

How We Ride

The 2nd Rider Drop Off System

Aire Valley UK Chapter

Group motorcycle rides are a great way to enjoy the roads and our ride outs.

To keep everyone safe and organised during these rides, we use the 2nd Rider Drop Off System.

What is the 2nd Rider Drop Off System

The 2nd Rider Drop Off System is a method of marking junctions and changes in direction during a group ride.

It allows the ride to flow smoothly without the need for everyone to memorise the route or rely solely on the Lead Road Captain.

Benefits of the 2nd Rider Drop Off System

- Prevents riders from getting lost, even on complex or unfamiliar routes
- Allows for fluid and flexible group riding without constant stops
- Accommodates different riding speeds and experience levels
 - Enables safe and socially enjoyable riding
- Encourages riders to stay alert and engaged throughout the ride

Trust The System

This tried-and-tested system ensures that nobody gets lost or left behind, regardless of group size or road layout. It's especially useful on unfamiliar routes, in areas with complex junctions, or where visibility is limited.

Key Roles

Lead Road Captain (LRC)

They will wear an orange & yellow Hi Viz Jacket. The first rider sets the pace and leads the group.

They know the planned route and are responsible for overall ride coordination.

The Marker (The 2nd Rider)

The 2nd Rider in the group becomes the "Marker" at each junction or turn. They stop and point the way for the rest of the group, rejoining at the ride once they see the Back Markers indicate and when it is safe to do so.

Back Markers (BM & sometimes 2 x BM's)

They will wear orange & yellow Hi Viz Jackets.

The last rider/s in the group. They maintain visual (sometimes radio) contact with the LRC (when possible). They signal to the Marker that the entire group has passed and invite the Marker to rejoin the ride directly in front of them when safe to do so.

How It Works – Step-by-Step

1. The LRC reaches a junction and indicates where they want the marker to be positioned as the LRC continues along the route.
2. The 2nd Rider directly behind the LRC pulls over in their own safe position at the junction to indicate the correct direction for all the following riders.
3. The rest of the group follows the Marker's direction, continuing along the route.
4. The Back Marker/s arrive where the Marker is positioned and the BM's indicate for the Marker to rejoin the group directly in front of them, when safe to do so.
5. This process repeats at every change of direction, with the "new" 2nd Rider taking the Marker role each time.
6. Remember: **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR POSITION UNTIL THE BACK MARKER ARRIVES** and signals you to do so (otherwise we will all get lost!)

Safety Reminders

Always pull over safely and visibly when acting as a marker

- **Never take unnecessary risks to rejoin the group**
- **Don't overtake unless it is safe and legal to do so**
- **Listen to the ride briefing carefully before departure**
 - **Follow the instructions of the LRC and back marker/s at all times**
 - **And lastly "Ride Your Own Ride"**

Pre-Ride Briefing

- Lead Road Captain and Back Marker/s introduced.
- Brief overview of the days programme including stops, distance to fuel, total distance and approximate finishing time.
- Confirmation we will be using 2nd Rider Drop Off, this means that when the LRC is making a turn and cannot see the Back Marker/s, the LRC will raise their arm as an indication that the junction needs marking.
The rider immediately behind the LRC will stop and mark the junction. It is up to you, the Marker to choose a safe place to stop, ensuring there is no risk to yourself, but also that you are clearly visible to the other riders.
Cancel indicators and give a clear arm signal to indicate direction.

DO NOT leave your position until signalled to do so by the Back Marker/s (trust the system!).

Please leave a gap of around 4 seconds behind the LRC.

- If you come to a junction or a roundabout and there is no Marker indicating where to go, then the rule is straight on.
- We will generally ride in a staggered formation at low speeds and on wide straight roads, otherwise please ride in the correct position for your safety.
- No overtaking in the pack unless the bike immediately in front of you signals you to do so.
- If you decide to leave during the ride, please pull to the roadside and signal to the Back Marker/s that you are ok and leaving the ride. Back Marker/s will make sure you are ok in the event of a breakdown, but will not stay unless it is not safe.

YOU ARE DEEMED TO BE IN CONTROL OF AND RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR VEHICLE AND YOUR RIDING AT ALL TIMES IRRESPECTIVE OF ANY GUIDANCE OR INSTRUCTION FROM ANY MEMBER OF THE ROAD CREW. YOU MUST AT ALL TIMES RIDE WITHIN THE LAW AND OBEY ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATIONS.