

There are lots of things that contribute to a great ride. And apart from the weather, most of them are the responsibility of your ride leader. Planning a good route and describing it accurately so that you can decide if it's right for you are the starting points. Once at the cafe the leader must (for insurance purposes and your safety) create a list of everyone riding and establish whether they are CTC members. Then they should brief everyone about the ride and give advice on how to ride in a group, especially if there are large numbers.

Once out there they need to keep everyone together as much as possible and ensure that the pace is OK for the stronger riders but not too fast for slower riders and that everyone is happy and safe. The route may need to be modified if difficulties such as ice or fog are encountered. The leader also needs to be able to give help and advice on simple mechanicals and - most importantly - know what to do and take charge in the event of an incident.

So being a ride leader isn't easy and it does carry a significant responsibility. Which is why we need more ride leaders to share the responsibility. We also need to ensure that everyone who does lead a ride is sufficiently experienced, understands how the club rides work and ideally has completed one of the training days run by the club. Whether you are a new or relatively inexperienced ride leader, the club committee believes the following guidelines will help you to develop the skills to become a confident ride leader

- Should have been out on 10 club rides so that they are familiar with the club, its members, how we ride and the range of difficulties that can arise during a ride.
- Should assist another ride leader, perhaps by being back marker, on at least 4 rides
- Should be mentored by an experienced ride leader who will give advice and guidance before, during and after rides
- Should complete three probationary rides
- Ideally should complete a ride leader training day

And of course you must be a member of the CTC.

It is a responsibility and it will require a significant commitment to become a ride leader. It may not be for everyone. But think back to all the great rides that you have enjoyed and why that was. We should all try to give something back to the club and we can't rely on the same people to always put rides on. So if you would like to lead rides, or have led rides and want to develop your expertise, please get in touch with any of the committee members next time you are out on a ride or reply to this email/post post a reply here.