

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

Exclusive:

Two snails seen fighting in the street

By stander said "They were slugging it out!"

Run No. 2220

Date: Monday 29th June 2026

Venue: Hale Road Start finishing at the Six Asbo's

Location: Hertford

Beers/Cider: Hanlons Port Stout; Wobbly Bob, Abbot & IPA

Hare/s: Mark E Mark & Lobby Lobster

Runners: 15

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

Newies: 0

Après: 2

Hash Hounds: 0

Total: 17

Membership: Shuddering at the possible end of the Monday 'Spoon's Small Plates club?



Worried you'll miss the England game because you're at work? Say you've got a doctor's appointment. Just don't say it's Dr Congo.

Some buses arrived early enough for a stop in the Six Asbos Templars, where Mr X & My Lil' set about ordering the three plates for a £10 deal, something they normally have when Paxo is with them on a Monday. Even though he was invited, Paxo replied to the txt messages that he would meet them at the start over in Hale Road, brutally ending the pact & leaving them to eat his plate, & him owing them £3.33!

With Parking Free in Hale Road after 18:00Hrs, the Pack began to gather here & the 'early birds' already parked up got to see later arrivals struggling to realise that the single yellow-line was no longer valid as stated on the street signs.

One non-driver was Ketchup, who staggered up, looking like he had been drinking in the Old Cross Tavern, but he strenuously denied he had partaken of any alcohol, unlike Mr X & My Lil' who had been on the Port Stout in the Six Asbos! Another Hasher pulling faces was Milf when the RA enquired as to the whereabouts of absent TBT OBE? He wasn't going to push it any further on lifts!

The Pack were ready to Circle up on time, Paxo did the honours to call things to order & welcomed today's Pack to the correct Run Number, then the Hares were called forward, with Mark E Mark explaining what was out there for the Hash, talk of Short Cuts that should be taken if anyone didn't want to do some Long Loops?

The mention of a Sweet Stop received a cheer before the Hash were set loose to head away a few degrees east of due south. It was a slow, rising start, heading up the Victorian suburban Queen's Road, which has plenty of established trees either side to add some cooling shade on the climb.

On the Junction with Hagsdell Road the Trail was marked as continuing up Queen's Road, while an SC was chalked off to the east on the northeast road that leads down behind All Saints & St John's Graveyard. Diamond Geezer, Where's Wally?, My Lil', Ketchup, No Eye Deer & Mr X all headed away up Queens Road, leaving Flanders, Sludge, Secret Squirrel, Milf, Paxo, Soggy Butt & Kylie to take the short option off with the Hares.

After nearly 400 Yards most of the Keenies ran beyond the footpath that drops down to the northeast, Mr X was the exception at the tail of the Keenies as he thought about one of the Hare's mind-set, & the stress that Mark E Mark put on mentioning Bar CHks in his Chalk-talk! So, Mr X decided to check out the back-passage, he was rewarded on the narrow drop down between back-to-back rear gardens fences, for he found Hash Arrows & he called "On!".

No Eye Deer benefited from Mr X's calling of "On!", she as not too far ahead of him & soon began her decent from Queen's Road as the rest were yet to find the Bar CHk on Queens Road!

After 150Yards down the rough, tree-root lumpy tarmac path to reach the bottom of the valley, passing over the footbridge of the brook below it, it was here that the Keenies would run in to the Knitting Circle as they emerged from the Short Cut via Valley Close.

A steady climb up to the east, as the path continued out of the valley & after 210 Yards the peak was reached up on Mangrove Road, opposite the Hertford Cricket Club, just below the Simon Balle School Grounds. The School is named after Simon de Balle, the local Landowner & Member of Parliament in 1298. The school's most famous Alumni would be the singer/song-writer George Ezra.

The RA noticed an abandoned upon the ground was a red pencil, slightly chewed by a pupil or two. He passed this by this pencil, little did he know the spirit of Sparky was alive & well as said pencil was soon grabbed & carefully placed behind someone's ear.



A CHK was found on Mangrove Road, this had the Pack scattered in different direction in search of Trail, with Ketchup & My Lil' finding Dust away to the northeast until they found another Bar CHK up there, Ketchup then had to be called back from the field just above the Cricket ground as the Trail was much further back toward the CHK! These two were not alone at being caught out, for Diamond Geezer & Where's Wally? had now set themselves on a very different trajectory than the rest of the Hash, for theirs' was now to Run every Falsie Trail & every Loop for the remainder of the Trail!

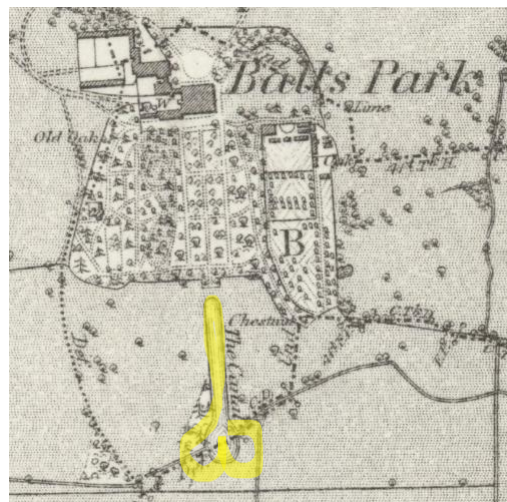
The Trail was now marked to take to a footpath beside the 290 Yard long, western, stretch of woodland between the Mangrove Road & the Cricket Ground, where a match was in progress with players all decked out in their whites.

The Hash headed sou-sou-east to reach a turn to the east, to the south of this tree-line is the Hertford Caravan & Camping Club Grounds, along here Ketchup claimed that there was a nudist camp within there? Mr X wasn't as sure on this, even though some thought that TBT OBE could be a member?

The Trail entered the wood & soon turned almost due northward, weaving its way between trees, heading around in a clockwise direction to come to not one, but two Held CHKs, each in front of the two benches which proved a problem for some to see!

The benches sit at the north end of 'The Canal', a rather phallic shaped section of water that lays at the southern end of the once formal gardens of the old Balls Park Mansion, the 'e' from Balle was dropped to become the Balls Park College Grounds, with all these balls it was thankful Pebbledash was away Hashing in Mauritius with one of her daughters.

The area has been much developed since the days when the



Band

Queen played, what is considered their 'first Gig', in the grounds back on 14th November 1970, having just changed the band's name from Smile & with Barry Mitchell on Bass, as John Deacon didn't join until 1971. They were paid the princely sum of £50 & followed a band called 'Full Frontal Nudity!' [Where they fronted by TBT OBE? – Ed?]

Anyhow, this was the Sweet Stop & there were a choice of Marshmallows or Fruit Pastils, as the Pack could watch a Coot & some still slightly fluffy juvenile Coots swimming in the elongated pond. A pond that Lobby said her pooches had been into a few days earlier, which meant some earlier theories

of this Trail being a 'Dog-walking' route now rang true! However, it was still a tad too warm for any pooches to join the Hash today & the Hash were going to end up in 'Spoons who have a no dogs policy [Except Guide Dogs! – Ed]

Others mentioned that if this stop happened many years ago in our history, then the pond-water would have been splashed around if Slimer was there! As the Hash tucked-in, Diamond Geezer & Where's Wally? suddenly appeared, catching up after falling foul of the Hares, again! It was at the regroup, that a chewed, red pencil was now spotted, carefully lodged behind one of Kylie's ear!

When the Trail resumed, it headed southward down the 'Shaft' of the small phallic lake [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] back toward the Hertford Caravan & Camping site, then broke off to the northeast & began to move over to Jenningsbury Court, but as yet there is no access over to the unused farmland at bottom of Hertford Heath with the suspension of any construction on the proposed estate, that had ornate red brick entrance & gates erected many years ago.

A split in the Trail saw the Kitting Circle turn northward & in to the woodland on the east of the Balls Park estate, while Dimond Geezer, Where's Wally? & My Lil' disappeared on a loop, heading deeper in amongst the trees, by now even Ketchup had decided that he would stick with the Hares & the shorter option.

A 400 Yards northbound wander the Knitting Circle would eventually reach Harrison Lane, a hard-capped driveway in to the estate, the Trail crossed over, entering denser woodland of what was Balls Hill Grove which partly sits below the London Road that bisects the large wood it is.

It would be here that the Long Trail runners would rejoin the fold with the Knitting Circle as the Trail moved up from the lower remains of the old London Road & up on to the new one, that runs from Hertford Heath back down to Hertford.

The Hash moved around by the noisy A414 for 420 Yards to reach Mangrove Road, where the Trail would peel off on the small triangular junction, on the first bend My Lil' suddenly jumped out of the wood above the road, to startle Milf & those with her, he claimed he got lost in the wood on the long Trail & just came out here, some thought that he had been for a crafty Eartha Kitt? A suggestion that led to some more face pulling.

Taking the Pack away from the noise of the A414 Daul Carriageway, Sludge & Soggy Butt led the Knitting Circle as the Trail soon turned on to Churchfields for 50 Yards, then a turn to the west on to Greencoats, named after the former Green Coats Boys School that was sited there, this would lead the Hash downhill, there would be another

split in the Trail, as the Keenies would be led off down the back-passage by the Post Office Training Centre & then around via the Gascoyne Way subway routes.

Meanwhile, the Shorter option would take Milf, Secret Squirrel, Paxo, Sludge & Flanders down by the Abel Smith School & then into the grounds of All Saints & St John, passing by the massive, impressive 'Rose Stone' edifice, passing the new Merchant Navy Memorial before emerging out through the iron gates at the northwest corner, on to the end tail section of Queens Road & the On Inn.

Once bags were collected, the majority of the Pack would then follow a Trail of P-Arrows, as they approached the Subway, Daimond Geezer & Where's Wally? finally arrived back after one last excursion via a long loop! On the way under the A414 & around to the Six Asbos, not only were there P-Arrows but there were a couple of Q-Arrows to confuse some as they came around to Parliament Square, named in honour of when the Tudor Parliament temporarily moved to Hertford in 1563 after being forced out by an outbreak of the Plague in London.

Once in the Spoons the Pack would meet up with après Hashers of Billy Bullshit & Paula, not seen in a long, long time, it was good to catch up with both!

The Circle was called inside, which wasn't the best place acoustically, but there was little to no space for the Circle to move outside! So, without further ado, while Diamond Geezer was excused as his food had arrived, the first Down-Downs went to Mark E Mark & Lobby Lobster for an excellent Trail of just under an hour; other Down-Downs went to Where's Wally? for completing his 200th Herts Trail, his 200 Run cap will be on its way very soon?

Kylie received his Hit for picking up the nibbled, red pencil, while Paxo received his for not partaking in the 'Three Small plate meal-deal Club', owing Mr X & My Lil' £1.66 each after letting them down! When it came to announcements, after the upcoming Trail was mentioned, Mr X added that for the last couple of months he had been struggling to get in contact with 2-1-2 Maureen, both her Landline & her Mobile being no longer connected. Further investigation revealed her house was sold at the end of 2024, which led him to go back through our records for the Emergency Contact Number, used at one of our Away Weekends!

The Emergency contact number for her Granddaughter is still active & after several attempts, this morning I managed to talk to 2-1-2 Maureen's Granddaughter, so here's the GOOD NEWS!

Maureen has moved in to an 'Assisted Living' home since she has become a bit frail as she approaches her 90th Year! Apparently, she is still stubborn & tries to do as much for herself as possible (A lesson for us all!) Mr X's Number will be passed on to 2-1-2 Maureen, when I get details of where she is now living, I will pass on to those who would be up for a visit?

Most of the Hash have someone to act as their nominated Emergency Contact, but If we don't have an Emergency Contact Number for you, please let us know if you want to added to the list & who your nomination would be? Finally, there was one poignant Toast, with glasses raised to Sloppy Seconds (Late of this Parish) with this being the 8th Anniversary of his passing.

The Pack stood down in time for the rest of the food to come out, after the shock that the on-line app stated that there were no more pizzas available (With Mr X & My Lil' getting the blame for that!) lots of Three for £10 small plate deals covered the tables, though Kylie wasn't sure that one plate in his order was & he queried it, it turned out to be Milf's choice! Then Kylie went off around scouring the bottom floor of the Pub, in search of a few drops of Mayo & soon his table was covered in numerous Helman's Bottles as he tried his best to bash the last drop out of each! It was worse than the Gareth Hunt Coffee adverts of years gone by!

After Lobby put on a face of disgust after some dodgy Mayo jokes at Kylie's expense, Ketchup was the last Hasher pulling faces today, as well as waving his hand in front of his mouth after he dipped his chicken wing in the Naga Chilli Dip, it was a tad on the hot side

Making a batch of Erling Haaland action figures if anyone wants one.

