

Preparing for a Tour (wizz)

If you are thinking about attending a club Tour, we would ask that you consider the following information before applying, that you respect and comply with the standards and conditions that SMART expects from its members.

As a riding organization, we demand a high standard of safe riding on all our tours and activities, and ask that you take into account all the information below, **before** you apply.

Many hundreds of people have attended our tours over the years and have thoroughly enjoyed the experience and come back in subsequent years.

We welcome and encourage new members to consider applying and want you to enjoy the experience. However, please remember that whilst very rewarding, motorcycling can be a dangerous past-time and as always, if you attend you will be solely responsible for your own safety and wellbeing at all times.

Preparation for a Tour

Tours are not club training sessions and can be demanding on rider and machine alike. It is therefore essential that you prepare properly. We therefore ask you consider the following before applying:

1. Do you feel you are ready for the Tour?
These are demanding in terms of the types of roads ridden, conditions and the duration of the rides.
2. If you are relatively new to SMART, you will need to have completed your Assessment ride and,

For safety reasons, in the case of Associate members (Associates are members without a current advanced riding test from RoSPA at Gold, Silver or Bronze; or an IAM pass) wishing to attend these events; we restrict Tour places to those Associate members who...
 - a. have undertaken sufficient training (minimum of four (4) sessions) and,
 - b. are achieving consistent 3's on their Training Cards and,
 - c. that an Instructor endorses their ability to attend the stated Tour (wizz).
3. If you have a mentor instructor, please discuss whether they support your readiness to attend the Tour.
4. We recommend that you should have attended at least two end of month ride-outs prior to the tour. These will prepare you and give you an idea of the level and type of riding which you can expect and familiarise you with practical experience of how the Back-Marker system works.
5. Is your bike up to the task?
Thinking ahead to the time of the Tour, will your bike have been recently serviced, is the MOT up-to-date, are the tyres legal and/or relatively new? Your tyres will need to be able to cover the tour distance plus another 500 miles or so safely. Other guidelines may also be given on the joining notes for the given tour?
6. Is your equipment suitable?
Conditions can be extreme and therefore, you will need to cater for these. Is your clothing sufficiently waterproof, or cool in hot temperatures, is it easy to carry?
7. Speak to others who have attended the Tour on previous occasions and take their advice about experience and the demands on you and your bike.

The Tour

An opportunity to improve your riding skills and to become a better rider.

1. Always ride in a safe manner, such that you do not present a risk to any other road user, including other Tourers. You are solely in charge of your own safety at all times. Ride respectfully and don't rely on others for your safety.
2. Please note that group riding is different from riding solo. Beware of the temptation to ride above the level you feel comfortable with and/or to race. Give other riders space and remember the two second rule.
3. We operate the [Back-Marker system](#) and therefore you should ride at your own pace at all times. You will not lose touch with the group, even if caught in traffic etc. Please ensure you are familiar with this - reference is available on the Group web site [HERE](#).
4. Always assume every other road user is an idiot, including other Tourers, and assume they will always do the worst thing possible, including not having seen you.
5. Ride at your own pace at all times. Tours are never about racing. We ask you to ride within the rules of the Highway Code and posted speed limits. Some riders will be faster than others and wish to overtake. It is incumbent on them to ensure that if they wish to overtake, they do so safely and with courtesy. Indicate your intention prior to the manoeuvre. It should only be undertaken when it is safe to do so. The rider being overtaken should allow the other rider to pass safely. An indication to pass should never be taken as an encouragement to race or to avoid being overtaken. Please allow the other rider to pass safely.
6. When overtaking other vehicles, you must do so safely. If the rider in front of you overtakes another vehicle, wait until the other rider has completed the manoeuvre safely **before** you commence your overtake. Do not merely follow through.
7. You are expected always to apply Roadcraft when riding on the Tour (IPSGA - Information, Position, Speed, Gear, Accelerate) and therefore before you attend the Tour you will be required to refresh your memory on the application of the System by re-reading the relevant chapters of Roadcraft.
8. The Tour is about enjoying yourself and making friends with other riders. We want you to discuss the day's events with the other riders but also, we want to encourage you to feel able to speak with the instructors on the Tour about any issues you may have about your riding. Tours are to be enjoyed but they also provide an opportunity to learn from more experienced riders.
9. Overall, we want the whole experience to be enjoyable, fun, safe and educational.
10. so always, Ride SMART – Ride Safe !