

Seletar Hash House Harriers

Press Release

The Seletar Hash House Harriers sincerely apologise to the public and the authorities for the alarm and inconvenience caused by Tuesday's incident at Woodleigh MRT station.

On Tuesday April 18 afternoon three of our members were laying a trail near the Woodleigh station for a run by our members planned for Tue evening. They chose to use the MRT underpass for our members to go from Bidadari towards Woodleigh Close as this provided the safest route to cross Upper Serangoon Road.

Hash running trails in Singapore are typically set with flour, chalk or tissue paper, depending on the area in which the run is set. In built-up areas, paper is used sparingly and the policy of hash clubs is to always remove the paper after each run and avoid littering.

On Tuesday, our members used flour to mark the run through Woodleigh station, and left flour at 3-4 points within the station premises. In retrospect, they should not have placed any markings in the station, and should have used directional signs instead outside of the station.

Upon learning of the subsequent investigations at Woodleigh station, our three members stepped forward immediately to identify themselves and have cooperated fully with the authorities. They are sorry that their actions caused public alarm and inconvenience.

The incident has emphasised to our group the seriousness of the security threat in Singapore and we pledge to be more mindful when planning future runs. We will be reminding all our members to be more careful in future.

Hash chapters, as legally constituted societies, engage regularly with the authorities, including National Parks, to ensure that we adhere to guidelines in the marking and clearing of running trails. There are around 8-9 registered Hash chapters in Singapore.

Paper, chalk and flour have been used traditionally by Hash chapters to mark out the trail for runners. Flour and chalk are organic, non-pollutive and can be washed away easily; and paper, if used, can be - and is - cleared by the organisers within 24 hours.

ABOUT THE SELETAR HASH HOUSE HARRIERS (seletar.hash.org.sg)

The Seletar chapter is a registered society and has been in existence since 1980 with the following aims and objectives:

1. To organize weekly cross-country runs for members.
2. To foster mutual goodwill, understanding and friendship between members.

We have around 100 members who represent a cross section of the Singapore community that include professionals, businessmen, executives, taxi drivers and retirees. Any male adult who is interested in cross country trail running is welcome to explore running with our society.

For further enquiries please do email onsec@hash.org.sg

For more information about Singapore hashes, you can refer to www.hash.org.sg