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"It's five years since I became a tedious online conspiracy theorist"

Run No. 2149
Date: Sunday 13th April 2025
Venue: Chez Sis et Fliptop
Location: Royston
Beers/Cider: Adnams Old Ale, Buntingford Hurricane
Hare/s: 3D & Slug
Runners: 24
Virgins: 1
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 1
Hash Hounds: 1
Total: 26
Membership: ~~Erection~~ Election times [Sorry Pebbledash was present, hence the Freudian Slip! – Ed]

Another year has sailed by as the Hash meeting for the Annual General Piss-Up, the AGPU, was once again upon us. There was a pretty good turnout, perhaps Sis asking the (Current) RA if he could sort out the weather, which midweek wasn't looking too promising, but somehow there were fairly clear skies to begin with this warm Sunday Morning.

Eventually the Pack Circled up in the back garden to hear Fliptop announce the welcome to the correct Hash Number, then things fell apart rapidly, for the Hares were out the front of Chez Sis et Fliptop, since they had Sally with them & they didn't want to stress-out Teddy.

The Circle disbanded, then were led out where Fliptop requested several times for the Pack not to stand on his neighbour's driveway, the Hares now had their turn. 3D & Slug informed the Pack on what they could expect out there, with mention of one 'big Short Cut' & then one Hare also hinted at there being a Sweet Stop, something the Host had disappointed many with the mention of there not being any sweets, as there was far too much to eat Après Trail. [Surely Fliptop knows what gluttons the Hash ae? – Ed]

As the Pack moved on out of the Close & took a turn to the left to run out toward the end of Green Drift, Flying Solo & Mark, this week's Virgin with her, drove in. On his start Moss Key Toe wondered how Mr X knew that the Trail would head down to Kneesworth Street & then turn right from the CHK at that T-Junction there, turning toward the centre of Royston? Simples really, he had caught the Train up & had seen the very large T down by the Station Car Park entrance.

TBT OBE was well on his way down toward the centre of town, before having to change direction from the south, to cross over eastward via the traffic island, here the Trail would lead up to a CHK on the second entrance to U-shaped 'The Green'. Mr X now led the way as searched the start of Dog-Kennel Lane, named after the Kennels that once stood there when King James I (VI Scotland) frequented Royston for his pursuit of Hunting in the area.

Just a matter of mere feet & an arrow was found on the eastbound alleyway of Butcher's Baulk, (a Baulk being an earthen wall or barrier) starting off by an old flint wall, this ancient way would lead on behind some of the more modern homes around the top of Kings James Way to the south & Mill Road to the north, then after around 130 Yards, the homes on the north gave way to a small industrial looking estate, which is home to Royston Day Nursery, the Stephanie Power's School of Dancing, as well Stage Right Centre for Performing Arts, where we managhe dot keep a hold of our resident Thespians of Waragi & Supertrouper. [That's Thespians Pebbledash, Thespians! – Ed]

A CHK was found almost 200 Yards up the narrow back-passage [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed], here Mr X & Moss Key Toe were caught out as they continued on Butcher's Baulk which took them between the School to the south & Royston Cemetery to the North, but after another 100 Yards they realised that they had no Trail, so back they came.

My Lil' had caught up, as the errant ones came back to the CHK, this meant he was first out into King James Way estate. Instead of searching for the Trail on either option of the large oval estate road, Mr X was preoccupied in whacking the My Lil' on his arm, for he had spotted another Yellow car, second of the day, as the first one had Mr X receiving a whack by the one parked up on Green Drift.

Away from the Yellow car & Mr X picked up the Trail on the left option to head southward & around to the east on the long way in to the large Q shaped King James Way. Mr X was now first up to the Civic Centre Car Park, where another CHK awaited. His local knowledge now kicked in as he searched off between the parked cars to pick up

the Trail once again, but not before getting a whack as another Yellow Car was spotted there! The arrows would skirt the outside of the Medical Centre & then the Royston Town Council Building to emerge on to Melbourn Street.

A slight sidestep, to cross over by use of a Zebra Crossing a few yards to the west, had the Pack crossing over to the southern side of the main road, here arrows were spotted in the iron gated old stone entrance in the red brick wall to the Park, & back of the grounds of St John the Baptist Church, which not that long ago had a serious fire bring its roof down.

The Trail would continue to advance southward, taking to several of the paths to weave the way by the brick rectangle of the Silver Jubilee Stage to the west & the American Airman Memorial & its bright & cheery floral display to the east. By now Diamond Geezer had caught up with Mr X as the Trail was found leading up through the Kids play area at the northern end of the Memorial Gardens to the exit on to the old A10 where Market Hill is joined by Priory Lane. Little did My Lil' know, but another yellow car lay in wait & so did Mr X! [Was there at some point a special offer on Yellow Cars in Royston? – Ed]

Mr X now went wrong as he searched Market Hill to the west, on his way back he spotted Waragi's Red Locks in the sunlight as she dashed over to Priory Lane, she was following on after Diamond Geezer, Flying Solo, Mark & My Lil', while No Eye Deer patiently waited for the traffic to ease so she could cross over.

The Trail would be found as Priory Lane comes down around 80 Yards to become the Barkway Road at the south-eastern tip of the triangle of roads, double arrows pointed southward on to Barkway Street & those ahead of Mr X had seemingly taken their 'eyes off of the ball' as they had missed the next arrow directing the way east by south-eastward on the Barkway Road, as far as the Green Footpath Finger sign between two of the homes.

The shuttered in tree-lined alley would run for some 160 Yards, then a CHK was found by a split in the path as the section of trees expanded at the northern end of the 'Green Walk Plantation. Here My Lil' & TBT OBE searched the lower of the paths, as My Lil' began berating the fact "We always have to climb the Hills of Royston!"

Flying Solo was to be the only one to climb up the higher option above the lower path. My Lil' & Mr X weren't up for any steep climbs just yet, for the previous day's F.U.K Full Moon H3 Pub Crawl in St Albans had taken its toll, but they were not as bad as Eejit, who hadn't even surfaced this morning.

Flying Solo would eventually come down a level, around about 200 yards further on into the Plantation, there was another CHK but no one veered from the lower path for another & Trail was picked up once again, 200 Yards along behind the fence panelled back gardens of Shrubbery Grove to find a CHK by the outer corner of the last garden, this CHK having options of searching further southward, or the farm fields beyond the wood to the east, however it was to the east the Trail would go.

My Lil' would pick up the Dust on what was the narrowest of footpaths, advancing on behind the southern end of Shrubbery Grove, the interloping intrusions of the Holly bushes & other shrubbery caught Hash arms on the way through for some 190 Yards. Not only were there some rabbit holes to avoid, fallen away fences to one back garden & old tree roots as obstacles in the way, the footpath had one really wonky ending, with small steps & as Flying Solo warned those behind her a "Very wobbly handrail!" down to London Road.

A CHK was found on the old London Road, where My Lil' & Mr X chose to head down hill, going against the "Never Check out Down Hill!" theory, they both knew that there is a by-way footpath that runs south-westward above the grounds of the old Royston Hospital. At one point they thought they may have chosen the wrong option, as it was quite a way on the descent back to Royston before Trail was picked up.

After 260 Yards double arrows were found directing the way over the London Road to the by-way beside the Hospital, now the FRBs would start on what was the longest section, so far, of the Trail. Things started off pleasantly enough, all nice & level on an easy footpath through the trees. Mr X & My Lil' were soon passed by Diamond Geezer, Hash Test Dummy, Mark, Waragi & Flying Solo, but even these keenest of the Keenies began to run out of steam as the Trail started to rise.

Everyone ended up at a walking pace, as after 380 Yards the by-way turned from south-westward to almost due west, having turned the corner the next steeper section came in to view! Trudging on for another 280 Yards as the hedged-in Track led up to Wicker Hall, where the water pump supplier & reservoir is found, it was also the place for the Held CHK to be found on the metal reservoir covers, a timely regroup indeed, tough care was needed where stepping as they were a few stray dogs' eggs around.

Some of the Keenies still had itchy feet, one was Moss Key Toe disappeared to do a bit of sneaky searching up & down Briary Lane, My Lil' on the other-hand disappeared behind the Hedgerow to scare the squirrels! Everyone else was awaiting the sweets to arrive.

TBT OBE, No Eye Deer, Port & Starboard were up next, followed by Milf & Supertrouper, Sludge, Pepé le Pew, Pebbledash, Paxo, Doeswhatshesays & Kylie, now the sweets could be passed around, as Supertrouper immediately threw the Packet of Allsorts to Paxo, for she doesn't believe liquorice can be classed as sweets! By the time the Allsorts came around to Mr X, there were no Aniseed Buttons left, it was a shame that Milf didn't carry up her present from Supertouper before the opening Circle, as it was a big bag of just pink & blue aniseed buttons!

When it was time to move on from the summit, there were only two options, which Slug marked out, with the long Trail heading due south on the uncapped section of Briars Lane, or take the southern & freshly tarmacked northern Short Cut. Slug would take Sally around on the long option, as Diamond Geezer, Moss Key Toe, Mark & Flying Solo led the way, with No Eye Deer, Kylie, TBT OBE, Port & Starboard all following on.

3D made sure the Short Cut was marked & the T down there changed, as Milf & Supertrouper followed on behind Pepé le Pew, Pebbledash, Paxo, My Lil' & Sludge as the tarmac Briary Lane began to descend after the farm to the left, they would pass by the large detached white house of Wicker Hall, with is little Honesty-box of local produce outside.

Meanwhile, the Keenies had taken a right-angle turn after 190 Yards, the Track with large hedgerows on either side would continue for a further 400 yards before coming out in to the open farm land. Dead ahead of them, to the west, those in the know could just about see the buildings of the Buntingford Brewery over at Greys, they could almost smell the hops! However, they would not go that far as the Trail turned yet again at a CHK on a north to south footpath of the ancient Icknield Way.

The Dust would lead the FRBs on northward, coming up to the 'Valley Plantation' which sits high above the drop down on to Therfield Heath, about 170 Yards to the north & another CHK was found, right above the steeper descent to where the former rifle range used to be. However, there would be no decent just yet, as the Trail would take to the eastern arm of the woodland & then out over the ridge, with the Heath Club now visible in the valley below.

Also now in sight were 3D, Milf, Supertrouper & Mr X, waiting on the CHK behind the back of the grounds of Wicker Hall, however there was no sign of the others? Supertrouper had already had words with the RA, saying that those of the Knitting Circle who short-cutted from the Short Cut should be in the circle later, but there were two exceptions, these being Paxo as he had to fire up the Barbeque & cook, then there was "Sludge as he's old!" But there should be no reprieves for Pepé le Pew, Pebbledash or My Lil'! [Sounds like 'Hanging Judge Jefferies! – Ed]

Looking out over the Heath Club in the valley floor & all of the *flat* land beyond we never seem to Hash on! There were the usual football matches taking place, Golfers on the rising hill, as well as Archery with the distinctive white, black, blue, red & gold roundels of the Bosses could be set out in lines of 20/30 Yards distances. Supertrouper informed the RA that she has partaken as a toxophilite.

Searching again, Flying Solo almost went wrong, by heading over to Briary Lane before the RA mentioned that the Short Cut had come in from that way, so she had a turn around to join Mark, Moss Key Toe, Diamond Geezer & Mr X searching the top ridge of the heath, heading down the Icknield Way. It was on this long, steep drop that Waragai went racing by everyone else, bellowing out "Out of control!" on the way to the pitch level, bright chalk white path.

Zingalong also came down the grassy hillside at a fair rate of knots, as he had caught up with the rest after a late start to his Hash. He joined the main bunch of FRBs as they made their way over the sports grounds to the Baldock Road, meanwhile Mr X had stuck to the right, eastern side of the Rugby Pitches keeping himself directly in line with the footpath to Bassingbourn, over the Baldock Road.

Having crossed some 240 Yards of Sports ground, the Keenies now found there was no Trail on the northern side of the Baldock Road, then they spotted Mr X on his way to cross opposite the footpath signposted as '2 Mile to Bassingbourn', they would run there before he had a chance to cross the road & were off on this 390 Yard enclosed path, there are an option to deviate off nearer to its conclusion, but no one would fall for that if they had Hashed around Royston before.

Out on to Green Drift, the Trail was marked eastward, then the On Inn was discovered a short way further on. However, there was another 540 yards to cover before finally reaching Chez Sis et Fliptop, at least the RA had worked his magic & the bright day continued, at least until the Final Circle, Elections & all of the food was devoured, after which it began to become overcast & the temperature dropped.

One remedy to counteract the slight chill in the air was to have a shot of Hash Test Dummy's Golden Swirling Jamaican Honey Rum, followed up by some of Pepé le Pew's Over-proofed Gibraltar Rum, which would soon strip off any shimmering gold left on your palette!

All in all it was a great day, there was little change in the committee, with just Where's Wally?'s position of Publicity being left vacant, for the moment? As for the non-committee Down-Downs, we had Mark our Virgin, then Pebbledash & Pepé le Pew who Short Cut on the Short Cut, oh & finally the Hares of 3D & Slug!