

Common Courtesies when Riding with the Group

- Arrive at the starting point with a full tank. If not, then sure as hell go and get fuel as soon as you arrive at the first break, not wait until the call to leave is given. Particularly if your reserve light is flashing!
- Clean your visor, lube the chain, etc as soon as you stop. It is a really bad look when everyone is leaving and you are caught futzing around, clearly disorganised.
- Order food fast. You look pretty silly when everyone has finished eating and yours hasn't arrived. If you are last to order, don't order a hamburger with the lot and expect to get it fast. It makes perfect sense to the person behind the counter to process the orders chronologically, not the slowest cooking first. Maybe in a restaurant but not in a 'fast food' takeaway.
- The ride is only as fast as the slowest rider. Kind of obvious when there is a learner and the leader runs out of corner markers. But there is a more common but less obvious instance. If you leave two minutes after the main group, the whole ride is slowed down two minutes. Just because you are a fast rider doesn't mean the time can be made up – it can't. The rear rider is still two minutes behind. Eventually the leader has to wait those two minutes. Did you mean to stop the leader? It is compounded whenever the rear rider is held up – by any amount of time lost. The leader just ends up waiting longer and longer and wonders what is going on back there. Don't be last to leave. Don't hold up the rear rider.
- Seeing I'm on a roll, move over! If someone comes up behind you, then clearly they are going faster. Do the Club a favour and give them enough space and opportunity to pass. And you might learn something! Hang on to their tail for a bit. It is easier to follow. Frustrate the person behind you and sooner or later they will gamble and take a risk when overtaking. Cops and 4WD and serious injury are around every corner, so the less time on the other side of the road the better. Be considerate of other rider's needs. Increasing the risks leads to crashes – which are bad for everyone, both short and long term. We need to fly under the radar, not into it.

Ben Warden (with his Captain's hat on)