



# Oxford Area Group of Advanced Motorists

## Registered Charity Number 1080450



[www.oagam.org](http://www.oagam.org)

### Drop Off system of group riding.

Understanding the system is important, as every rider needs to do their part to avoid anyone getting lost.

One rider, the Leader, will stay at the front and is responsible for navigating the route. Another rider, Tail End Charlie, will stay at the back in last position. These are the only two riders who maintain their position in the group.

At every junction, the leader will indicate to the rider immediately behind him to stop and mark the junction. The marker then indicates the route which the other members of the group should follow. All other riders pass the marker except the Tail End Charlie. The marker then re-joins the group in front of the designated Tail End Charlie.

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 well provided everyone makes clear, safe markings and doesn't forget they are in the No.2 position, when it is their turn to mark. The leader will only deploy a marker if he hasn't not got sight of the Tail End Charlie and it's safe and legal to do so!!!

When traffic lights, junctions and roundabouts are coming up then **reduce gaps between riders** as speeds fall. This way there is more chance of the group getting through the lights in one session.

The subtleties of positioning when riding in a group are endless. Positioning is all about getting the best view of the road ahead. At slow speed the generally accepted pattern in close formation is a staggered formation in loose rows of two. The leading rider chooses where he wants to be, the next rider relocates so that he can see ahead and has little risk of shunting. Providing the riders position themselves on the right side or left side of a road lane, then the riders can bunch closely in town.

Nobody other than the Tail End Charlie is allowed to ride last for any reason whatever. If you want to leave the group you should pull in to the left in a safe, visible position and wave other riders past. When the sweeper arrives he will stop and you can then inform him/her that you are leaving the group and why.

### Some points:

Please arrive with a full tank of petrol and an empty bladder.

On longer runs petrol stops will be determined on the lowest tank range of participants. You are advised to fill up at these stops.

The leader and Tail End Charlie will wear some kind of distinctive vest.

The leader will not deploy a marker unless there is a safe position for the marker to stop; for example the exit from a roundabout onto a dual carriageway may not offer a safe stopping point and the dual carriageway might be a clearway. In such circumstances, the leader will consider slowing the run to help everyone stay together.

Therefore if there is no marker you should proceed straight on. If you do decide to mark such a junction you should do so by parking in a safe visible position on the far side of the crossroads.

When you are marking a junction make sure you park in a position not to obstruct any other road users.

If necessary point in the direction that riders arriving at the junction should proceed in. Please note: this is not a ciggy break; it is important that you watch out for and direct the riders approaching and be ready drop in smartly in front of the Tail End Charlie

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. With the drop off system there will always be a marker waiting for you at the next junction.

Everyone should keep a safe distance behind the rider in front. Tail gating is frowned on.

When you are the marker, wait for the Tail End Charlie to arrive, even if this takes a long time. There may be a breakdown further back which you are unaware of. If necessary switch off your engine. If you leave your position everyone behind will suffer and the run will fall apart.

Ride your own ride, don't allow yourself to be pulled or pushed along.

Enjoy yourself at your own pace this is a leisurely ride out NOT a race to be first at the next stopping point.