

NEW MEMBERS – GROUP RIDING GUIDE

1. **Meet the group:** with a FULL tank of petrol and an empty bladder, waterproofs are useful as most summer rides exceed 100 miles. On longer rides fuel stops are made @ 100 mile intervals to allow for sportster riders.

2. **If you are new:** ask for the Road Captain or Road Marshals organising the ride to brief you on the staggered formation & drop off system.

3. **Pre-ride briefings:** Pay attention; find out who is leading and who are the 'tail end Sweepers'. Whenever possible we use two Marshals at the back. If there is a problem one of these Marshals can ride to the front of the group to inform the Ride Leader. Marshals will be wearing orange tabards. Always note the final destination.

4. **Riding in a large group:** HOG groups ride two bikes abreast in a staggered formation. Leave a 2 second gap (4 seconds in wet conditions) between you and the bike in front. Look ahead as far down the group as possible to avoid the risk of panic braking. Keep a constant check in your rear view mirrors and always use the 'lifesaver' check before changing direction.

Manoeuvre into a single file on narrow or twisty roads.

Don't allow a large gap to develop between you and the bike in front, you will cause the group to bunch up behind you. If you have a problem raise your hand at a stop and a Marshal will assist you. Point to your tank if you are low on petrol and to your mouth if you need food or a convenience stop.

5. **The drop off:** If you are the bike behind the leader **be prepared** - you will be expected to 'drop off' at the next junction to mark the route. If the Road Captain turns **left** he will point decisively at the kerb **prior to the turn**. Pull over with your left indicator flashing and wait until you see the tail end riders. Try to re-join the group just in front of the tail riders. If the Road Captain turns **right** he will point decisively at the nearside kerb as you **enter the right turning**. **Stop as close as possible 5-10 feet max.** from the junction with your right indicator flashing. You should be clearly visible to riders behind you as they approach the right turn. Again wait until you see the tail end riders and try to re-join the group just in front of the tail riders. Same rules apply to roundabouts etc.

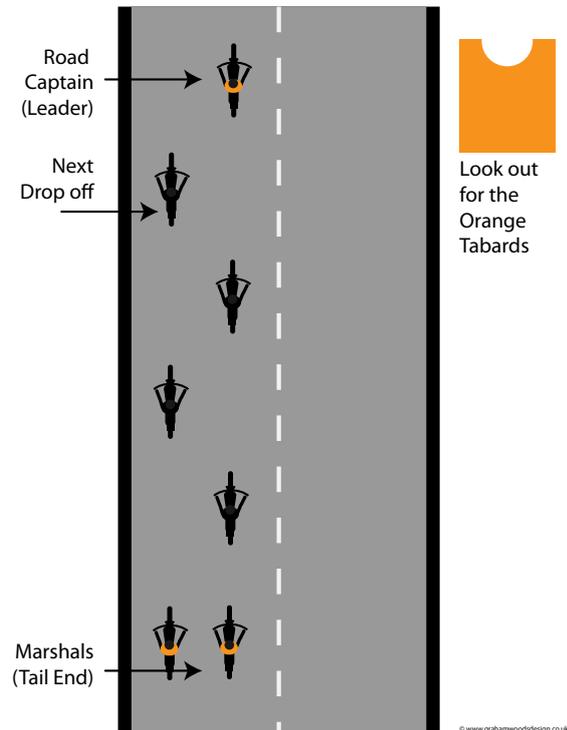
6. **Problem stops:** Riders in front of you may slow down and stop for no apparent reason! If they are experiencing mechanical problems or are about to go onto reserve a hand signal may not be possible. Should the group need to stop in an emergency please try to slot into single file without blocking the road, the last two riders should activate their hazard signals to warn on coming traffic. Please ensure your **passengers dismount kerbside**. You are responsible for their safety, as well as your own at all times.

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Staggered Formation



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