

The Drop-Off System

Understanding the system is important, as every rider must do their part, otherwise it will fail:

One rider, the leader, will stay at the front and is responsible for navigating the route. Another rider, "TEC" (Tail End Charlie, sometimes known as the sweeper), will stay at the back in last position and will be highlighted by an "unusual" colour hi-vis. These are the only two riders who maintain their position in the group.

At every junction, the rider immediately behind the leader stops as close to where the leader indicates (ensuring it is safe to do so) and marks the junction and indicates the route which the other members of the group should follow. All other riders pass the marker except the TEC. The marker then re-joins the group in front of the TEC.

This approach involves the entire group and the marker gets rotated from front to back and naturally moves up to the front again. The method works provided everyone makes clear, safe markings and doesn't forget they are in the No.2 position, when it is their turn to mark.

Nobody, other than the TEC, is allowed to ride last. If you want to leave the group you should pull in to the left in a safe, visible position and wave through the other riders, including the TEC.

Tips for group riding:

- You and your motorcycle must be road legal
- Turn up with an empty bladder and a full tank of fuel.
- The leader and TEC will wear some kind of distinctive vests.
- If you are in the number 2 slot, don't get too close to the leader, they may only slow for a junction whereas you will have to stop.
- The marker may be placed before or after the junction, where they are visible on the approach. Occasionally, a marker may be placed before & after a complex junction such as a roundabout.
- Where the route is straight on at a junction, a marker may not be necessary.
- If there is no marker, continue straight on.
- When you are marking a junction, park safely & don't obstruct other road users.
- If necessary point in the direction that riders arriving at the junction should proceed in.
- Give clear directions with arm signals NOT indicators.
- There is no need, when using the drop off system, to keep the rider behind in your mirrors.
- There is no need to play catch-up so no pressure. With the drop off system there will be a marker waiting for you at the next junction.
- Everyone should keep a safe distance behind the rider in front when following.
- Overtaking is discouraged but if you do overtake:
 - Only do so where it is legal and safe
 - Use good indicators and mirrors and allow plenty of room
 - Be sensible & considerate to other riders in the group as well as other road users
 - Do not overtake the ride leader or TEC
- When you are the marker, wait for the TEC to arrive, even if this takes a while. A large group can take several minutes to pass through.
- Ride your own ride, at your own pace and within your own skill level. Don't allow yourself to be pulled or pushed along.
- Enjoy yourself.