

Northumbria Advanced Motorcyclists

Group Rides

Guidance For Leaders/Tail-end Riders

The leader's role

- Brief all riders before setting off.
- Ride smoothly and at a steady pace.
- If you do not have a bike behind you to act as a marker for a change in direction, stop in a safe place or slow down until one arrives. In general you should aim to keep at least two bikes directly behind you.
- Unless there is a deviation from the obvious route, you do not need to mark the junction except at roundabouts when the exit should always be marked.
- Always leave a marker at a change in direction even if you think all the group are in sight of each other.
- The ultimate responsibility for the safety of markers is their own, but you can help them mark the route effectively and safely by giving them plenty of warning that you require them to stop.
- If it becomes apparent that the Group has come to a halt because a rider has had problems, try to contact the tail-end rider to discover the cause of the hold-up and take appropriate action. Ensure that those who have stopped beyond the hold-up are kept informed of the situation.
- If in the opinion of the group leader, any participant who through their attitude or actions, endangers others within the group ride, or members of the public, or whose riding would bring IAM RoadSmart into disrepute, should be advised to rectify their riding immediately or they will be asked to leave the group ride. One option is for the offender to follow the tail-end rider. If any rider is excluded a report must be created detailing the incident and is to be submitted by the ride leader to the Committee.

The tail-end rider

- As you approach the marker bike slow down to enable the rider to pull out. If it is necessary to stop and wait, then do so in a safe place. Try not to pass the marker as this is how they will know you are the tail-end rider. Consider flashing your lights to warn the marker of your approach.
- Watch for any rider who feels that the pace is too quick and is signalling for other bikes to overtake. Allow such a rider to stay at the rear of the group behind you. Such riders should be observed and not encouraged to ride faster.
- Keep an eye out for riders in front of you that are clearly riding inappropriately or may be struggling. In conjunction with the group leader, identify appropriate actions to address the situation.
- Watch for any bikes that have pulled over for any reason, if safe stop to find out what the problem is.

On All Member Group Rides leaders and tail-end riders should have identified any Associates within their groups and pay particular attention to their riding within the groups.