

## Kings Hill Wheelers Ride Etiquette

### Before a ride

- Arrive for a ride in good time.
- Check that your bike is in good working order with regular checks of brakes, tyres etc.
- Bikes should be clean.
- Ensure you have some basic tools and equipment for minor mechanical issues, such as punctures.
- Fit front and back lights in gloomy conditions.

### During a ride

- Helmets must be worn at all times. No helmet no ride.
- Follow the Highway Code at all times, especially the following:
  - ‘Cyclists must not cycle on the pavement, except where permitted.’
  - ‘You should ride single file on narrow or busy roads and when riding round bends.’
  - ‘You should not ride close behind another vehicle.’
  - ‘Traffic signs and traffic light signals apply to all road users. Cyclists must obey them.’
  - ‘A red traffic light applies to all road users. Cyclists must not cross the stop line if the traffic lights are red. Use the separate stop line for cyclists when practical.’
- Wear the club jersey where you can. It gives the club and our sponsors valuable publicity.
- Ride a safe distance from the rider in front.
- Ride two abreast where possible, as it is safer but never more than two abreast bearing in mind 2.2. above.
- Always point out potholes, gravel etc to the rider(s) behind.
- Never overtake on the inside.
- Always signal your intention to the riders behind, e.g. overtaking a parked car, pedestrian, road furniture etc.
- Let other riders know when a vehicle is approaching from the front, rear or side. A common shout is “oil up” or “car up” (coming from the rear of the group), “oil down” or “car down” (coming towards the group).
- When turning onto a main road, inform the rider(s) behind that it is safe to follow with the shout “clear” (make sure it is!). Always check anyway.
- Let other riders know you are overtaking by clearly saying “through on the right”.
- Slow down for horses and let the rider know you are approaching. It is important to keep talking to the rider as often the horse won’t see you approaching from the rear and may get startled. Most horse riders appreciate being given a wide berth.
- Wait at junctions and the brow of a hill to ensure the group stays together.
- Show respect for other road users, by giving way where appropriate. Do not react to bad driving with gestures etc., or get involved in an argument with a motorist.
- Always follow instructions from the ride leader (if he/she is good enough to lead a ride, they deserve the respect of other riders), and never leave a ride unless you have informed the ride leader.
- Always stop and help another rider with a mechanical problem.
- Don’t signal that it is safe for another vehicle to overtake. It is up to them to make this decision.
- Advise if a rider is off the back, using the term “easy up”. A call of “all up” will inform the leader that the group is back together.
- Enjoy the ride. Remember, we are doing this for fun!

### **Leading a ride**

- The leader will plan and follow a suitable route, give directions and advice to other riders.
- At the start of the ride, the leader will announce the destination, route and mileage. He/she will also welcome and support new riders.
- If 6 or more riders are present, he/she will appoint a “sweeper” who will ride at the back to ensure the group stays together.
- During the ride, he/she will ensure that the pace is consistent, and at a level that is comfortable to the whole group.

### **Complaints procedure**

In the unlikely event that there is a complaint from another road user, please refer this to the club secretary by contacting him via the KHWCC contact form in the website final section. The club will then decide how to respond.