

Grand Master
Jess Hilton (Raunchy)
Joint Masters
Stirling Way Spike
Paul Ames (Aimless)
Scribe Master
Paul Waters (Stopcock)
Hasherdabber
Heather Smyly Sister Sludge)
Hash Horn
Paul Storey (On the Kharzi)
Beer Master
Charlotte Watson (Footloose)



Chamber Pots
Diann Davis (Can't Remember)
Simon Snowdon (Slush)
On Sec
Chris Hall (Squits)
Hash Cash
Jon McGurk (Nipple Deep)
Hare Master
Brian Martin (Naughty Boy)
Hash Flash
Paul Glanville (Glani)

Life Pee'ers

Angus Colville (Agnes) Chris Laurence-King (Bloodnock)

Hereditary Pee'ers

Simon Trehane (Trehanrehan) Sara Laurence-King (Shortcut)

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Next Run No: 1934

Date: 21st August 2017

Start: Tamar Trails Centre, Gulworthy

On Down: Tamar Trails Centre, Gulworthy

Hares: Uncle

Scribe: Well Shafted

Whathash?

News and Reviews - New hasher 'Good Head' vs 'Stopcock'

Stopcock has long been the benchmark hasher (at least for the purposes of this article) but 'Good Head' offers more charm and cooler glasses. Does this make him better?

The contenders

Good Head

List price Priceless

Target Price Ask his wife

Can Good Head finally back up good looks with great performance and handling (and a reasonable hash)?

Stopcock

List price Free to the lowest bidder

Target Price Are you having a laugh?

Stopcock's iconic Rilla Mill hash is facelifted for 2017 and back to defend its crown

Great hashes are about more than just aggressive running and burbling streams. The icon that is the annual Rilla Mill hash has built up a sterling reputation for class-leading performance and fun, and in more powerful, stiffer, 'wear a red dress' form, it's one formidable opponent. However, Good Head was attempting to take on the mighty Stopcock with his new Trewortha Farm version. The northern, four eyed git's recent hashes have been forgettable, largely because he's only set one before and that was short

because it was the AGM. Nevertheless, Trewortha could be different, because it's based on the underpinnings of remote moorland and an exciting tunnel. Add incredible views and significantly more rusty farm machinery than Rilla Milla can muster and Good Head's chances of success suddenly don't seem quite so slim.

What were they like to run?

This is an important question, given that hashes live or die by the way they allow the hasher to leap and dash and splash and huff and puff. Happily both did a fantastic job on all counts. The way these hashes played out was enormously engaging, despite the fact that they went about matters in slightly different ways. Trewortha's brambly, exposed route made the hasher feel more eager to turn in to corners, but it also had a playful set of checks, so there was plenty of opportunity to confidently adjust your line around corners with the chance of being garrotted or stabbed by a branch diminishing as the hash went on. Stopcock's approach was more assured. The Rilla Mill muddy woods meant you needed to be pushing extremely hard on your Speedcrosses to reach their grip limit (in the wet, at least), and while its route was gloomier than Good Head's, it was meatier and pleasingly accurate. Ultimately, Good Head's stronger performance couldn't outweigh Stopcock's higher handling limits on trickier routes.

What were they like inside?

Performance and adventure may be paramount here, but the fact that these two hashes conceded very little beauty and practicality compared with their regular Dartmoor counterparts is deeply impressive. Interior excitement will always play an important role in the success or failure of any hash. On the Khazi, from our sister magazine, *Top Hash*, was keen to point out the dust laying qualities of Good Head and this was certainly apparent at both hashes. The care and accuracy devoted to some of the checks was reminiscent of the crop circle designs of the 80's and early 90's. Though Stopcock was mildly disparaging about the 27 bags of flour used in the Trewortha hash compared to the 6 at Rilla Mill, hashers will I'm sure agree that the aforementioned Trewortha route was like navigating the Swiss Railway network, with its clear signalling and route designation. In terms of interior entertainment, Trewortha had some great forest sections and a couple of exciting tunnels. However, Rilla Mill also provided plenty of deciduous woodland and the 'slippery log'! Seemingly only Good Head's son, Noah, and his 'up for anything' companion, Tracy, managed to navigate this awkward apparatus. Nevertheless, even with its exciting suspension bridge and plenty of bark-laden, mossy trim, the Rilla Mill hash couldn't match Trewortha's plusher interior, more scratchy-feeling undergrowth and altogether better build quality (and amounts of dust).

Aftercare and Servicing

All good hashes are defined by the On Down and here there was only one clear winner. As we all know, there's nothing worse than choice, the ills of supposed democracy. Not only did the Rilla Mill hash offer a menu, the custodians also requested early ordering of food in preparation of the kitchen closing. Clearly ruffled, many hashers obviously had their evening's performance and pre-hash preparations affected. Never mind the curveball of chips in a vase! Can't Remember was quite perturbed. Compare this to the simplicity of Good Head's arrangements the previous week where the choice was much simpler: Nowt!

The Verdict

Stopcock remains an immensely capable hasher, delivering all the performance and cornering grip you could ever hope for. He's a five-star hasher, no question. Yet Good Head is even better. He's not only more powerful (in an employer/employee type relationship) but also, crucially, more fun and engaging to chat with. True, he isn't quite as beautiful in a red dress, as practical or as high in quality, but he does what Stopcock can't: he draws a flour circle beautifully. Therefore, he secures the win.

On on...

words by Good Head (at Stopcock's request...)

Tamar Valley Hash House Harriers