

SO THAT YOU WILL KNOW HOW IT SHOULD BE DONE

JACK THE FIRE

HASH
CODE

A Guide To The
Laying
Of Trails



In keeping with the original intentions of the Hash, there should be no rules as such; however the following are necessary as a guide or code which accommodates an accent on social, healthy, exercise – whilst discouraging any sense of 'athleticism or competitiveness'.

Beginning at the beginning there are one or two little 'niceties' which must be observed. When bringing a prospective member on his first run you will ensure that he is introduced to the committee and particularly the Grand Master **BEFORE** the run commences. Thereafter it is your responsibility to ensure that he completes the run without mishap, and just as important that he takes part in only two runs before he is officially allowed to become a member of the Hash. When taking on the responsibility of being a 'hare', and make no mistake it is a responsibility, you should recon your proposed trail at least twice and be certain of every detail before the date of the run; one of these times should be about the time of day during which the actual run will take place. The length of trail will vary considerably (generally between 4 and 6 miles) depending largely on the type of terrain over which the trail is laid. As a fairly rough guide, if it takes two hours to walk the final trail, then it should be an hour run for the average hashman. An ideal trail keeps everybody together for most of the run and the whole pack should be back to the beerwagon within no more than 15 minutes of one another, with your slower runners being back in not much longer than one hour from the starting time. To overcome unforeseen difficulties and to ensure a run takes place, two hares will normally be required to lay the trail.

Now to the actual laying of the trail; the following points should be adhered to whenever possible:

- (i) The start and direction of the trail should be clearly marked and uncomplicated for at least the first half mile at which point should be your first check. This check must be a good one, designed to hold the pack for as long as possible in order that the late comers can catch up. At the check it is optional as to whether you write the word check in bold letters, inscribe a large circle, or a combination of both when using chalk, or when using flour inscribe a circle.
- (ii) Remember your checks are designed to hold up the pack until every member of the run is together before starting off on the next leg. In order to achieve this you may lay false trails from each check point, but it is important to remember that a false trail should not be indicated or marked over 100 metres in open country, 50 metres in semi-scrub, or 25 metres in thick scrub. You may place as many marks as you like within those distances but any mark over that distance indicates that particular trail is quite definitely 'on'. **REMEMBER IT IS NOT THE NUMBER OF ARROWS BUT THE DISTANCE WHICH IS DECISIVE.** A good run should have at least four good checks and if the checks are laid within the above code, then there should be no need to write 'ON ON'; however, it is a good idea if only to jog the minds of the hounds that they should be calling this once having found the correct trail. Again for the hounds benefit it is often advisable to indicate H4 on the occasional arrow just in case another Hash have been in the same area recently.



- (iii) When marking the trail each mark, if using chalk, an arrow, if using flour, a blob of the same, should not be more than 25 yds from each other. This should be adhered to as closely as possible in order that the hounds can be fairly certain when they have run out of trail. It is quite legitimate to make a sudden left or right turn from a comparatively straight trail without indicating such and the hounds should realise they have over-run the trail when the last mark was some 25 yds or more back. The only time it is essential to write **CHECK BACK**, or indicate same by a circle with a cross (X), is if you are worried that continuing in that direction may take them onto another leg of your trail, thus cutting out some of the run.
- (iv) If the last check has turned the pack onto a narrow long path over which it is difficult to pass or a steep shiggy climb, then your next check at the end of this path should be an especially good one designed to hold up the front men until those who, probably were doing the greatest amount of checking, and thus missed the last check, have time to catch up again. Remember — at least four good checks which bring the whole pack together at least four times during a run.
- (v) Each trail should include a little of everything — a little shiggy, open country, a little bush, and level paths. It should also include a hill, but it should not include every hill within a five mile radius. One good hill is quite sufficient. Any fool can knacker the hounds by taking them over every hill in sight, but it takes good reccing to include one good hill only; we are not a mountain climbing club any more than we are running club. Whenever possible main roads should be avoided and no check should be laid on or even close to a road. Quite apart from the obvious dangers of having a pack milling about the middle of a road there is the problem of hearing the pack calling over traffic noise. The last check on the run again should be a particularly good one bringing the pack together for ideally a good flat or downhill run in over a distance of at least half a mile, giving everybody a chance to stretch their legs.

You may if you wish on this last sector of the run indicate 'ON HOME' which means that each hound is now free to make his own way over whichever route he feels is quickest to the beerwagon, but for the benefit of those who are not familiar with that particular area you must maintain a correct trail to the beerwagon. After the run the hares are responsible for checking that all hounds have returned; if any are still missing 1 hour after the others have returned they must organise search parties. They will also be responsible for ensuring that the area has been cleaned up prior to leaving. Do not forget to contact **Carlsberg** and ensure that the beerwagon knows exactly where the start of your run is.

Finally to all hounds: the hares have taken some time and trouble to ensure that your run will be as enjoyable as possible. Do not spoil it by acting in an unhashman-like manner whilst running. CALL as appropriate and, if necessary return along the trail until the next hound has been contacted. You should call 'ON ON' at each mark once, you have established you are in fact on. On hearing 'ARE YOU ON?' give the appropriate reply i.e. 'CHECKING'; 'ON ON'; 'CHECK BACK' or 'ON HOME'. This applies to all runners, front middle and back.

Good Hashing.

(I am indebted to Jack Moran for the above which has been amended slightly from his original. J.H.)