train Room was also out of bounds, for there was to be a meeting in there at 13:00Hrs.

Fliptop & Sis now made an appearance, claiming to have done the Trail, or at least the first CHK & that there was photographic evidence to prove it so! However they were not the last to arrive, oh no! Flying Solo entered the Bar after completing the Trail, since she too had a late start, due to the Victorian Dress Hash Trail the afternoon before, which ended very late in the evening.

The Circle was called out under the covered section of out building. Fliptop toasted the Hash & then the Hare was rewarded a pint, for what everyone said was a good Trail. Pint dispatched & Normal service was resumed with the RA taming over. Hash Test Dummy was rewarded for purchasing the Sweets for the last Held CHK, though he forgot the Liquorice Allsorts!

Flying Solo was out for being the latest of the late comers. Paxo was called forward for calling the Hare when he had almost set the Trail! Then DoesWattTylershesays was out for being the ring-leader of the Revolting Hashers who were too eager to start the Trail.

Mr X was called out again, as Supertrouper mentioned that he had lost his Herts Beenie the day before, claiming it was soaked in Beer! [If it was I doubt he would have lost if! - Ed] Pepé le Pew & Pebbledash wondered why the writing was so pink? "Its a girl's one!" They screamed.

The Pack moved back into the warmth of the bar for several more Plum Porters, also known in Herts Hash Circles as ‘Lemming’s Downfall’!! Finlay the Hare got some sympathy, being asked why he had to set two trails in consecutive days, laying them on both mornings & then going around again, as well as being in Nottingham the Friday Night? He just said “That’s down to the Hare Raiser to sort out the Hares for Trails!”

Got some pretty sweat deals on meat down at the swap meet today. Think I’m gonna make some scattered skunk tacos tonight

My wife took off her top during an argument where I was winning.
It was a booby trap.