

NAM group rules for organised ride outs

This is to be read in conjunction with the guide published by the IAM called "Group Organised Rides". All members will hold a copy. And they will comply with it at all times.

If a member of the group wishes to organise a ride out for other members of the group, he/she must first register it with committee, for approval and a grading standard.

The committee must decide whether it will be suitable for all members, full members and above, group qualified observers and higher, or by invitation only. This will be determined by the distance to be covered in the day, or the types of road to be covered.

Once a grading for the ride has been agreed a request will be put out to the group members via the "Yahoo groups" site, this is where we will be asking for a commitment from members wishing to attend, and from the observers within the group who will also be willing to assist with running the event.

We need to have the reply box ticked to show interest from the members so that we can get enough observers to comply with the maximum number of associates an observer can be responsible for whilst on a group run; this must not exceed 3-1, but ideally 2-1.

All group rides have to be lead by either a GQ or senior observer, or an experienced approved committee member. And have either a GQ or Senior observer at the rear. As this is a requirement by the group to fulfil our obligation to comply with the insurance policy we hold.

Safety

Failure to comply with these rules may put a member's continued membership of the IAM and NAM in jeopardy.

The IAM state that the primary consideration at all times when riding in a group is safety and at no time may the safety of riders or any third party be compromised for any reason.

It remains the personal responsibility of all riders within the group to exercise their own judgement about each and every course of action that they take. Each rider is responsible for their own safety and their own actions and any consequences that those actions may have.

Any serious deviation from the advanced riding standard **MUST** be made known to the individual concerned as soon as appropriate. ALL Observers have a responsibility to monitor the standard of riding within the group.

(Observers you will discuss it with the lead / tail bike to decide when and where the appropriate place may be. This may require the group to stop on route if it is felt that the safety of other group members is being jeopardized).

The law

Traffic laws must be obeyed at all times when riding on the public highway. At no time when participating in a group organised ride will any person riding in the group be expected or required to act illegally.

Please note: - any breach of the RTA or any other regulation legally enforced may result in the group insurance being negated.

Eligibility

The following may take part in group organised rides.

1. Senior observer, GQ observers and trainee observers who are fully paid up members of NAM and the IAM.
2. Members fully paid up of both NAM and the IAM
3. Associates enrolled under the SFL but they must be under supervision at ALL times.
4. Only vehicles deemed to be in a Roadworthy condition and would pass a MOT test regardless of age of the vehicle. (I.e. bald tyres on a new vehicle etc.)
5. The Group leader / Tail have the discretion to remove a rider if he feels that the safety of the group may be compromised.

Group organised rides may be restricted to a particular category, and the group committee have the power to exclude specific members from participating in group organised rides where, in their reasonable judgement, this decision is in the interests of other members, the group or the IAM.

Rider Ability

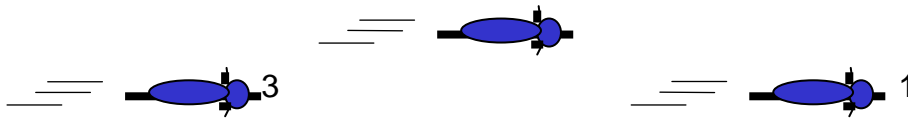
Each and every rider must ride within their own capabilities and must exercise their own judgement when determining the safety of their actions. If at any time a rider or observer feels that a person is not capable of continuing as the ride exceeds their personal skill level then they should inform either the group leader or tail rider. Who will then consider the appropriate options to take, this may include:

1. Organise 1-1 guidance for the rider separately, from the group.
2. Adjusting the pace of the ride to one that the member can comply with.
3. Agree that the rider should ride within a more suitable group.

Advice in Riding in a group

When riding in a group there can be a large number of riders together. The following guidelines apply whether this number is 3 or 53.

On a straight piece of road all riders 'stagger' their position on the road in relationship to each other. The first rider takes up the correct position then the subsequent riders all ride off-set to each other like so:



This means there is no need to consider the 2-second rule from the rider directly in front of you (e.g. rider 3 to rider 2). The advantages are that, as a group, we do not trail out over several hundred yards. We can stay closer together. It looks neater and more professional.

For bends or hazards everyone should assume the correct road position. This should be achieved by each rider reducing their speed to allow a safe distance to develop, then, taking up the correct line behind the rider immediately in front of them. Once safely clear, take up the 'staggered' position again.

When reaching a junction or traffic lights this allows bikes to close up stopping side by side, allowing junctions to be cleared more quickly, give those following a chance to get through traffic lights in one sequence change.

Whilst travelling in the group you have been assigned to, you are not allowed to pass the bike ahead of you. This is to keep it safe for all those who are there, because every one can relax as they know that another bike is not going to come up on their inside or out side in a bend etc. thus leaving them time to concentrate on the road ahead.

You should never leave a group ride with out informing the lead or tail end bike first. They could spend time retracing their steps to look for you whilst you are sitting at home.

Most importantly you must remember this is not a race or a thrash.

We are out on the road representing both the IAM and NAM. We are there to show other road users how to behave responsibly whilst having fun doing so.

The briefing prior to setting off MUST be carried out by either the group leader or designated tail observer before every ride commences.

Remind all riders that they are responsible for maintaining safety and complying with the law at all times, and each rider is responsible for their own safety and their own actions and any consequences that those actions may have.

You must hold a current full driving licence and insurance.

The vehicle must be taxed, Roadworthy and have an up to date MOT certificate (if applicable).

(This should be read out as a disclaimer prior to going out just as we do before an observed run)

NAM will operate the following system of running a group ride out,

The leader and tail end will be on a radio link so they will be in communication at all times and they can adjust the pace at any time to suit the group's progress. It is important that the person behind is kept in view on the approach to a junction where a change of direction will take place, so that the person behind will know where to

go. Once clear of the junction the tail ender will radio through to the leader to notify that the group has cleared the junction and the ride can continue. Should some of the group get delayed at a junction etc whilst on route must again contact the leader so that they can find either a safe place to bring the group to a halt, or reduce the pace at the front so that the trailing members can rejoin the group. There is no point telling the tail ender where you have gone if the members between you and him do not hold a radio because unless they can see you they will not benefit.

It is important that all observers attending any group organised ride bring with them any group radio equipment they hold, as this may assist with the running of the ride.

Signed

The Committee
Nott's Advanced Motorcyclists