

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

Exclusive:

Pensioner sends back her
Stairlift after great
Disappointment!

She said it was driving her up
the wall!

Run No. 2221

Date: Saturday 4th July 2026

Venue: The Canary Club, Hitchin Town FC Cheese & Cider Festival

Location: Hitchin

Beers/Cider: 30+ Ciders

Hare/s: Mr X

Runners: 6

Virgins: 0

Visitors: 0

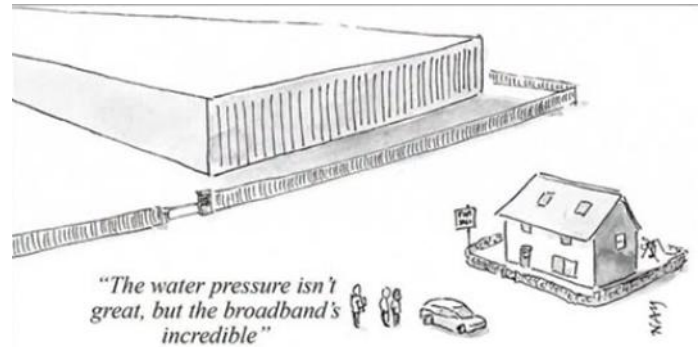
Newies: 0

Après: 0

Hash Hounds: 0

Total: 6

Membership: Parting is such sweet sorrow!



Having set the Trail that morning, the Hare sat outside of the Hitchin Town FC Club House awaiting the Pack to arrive, however the Hare would be greatly disappointed as the minute hand moved toward the Hour as only My Lil' had arrived!

The Hare knew Paxo wasn't coming, for he stated earlier that he was busy was dressing as a Gladiator [You'll have to ask him when you see him! – Ed] But as for the rest, well, they had other plans, so, the Hare asked My Lil' if he wanted to go around the Trail? My Lil' answer was yes, it was another R*n number under his belt.

So, a very disappointed Hare, complete with his back-pack on, trudged off with My Lil' to go around the Trail again. Reaching the First CHK, My Lil' soon made it clear that he was not going to be checking out for the Trail, which you couldn't blame him for as he also had to lug a back-pack around with him, due to no Hash-vehicles in the Club car park to leave them in. A tad annoying as the Hare had arranged with the two guys, preventing shoppers from using parking up there, that a couple of Hash cars may be arriving.

Mr X decided to mark the CHK's, just in off-chance that there may be late arrivals, as the Trail took My Lil' up a long back-passage, then a shorter one with a kink in it! [Steady Pebbledash! – Ed] The Trail would emerge out on to Redhills Road, where it would begin a long steady climb up to the southwest, it was near the end of this long stretch that a call of "On! On!" came from behind the Hare, he turned around to see Where's Wally? trotting up & Soggy Butt behind him, which cheered him up a bit.

At last, there would be someone to do some Checking out, Where's Wally? now took up the gauntlet of searching for Trail at CHK at the end of the road. Ironically Where's Wally? said "I'll go off the wrong way!" as he popped into the rape-seed field to the south of the tree-lined Oughton Head Lane, but he was wrong in his prediction, for he picked up the Trail on the bone-dry, wide footpath leading down the hillside to the west.

A CHK was found in the bottom of the valley, from which Where's Wally? reverted to type & immediately went wrong, he came back to the edge of the Nature Reserve, where the Hare had sent Soggy Butt & My Lil' off on an anti-clockwise direction, up the hard gravel path to the second kissing-gate allowing access to the fenced-in Nature Reserve, here the Trail crossed over the undulating grass-land of wild grasses tussocks & plants.

Out of another kissing-gate on the western side of the Nature Reserve & a CHK was found, as the trio gathered there, the Hare could be heard calling out "On! On!" a little way down to the south on another gravel path. The Trio now ran down to where a large arrow directed the way in to the tree-line, here some conservation work had been carried out, with hazel hurdles boxing-in groups of saplings around the freshly cleared flood channels.

The Trail progressed through a section of woodland with earthen mounds in the route the path would take, it was hard to tell if these were in a state of construction, or being dismantled, as BMX style jumps? Anyhow, a CHK was found by the western edge of the woodland, here Where's Wally would go wrong as he searched to the north, the other two took the hint from the Hare's nod to head southward.

The small but perfectly formed Pack would emerge via another kissing-gate to the field where a combine was bringing in the crop & creating a lot of dust to billow in the air. [Milf would have loved this Trail & the kissing-gates! – Ed]. The Hare asked for the next CHK to be held as they arrived on to the main track from east to west.



Barnsley man tells of agony as he misreads NHS challenge to WALK for thirty minutes a day



The Hare explained that here there would be a split in the Trail, with a long 'Running loop' out to the west, with the option of a Short Cut the Hare was going to mark back near a previous CHK before entering the Nature Reserve. Where's Wally? volunteered to run the longer loop, as the Hare had put so much effort into setting the Trail. The Hare offered Where's Wally? a map, but he declined this as it probably wouldn't be much good to him, Soggy Butt then said "Well, it was good knowing you!" as she elected to take the alternative shorter option! It was like something from Romeo & Juliet Act 2 Scene 2's "Parting is such sweet sorrow!"

While the Hare & the other two took the Short Cut, Where's Wally? would complete a loop of just over a mile. Passing by the 'Garden Gate Tea-rooms' at Oughton Head Farm, before turning to the southeast & reaching the next CHK on the rough, hard underfoot & heavily rutted farm track of Gray's Lane.

Little did Where's Wally? know, but he could be seen by those at the Held CHK as they looked out over the valley. While admiring the view & keeping tabs on Where's Wally?, Soggy Butt would be annoyed by an insect that she reckoned had bitten her, though it didn't appear that there was any breakage on the skin or reaction to her arm.

Where's Wally? was now seen searching for Trail from a CHK near to Ducklands Cottages, starting off on the correct Trail, before turning back to search the farm track that the Short Cut was on, but he didn't go far enough, deciding not to pass the large pile of horse manure to pick the S/C.

The small red & white striped figure finally went back to the correct Trail, at the Held CHK the trio were calling out "On! On!" but their shouts were lost on the wind over the valley of farm fields where the crops were being reaped. Further back in the distance a dark plume of smoke could be seen rising up from one farm, the Hare said that this had been burning when he set the Trail some two hours earlier!

Back on Track & now the sun was out as the grey clouds had now burnt off, Where's Wally stopped to put his T-shirt on his head, for he had left his cap in the car! He also considered stopping to 'Scare the Squirrels' but as he looked at the stopping, near the start of the footpath leading around to the Held CHK, a female runner came to pass him by!

Where's Wally? carried on, running the deep dip in the footpath, before coming around the rape-seed to pass through the tree-line & up to the Held CHK, where the others were waiting at a bench, & with so few in attendance there was no fighting over the Aniseed Buttons this week.

The Trail resumed on the shaded tree-line footpath, care was needed as there were plenty of 'dog's eggs' to avoid as the Hash moved on below the Hitchin Hockey & Cricket Clubs & above the Leonard Cheshire homes to come out on to the uncapped Lucas Lane, a turn to the northeast for a short way to a CHK on 'Gaping Lane' which led to a few comments & a picture stop!

The Trail would be picked up on the next section of the stony, uncapped Lucas Lane & the quaint homes lining one side to find a CHK on the end of Lavender Way, again the Trail would be found on another section of Lucas Lane before reaching Victoria Road, where the Trail turned to a few degrees off of due east. Where's Wally? would run this section, on a loop down to Oughton Head Lane, which would bring him back up another uncapped back-road to come up to Lucas Lane & the sight of three smiling short-cutters awaiting his clamber back up.

The final section of Trail was to reach Maxwells Lane, from where it was a steady drop back down to the Bedford Road, with a couple of sets of restriction barriers to zing-zag through on the descent to reach the Football Club in just under an hour, in fact 15 seconds under according to the Hare's watch!

The four settled into the Cider Festival, after a quick Slack-ma-girdle it was time to order the rather good deluxe cheese platters, a selection of good cheses to compliment the Cider. As the Cider options were started upon, My Lil's phone rang & this took everyone by surprise, including My Lil' himself! It turned out to be DWSS, who with No Eye Deer were out at the Held CHK wanting to know where everyone else was? & more importantly if there were any sweets left for him? Seems that they missed the Hash posts & emails about the Hash start time being moved ahead an hour?

Eventually No Eye Deer & DWSS arrived at the festival, they admitted that they had parked way back by Hitchin Station, though DWSS claimed it was Letchworth Station as it seemed that far away! The Hare thought "Why put all the effort in to this Trail?"

It seems that No Eye Deer & DWSS had misread the Hareline, not expecting there to be a Trail on a Saturday, that the Hare had planned months ago for something a little different. The misunderstanding explained why neither No Eye Deer or DWSS were suitably dressed for the Hash, especially the 'man-bag' DWSS was wearing & tried to hide out of sight under the table.

Pebbledash would have been proud!



Where's Wally? did ask the Hare earlier how the Cider festival Trail & the EHMR Barbeque joined up? The Hare just said that the EHMR Barbeque was originally on the Hareline for the Sunday, but around a month ago the Hare-Raiser requested that it was moved to Saturday & no Trail! Something the Hare reckoned took away the majority of the Hash from his Trail, & it just doesn't make it worth trying something slightly different on the Hash! It's a good way to lose Hares!

The conversation continued to the fact there needs to be some kind of better coordination, & thought, going into to Trail dates & venue locations. Like the Woodman at Nuthampstead for a Monday Trail, as well as the Queen's Head at Allens Green years earlier on a Monday the day after a Beerfestival there, both cracking Pubs but each Trail had only a pack of Six!

It has even led to some questioning Monday Trails altogether, with the example of these two excellent Pubs being too far out for anyone west of the centre of the county on a Monday, its 27 Miles one way from Welwyn Garden & 54 Miles, one way, from Tring or Watford [Someone get that phone! – Ed] & to prove the point, when the Nuthampstead Trail was rerun a week later on a Sunday, & the Pack had time to get there, the numbers were up in to the twenties!

Away from the Grouching & back to the Cider, where DWSS came up with a great theory, [Up there with the Theory of Relativity in some opinions! – Ed] that if he had halves of 'Gladiator' & 'The General' both at 8.4% then he was only consuming a mere 4.2%. A couple of these 4.2% halves & they were soon taking effect as DWSS began to

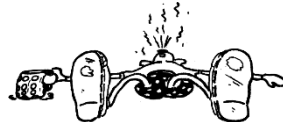
Barnsley man to immerse himself in full Azteca Stadium experience later this evening by turning the central heating up to 35 degrees and breathing through a straw.



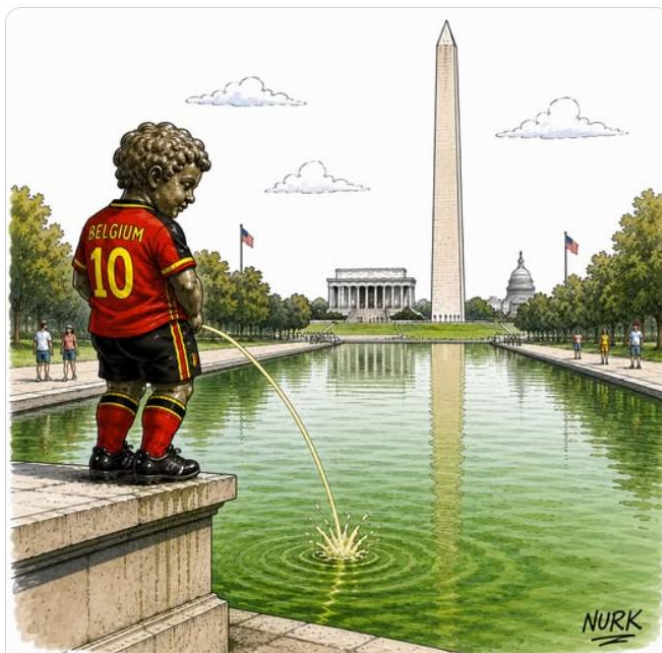
smile, he even got to have some sweets from the regroup which helped with the 'cheeky grin' he was now wearing!

No circle this week, apart from the 'Man-bag' there wasn't too much to report back. The Hare was just happy to get hammered & forget the day, as he was now equal with TBT OBE's lowest turnout of the year! Plus he had been bitten, leaving a small, but perfect circle of blood on his forearm, & he had only donated an armful on Wednesday!

No Eye Deer decided to take away a giggly DWSS, & no doubt the long walk back to Letchworth would sober him up? Meanwhile, Soggy Butt & Where's Wally? went off to collect a bike in Bedford! My Lil' stayed on at the Ciderfest, while everyone else went to the EHMR Barbeque, missing out on the music with Table 19 & Shaun Clark, all followed by an excellent choir a bit later on at the Football Club.



If you ever feel useless with a Pack of only six, remember that FIFA have an Ethics Committee!



"It's coming home, love, and it's going via the kebab shop"