

Last updated: November 2016

Winter Etiquette

While ColVelo has no strict policies outside of the club code of conduct, we feel it necessary to advise some standards for club rides as we approach the darker months.

1. **Bike Lights:** With plenty of ColVelo rides going the distance in the depths of winter, we suggest it's always valuable to carry a set. While it may not always be necessary, we'd suggest letting common sense prevail. Any long winter ride can be beset by p**ctures and mechanicals, throwing all timings out of the window. If darkness falls and you're without lights, it will be the responsibility of the ride leader to make a call on your continued involvement in the day's event.
2. **Nutrition:** In colder months, staying warm will burn through those calories you're already eating up by pedalling. Keeping a good supply of fuel in your pocket is paramount at this time of year. We're a friendly bunch, and sharing is indeed caring, but try and ensure you have sufficient supplies to hand during these cold days out.
3. **Keeping Warm:** Long days with ColVelo can mean seeing a myriad of seasons in one day. Checking the weather and preparing your kit for this is each rider's own responsibility. Stay warm, stay dry (as is possible?!) and eat up those winter kilometres!
4. **Your Bike:** The roads at this time of year can be a right mess. Dirt, detritus and everything in-between laid out to slow down a club-run's journey! Making sure your bike is ready to handle these filthy roads can make for a smoother group experience. Threadbare tyres and a poorly maintained set up are asking for trouble in the summer months, in the winter this issue is compounded and can mean an unceremonious end to your day out. Check your rig, and make sure parts and components are in good working order for the long haul. P**ctures and mechanicals happen, it's a fact of life! Give yourself a fighting chance by ensuring your steed is in good shape for the start of winter. See the following link for details of Club Mechanic Mark Pamment. He's on hand and ready to give your bike the attention it might need. [ColVelo Members discount available.](#)
5. **Mudguards:** We have no formal mudguard policy, but feel this issue is a matter of courtesy to your fellow riders. It's hard to believe, but in the UK the occasional crisp, dry winter's day is a reality. If we're hit by such a meteorological anomaly, by all means bring out your nice bike or remove your guards if you really feel the urge. But when the weather is bad we kindly ask that you consider race-blades as a minimum. They're cheap and go some way to ensuring the person behind you on a wet day has a better day. Arse Savers and other devices won't cut it folks. If riders insist on going without mudguards on bad days, we may have to put something formal in place. Let's not have to go there. Grab some guards, strap up for winter and enjoy the rides we have going out all season long!