



GUIDELINES FOR TRAIL SETTING



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1 EXPERIENCE

Setting trails is not a very difficult task, but there is no doubt that experience tells. If you have never set a trail before, please ask an experienced hare to assist you with your first trail.

If it rains after you have set a run, then you will have to reset the marks before the run starts.

On the run itself, the hare(s) must not run at the front of the pack. At checks try not to give away the direction the real trail goes. No matter how difficult the trail is, if it is well marked, the front hashers will find the trail eventually.

2 LOCATION

There are many considerations for the location of a trail. The following should all be considered when choosing a run location:

1. We would like to explore the Bodrum Peninsula so try to choose new sites.
2. There needs to be adequate parking at the Rendez Vous (RV), plus a suitable location for the circle (not too exposed to the public).
3. Try to avoid trails set on roads unless you are setting a specific town run.
4. The trail should not be too open for all the length as the hashers will then be able to see the front runners.
5. A hill or so is usual and some water or mud is good for a bit of fun.
6. A nearby restaurant/bar/café is good for an ON-ON-ON.

Once you have selected a location, let the mis-management know where the RV will be so that they can notify all hashers.

3 RECONNOITRE

It is very important to reconnoitre the run. Generally speaking it will be necessary to walk the area selected two or three times to plan the run and then once or twice around the planned route. A complete run should be between 5 and 8 kilometres in length with plenty of alternate routes/trails along the way.



4 SETTING THE TRAIL

4.1 *Material*

Trails should be set using biodegradable materials. Generally flour is a good material and this can be coloured with powder paint (available from most hardware stores) of a suitable colour for any special occasion or to show up against the local terrain. Chalk can be used in towns and on roads. Try to avoid using paper although toilet paper may be a useful material if heavy rain is expected. Contrary to popular belief, toilet paper is not very biodegradable.

4.2 *Marks*

4.2.1 *Main Trail*

Marks should be laid every few paces. As a general guide, hashers should always be able to see the next mark from the one they are currently at. The main trail is marked with plain blobs of flour or whatever material is used.

Be careful that no part of the main trail is near another part of the trail and NEVER, NEVER cross over a previous part of the trail. This is a serious crime on a Hash.

Special trail markers can be manufactured using a 5 litre paint tin (empty of course!) bolted to the end of a broom handle. A mark (arrow, or any other mark such as H³) is then punched into the base of the tin (remember that the mark will be reversed when laid). Flour is then put into the tin and a mark is made by tamping the tin gently on the ground. This method has the advantage that it uses far less flour, it is quicker to lay marks, the marks can be laid at very regular intervals (every other step for instance), it is much less messy.

4.2.2 *Checks*

Checks are temporary pauses on the trail that are designed to slow down the front runners and give the following pack a chance to catch up. Checks should be laid at intervals of between 800 and 1200 metres.

A check is marked by a circle of trail marking material.

The first trail mark from a check should be placed within 50 to 100 metres of the check. The second mark will be at 100 to 200 metres and the third mark (if it is not a false trail) will be within 150 to 300 metres. Thereafter the marks should be at regular distances and easy to see. The longer the distance between checks, then the further should be placed the first mark from the next check.



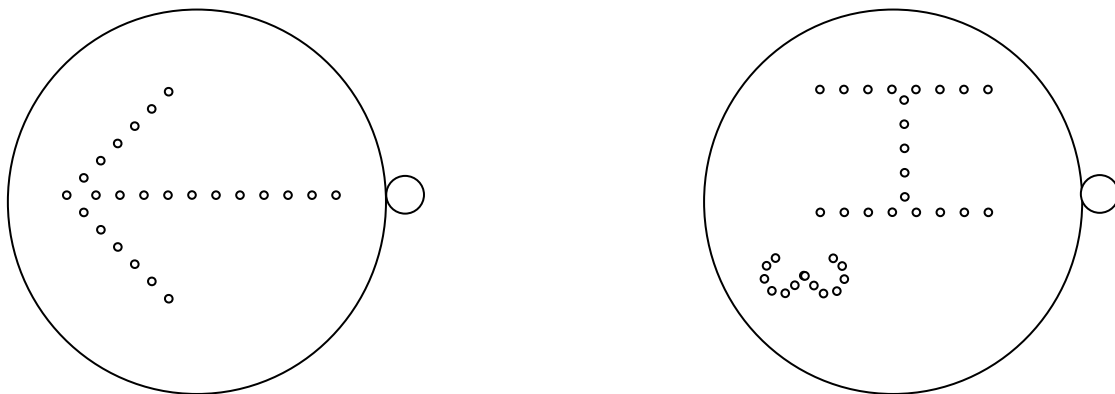
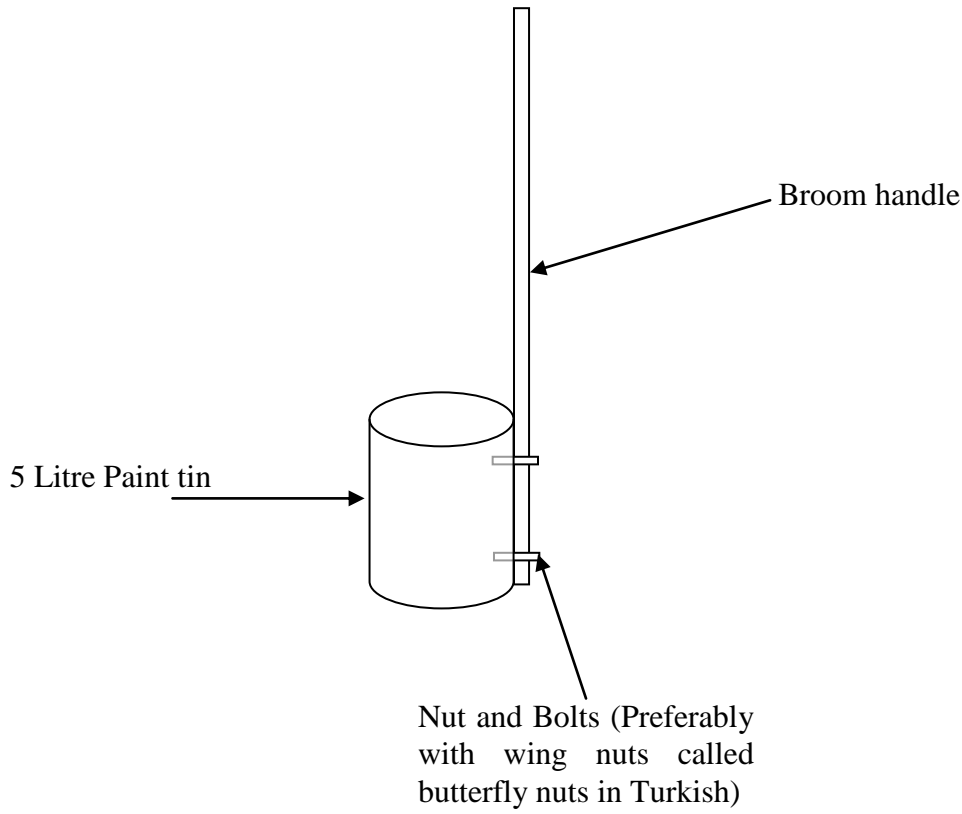
4.2.3 False Trails and Check Backs

From each check false trails can be laid. Generally one or two false trails should be sufficient. On the Bodrum Hash a false trail will have only two marks. This means that the checking Hashers will call “Checking One” at the first mark, “Checking two” at the second and “ON-ON” only at the third mark.

Sometimes a check back can be laid at other locations. At such places a “T” or “X” should be marked on the trail. Hashers then have to return either to the previous check, or to any previous possible trail route to search for the correct trail (marked within 50 and 100 metres of the previous trail). See the sample trail below for an example of this.



5 SPECIAL TRAIL MARKER



Examples of tin with patterns in nail holes. Careful about orientation of marks.

Base of tin shown when looking at bottom with broom handle on right.



6 SAMPLE TRAIL

In the sample trail below there are five checks. From the first there is one false trail and from the second there are two. From the third check there is one false trail and on the main trail there is one check back. Hashers will go back to the previous junction and look from there. From the fourth check there is one false trail that ends with a check back. This has been put there in case hashers run on past it back to the RV.

You can see that it is easy to lay a trail that crosses itself. Also a trail could be laid where Hashers may be able to run beyond a false trail and pick up the main trail much further on. This can be avoided by good reconnoitre of the trail before setting it.

