

Having noticed that many competitors on the Granite were members of a car club nowhere near their home, I conducted a survey recently amongst email and social network contacts. Of the 108 people who were asked to complete it, 79 replied. The ages of respondents ranged from 17-62. Some of the comments are included below.

Are you a member of your local car club, or a club some distance from your home?

- 72% local
- 28% distant club

Why are you a member of a distant club?

- Where I used to live: 18%
- First event of the season offers membership to the host club: 45%
- Family tradition: 31%
- Other: 6%

If your local club, do you attend the meetings?

- Usually: 37%
- Sometimes 36%
- Never 27%

What would make you go to the meetings on a regular basis?

- *Have the meetings on a better night of the week. I don't want to go out on a Tuesday night. If it was a Friday there would be more of a social, relaxed feel to it.*
- *The people running the club competed over thirty years ago. They need to move over and let the younger generation have more input.*
- *We are a member of the club because we have a common interest, but that doesn't mean to say that all the social events need to be based around that theme.*
- *I really just don't have the time. I get in from work after 6pm, shattered. The meetings start at 7. It's fine for all those retired folk on the committee, but for those of us who've been working the last thing I want to do is get changed to go out again.*
- *If there were 30 hours in a day, not 24!*
- *Nothing really. I only join a club because it's a competition requirement. The BARS process has taken away the need to be an active member of a club and take part in navigational rallies to get a licence.*
- *Have the meetings in a better venue. The beer is always murky*
- *Change the night it's held. Midweek is no good if you're up at 6.30am the next morning*

What changes would you like to see?

- *It would be good if we had meetings involving other clubs too. Say, if three or four clubs had a meeting together every few months. We could bounce ideas off each other, set up inter-club competitions and make it a more sociable night.*
- *How about getting our kids involved at a young age, teaching them about basic mechanics?*
- *I'd probably make more of an effort to attend if there was a guest speaker I was interested in.*
- *More interest and involvement from the local press. I'm on the committee, and we struggle to get much coverage of our events. To the press, motorsport is a minority sport*
- *I think we could do more for ladies. Not necessarily from a competitive angle, but possibly basic maintenance classes? Some garages charge a fortune for simple jobs that could be done at home.*
- *I'd rather pay a higher annual subscription, and have a better website that's updated more often. Maybe with a forum or chat section.*
- *My son is 17 and learning to drive. His driving instructor is teaching him all he needs to pass his test, but at no point has there been any talks involving speed and road safety with the local police. We could work with all the local instructors and the police to offer presentations?*
- *Get the club to embrace technology a bit more. It doesn't even have a Facebook page!*
- *I'd like to see a few more organised days out. Bus trips to events at Knockhill so we could have a few pints.*
- *No changes needed. We get regular newsletters, the pub we meet in is great with good service, and the club members are a lively young crowd. The meetings are every second Monday, but that just extends the weekend for me!*

Some interesting points are raised. I hope this encourages you to look at how, when and where your own meetings are held, and their content.

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