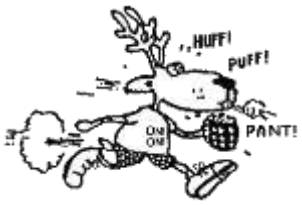

Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2188
Date: 30th November 2025
Venue: The Mermaid
Location: St Albans
Beers/Cider: Oakham Citra; Electric Sheep; Nethergate Suffolk County; Augustinian
Hare/s: Moss Key Toe
Runners: 12
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 0
Total: 12
Membership: Celebrating St Andrew's Day

Funny how the seasons change isn't it. One minute it's summer and you're in the pub having a lovely pint and the next it's winter and you're in the pub having a lovely pint, can't keep track to be honest

The Pack size was the lowest it's been for quite some time, perhaps the cold wind that put some 'fair weather' Hashers off? Others, like Juices Flowing, were feeling a little under the weather, so Parsons Nose was let out on his own today as the Pack assembled under clear blue skies but still with a chilly breeze in the air.

At one point the RA didn't think he would make it, for he had missed joining Paxo on the bus over, for there was a guy who had fallen off his bike & broken his hip, so he waited with the guy until the Ambulance arrived, thankfully a Chap called Steve was also present, he gave the RA a lift so he could meet Myt Lil' & then Paxo in the local Spoons.

The Hare was ready to go, as was Paxo who seemed a very keen to get things under way, so keen in fact that the hadn't thought of Des Res who was placing his change of gear in a nearby car, as well as liberally applying some sun-block to his face, the later resulted in him having some white creamy splashes on his face. [Luckily Pebbledash wasn't there today! – Ed]

A second go at the welcoming speech, then Moss Key Toe stepped forward to tell the Pack about what they could expect out there, which included a regroup, then Mr X added that he had some 'special Scottish treats' for this regroup.

The start was slow & staggered as it had the Hash crossing directly over the busy Hatfield Road to head away east by southeast, away on the cobbled footpath running over a rise on the roadside embankment before coming back down to the crossroads, with My Lil, Parsons Nose, Daimond Geezer & Mr X leading the way to a CHK on the junction.

The local drivers must think that they are driving Yellow Cabs in New York, for some seem very keen on using their horns, something that 'Mr Angry from St Albans' had to do as Parsons Nose took a chance to dash back & forth between the cars approaching the junction! He wouldn't find any Trail on either of his risky decisions, it was down to My Lil' who picked up the Trail away along Lemsford Road.

Parsons Nose & Diamond Geezer were back on track, but not for long as they continued along behind the long line of the Red Cordoned off the road works, missing the arrows directing the Hash over to the eastern side of the road, where the Trail would change direction after 260 Yards. Hash markings now leading eastward over the Bed-Pan (Bedford to St Pancras) Railway Line, via footbridge down on to the dead-end of York Road, where a CHK was found near to one entrance of Clarence Park, next to St Albans FC.

Just recently 'Sammy the Saint', the Club's St Bernard Mascot was ejected from Burton FC's ground for "Erratic & unprofessional" behaviour, his drunk antics can be seen on various social media. Some wondered if it was Junior inside the costume?
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/videos/cp97kv5xd5ko

Once within the grounds of the Park, there would be a split in the Trail, with a Short Cut taking the right option, while the FRBs ran off to the left. The FRBs taking a clockwise trot around the inner path from the top of the Cricket Pitch & over by the St Albans Bowling Club to run behind the Tennis Courts before tuning due south the entrance at the southern tip of the recreation ground.

Mother had a bit of hassle with Buster, for he kept stopping to look back for Lemming, who was on the shorter option with Milf & Paxo. Out of the Park & arrows directed the Hash over the junction to

Stanhope Road, on this junction all of the crossings go green at the same time, which allowed the Keenies to cross two in one go, making their way from the Chilli Raj to run down Camp Road, opposite the Crown Pub.

The Trail followed the gently descending road around from sou-sou-east to southeast, once beyond the two schools, one on either side of the road, the Hash arrived at a CHK on the junction where Dellfield runs off of Camp Road.

Mr X went wrong here, clambering up the steep flight of steps to the Albans Way, on his way up to the former St Albans to Hatfield Railway, he had to hold his breath as he skipped one of the steps as it had a huge dog's egg covering nearly all of it, worse still was that someone had trod in it, splaying it out further!

"On!" was called from Dellfield, so, to avoid another encounter with said dog's egg, Mr X crossed over the footbridge where the Albans Way spans Camp Road, he came down the footpath through the small bit of wood & out on to Dellfield. By the time he had caught back up, Daimond Geezer, My Lil' & Parsons Nose were all out of sight, reaching the CHK point some 90 yards down the urban back-street, then quickly picking the Trail up on the rising footpath up to the southeast.

After 95 Yards the Trail would emerge in to the northern corner of the Cunningham Hill Green Space, the FRBs had breezed through the CHK there & located the Dust running along the western edge of the green space, heading along in a south-westerly direction to the gated entrance at the southwestern end of the park.

The RA had to nip off into the clump of woodland in the corner of the park, leaving Tent Packer, Milf, Leming & Kylie to leave the green space. Having scared the Squirrels, Mr X then had a 'Sparky's Gate' moment, just like on the A10, Kylie ignored the brass engraved plaque on the short iron gate that request users to 'Please close the gate', even though calls of "Shut the Gate!" rang out from behind Kylie.

Down from the dead-end of Cunningham Avenue to reach London Road, here the Trail would split for the second time that day, with the FRBs turning south-eastward, while the Short Cut option headed away 180 Degrees in the opposite Northwest direction.

Diamond Geezer, Parsons Nose, My Lil', Mother, Tent Packer & Des Res all made their way down London Road, away from the City centre, making their way some 700 Yards to reach the Mile End Road, passing by Abbots Park where Sparky used to live.

Finally reaching the CHK by the southwest bound Mile End Road, where they would follow the Trail on this then around the right-hand bend to pass under the Railway, then onto a CHK with footpaths on either side, each heading into the Golf Course bisected by Cottonmill Lane.

The nor-nor-west path had the Trail on it, so the Keenies would advance up through the tree-line separating some of the fairways of the Verulam Golf Club, around the end of the 900 Yards of the footpath it changed direction to west by northwest, finally coming out onto the bend in the drive to the Verulam Angling Club. While some of those on the long Trail ran this, Des Res was one who stopped for a cup of coffee at his leisure.

For the Knitting Circle, they would have a slightly shorter option, heading back toward the centre of St Albans, up the eastern side of London Road, passing under the Main Railway, before they passed over the Alban Way, that used to run from St Albans Abbey Station to Hatfield.

After passing over a couple of junctions with roads off of the eastern side, arrows would direct the way over from the small Office area to take to Approach Road away to the southwest. A CHK was found by the crossroads of Ramsbury Road, but Trail was found beyond the red Pillar-box on Cornwall Road.

The Trail followed the road of terraced homes down to the Y-junction with Riverside Road, turning into the dead-end & on toward the former Railway Line, just before this was the Held CHK at the Watercress Wildlife Association's small Nature Reserve, which wasn't opening until 13:00Hrs, for it was being tidied up by a busy group of volunteers.

Mr X led the Knitting Circle of Milf, Paxo & Lemming around & down to the regroup, he needed to get there early to offer up drams of Scotch, accompanied with Tunnocks' Wafers, both milk & plain chocolate, or Tunnocks' Snow Balls to celebrate St Andrew's Day. The regroup caught the attention of the volunteers, with the Hash having a good chat to them.

Mother arrived, where she complained that she had to pick up & carry Buster some of the way as he kept looking back for Lemming, perhaps he could sniff out the smell of *Bullshit* in the air? With the Jock-stop over & everyone satisfied, the Trail resumed by leading up the set of steps & on to the end of the old blue brick Railway bridge that the Keenies came under to reach the regroup.

Up on the Albans Way & the Trail headed southwest for 190 Yards, though Buster did have a bark at a dog out for a walk before the Trail descended a set of steep, rough old steps to the Colne Valley Walk.

A CHK at the bottom of the flight of steps only had two options, back toward the City or away from it. Heading northward beside the river Ver was the correct choice.

On the way up by the Nunnery Allotments, Buster was let off of the lead, once Mr X confirmed that it was safe to do so, however Mr X did state that if Buster went for a dip into the Ver, he for one was not wading in to fetch him out!

After the allotments the Trail would hit the flooded marshy area, these days there are new raised walk-boards over the swampy section. Mr X told those near him that back in the day he had Hashed through here when there weren't any raised footpath options, you had to wade through knee-deep at the best of times.

While the human side of the Hash enjoyed keeping their feet dry, Buster wasn't as keen on the new boards, for some reason he didn't like them, silly pooch!

At the end of composite structure, the Pack would come out on to the southeastern corner of Sopwell Gardens, sticking beside the River Ver rather than cutting over to the west & the old ruins of the former Nunnery buildings of what became Lee House. Mr X said that he thought it would have been good to head over that way, especially for Mother who's Hash name derives from the fact she has the patience of a Saint, Mother Teresa, which she needs to live with Lemming!

The Trail stayed beside the Ver for 280 Yards & then came up to Cottonmill Road, where the Pack turned right to head northward up the hill, passing opposite the old Swimming Pool that is home to the St Albans Sub-Aqua Club, where 3D & Slug gained their certificates many moons ago!

The final leg of the Taril was under way, starting with a 220 Yard climb to reach the Old London Road, crossing straight over the roundabout to continue up Watsons Walk for 180 Yards. Now on London Road, a busier Road to cross, the Pack reached Lattimore Road. From Lattimore Road it was over the crossroads of Victoria Street lights to Upper Lattimore Road, making it 590 Yards to run up beside Loreto College, then On Inn was sported before coming around on to Hatfield Road once more.

The Hash settled in to enjoy a few Ales before the final Circle was called. Paxo raised a toast to the Hash, then the RA asked what the Hash thought of the day's Trail, everyone was in agreement that it was a good one. Then we had the misdemeanours, with Des Res stopping off for a Drink on Trail, as well as applying sun-block in December & he wasn't even on Skis, it made him look like he had been to the Dundee UTD FC Christmas at Tannadice!!

Mother was out for a long stop at the local Spoons Ladies, where she met Paxo, My Lil' & the RA, who waited for an age to walk with her to the Mermaid! There was also Diamond Geezer, who was lacking any Scottish apparel at all, Nae Tartan or otherwise, after everyone else had made an effort, ranging from tartan flashes on Tent Packer socks, Scottish Hash T-shirts, My Names Is Doddie Tartan, Milf's Tartan throw to My Lil's Tam O'Shanter, complete with faux ginger hair!

Kylie was out for not shutting the gate at Cunningham Park, as well going off to play golf instead of letting the Webmaster know of future runs for the Hare-line, but finding time to post that someone should txt My Lil's brick-phone to ask if he wants X-mas Pudding or Cheesecake [It's the future! – Ed] for the Christmas Weekend Dinner, when he could have sent the txt message himself instead of letting others do all the work!

After the Mermaid, some moved on to Spoons for some food, with Kylie, Milf, Paxo, My Lil' & Mr X then all going to see Sparky at his Care-home, Sparky was looking well when he came down for a good hour or so.

Junior discovers they have reduced the ABV of Fosters