



## **THE DROP-OFF SYSTEM FOR GROUP RIDING**

The Drop-Off system is popular with large groups going on long rides.

Understanding the system is important, as every rider needs to do his or her part to avoid anyone going astray.

One Rider, the Leader, will stay at the front and is responsible for navigating the route. Another Rider, the Back Marker will stay at the back in last position.

### **These are the only two riders who maintain their positions in the group.**

At every junction, where a change of direction is intended, the rider immediately behind the Leader (The Marker) stops where the Leader indicates **provided it is safe to do so.** The Marker marks the junction and indicates the direction in which the following riders will proceed.

All other riders pass the Marker, except the Back Markers.

The Marker then re-joins the group in front of the Back-Marker.

This approach involves the entire group, the Marker transferring from front to back and then moving up to the front as the ride progresses.

This approach works very well provided that everyone makes clear and safe markings and does not forget that when they are at No. 2 position, it will be their turn to mark the next junction.

### **No-one other than the Back-Marker is permitted to ride last for any reason.**

If you wish to leave the group, you should pull in the left in a safe visible position and wave other riders past. When the Back Marker arrives, he will stop and you can inform him / her that you are leaving the group.

#### **Additional Points:**

Always arrive for a group ride-out with a full tank of petrol and an empty bladder.

Petrol stops will be determined by the lowest tank range of participants' motorcycles. You are advised to fill up at these stops.

Both the Leader and the Back Marker will wear distinctive coloured vests. In the DMTC, we use light blue vest for Leader and Back-Marker.

When you are in the No. 2 position, don't ride too close to the Leader who may only slow for a junction, whereas you may have to stop to act as Marker.

Mark a **Roundabout** by stopping in a safe visible position on the **EXIT**.

When going straight through at a Crossroads where you do not have right of way, the leader may mark it if he / she wishes. The preferred action in such a case is to **carefully** continue straight through. Therefore, if there is no Marker at the junction when you arrive, you should continue in the straight on direction. 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 stop in a position where you do not obstruct other road users.

Indicate the direction in which the rides arriving at the junction must proceed. Give clear ARM SIGNALS. Don't use your indicators alone.

There is no need when using the drop-off system to keep the rider behind you in your rear view mirror.

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.

Everyone should keep a safe distance behind the rider in front of them when following. Tail-gating is to be avoided.

### **Additional Points:**

- Members of the group may overtake during the ride (except the Leader and the Back-Marker) depending on the pace that each rider has chosen at a particular time. So, be aware and overtake only when it is legal and safe to do so.
- Use your indicators and mirrors and allow plenty of room.
- Be considerate to other members of the group and all other road users.
- To avoid unscheduled stops and to be safe, please make sure all luggage carried on your machine is secured safely before starting the ride.
- When you are the Marker, wait for the Back-Marker to arrive, even if you consider it a very long time. There may be a breakdown further back of which you are not aware.
- If necessary, switch off your engine. If you leave your position, everyone behind will suffer and the run will fall apart.
- Occasionally, the Leader may not indicate to mark a junction and you might feel it should be marked. If you are unsure, mark it in any case.
- It is better to mark a junction that does not need to be marked than not to mark the one that does!
- If someone has gone the wrong way, stop the back marker and let him or her know.
- Ride your own ride, don't allow yourself to be pushed or pulled along.

**Enjoy the ride at your own pace!**