



Date: 30th December 2020

Hash No.: 121 - Route 5 Diner, Haldon

Hares: Ménage a Trios, Buzby & Night Screecher

Joint with Isca H3

DLH3 Hashers: Babydoll; Bunion Ring; Hairy Mollusc; Happy Shopper; Lizbien; Mad Max; McFee; Peanut; Polecat; Slasher; Well Red; Zombie; "Carolyn"; "Karen"

Isca H3 Hashers: Boots in Puss; Coffin; Dobbie; Gymslip; Haggis; Imelda; Melon Picker; Soapy; Spocky-Bitz; Whoopsie; X-Bitz; "Beth"; "Lizzie"; "Pip"

In the absence of an elected scribe, and a desire to see something by way of a record of this monumental hash, I decided that I, Buzby, should post a few words to describe the trail as I saw it, despite being one of the hares.

What a way to go out of 2020! It was without doubt the greatest trail seen by either hash this year! A magnificent route was chosen and laid amongst the wooded hills and tracks of Haldon Forest. The pack gathered in good number (31), including several virgins, and eagerly awaited the off. It had promised to be wet, however thankfully the rain held, but there was still a desire to get warm.

Off we set south-east along Harker Lane into the woods and the first check at the junction with Spicers Road. Whilst it wasn't raining, since the trail was laid it had been and also being popular area for dog walkers who sometimes kick out the trail, so it was, the check was missing.

New one provided (!) the pack checked-out and found the appropriate route down Spicers Road and to the first long/short split. I can't say how many went short, for reasons that will become clear, however the longs continued along Spicers Road to a check at its southern most point. Here, it seems, the cold got to the heads of a few FRBs!

Case for the defence: Having seen the check whoever it was who continued along Spicers Road called "On one!" ... "On two!" ... "On-on!" However the third call was definitely not flour! And there was nothing thereafter either. When I arrived at the check the on-on was being called in the wrong direction, so thinking co-hare Ménage was behind me I chased down the wrong route until lights started coming back towards me. I took this to indicate that the pack had reversed and went back to the check and marked in correctly, Spocky-Bitz having checked it out ... again!

Up the hill to where the shorts had re-joined the trail, and now long gone due to the delay at the previous check, before a check leading to the left and through a practically unavoidable 'lake' across the whole path! No dry feet this week!

Down through the woods the trail led and another long/short split at the junction of Old Exeter Road. I was puzzled at the number of hashers who were coming down the road from the left. There was no check, just a long/short split and nothing to send anyone in that direction. Puzzled until I met co-hare Ménage who was with them. It seems a number of hashers followed like sheep at the 'problem' check and rather than attempt to push water up hill, he had decided to take them onto the road and then right to re-join the pack.

I was sweeping, but trailing a fair way behind now, and had thought to head short myself – Boots in Puss having been asked to sweep the longs. This wasn't to be as several others decided to join the longs too. And so it was that Gymslip and I ran the rest of the trail pretty much on our own passed the Haldon Forest Park Café, out on to Old Exeter Road before joining one of the many cycle routes back to the cars.

There were no down-downs due to the ongoing Covid restrictions, but there was a quick circle-up to ensure no one had been left in the woods. Check!

At this point a very kind soul (apologies but I don't remember who it was) produced a bag containing a whole selection of Christmas goodies that they had decided were better shared with the hash than consumed themselves. I can't argue with that and there was much gratitude and rejoicing!

A reminder to keep an eye on the website and your emails for news of forthcoming trails for both hashers.

Happy New Year to all

On-on,

Buzby