

The Westbury Harriers Hash – A Short Guide

'Hashing' is an organised run, where nobody knows where the route goes!

The object of the hash is to find the **Cake Baton**, which is hidden somewhere in Blaise Castle. A route is laid around the park, but there are lots of false trails, which will slow the faster runners down, and allow the everyone to keep up and contribute.

To do this, the course setters use sawdust and flour markings. Symbols vary slightly between hashes, but we're using these ones:

→ (an arrow): You're on the **right** path – carry on and **shout** (see below)
Arrows will be repeated on the correct path

T : You're on the **wrong** path – Turn back immediately!

O (a circle, always at junction of paths): Check **all the paths** to find the right one

o o o (blobs of sawdust or flour): After a circle, there will be blobs along possible paths. This path might be right (eventually you'll see an arrow), or it might be wrong (it ends in a T).

So what happens?

Starting from the club house, you'll be told where to head for the first O. From there, between you, check all the adjoining paths, following o o o blobs, until someone finds a → (and shouts)

After each circle, most of the paths will end in a T, telling you it's a false trail. *False trails can be up to 100m long!* Some parts of the route will involve lots of checking, but there are also some long runs without false routes.

The whole course is within the Blaise Castle Estate. It doesn't cross or run along any road or golf course, but it might cross a stream, it might go up a steep slope, and sometimes it uses woodland trails.

Shouting 'Communication' is very important. Whenever you see a →, shout '**ON ON**' (very loudly). This is most important, because it means everyone else can abandon their false trails and follow you.

Lots of Circles Sometimes, one of the paths from a O, will quickly lead to another O (without any arrows), and that may even lead to a third nearby O. *All the paths need to be checked, so shout back to get more help!*

Finding The Cake Baton Towards the end of the hash you'll all arrive in a field somewhere. A marshal in a fluorescent bib will tell you when you get to this place what the boundaries of the area are. Someone else (we'll tell you who at the briefing) will be hidden somewhere in the area, with the Cake Baton. The cake sale can't start without the cake baton.

Your job is to find the person with the baton, and then get the baton back to the club house as quickly as possible. Once the baton has been found, everyone can run back to the club house.

And Finally ... If You Think You're Lost ... it's because (a) the leaders aren't shouting loudly enough; or (b) you're not listening and looking hard enough!