

GUIDELINES FOR CLUB RIDES

Plan to meet on time

Plan to arrive at the meeting spot approximately 30 minutes before the scheduled departure time. This will allow time for greetings, breakfast and a cup of coffee.

Be prepared – fill up

Arrive at the meeting spot with a full tank of fuel. During the course of the ride, the ride leader will have regularly planned fuel stops to accommodate all sizes of bikes. So, top up at the planned fuel stops. It makes for a far more efficient ride.

Listen to the brief

Pay attention to the rider's briefing given by the ride leader. In the unlikely event you are separated from the group, you will at least have some idea on how and where to rejoin. The brief usually outlines the ride route, meeting points, fuel stops and any possible hazards.

Mark the corners

Follow the Corner Marking System. There is a lead rider and a tail rider, usually known as "tail end Charlie". When the leader comes to an intersection at which they are deviating from straight ahead, or if there is any likelihood of confusion, the leader will point to the side of the road indicating that the corner must be 'marked'. These 'corner markers' should be visible to the following bikes and should indicate the direction to be taken as the others approach. The tail rider (usually identified to the group before departure) will then nod or beep for the 'corner marker' to continue. Next corner, we do it all over again and again and again.... You NEVER leave the corner until the tail rider comes through and gives you a nod or a beep. The tail rider NEVER passes anyone. If you have somehow still managed to stuff up you will eventually come to a corner. If no-one is waiting, you should be suspicious. STOP YOUR BIKE AND WAIT.

Keep your eyes open and gear on

Keep an eye on the ride leader, if they are preparing to go, then so should you. When the group pulls over DO NOT GET OFF AND LIGHT UP A CIGGY or take off any gear. Be guided by the lead rider - if he stays on the bike, helmet and gloves on, do the same. It usually means that we'll be continuing very shortly.

Don't ride on the centre line

There is a good chance of finding fine gravel on the centre line of most country roads. Not only a hazard to you but will also spray up at any riders behind you.

Allow a safe distance

Allow a safe distance between yourself and other riders. Riding in a staggered position, left and right side of a lane, increases visibility and rider distance.

Ride at your own speed and ability

It is a ride not a race. If someone catches up to you in the twisties, don't race them on the straight or accelerate hard when they move to overtake you. Back off and let them past safely. If they caught up to you, it means they are riding faster than you, so let them 'round. Do not be tempted to ride beyond your ability – you will become a hazard to the group as well as yourself. Be patient, ride safely and arrive home happy.

Is this your first time?

For new members on your first ride - the easiest place to start the day is towards the back of the pack, regardless of how good a rider you may think you are. You most likely will have no idea of what people are doing or how fast they are capable of going, so this will save you from getting into a sticky situation. If you are comfortably keeping up, you can slowly move through the pack until you find someone who rides at the same pace as you, and generally, this will be a good place to stay. Pay attention and learn from what other riders around you are doing. It takes time to build up trust from other riders within the club, but if you start off on the wrong foot it will take a lot longer.