

nise7ens club runs

CLUB RUN ETIQUETTE

Depending on numbers involved, experience shows 4-5 cars max is a sensible size when running in convoy. Running up to 8 is not impossible, but needs more discipline. And it seriously fazes motorists being overtaken. The group may naturally break up into this kind of size anyway.

When running in convoy it is helpful if you keep your headlights on so that the lead car can see how far back everyone is. It will also assist other road users in seeing you!

Try not to overtake as a group unless there is plenty of clear road. If only one-car-gaps exist, let the group member in front start to tuck back into the new slot before accelerating past the slower car ahead of you. That way, if any one has to back out of a manoeuvre and slot back into place, you don't end up with no place to go!

As always, you are responsible for your own safety and that of those you overtake, while you are overtaking them. Remember if you aggravate another driver on the road, they are likely to

- (a) be uncooperative towards your pals that are bringing up the rear and
- (b) call the police on their mobile, reporting a road race.

Think about what you are doing - driving faster is fun, but it also brings with it the need for more concentration, and may attract more attention.

Help keep the group together by waiting for the car behind you at junctions. Trust that the car in front will do the same for you at the next again junction. Also help the car behind overtake by staying in the right hand lane after overtaking the car in front for as long as you can safely see ahead. Leave your indicator on while you do this. It doesn't help if you move back to the left lane (the cars behind are left wondering if you can really see, or if you just forgot your indicators).

If you want to go faster than the 7 in front, indicate this by leaving your right turn indicator on and perhaps tooting or flashing if they don't get the hint. The car in front should lift and wave you by. There is nothing wrong in wanting to go slower or faster and we should all cooperate to keep everyone driving at a pace they enjoy.

Avoid bunching up - it is bad for your paint work, and more importantly, it is dangerous. If you drive too close to the car in front, you have to expect them to drive more slowly (because they now need twice the braking distance - theirs and yours). This is true regardless of whether or not the car in front is one of us. If you find yourself too close to the car in front, it makes sense to ease off a little to regain that safe gap.

If you do not know where you are going, you cannot realistically overtake the lead car unless you are going to wait at the next junction - you will probably have to rejoin towards the back of the group and all in all you may have been better off staying put in the first place.

It's most important to emphasise three points:

- 1) use common sense
- 2) help each other
- 3) have respect for other road users

And above all drive at a speed that is appropriate for the road conditions.