

Group Riding Etiquette – A Quick Reminder

I'm sure you will agree that our ride leaders do a brilliant job in devising interesting routes and leading our members on them. Good group riding etiquette is key to enjoyable rides for everyone and it makes the ride leader's job much easier. New members are regularly joining the club so your committee feels that it is timely to issue a quick note to all members. Our club is very informal and we don't want to invent any new rules, just to touch on a few basics which make our rides work well.

1. Listen to the Leader at the START of the ride

At the start of a ride the ride leader will normally split up the riders into groups of five or six if a large number start the ride. This makes it easier for other road users to overtake each group and the gap between groups should be large enough to allow two or three cars to fit between the groups.

2. Sort out GROUP LEADERS and a BACKMARKER

The ride leader will lead the first group and should select a backmarker, who will be the last rider. If there are other groups each one should have its own leader. Please don't overtake the ride leader or the group leader unless you're climbing a hill and can regroup at the top. A group leader's main job is to maintain a sensible distance between his/her group and the group ahead. If the ride leader hasn't asked for a group leader, please sort that out within your group. The backmarker's role is to keep an eye on what is happening ahead of him/her and to alert the ride leader to any problems which arise.

3. If you need to stop FOR ANY REASON

If a rider has a significant problem, eg a mechanical, they should make sure that the backmarker is made aware of the issue.

Of course the back marker can also have a problem and he/she should have the mobile number of the ride leader so that he/she can call the ride leader if they run into trouble and are unable to shout to the next rider ahead.

4. If you NEED to leave the ride at any time

If you want to abandon a ride for any reason please make sure that the ride leader is made aware before you go.

Good etiquette when riding in groups should make everyone's riding experience safer and more enjoyable.