

THE DROP OFF (SECOND MAN) SYSTEM

This is a system commonly used in group rides. Understanding the system is important, as everyone needs to do their part to avoid anyone getting lost.

One rider, the leader~ will stay at the front and is responsible for navigating the route. And another rider, 'tail end Charlie', will stay at the back in last position. These are the only two riders who remain in their position in the group.

At every junction, the rider immediately behind the leader stops and marks the junction and indicates the route which the other members should follow. All other riders pass the marker. The marker then re-joins the group in front of 'tail end Charlie'. This approach involves the entire group, and the marker gets rotated from front to back and gradually moves up to the front again. The method works provided everyone does their bit and doesn't forget they are in the No.2 position, when it is their turn to mark.

Nobody other than 'tail end Charlie' should be riding last for any reason. If you want to leave the group you should pull in to the left in a safe, visible position and wave other riders past. When 'tail end Charlie' arrives~ he/she will stop and you can then inform him/her that you are leaving the group.

Petrol stops: will be determined on the lowest tank range of participants, you are all advised to fill up at these stops.

Please arrive with a full tank of petrol and an empty bladder.

A roundabout should be marked by parking in a safe visible position on the exit.

When going straight through at a crossroads where you don't have right of way, you may mark it, if you wish. The default action in such a case is to continue straight through.

Therefore, if there is no marker when you arrive at the junction you should proceed straight on. If you do decide to mark such a junction you should do so by stopping in a safe visible position on the far side of the crossroads,

When you are marking a junction, make sure you park in a position not to obstruct other road users. If necessary point in the direction that riders arriving at the junction should proceed.

There is no need when using the drop off system to keep the rider behind you in your mirrors. There is no need to play catch

Up. With the drop off system there will be a marker waiting for you at the next junction.

When you are the marker, wait for 'tail end Charlie' to arrive, even if this takes a long time as there may be traffic problems further back,

Then overtake the marker to indicate all are past. He/she should then allow the marker to overtake and rejoin the ride.

If you are unsure whether to mark a junction, do it anyway. It is better to mark a junction that doesn't need marking than not to mark one that does.

Ride your own ride, don't allow yourself to be pulled or pushed along.

Enjoy yourself at your own pace.

Have fun.