

The 'Mistress' and the Convoy

By Don Bowater

I was gently cruising along with the Mistress the other day and we saw a small convoy of Mustangs. It reminded me of the army convoys of very high four-wheel drive Bedford's that we used to see back in the late 1950's. Sometimes there would be up to 30 of these trucks in immaculate formation with a two-truck length gap between each one as they returned to the Linton Military Camp.

I mentioned this to the Mistress – well that was the wrong thing to say – of course she had lived many years in the USA, so she regaled me on the details of the convoys in Texas. It would seem that some of the big convoys must have stretched right across the state of Texas according to her.



We still had some distance to travel so we got to talking about the special features of a convoy, and how it would be very nice for the Jaguar Club to travel in Convoy from time to time.

The first thing we agreed on was that number one priority was **Safety First**. It would be better to get lost than end up in a smash.

We then talked about the different types of runs. Some are purely social; some are an entertaining mystery, and some are outright competitive events.

Social convoys are when a group of fabulous Jaguars are transiting from one location to another, and we agreed that the following etiquette is appropriate in most instances: -

- 1 - The organiser should appoint a lead car and a tail end Charlie. Both cars should know the final intended destination. It is also desirable that every car knows the destination so that in a worst-case situation they can punch the destination into their phone and proceed to the gathering.
2. - Always look after the car behind you. Never turn off the road you are on until the car following you can clearly see you and your signaled change of direction. This means that you must have one eye on the car in front of you, one eye on the car behind you, all the while driving your car safely. It's not that easy and this is where most convoys fall apart. However, if you have confidence that the car in front of you will wait before turning off, then things become much simpler.

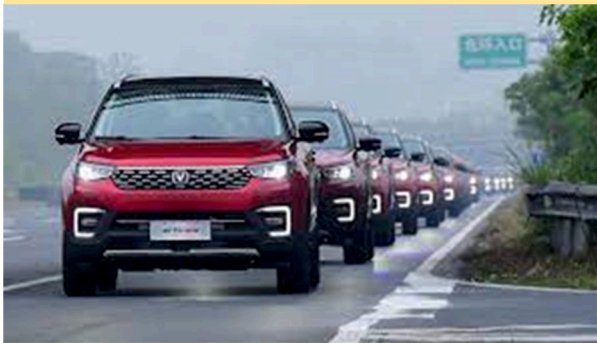
3. - In city or town traffic it is quite common for a following car to get caught at an intersection. The polite and considerate thing to do is to wait at the next convenient spot for the following car to catch up. This does of course put an onus on them to keep an eye out for you.

4. - Make sure the following car sees you turn at an intersection.

5. - Indicate early.



To avoid confusion - Here is Dons "Mistress" - not Lynley



The Mistress did suggest that event organisers may choose a simple route through towns and cities to a predetermined meeting place on the outskirts of town where you can join up and form a convoy.

Depending on how far the convoy is travelling it is also handy to have the phone numbers of all the cars in the

group so that you can call your following car and tell them they should have turned at the last intersection!

Once you get out in the country on those magnificent roads life becomes much simpler. You just follow the leader and make sure the following car sees you turn at an intersection.

If the speed is too much, go at your speed and you will catch up your lead car at the next turn off, because they will wait for you. However, don't dawdle as this is very frustrating, and if you do, then don't be surprised if you get overtaken.

It is also considerate to leave room for other road users to overtake if necessary – sometime the locals get frustrated by having a convoy so closely knitted together that they cannot get past us.

With mystery and competitive convoy events it is not appropriate to follow anyone and note where they find clues, count letterboxes or whatever. With these events you are on your own, but it is always handy to have been given the final destination - just in case.

Don