

# GUIDE FOR BLOODHOUND TRIAL JUDGES



**THE KENNEL CLUB**  
*Making a difference for dogs*



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# **Introduction**

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This guide is intended as a useful reference for those embarking on a judging career in Bloodhound Trials and to assist established judges in understanding their obligations to competitors, the Kennel Club, the Association of Bloodhound Breeders and the Bloodhound Club.

It is important that the information enclosed is read in conjunction with the Kennel Club Regulations, which always take precedence. The updated Regulations are published every January in a separate booklet for each activity, and full regulations are included in the Kennel Club Year Book published every July. Bloodhound Trial judges should read in particular the annual 'Working Trial and Bloodhound Trial Regulations' booklet or the section Regulation I (D) - Kennel Club Bloodhound Trial Regulations in the Kennel Club Year Book.

These Regulations apply to all judges whether domiciled in this country or overseas who officiate at Kennel Club licensed Trials. The references refer to appropriate Kennel Club Regulations or announcements in the Kennel Gazette.

It should be noted that this book is intended as a guide to the relevant Kennel Club Bloodhound Trial Regulations.

# **Chapter 1. Code of Best Practice for Judges**

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## **Introduction**

The overall and stated objective of the Kennel Club is to promote in every way the general improvement of dogs and this objective also applies to judges.

The overall aim and objective of a judge is to provide value for the time, training, effort and money which the competitor puts into presenting their dog. Moreover, the decisions of Senior Stake judges, in particular, will ultimately affect the future development of Bloodhound Trials.

There is therefore an expectation that judges will be competent and trustworthy. Judging is not a right but a privilege. Judges should be respected by the competitor. To that end the following Code sets out the relevant aspects that judges should be capable of demonstrating.

## **Integrity**

- 1.1 Judges should act honestly and impartially when undertaking an appointment.
- 1.2 A hound should be placed on merit only according to the competition regulations. Judges should be prepared to provide a critique on placings.
- 1.3 Judges should conduct themselves in a manner compatible with the standing of a judge at all times whilst at a trial and in any other capacity which might have bearing on the interests of the canine world.
- 1.4 Judges are referred to the factors set out below which may be said to affect their standing and may result in exclusion from judging lists or future judging contracts or withdrawal from an agreed appointment:
  - 1.4.1 Criminal convictions
  - 1.4.2 Threatening behaviour at any time
  - 1.4.3 Misrepresenting or abusing authority
  - 1.4.4 Not judging in accordance with Kennel Club Rules and Regulations
  - 1.4.5 Harsh handling as a competitor or judge at any time
  - 1.4.6 Breach of Kennel Club Rules and Regulations
  - 1.4.7 Using the name of the Kennel Club in an unauthorised manner.

# **Chapter 1. Code of Best Practice for Judges**

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## **Age**

- 1.5 No new judging appointments to award Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates for the first time will be considered once a judge has attained the age of 75 years (at the time of fulfilling the appointment).

## **Health Guidelines**

- 1.6 Judges are expected to decline, or to withdraw from, an appointment which they cannot fulfil. The aim of the competition can only be fulfilled when the judging of hounds is carried out in a fully competent manner.
- 1.7 Ill health of various kinds can temporarily or permanently make it impossible for a person to complete a judging appointment according to the demands which are set forward in this Code of Best Practice. A Society or Club can, if necessary, either temporarily or permanently cancel the judging contract should it become apparent that the judge cannot appraise his/her own situation and can no longer fulfil the judging appointment.
- 1.8 Judges must be able to undertake the judging of the dogs with an obvious independence and in a confident and convincing manner. Judges must not at any time rely on others to assist with the main work of judging.
- 1.9 Judges must be capable of meeting the physical requirements of fulfilling the judging appointment.
- 1.10 From the above it follows that a person with definite lessening of capabilities, and who is dependent on assistance or the presence of various forms of technical help may need to consider if he or she is capable of fulfilling a judging appointment in an adequate and satisfactory manner.
- 1.11 The Trial Organisers shall endeavour to find out that invited judges are able to fulfil their appointments.
- 1.12 As far as reasonably possible the Trial Organisers are responsible for ensuring that the aims of the trial are fulfilled and that the competitors receive the quality of judging that they deserve.

# **Chapter 1. Code of Best Practice for Judges**

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- I.13 The Kennel Club has an overriding responsibility and may in individual cases either temporarily defer or permanently withdraw approval when the judge in question is considered not to have the necessary capabilities. That is not to say that any particular disability will preclude judging. A common sense approach needs to be adopted by both Trial Organiser and judge.

## **During Judging**

Judges should observe the following formalities when judging:

- I.14 Judge all competing dogs in a confident, careful and consistent manner.
- I.15 Conduct themselves in a courteous manner to all and concentrate fully on the hounds. It is inadvisable for judges to call any competitor by their name, initiate or engage in a conversation initiated by a competitor whilst judging is in progress.
- I.16 Dress in a conventional and acceptable fashion precluding them from being the centre of attention, or from causing any distress to the dog competing or its owner.
- I.17 Judges should not smoke, consume alcoholic drinks or use or activate a mobile telephone whilst judging. Mobile telephones should be switched to silent or turned off when judging (mobile telephones can only be used during an emergency by one of the assistants to the judge and the stake manager).

## **General**

The following are general requirements for judges:

- I.18 Absolute integrity in order to judge honestly and impartially, and to place hounds solely on their merit.
- I.19 A suitable temperament and sufficient stamina to cope with what can be a physically and mentally demanding task.
- I.20 To judge in a customary fashion acceptable to the competitors.

# **Chapter 1. Code of Best Practice for Judges**

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## **Bloodhound Trials**

- I.21 A comprehensive knowledge of Bloodhound Trials and its regulations.
- I.22 An understanding of Kennel Club regulation I (Annex D) paragraph - Judging.
- I.23 Qualifications to judge at Bloodhound Trials, Regulation I (Annex D) paragraph - Approval of Judges.

## **Summary**

- I.24 Judges should have a comprehensive knowledge of competition procedures and etiquette. It is the responsibility of the judges to keep abreast and up to date with developments in such matters.
- I.25 Judges should be familiar with the Kennel Club Rules and Regulations and the Guide for Judges as amended from time to time and to keep up to date with all relevant Regulations governing the Breed, the competition and judging.
- I.26 Judges should give value to the competitor and ultimately the activity in question. Judges should act at all times with honesty, integrity and impartiality.

## **Chapter 2. Invitation to Judge**

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The soliciting of judging appointments is not acceptable.

**Judges at all Bloodhound Trials should:**

- 2.1 Ensure that they have received a written invitation from the Trials Society.
- 2.2 Confirm that they are available and are able to comply with any conditions laid down by the Trials Society.
- 2.3 Confirm eligibility and acceptance of appointment in writing.
- 2.4 Ensure that the acceptance is followed by written confirmation of the appointment by the Trials Society.
- 2.5 For each stage of the three part contract, email confirmation is acceptable.
- 2.6 The invitation, acceptance and confirmation form the basis of a contract between the judge and the Trials Society. If the judge has been invited to award Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates, the contract is not finalised until the Kennel Club has approved the appointment.
- 2.7 It is not advisable to accept an appointment for the same stake in close proximity by virtue of time or location.

## **Chapter 3. Invitation to Award Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates**

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- 3.1 When a judge is invited to award Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates, the Trials Society will ask the prospective judge to complete a Kennel Club questionnaire. This will be sent to the judge and if the committee of the Trials Society approves the questionnaire, it will be forwarded for consideration by the General Committee of the Kennel Club. Approval will either be granted or refused.
  
- 3.2 It should be noted that approval to award Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates is the sole prerogative of the Kennel Club and is considered for each individual appointment. Decisions on approval are based on the following criteria:-
  - 3.2.1 The completed questionnaire.
  - 3.2.2 The length and depth of judging experience.
  - 3.2.3 The number of appointments for other stakes.
  - 3.2.4 The proposed judge's overall judging experience.
  - 3.2.5 All other circumstances that are considered appropriate.

## **Chapter 4. Before the Trial**

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- 4.1 The Trials Society will send a Trials schedule to the judge as a reminder of the appointment. This will also indicate the Stake to be judged and this should be accompanied by an indication of the number of dogs entered.
- 4.2 The judge at this point should obtain from the Trials Manager enough information to enable him/her to prepare for the Bloodhound Trial.
- 4.3 Accurately drawn lines give both line walkers and judges confidence in each other's ability and remove any confusion.
- 4.4 The judge should enquire of the Trials Manager the time at which he/she should arrive and the planned time for the commencement of judging.
- 4.5 It is important at this time that the judge plans his/her route to the Trial to avoid arriving late.
- 4.6 All judges must be aware of the I Regulations in respect of a judge being unable to honour an engagement. If such an eventuality arises, the judge should take the following action:
  - 4.6.1 Notify the Trials Society immediately.
  - 4.6.2 Confirm the reason in writing in order that a report can be made to the Kennel Club.

# **Chapter 5. At the trial**

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## **At the Bloodhound Trial all judges must:**

- 5.1 Arrive in ample time for their judging appointment – it is discourteous to keep the Trials Society and competitors waiting.
- 5.2 Report to the Trials Manager to collect maps, if supplied, together with any other papers, instructions and special requirements.
- 5.3 Arrive at the venue in good time to check the land and meet with their assistants.
- 5.4 Discuss with their assistants how they wish the stake to be organised.
- 5.5 Check that the name of the hound about to be hunted agrees with the name of the hound published in the catalogue. If an entered hound is absent one hour before the published start time for its line, the hound shall be liable to be disqualified by the judge.
- 5.6 Conduct themselves in a courteous manner to all and concentrate fully on the competitors.
- 5.7 At the conclusion of the Trial the Judge should express his thanks to the host Club/Society, Line Walkers, Assistants, Trials Manager, Landowner and other helpers.

## **Judging the Hounds**

- 5.8 These listed items are intended to assist and enable judges to appreciate their obligation to competitors, Trials Society, and the Kennel Club.
  - 5.8.1 Judges should concentrate solely on the stake they are judging.
  - 5.8.2 The principal task of the judge is to place in order of merit those hounds that please him/her most by the quality of their work. The judge should consider the finding of a runner by hound and handler; without any assistance, to be of paramount importance. The standard of performance in the Intermediate and Senior Stakes should be higher than in the Novice and Junior Stakes where some assistance may have to be given to ensure a line will be completed.

## **Chapter 5. At the trial**

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- 5.9 A judge should make every effort to keep a questing hound in sight, observing everything that takes place; he/she must nevertheless remain well behind the hound and handler, in case the hound overruns its nose and casts back. There is generally no need for the Judge meticulously to follow the exact line in order to watch the hound at work. He/she may take advantage of any vantage point available to watch. He/she should, however, be careful that by his/her own position, he/she does not give unintentional information and assistance to the handler as to the line walked. Neither need he/she follow a hound that has gone astray, unless it is the only means of recalling hound and handler. A hunting horn or whistle may be carried for this purpose.
- 5.10 Judges should be aware that the Identification of the Runner is a significant part of the Stake. They should ensure, particularly with leashed hounds, that the hound and not the handler should clearly identify the Runner.
- 5.11 A judge should leave the end of any slow line to the care of his/her assistant to finish, in order to reach the start of the next line on time.
- 5.12 Judges must judge in accordance with the Kennel Club Regulations (I).
- 5.13 Judges should be aware of the number of hounds to be judged, the conditions and time available, and pace the speed of judging accordingly.
- 5.14 Judges should not wait unduly for competitors who are late reporting for a stake as this would delay the test for the following competitors.
- 5.15 Judges may dismiss from the stake any hound if, amongst other things, it is likely to cause suffering to the hound if it continues competing. The dismissal should be reported to the Trials Manager.
- 5.16 Judges may dismiss any hound chasing farm stock. This also applies to hounds hunted on a leash. The dismissal should be reported to the Trials Manager.
- 5.17 Judges may permit a hound to be withdrawn when application is made by the competitor or his/her representative. A hound withdrawn must not compete further at that Trial.

# **Chapter 5. At the trial**

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- 5.18 The taking of short notes is advised, as it is customary for the judge to announce the prizewinners at the end of the day's hunting and give reasons for his/her decision.

## **Whilst officiating Judges should not:**

- 5.19 Smoke at any time.  
5.20 Consume or have available alcoholic drinks.

## **Commendable Points in Bloodhound Hunting.**

- 5.21 A hound at work should be seen to be gay, possess thrust and drive, and in short – be a pleasure to watch. A judge, however, should not overlook the older heavier hound that may well be the best seeker of a lost person but in a less spectacular way. A good hound will show obvious keenness to hunt, concentration on its work, freedom from distractions, lack of any nervousness, ability to cast itself when scent deteriorates or when a line has been foiled, disregard for game including foxes and deer (freedom from change), steadiness with farm stock especially sheep, ability to negotiate obstacles such as fences, hedges, walls and water; clearly marking those fences, gates etc, that the runner has touched, and is reasonably obedient to the handler's commands.

## **Faults.**

- 5.22 Changing to another scent, lack of enthusiasm and concentration in hunting, tendency to potter and urinate frequently, inability to negotiate obstacles, out of control of its handler, rioting on farm stock, fur or feather, timidity or nervousness with quiet farm stock.

## **Time Factor.**

- 5.23 There is no time limit laid down for completion of a hunt. On slow lines the judge will need to leave in time to start the next line on time. The assistant will remain if the hound is hunting and working well. If the hound is not working well, the handler should be informed of the line to be followed to find the runner.

# **Chapter 5. At the trial**

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## **Leashing of Hounds.**

- 5.24 Hounds that have not passed the test as being safe with farm stock must be hunted on a leash. These hounds are marked in the catalogue as restricted. Hounds that have passed the test as being safe with farm stock have a choice of being hunted free or leashed. A hound hunted on a leash will obviously not cover the ground as quickly as a hound running free. A leashed hound should not be penalised for time taken if the hound is clearly seen to be eagerly hunting the correct line, with handler following to the best of his/her ability, and no time is wasted by the hound.

## **Duties of Assistant to the Judge.**

- 5.25 The assistant to the judge should render all possible assistance to the judge in order that he/she can keep the hound at work in view. He/she should ensure that the judge leaves a slow hound so as to arrive at the beginning of the next line in good time to prevent the start being delayed. He/she should inform the judge of the standard of hunting seen on the ends of those lines that the judge was unable to see, as such information will be needed by the judge to make a decision.

## **Certificate of Merit.**

- 5.26 A Certificate of Merit is not a prize, but may be awarded to hounds, not in the prize list, which show great merit.

## **Prizes.**

- 5.27 Equal placings are prohibited.

# **Chapter 5. At the trial**

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## **Withholding of Prizes.**

- 5.28 The judge is empowered to withhold prizes if, in his opinion, hounds competing do not show sufficient merit. When prizes are withheld, the order shall be from the lowest upward (i.e. there must be no withholding of prizes higher than those awarded).
- 5.29 In the Senior Stake the awarding of a Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate will not be recommended if the hound is given help by the judge to enable it to complete its line, or if the hound fails to identify its runner in a satisfactory manner.
- 5.30 An Identification Trophy will be awarded to a hound that makes the best identification. It should not be awarded unless the hound hunts an appreciable part of its line, particularly the last few hundred yards. A hound that is controlled by its handler to identify, cannot be considered as having a free choice, and should not be considered for the Identification Trophy, or in the case of the Senior Stake, should not be considered for the Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificate.

# **Chapter 6. After the Trial**

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## **Critiques.**

- 6.1 There is no doubt that having the privilege of judging the hounds of other owners carries certain responsibilities and obligations. It therefore follows that judges should show the same degree of integrity and courtesy on completion of their judging.
- 6.2 The Kennel Club considers it a matter of courtesy to competitors that judges write a critique on their placed hounds and send this to the specialist dog papers in an agreed form. If the judges contract requires a critique to be written, and this is not done, the breach of contract can be referred to the Committee of the Kennel Club.

## **Records.**

- 6.3 It is important for all Judges that they keep records of all their judging experience. This is of particular relevance to those hoping, at some future date, to be invited to award Kennel Club Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates. It is a requirement of the Kennel Club when being asked to award Bloodhound Working Trial Certificates for the first time that judges complete a questionnaire detailing their experience. Accuracy in completing this questionnaire is essential and the judge signs to that effect. Therefore it is beneficial to retain a marked catalogue from each appointment to assist with the completion of the questionnaire.
- 6.4 If at any time this information is misplaced the appropriate Trials Manager can be contacted, or it may be produced from the records held by the Kennel Club. **Remember** inaccurate records may result in disciplinary action.
- 6.5 It is worth noting that the Kennel Club produces an inexpensive Judges Record Book that can be obtained from the Kennel Club Publications Department.

## **Chapter 7. Overseas Judges and British Judges Officiating Overseas**

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- 7.1 Judges from overseas officiating in this country must judge in all respects in the same general manner as is expected of judges resident in the UK. Overseas judges judging at Kennel Club Licensed Trials should note that they must judge in accordance with Kennel Club Regulations I.
- 7.2 The suitability of overseas judges to judge at Kennel Club Licensed Trials will be assessed in the same way as judges resident in the UK. To assist judges from overseas, inviting clubs/societies are required to supply them with:
  - 7.2.1 A copy of the relevant Kennel Club Regulations and
  - 7.2.2 A copy of this guide.
- 7.3 By the same token, British judges are reminded when judging overseas that they must conform to the rules, regulations and conventions of the host country. Judging must be undertaken on the basis of the regulations that are recognised in that country.
- 7.4 Overseas judges who are not endorsed by the relevant Kennel Club of their own country will not normally be approved to judge in the UK.

## **Chapter 8. What is Hunting - Tracking**

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Hounds are distinguished from other breeds by their pendulous ears and by their extraordinary olfactory powers, which enable them to hunt entirely by scent. Bloodhounds are the oldest breed of sporting dogs which hunt by scent.

As the human quarry (line walker) moves across the ground, he leaves a track of particles on the soil or grass, over which he has passed, or where he has gone through a hedge or climbed over a wall, here he will have left many more scent particles as a larger proportion of his body has come into contact with the hedge or the wall. It is not these particles which are smelt by the pursuing hound, but the air, which has come into contact with them.

Weather conditions play an important part in the way the hound will work; Bloodhounds are well able to work a line up wind (the wind coming towards you bringing the scent towards you) or down wind (the wind is following you taking the scent away from you), the latter condition is more difficult. In addition, there are crosswinds where, the hound could be working quite wide either side of where the runner has walked, if the scent has drifted. If conditions are such that the scent is high the hound could be working with his head held high, should there be a tight loop in the line a Bloodhound could well cut the loop and scent across the loop. Scent spreads with great rapidity in water; scent is dispersed as a gas and carried by air currents. As most hounds attending Bloodhound Trials work free they have the ideal opportunity to work in a natural manner without the hindrance of a long lead and a handler attached to the end. Bloodhounds who work in this style are not plodders; they can cover the ground at quite a pace.

Some hounds also attend trials having to work on a long lead, perhaps by choice of the handler, or it may be that the hound has not passed its stock test and is competing on a restricted permit. Such a hound may well be disciplined to track, thus impeding the hound's natural desire to air scent. Such a hound could work at a slower pace; such a hound may well adapt to follow a scent of a combination of both ground scent and air scent. Ground scent is made up of human scent, crushed vegetation and disturbed earth. Bloodhounds are natural hunters, whereas tracking is an exercise which when perfected by correct training enables the dog to follow a human scent trail accurately.

When judging at Bloodhound Trials the invited judge should have some knowledge and experience of the mysteries of scent, and take into account the difference between a hound tracking and a hound hunting. The object of the exercise is for the hound to get from A to B without assistance.

## **Chapter 8. What is Hunting - Tracking**

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Time scales to complete the line are also important, although there are no actual times scales written down; in theory a fit hound trained to a high standard is quite capable of completing a three mile senior line, scent two hours cold in an hour to an hour and a quarter. It takes an hour to walk a three-mile senior line, if the hound takes a long time then the line is getting colder and the quarry is getting away, the convict escapes, or a missing child could die.

### **Summary**

Hounds hunt best when hunting up wind.

Moist land usually carries a better scent than dry land.

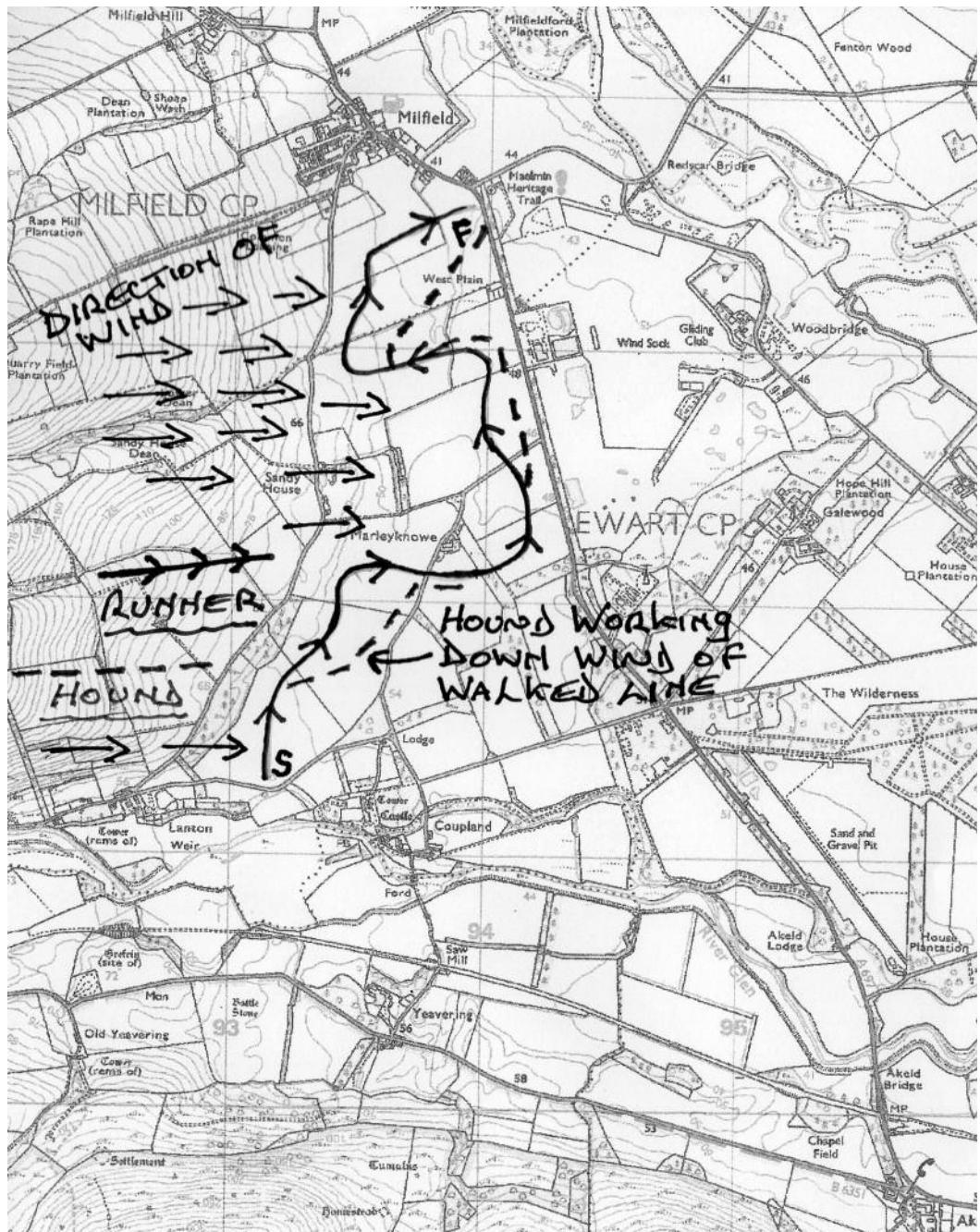
Scent spreads with great rapidity in water.

Scent is dispersed as a gas and carried by air currents.

Cancellation of scent may be caused by chemical action, activity on the land, farmers crop spraying, spreading fertilizer.

Weather conditions need to be taken into consideration.

There is a difference between a hound that hunts and a hound that tracks.



## Notes

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## Notes

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