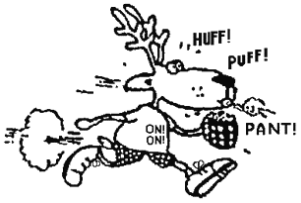


Herts
Hash
House
Harriers
Herts official Website: hertsHash.co.uk

Run No. 2149
Date: Sunday 6th April 2025
Venue: The Station
Location: Knebworth
Beers/Cider: New River & Tring [Someone get that phone! – Ed]
Hare/s: Sludge
Runners: 18
Virgins: 0
Visitors: 0
Newies: 0
Après: 0
Hash Hounds: 2
Total: 20
Membership: running New Knebworth

A glorious morning for those who turned out for todays' Trail, the Pack were nearly all gathered outside of the Station before the appointed hour, though there was a notable exception to the line-up of the 'Usual Suspects' as Mr X wasn't present. As some questioned as to where he was, he came walking from under the Railway bridge & not from the Station entrance as expected. Seems the Train he intended to catch was cancelled, so as a backup he caught the 301 Bus, which arrived on London Road a couple of minutes to the hour.

After a slight delay with the RA stowing his bags, TBT OBE finally carried out the Welcome in the opening Circle, then the Hare was called forward to explain what was out there. Scorn was poured on Sludge's interpretation of Hash Markings, especially when he strenuously mentioned that Bar CHKs & False Trail must always be obeyed! "How would you know?" came back in a simultaneous chorus from Mr X & Kylie, all of which had the Hare sticking two fingers up as if he was Victorious at the Battle of Agincourt.

With the Hare-baiting over, the Pack were sent away up Park Lane from around the bend in Station approach to head westward uphill, a gentle elevation but enough of a rising way to bring some grumbles at away with this start a Hash being uphill!. Leading the way were Diamond Geezer, Moss Key Toe, Well Laid, Pimp, Port, Ewok, Mother with Buster, Tent Packer & TBT OBE as they crossed over the road at a CHK opposite the start of the residential Deards Wood road.

Mr X reckoned that the arrows on Deards Lane were found far too quickly, he would be proved correct as all those ahead of him came to a stop & then did an about-turn after finding a T! So, it was back to find that Flanders, My Lil', Karlo, Lemming, 3D with sally, Milf & Kylie were all continuing up the southern side of Park Lane for another 230 Yards to cross over the road to find a CHK by the start of Deards End Lane away to the north.

There are a few lanes & old roads around Knebworth named after Sally Deards, so who was she? According to legend, Sally Dears was a 17th or 18th Century Witch who was chased by the estate game keeper, she made her escape by turning herself in to a Deer. [A No Eye Deer? – Ed]

While Diamond Geezer was tempted to search up to the north from the CHK, the 'Old Head' of My Lil' told him to continue on around the gentle bend to the raised footpath on the embankment above Park Lane, then at the end of this path back down by the roadside, an arrow pointed the way up toward the A1(M) & Old Knebworth beyond.

Having crossed over Park Lane, the FRBs made their way over the road bridge spanning the A1(M) below, there was more disappointment on the western side as a T was found! After another about turn, the Keenies were now heading back to see that the Hare had put a new, fresh arrow down & this one pointing in a different direction, now pointing the way down the narrow Gypsy Lane away to the south.

150 Yards down the old single track lane a CHK was found by an alleyway off between the homes on the eastern side, & it was up this back passage the Pack would be taken up to emerge out on to one of the serpentine bends in Orchard Way.

Some now began to realise that the Hare was going to set a tricky old Trail if he utilised all of the alleyways in Knebworth! However, these thoughts were soon forgotten when an old football was spotted & Mr X teased Buster with it, Buster soon started to kill the ball with some vigorous shaking of his head. There were calls of 'Ball Buster' from Mr X & Mother as they giggled away at the Hash name for long Trails known as being 'Ball Buster Trails'!

Flanders was seen here, ambling down to the south, but the arrows appeared to have run out until Diamond Geezer found them over to the east on Broom Grove, away from Flanders southward route.

The Keenies were now going to be led around a clockwise loop, to come around Broom Grove before a turn westward on through a twitchel to a short spur road of Orchard Way again, ahead of them the FRBs spotted My Lil' walking down the southward main section of Orchard Way.

Mr X & Tent Packer were suddenly surprised by the startling noises Moss Key Toe made as he jolted forward after he caught a raised kerb, but somehow he managed to not do a 'TBT OBE' but instead regained his gait to carry on without hitting the deck. 200 Yards further on & the Pack would regroup at the first Held CHK of the day, located back on Gypsy Lane, where it splits in to three arms.

When you see it.

Unsurprisingly this was not the Sweet Stop, far too early for any confectionary, though perhaps the Hare could have done with a sugar hit to bring him around, for he failed to recognise his own wife as Flanders was now seen heading south by south-eastward down one section of Gypsy Lane.

When the Trail resumed, it was here that the Knitting Circle would depart from the Keenies, they would follow on in Flander's wake, while the Keenies would head south-westward on the narrower section of Gypsy Lane.

Arrows were found on the rising & serpentine lane subtly bending between the crop fields, with the southern side crop field being lower than the northern section, some slowed up to look at the footpath that starts by a large old tree-trunk blocking the gap at the end of the raised grassy bank, strategically placed to stop access to his lower field.

Having strained necks & eyes, there was no sign of any Dust around the perimeter footpath behind the homes of the Stockens Green area of Knebworth, which backs on to the field.

So, the Keenies were now committed to a lengthy climb up the single track lane, the rise was some 82 feet over the 430 yards up to the bend where Gypsy Lane turns southward to run parallel to, & above, the A1(M). After another 300 yards the Keenies reached the bridge that crosses the motorway below, with an option to search Wych Elm Lane to the west.

Pimp, Well Laid, Port, Ewok, Diamond Geezer & Moss Key Toe had crossed the plateau of the ridge & were now descending the High Wych Lane, that had taken over from Gypsy Lane as the route turned gently to the southeast. Almost 1,000 Yards would be tackled on the gently descending lane with just a few slight meanderings either way, but there were a couple of times some of those on the long loop had to stop & stand to one side, firstly as a 'Chelsea Tractor' pulled out from the solitary house halfway down the lane.

Another brief stop for a slightly smaller car, & while stationary there was a vantage point at the side of the lane, those looking down could see that Port, Pimp, Well Laid, Ewok & Diamond Geezer were ay ahead & down by the Railway Bridge at the back of Woolmer Green.

Then there was another halt for some, this time to look at several bags of Fly-tipped toys, the now ripped open bin-bags had red stickers on them, these said that they had been reported to the Council, which made the RA wonder if they came out to put stickers on the bags, why they didn't take them away? Mother was just happy that Buster was now back with Lemming on the Knitting Circle, for he would have been in there killing the Toys, which really only needed a wash & could have been donated to charity!

Looking back up the hill, Mother & Mr X could see Tent Packer, TBT OBE, Karlo & Kylie all descending this long loop. By now those at the front of the Pack had searched from the CHK by the railway bridge & eventually they discovered the Dust leading northward, along the eastern side of the crop fields, up against the fenced off bottom of the railway embankment for the main line to Kings Cross.

A nice flat 690 Yards on an almost dead straight path, there was just a slight kink in the dry farm track & it was three quarters of the way before it shifted the few degrees to allow the FRBs to spot the Knitting Circle & the first of Keenies waiting as the Held CHK came into view. However, this was not the sweet stop, as the Hare said there was no sign of his 'Sweet carrier'.

So, once the majority where present, the Hare allowed them to resume the search for Trail, which just happened to be picked up first time on the footpath between the fenced-off new cemetery & the Railway embankment, this soon led under the tree canopy along the back of the rear gardens of Gun Road Gardens.

300 Yards & the Pack as back on the back streets of Knebworth, but there was no direct route back to the Station, oh no! For now the Trail would turn eastward & pass under the narrow arch of the railway bridge, to go by the start of Pondcroft Road & carry on to run down to London Road, here Ewok & Mr X followed the arrows northward up the main road, which was just as the faithful were coming out of Mass at St Thomas More Church, once beyond the congregation, arrows were found pointed the way up another back-passage to Pond Croft Road.

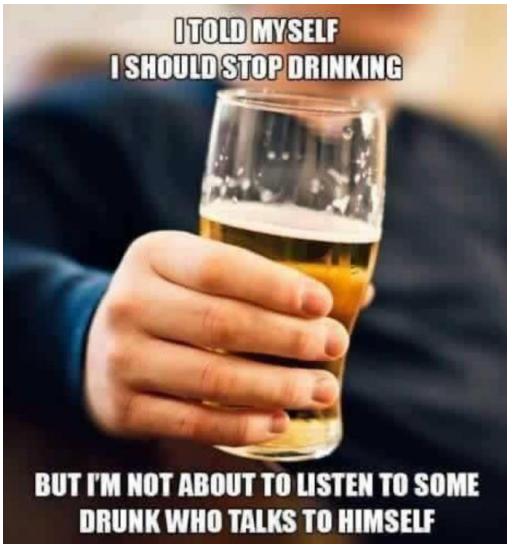
The Trail was now only around 300 Yards from the Pub, just on the other side of the railway tracks, but the Hare would tease the Hash by taking them away by setting the Trail down Milestone Road to the end where the car & motorbike show rooms & Florists sit opposite each other on the T- junction with London Road. Across the main drag, My Lil' & the Hare were spotted after missing out the last loop.

A Held CHK was found over on the green Triangle, near the Parish Council community board, but the FRBs weren't to be found here, as they had carried on down St Martins Road, continuing away to the west on another narrow, curved road that leads on to Old Lane, here arrows pointed the way to the northeast.

Up ahead on this single track, one way rural lane Diamond Geezer's bright lime green t-shirt could be seen off in the distance, since it was now warm enough for him to remove his black Herts Sweat Shirt, however the dazzling T-shirt was not a Hash one but an Aston Martin Racing Team one!

As most followed the winding lane along to its end where it joins the Watton Road, the RA could see the long queue of traffic & decided that he wasn't going to go play with the cars & so he 'Sludged it' when he took to the footpath that cuts along the end of the field, by the homes & some local allotments to come out near to the Knebworth Recreation Grounds. Mr X was ready with Sludge's old excuse, if questioned later, that there was no T or Bar CHK to prevent him using this, but he wasn't.

While the others fought their way back along the busy lane, Mr X spotted an arrow pointing the way west by southwest toward the centre of Knebworth, on reaching the busy entrance to the Recreation Grounds there were no signs of any arrows pointing the way into the Park. Later it was claimed that these had been driven over enough to wear away the chalk markings!



So, Mr X fruitlessly continued back to London Road, where from the roundabout he spotted Tent Packer & Kylie both wandering aimlessly around as well, after they too lost the Trail further back.

Mr X now tried to make amends as he turned northward up the Stevenage Road, hoping that the Trail would pass through the Recreation grounds & come out further up the road to Stevenage.

When he finally did pick up the Trail, he wasn't going to follow iot backwards, which meant that he'd & others would miss the Held CHK & Sweets Stop in the Rec.

However, this unintended, unofficial short-cut saved the lost sheep from leaving the top end of the recreation ground & then going up Oakfields Avenue, an area where Flanders & Sludge used to live many Moons ago, so the Hare would know well the footpath that cuts south-westward back to finish this 500 Yard loop back the Stevenage Road. There arrows pointed the way over the busy road & up a few years to Peters Way.

Around bend to run down the backstreet near to the railway line, heading Southward for 540m Yards on the wiggly residential road, near the end of which they found the On Inn just before the small roundabout on Station Road, on the eastern side of the railway bridge, under which it was a few paces back to the Pub.

The Hash settled in over a long period of time, at least there was no need to panic to get a seat as the Pub had reserved one section for the Hash, though the RA sat up out the way in the very corner, perched on a high chair at a table well away from TBT OBE, who knocked a chair over which smashed Mr X's toe a couple of years ago.

TBT's blunderings were not confined to the past, of course not. For Mr Bumble managed to kick the dog water bowl, the contents of which spilt all over the floor & the RA wiped up with blue towel from behind the bar. Then a bit later, when he was eating there was a crash as he knocked over a glass!

While some dined, Lemming let slip that "Can't take the dog out of Kent!" aimed toward Buster with subtle undertones toward the County of Mother's Birth, though he forgot that a large part of the RA's family hail from the Garden of England! [He'd get a reminder of that later in the Circle! – Ed]

So, after the fab Sunday roasts were devoured, the Circle was called outside. Unfortunately Ewok had to dash off, as did 3D & Port as he was playing football. My Lil' also sloped off early as he wasn't drinking. The remainder of the Pack were soon circling up, after a toast to the Hash from TBT OBE it was over to the RA, who had already clocked that the pants TBT OBE was wearing were his ones that My Lil' had left in TBT OBE's car the week before when he fetched the Hash bags. [Not to the RA, you need a better Batman! – Ed] TBT OBE later had to get a jibe in about them too big for his waist! [That's being Fatist! – Ed] The RA said they were too big for him as well, that's why he has a belt on them!

So, the Hare was rewarded for an excellent Trail which caught out a few season heads, though in the latter stages this may not have been deliberate & more to do with heavy footfall & traffic wearing out the markings? Also on the list were Lemming for his comments on not being able to take the 'Dog out of Kent'! Diamond Geezer for his wearing of a really bright Aston Martin Racing Team top, the RA wondered if it was a case of large car small….? But Big Car Small Prick Hashes with Essex H3!

TBT OBE was called out for his buffoonery in kicking the dog water, then knocking a glass over. The penultimate Down-Down went to Karlo, who completed 10 Runs & was presented with his decca run Hash bumbag, with a free T-shirt so he now has a Herts Top, then he was about to be given a Hash Handle, as a few had come up with some Ideas in the last couple of weeks.

As Karlo took off his top, in preparation for the oncoming Shiggy, Ale & Flour, everyone was astounded that he had a better suntan than Diamond Geezer! The RA then put forward the Hash Handle of 'Karlo the Jackal' which ended up being 'Karlo the Jack-all', so he was named & he downed his Alcohol-free Beer.

Finally it was the RA's pants, left behind the week before & he took the final Down-Down, later he explained how he has had the belt on those pants for over 45 years, having touched up the Union Jack colour, replaced the back buckle & made a new peg, which made it all sound like Trigger's Broom!

The Pack then settled back inside, where the Ale began to loosen tongues & it came out that Lemming was 'stalked' not far back [Yes, I hear you ask "Who in their right minds would stalk Lemming? – Ed] but fear not, it was Mother, who used the tracking device on Buster's collar to locate Lemming in the Crown. He was shocked when Mother appeared, he wondered how she found him in the Pub, while he was taking Buster for a walk? That's a Down-Down for another week!

You know what annoys me is when you go round to someone's house and they ask you to take your shoes off at the front door. 99 times out of 100, they don't even have a bouncy castle.

When you think that all is lost, that there is no hope left, remember the lobsters in the tank at the Titanic's restaurant.