

Run Nos: LSW 1790 & 1791 – LSWH3 St. Albans, UK

Reunion Weekend

The Roman Tour
27-29 May 2011

27th May – The Warm Up

Here we go again, the annual gathering of retirees and general layabouts, mostly UK-based LSW Hashers. But... This year saw some late additions from overseas as **Stickman** and **Bearass** signed up last minute, along with Hash **Perve** plus **Hashzilla** and hubby **Colin**. **Hopeless** and **F³M** had flown in from Hong Kong, dragging the Hash T-Shirts to complete a lineup of over 40 registered names for a weekend of cultural Roman activities.

In true British tradition, the White Hart Hotel bar gathering moved onto that quintessential English or Roman cuisine offered by The Thai Rack! The route was marked by **Hopeless** (arrows with "F") which were to prove a little confusing for the pack the next day (see below).

Fine food arrived after some bullying tactics from **MENSA**, in fact too much, so much so that **Peterfile** had 3 Doggie Bags' worth of food for his lunch over the 3 days his wife was away later in the week!

28th May – Morning Free Time

The morning was free for museum visits, shorts buying and general shaking off of cobwebs for the anticipated fine run of the afternoon.

It was also the morning that the hotel owner found out that she was the proud recipient of the alien transient, also known as "**Charlotte The Harlot**" who had parked and was living in an object parked in her car park.

Notice any resemblance below?



1790 – 28th May – Peterfile, and Special Branch – St. Albans Town - A to B

The pack gathered from hotels and cars around 2pm, to be met, by all things, **Peterfile** in his Roman legionary's outfit, much to the embarrassment of his children.

A briefing of the history of St. Albans was then addressed to the nation of hashers.



We had the mandatory group photo and then set off, the hare leading (!) the pack left out of the hotel and down the road.



A Checkback reeled in the pack, just as **Roadrunner** and **Whispering Bob** were congratulating themselves on being front runners. **Becks** picked up the pace as the youth section of the Comer and Bourten sons pressured the old timers.

These crafty youngsters soon learned the value of standing on a Check while the Old Boys scattered to the winds finding the right trail.

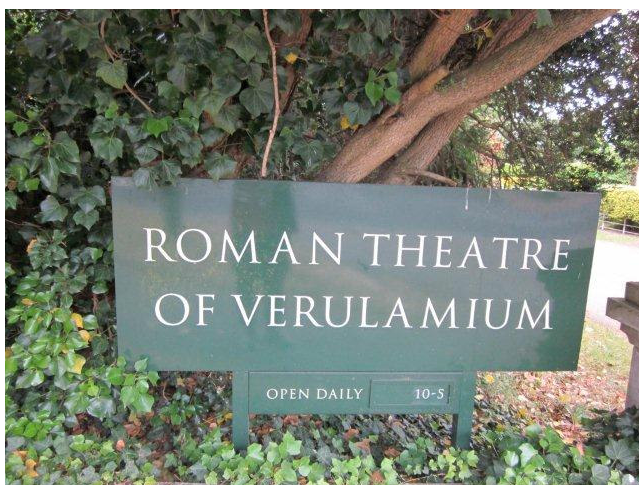


A Check back in the main road caught the FRBs again before finally the pack completed an almost full loop – arriving at the cross roads just above the hotel. We were 5km into the run and wondering when we were going to hit the main park, and the Roman Verulamium.

But as we had hit the arrow/F trail of last night and no sign of fresh chalk, the run came to a stop. **Becks** and **Hopeless** checking everywhere, but with inside knowledge having walked to the Verulamium in the morning, **Vulcan** led the way, calling on **Hash Horn** who blew for all he was worth.

So other "local Knowledge" saw **F³M** shortcutting through the back of the Cathedral on the advice of **Louise**, the hare's wife, dragging on another group of runners with them.

So the pack rejoined in the main park, and headed in and out of nettled trails and woods to finally come back out into the main grasslands, and onto a "Hash Halt" and inside to the excavated Roman mosaic.



Very nice but the kids wanted to crack on, but, as we stepped out, it started to drizzle.

Anyway, we continued on, and ran into the main car park. But..... it wasn't over. **Geoffrey**, the hare's son, told us we had missed a section, so off we back tracked to the lake, out onto the main road, past the Bash location (Rose & Crown pub), and onto the Roman Amphitheatre.

An arrow into, but not out of, the theatre resulted in mayhem..... allowing the pack to gather again at, basically, a dead end. (Well, a never ending circle as some people ran around it twice to see if there was any way out).

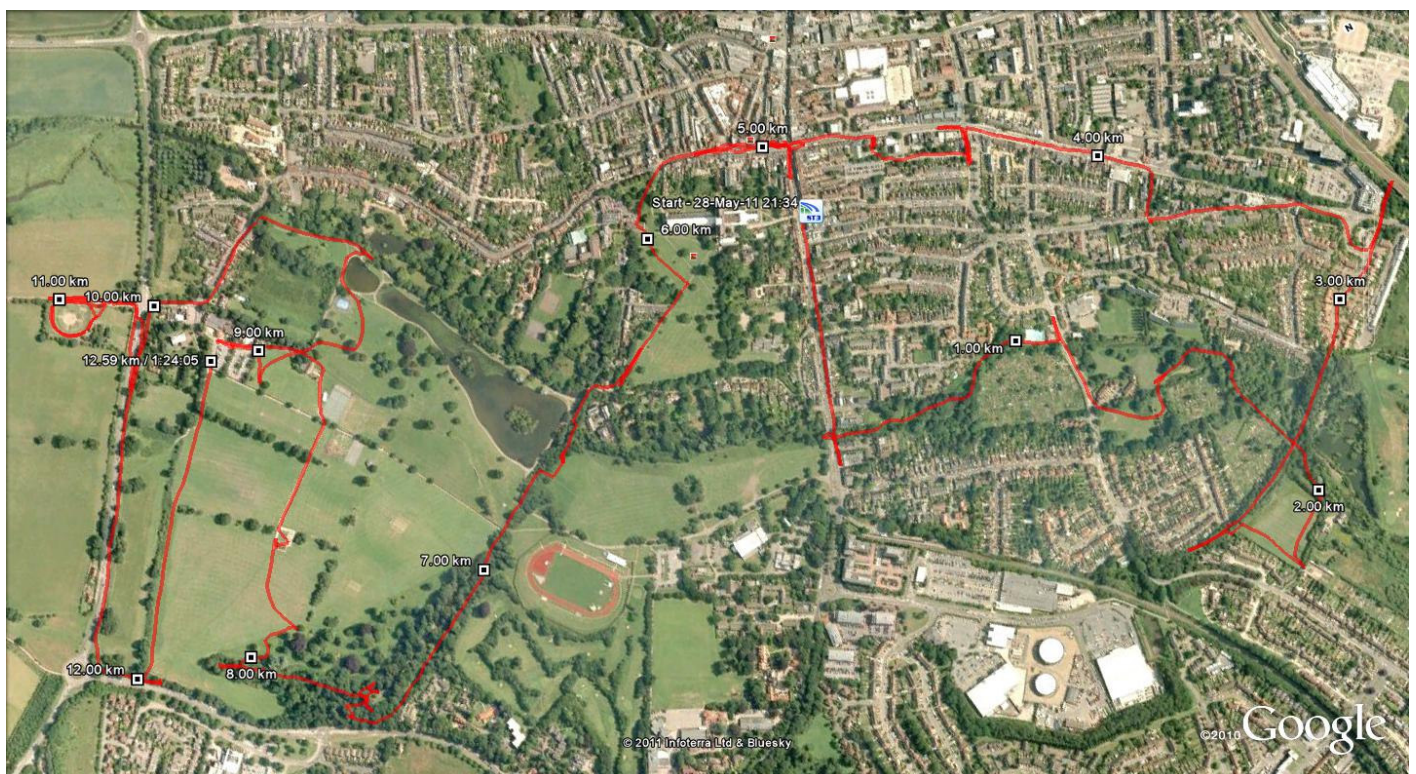


So we headed back to the main road to find a grinning hare – **Peterfile**. “Head up the road and find the cold beer” was the instruction.... So off we went, **Hopeless** pressured by **Annoyance** and **Smash n Grab**, to the roundabout and still no markings.

We gave up as we heard Hash Horn blow behind us and cut through the hedge, and then it was a dash for home, and on to the.... same car park!

An excellent run. The Hares claimed an “around 9km” run, but the likes of **Hash Perve** tagged it more like “A Half Marathon” !

The **Hopeless** GPS map is below:



Dinner was a walk from B, to the Rose & Crown pub round the corner from the finish.

The Down Downs by HOPELESS



Hares - **Mensa**, **Special Branch** and **Peterfile** - derelict hotel so changes to plans - run #1790 and 1791 changed from country hotel (bankrupt) to urban runs (White Hart Hotel & The Comfort Inn).

Today's hares - **Peterfile** and **Special Branch**, dynamically changing the trail right up to the last minute.

Weather - R.A - **Mensa**.

Candidate Cities : Harrogate with **Tai Po** & **Twinkle Toes** (3rd place); Hastings with **Whispering Bob** and **Roadrunner** (2nd place), so next year awarded to: Toulouse with Hares **Hashzilla** and **Colin**. (AWAIT CONFIRMATION AND DATES!).



Hund Meister - 50 (years, not runs!) this year.

Changes in the past year:

Comers - relocate to UK.

Stickman and **Bearass** to Xingyilingi, or somewhere in China as the share portfolio crashed and needed some subsidy.

Hash Cash now XL t-shirt size.

On TV this year - **Posh** and **Becks** at the Royal Wedding.

Peterfile - temple tour of China to "find himself".

Peterfile - almost got beaten up for being accused of American because of standing in front of the Liverpool game in the Queen Victoria pub in Wanchai.

Hund Meister - 25 runs.

Harlot - wanted a furniture key for Chinese cabinet but lives out of a camper van so what's the point?

Hopeless - failed to get one, shop was closed last Sunday.

Bedroom 6 - 4 poster bed - **Hash Horn** and **Dame Edna** but HH went for the cheaper option.

Mensa - negotiating food "like HK" + bullying Thai manager then getting extra food at his end of the table.

Smash n Grab 2 - **Speedy** knocks over glass in hotel bar - followed up by **Smash n Grab** dropping the hotel's only egg cup at breakfast.

Had to buy shorts - **Annoyance**.

Geoffrey - Front Running B@stard but being secretive.

Stickman and **Bearass** - 1 month training for the hash.

Naming - Arthur Richards (**Fartful Lodger**) and Jackie-May Grant (**Ji-Pod**).

AND WE DID NOT SING THE SONG ! (Bar taken over by football hooligans for the Champions League Final).

Cleansing ales were had in time for the end of the football at The Comfort Inn before one final beer in the bar at The White Hart Hotel.....

1791 - 29th May - MENSA and Special Branch - Harpenden - A to B

Having exhausted the repertoire of Museums, Clock Towers and other delights of the city, the hash were left with a very lazy morning indeed. No sobering tours of Concentration Camps like last year, but at least no rain, and the occasional peek of the sun.

A 2pm meet time was advised, but taxis to A were not until 2:30pm so **Vulcan** decided he'd go off and enjoy 30 minutes of the F1 race rather than clutter up the Reception area of the White Hart Hotel.

7-seater taxis duly arrived and the fleet left for A. Where, upon arrival we discovered no hares, and, much to **F³M**'s panic, no toilet facilities. (At last, back to the old style of hashing!).

Finally **MENSA** arrived to set the pack off, and true to form like yesterday's run, the pack hit an immediate Checkback. Unfortunately the first trail tried was the same one **F³M** was attempting to squat down on for some relief, so that plan was scuppered – plus it was a Falsey anyway!

So back across the road and a long narrow path leading us out into the fields and far away..... The run then was sweeping fields with a few Checks before **Annoyance** showed the way through the farm with **Peterfile**. Through horse trails alongside the golf club finally came out onto a main road, Hopeless ahead and taking in the Falsey on the main road.

Then followed over 1km of tarmac, and, then a Checkback to take us back into the fields. Here slower hashers could see the front runners and take shortcuts across the rapeseed fields. Another long field turned to the final Check. Right, through the open barn, and onto the main road and a quick nip through the fence for the final sprint home.

The Hopeless map of the run:



Wow – 14km for the 2nd run of the weekend. Seems like we ran most of the horse trekking trails around Harpenden, before being rewarded with a finish at the Harpenden Rugby Club. A Builder's Bucket of beer and softies was a welcome sight.



Photos : The Front Running B@stards plus one of the hares with the LSW Hash flag.

Final walkers back were **MENSA**, sweeping, with **Shanghai**.

A pleasant spring/summer evening on the terraces with a beer was order of the day before heading into the club and a huge lasagna (meat or veggie option) bucket with salad and a crème brûlée dessert. Excellent fodder for a bunch of hungry runners.

The Down Downs by HOPELESS

The hares - **Mensa** and **Special Branch**.

Mensa - sweeping and getting lost on own trail?

San Mig beer - the hares of yesterday.

Having to seed 100 Acres of grass to get permission to come then wife goes off to Kota Kinabalu while he freezes in the UK - **Hash Perve**.

Arrive a day early - **F³M** - booked wrong flight.

Two gay gentlemen - again sharing a room - **Whispering Bob** and **Roadrunner**.

Still HK email ids (or Taiwan) thus hiding - **Becks**, **Dame Edna**, **Shanghai**, **Stickman**.

Vulcan is "Laurel" ?

Roadrunner - Leicester rugby shirt not in evidence as they lost yesterday.

F³M - the museum opens 2pm Sundays!

Vulcan - "sod the run I'm off to watch the prix" - Vettel won.

T-Shirts - **Hopeless** and **Peterfile**.

Hares - 14.3km run as a "hangover run".

Becks - shortcuts the triangle, despite Hopeless ducking behind the bushes.

Laurence and **Peterfile** - took a shortcut following golfers, wrong, stung by nettles, then had to go back.

Yeti - 2 visits for hashing, zero runs.

Mensa - lost on trail, sweeping.

"Walking like a duck" - **Shanghai** - as spoken by **Mensa**.

Charlotte - lasagna 2 days in a row - resident lasagna expert.

Vulcan - some Taiwan tales to tell of **Beararse**.

Lost property - camera – **Stickman/Beararse**; plus water bottle - **Smash n Grab**.

Laurence - trying to impress the young ladies by delivering sweet things to them.

Award - near front finisher - **Annoyance** - beer koozie from Hopeless.

Naming - **Sasha** - **K-9**, as in Dr. Who's dog.

Annoyance - remarking trail at the end of the run to get ahead of the pack.

Big thank you to the hares - big hand from everyone.

Hares – to sing the song, after a solo by **Peterfile**.



An excellent weekend, and a lot of work from the hares. A special "Thank You" to their families too for their support while the menfolk go out scouting the hotels and restaurants for our weekend away.

If I missed people or topics for Down Downs, my apologies, but with some limited time and opportunity I may have missed some of you – sorry for that....

**ON ON
HOPELESS**

ATTENDEE LIST

Name	Hash Handle
Philip Arrandale	Roadrunner
Peter, Louise, Geoffrey, Laurence, Oliver & Edward Bourton	Peterfile
Adrian Buckman & sons	Special Branch
John Comer, Jackii Crockett, Timmy Comer, Joe Comer	Pinky, Hund Meister, annoyance, smash & grab
Hadyn Davies	Vulcan
Colin and Denise Etheridge	Hash Horn and Dame Edna
David, Marian, Alex and Emma Hanney	Rice Mouth and Leggs
Robert Harris	Whispering Bob
Mark Hope Jo Jones	Hopeless F ³ M
Colin, Sue and Callum Jones	Tai Po, Twinkle Toes and speedy
Alan Grant, Jill Sutcliffe, Jackie Grant	Mensa, Shanghai
Eric and Seonaid Macleod	Hash Cash, Big Bitch
Charlotte Mitchell	Charlotte the Harlot
Clive Posford, Sarah Morley, Ethan Posford	Becks, Posh
Nigel Powell and Maggie Wang	Stickman, Beararse
Joe Richardson	Yeti
Tao Hallot & Colin Breen	Hashzilla & "Just Colin"
Richard Barraclough	Hash Perve
Sandra Chapman	Mushroom
Arthur Richards	Fartful Lodger

PHOTOS

To be posted on the LSWH³ website (<http://www.datadesignfactory.com/lsw/>) and available on CD on request and receipt of Beer Tokens to Hopeless.