**Route Planning**

Consider the time of year and what the weather is likely to be.

On a group ride, using B roads, you will be lucky to average 35 mph. Bear this in mind when calculating start and arrival times.

Choose a destination with facilities for the likely numbers where a reasonably priced lunch will be available at the planned arrival time. Don't forget the return route: if possible, identify an additional quick run back for those in a hurry.

Don't rely on the map. Test out the route as near to the date as possible to check for mileage, diversions, and road signs.

Wherever possible, inform group leaders of any diversions.

Make sure the venue will be open and can cater for the likely numbers at the

relevant time. Call from the start point to confirm numbers.

Is there enough parking? Are they relaxed about a bunch of bikers rolling up?

Don't be afraid of (short) motorway stretches if that will get you to the good roads

quicker.

**Preparation and Publicity**

Know your destination, mileage and start time as soon as possible, so the details can go in the Newsletter and on the MAM Facebook Page

Send a GPS Route (if possible) to the Social Secretary at least a week before the ride. Bring copies of the route notes, including destination address on the day.

Ask people to use the on-line booking for group rides if they wish to attend; not all will and some who have will not turn up. This will give you an idea of the likely numbers, mix of abilities and also the opportunity to start sounding out suitable people to act as group leaders.

Attendees with Garmins can be particularly useful as group leaders but only if they are competent and relaxed about taking on the responsibility.

Ask, in advance, if possible, the most experienced riders to lead a group, - but understand they nearly always lead and may prefer to ride within a group for a change.

Be firm but polite. Don't let potential and capable leaders wriggle out of responsibility.

Try to include one observer in each group, this may not always be possible.

**Managing the day of the ride**

At the start, sort out the crowd into groups of (ideally) 3 to 4. Try not to exceed this number. If necessary, draft in another group leader in order to split up a large group.

Try and put together people with similar abilities/bikes. Don't be afraid to ask for help/ guidance from other members if you're not sure of an individual’s ability.

If you must, give orders. You are in charge, but always be prepared to listen. Look out for newcomers who don't know anybody.

Don't let the experienced group riders cling together to the exclusion of newcomers.

Find out what kind of ride people want and make sure they get into an appropriate group.

It's fine if they sort themselves out, so long as others are not being excluded.

Once groups are formed, make sure they leave promptly, but at intervals. You will

probably have to leave with the last group, to pick up the stragglers and late arrivals.

This may mean a larger and more varied group than normal, so either plan to keep it

small so that it has the ability to grow without becoming too large, or include a

potential group leader in case you have to split it up.

Lead according to the ability of the group and be particularly sympathetic to new

Members on their first Ride.