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Guidance for IndoNostalgia Hares

GENERAL

There is no standard format for IndoNostalgia weekends and the Hares are at liberty to plan things however they wish. However, some formats have been more successful than others and after nearly 50 runs it seems about time to share some of these ideas.

We tend to make a weekend of it with the main run early on Saturday and a hangover run, or alternative event, on Sunday morning. Early arrivals gather on Friday evening and stragglers leave on Monday morning.

Suggestions for a future run can be put to the Hash at any time, either personally at a run, or via email. Once the hash have agreed on a future Hare it is their responsibility to sort out the date, venue and costs. In the absence of a verdict from the whole hash, the mismanagement comprising Blowback, The Penguin and Jetstream will decide who has the Honour of being the next Hare.

IndoNostalgia Hash have a Facebook page which can be used to sound out your ideas, or we now have a Google Group. If you want to email the whole Group please contact Jetstream who will arrange for you to be able to do this. Initially only future Hares can email the Group to avoid it becoming over-run with jokes and other stuff off the internet. Please keep group emails to the minimum as members don't like daily updates, especially if they aren't coming to your run.

TIMING

A run in the Spring and one in the Autumn is a rough guide, but nothing is fixed. Runs have been held as early as March and as late as November, but if the venue is outdoors then May to September would be the ideal time slot. Choosing a bank holiday weekend has advantages (an extra day) and disadvantages (more expensive accommodation and travel, clashes with other events, traffic jams). It is up to the Hares to ensure that their chosen date doesn't clash with other International Hash Events, or, as a lot of attendees are from Cambridge Hash it is best to avoid any of their events, including Mojacar H3, the AGPU, Goofs and ROTT.

VENUE

As numbers average around 35 and rarely exceed 45, a venue is not a major problem. We have access to a rather flimsy party tent which can be put up anywhere, we can bring beer, food can be simple and we can have the use of portable gas rings and barbeques if needed.

A venue which costs nothing and has some accommodation is ideal. A Gite, camping ground or farmers barn have been used successfully. Where camping is proposed, a nearby B&B or travel lodge is essential for the old farts. Gites or youth hostels need to have small rooms, doubles and twins, rather than a large dormitory.

FOOD

There is no need to over complicate this. A light lunch prior to the run can comprise rolls, sandwiches or a picnic. Whilst it is nice to have an Indonesian meal on Saturday evening this is not essential, any sort of cuisine is ok. If using outside caterers, you need to be careful with the cost as it can blow the budget. Another light lunch or BBQ is usually included on Sunday, after which everyone is on their own.

BEER

This can be another major cost and whilst it's not easy to estimate accurately how much we'll drink, a rough guide would be 1 firkin (72 pints) for every 10 hashers, assuming that this is drunk on Saturday and Sunday. This allows for non drinkers who only want softies. Most beer is drunk on Saturday with much less on Sunday as people have to drive home. It should be possible to buy real ale direct from a brewery or micro-brewery, for less than £100 a firkin. If we are meeting at a remote location (without a pub) then the amount of beer required should be increased significantly. Some wine should also be provided for harriettes who don't like beer. Using a pub and paying normal pub prices can soon exhaust the budget.

THE TRAIL

The idea is to keep the pack together and preferably allow the walkers to follow roughly the same route as the front runners. The run shouldn't be too long, maybe 5 miles on the Saturday, 3 on Sunday. One way to keep it to a reasonable length is to keep within 4 squares on the OS map. It is best to lay the trail just prior to the run to avoid it getting eaten by animals or washed away. Flour is usually used with blobs every 25 metres or so. As runners come from various different hashes and some have only run in Indonesia, it avoids confusion if a modified version of "jungle rules" is adopted, with the first blob of flour being on. Checks are circles and false trails are marked with an X. Lots of checks (20 is not too many) will keep the pack together especially if there are lots of false trails, some of which can be quite long, maybe 500 metres. Loops are also a good way of letting the walkers catch up with the Front Running Bastards.

Try and avoid long sections without checks as the pack will become spread out and won't regroup again. A beer stop is optional and depends on the weather as much as anything. It is acceptable to sub-contract laying the trail to younger and fitter bastards, or even call upon the assistance of a local hash, as long as they don't try to take over the event.

THE BUDGET

Fees have recently increased to £50 for hashers, irrespective of eating or drinking disorders. If a run makes a profit then the Hares can give a rebate to those who don't drink. The two Hares don't usually pay.

A typical budget would allow, per head:

Food: £3 Saturday lunch, £10 Saturday dinner, £3 Sunday lunch

Beer: 1 firkin (72 pints) for every 10 hashers, assuming that this is drunk on Saturday and Sunday. Most beer is drunk on Saturday with much less on Sunday as people have to drive home. Real ale, direct from a brewery or micro-brewery, Costs less than £100 a firkin, so about £10 a head. However, you need to allow this to stand for a couple of days unless the brewery can provide "bright" beer which can be moved about without becoming cloudy. Wine, soft drinks and snacks £4 per head.

Additional costs can include coach and venue hire, which can be fixed costs and be excessive for small numbers. If the venue is remote, without a pub, it will be necessary to provide additional beer and food for Friday evening. Quite often we have consumed all the beer on Saturday and have to buy more on the Sunday! We can no longer cope with even a small overspend and keeping within the budget is the responsibility of the Hares, who have to cover any losses or collect top-up fees from those attending (which is not popular!).

REGISTRATION

It is best to close registration 4 weeks before the event so that you have a good idea of the final numbers in good time. However, it is wise to allow for a few extras and possible drop-outs. One problem we have had is when hashers register, don't pay and then drop out at the last minute. The only way to avoid this is to insist on payment in order to be registered, anyone who uses Facebook to register should be ignored as this has been a very unreliable method in the past.

Hares are responsible for registration and collecting the fees, however, IndoNostalgia have a bank account which can be used for bank transfers, paying in cheques and then forwarding the proceeds in bulk to the Hares.