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The voice of the taxi trade's only independent organisation

Issue 191 JULY 2011

# H.A.L.T.S FACES LEGAL ACTION?



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Published by The London Cab Driver's Club Ltd. Unit A 303.2.

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Before entering into any commitment, financial or otherwise, always remember to seek professional advice.

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarity those fo the Editor or of the Management Committee of the London Cab Driver's Club.

Contributions for publication are welcomed and should be sent to the Editor at the above address.

The London Cab Driver's Club Ltd.

### A brighter future ahead

As you may have read on the front page, members of HALT have served legal papers on Executives of HALT / HALTS. We believe that these papers relates to the way that HALT has been run in the past and also the setting up of the new private company HALTS. In the September 2009 issue of the Badge, we did warn that...

" But if there has never been a quorate general meeting, then any investment of funds would be unauthorized and subject to legal process"

#### I.D BADGES

The very emotive issue of yellow / green Identifiers continues to roll on. We have received many positive calls from our members, but it appears that members of our yellow badge fraternity have now taken the case to the Mayor Boris Johnson making all sorts of weird and wonderful comments as to why they should not be implemented. These range from the identifiers being "racist" and also going as



far as saying that these are an infringement of "their human

Since when operating outside the law been a human right?

#### **RICKSHAWS**

last Wednesday (13th July) the latest installment of the LLA & TFL (no2) Bill was presented before Parliament. We are glad to say that the Bill was objected to and will now go forward to September. We will be contacting Simon Hughes before this date and arrange for whatever action needs to be done. This bill seeks to give rickshaws their own ranks to ply for hire, and also asks them

to sign up for a voluntary registration where they could be given parking tickets for parking violations. What turkey ever votes for Xmas?

E.D. we will not be publishing a August edition, so may I wish everyone a very relaxing holiday.....enjoy the break!



### TFL PRESS RELEASE

### GREEN/YELLOW BADGE IDENTIFIERS...

Following a positive response to last year's Taxi consultation, London Taxi and Private Hire (LTPH) has announced that taxi badge identifiers are to be introduced in the next few months.

Taxi badge identifiers, which will be affixed to the front and rear windscreens, will show which type of licence the taxi driver holds - green for an "All London" driver and yellow for a "Suburban" driver. In the case of Suburban drivers it will also list the areas in which they are licensed for.

The identifiers, which will also contain the driver's badge number, are being introduced primarily as a deterrent to drivers plying for hire outside their licensed area. However, they will also assist TPH Compliance Officers and the police with on street enforcement and compliance activities.

Drivers should be aware that there are a number of reasons why Suburban drivers may be in central London or another suburban sector. These reasons include:

\* Dropping off fares that started in their sector but ended out side it:

- \* Picking up fares that were prebooked when the driver was in their sector:
- \* The driver is licensed for one of the two extension areas:
- \* The driver is plying for hire at a designated 'island rank'.

This is not a scheme for other taxi drivers to enforce and LTPH expects drivers to act in a professional manner at all times and will not tolerate drivers confronting one another. Any driver found confronting another driver for any reason risks having their suitability to be licensed reviewed which may ultimately lead to their licence being suspended or revoked.

Every licensed taxi driver will be issued with two identifiers, one for the front windscreen and one for the rear. These should be displayed in their vehicle at all times.

The identifiers will be supplied with adhesive wallets that can be affixed to the vehicle. This will enable the identifiers to be removed by those drivers who lease vehicles.

The identifiers will be introduced in two phases with the All London version introduced first and then the Suburban version. Full guidance on the use of the identifiers will be provided at the same time as

the identifiers are issued to taxi drivers.

Helen Chapman, Deputy
Director for London Taxi &
Private Hire, said: "These
identifiers will bring London
into line with many other
Licensing Authorities by
providing information on
where a driver is licensed to
ply for hire.

"Following a public consultation in 2009 it became clear that there is strong

support from the taxi trade to introduce these identifiers and we are pleased that we will shortly be in a position to start providing these to taxi drivers.

"We have spent considerable time over the past year listening to the views of the trade, whether strongly for or against the scheme which has enabled us to develop clear guidelines around use. Further details will be announced before the identifiers are supplied to drivers."

Since Transport for London started

All London licence

12345

MAYOR OF LONDON

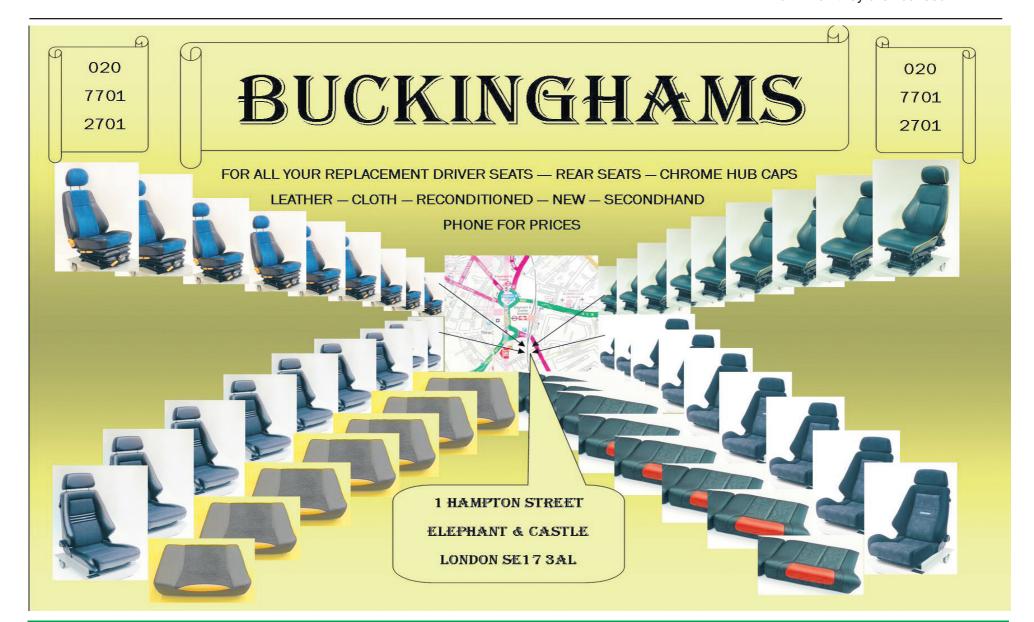
Transport for London ©

Suburban licence

Suburban licence

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licensing Taxis there has always been a distinction between the All London licence, which allows drivers to ply for hire anywhere in the Greater London area, and the Suburban licence where drivers can ply for hire only within the sector(s) for which they are licensed.



### Are radio circuits a thing of the past?



For many years the only way possible to book a taxi in London was through one of the radio circuits that existed in the capital.

But as Bob Dylan said 'The times, they are a changin.' With new technology anybody who has an iPhone can have access to work that was previously only available on the radio circuits.

### Hailing a taxi in London? There's an App for that! Launch of revolutionary new taxi app makes it fun and safe to hail a London black cab

We Brits have a real emotional attachment to our iconic black taxis. They've been getting us from A to B since the 17<sup>th</sup> century, always offering a more affordable, personable experience to private hire companies.

Yet hailing a taxi all too often means rather unglamorously standing in the rain with your arm out, getting splashed by passing cars. Thanks to the NEW LDNtaxiApp, this could soon be a thing of the past.



The LDNtaxiApp, free to download on your iPhone for a limited time, is set to revolutionize the way we hail a cab. Now you can hail a black cab from your venue location, and the taxi comes to you. Simply download the app, which uses GPS technology, and it will show you all the available black taxis in the area. Fill in where you're going, press 'hail' and your location will be sent to the nearby drivers. You'll receive the picture and registration number of the taxi that's on its way, along with a picture and name of the driver, and you can follow the taxi's progress on your iPhone's screen. Any problems, you can send the driver a direct message.

Best of all, there's no need to wait at the roadside. The app will let you know as soon as the car has arrived, leaving you free to wait in comfort for its arrival. When it arrives the confirmation shown on the iPhone's screen can be shown to the cabbie to identify you as the passenger. And thanks to the LDNtaxiApp's strict driver screening process, you know the taxi you are getting into is fully licensed, and totally safe.



Warren Cresdee, licensed black cab driver and one of the brains behind the app, says:

"We've combined stylish design and the latest technology to create an app that is incredibly easy to use, helping customers to find a cab and us cabbies to find custom. All drivers go through a rigorous screening process, meaning that it's a fun and safe way to travel, as well as being more affordable than using a private hire taxi company.

"It's a simple idea, well executed. Join the taxi revolution!"

The LDNtaxiApp is FREE for a limited time. Search for 'LDNtaxiApp' in the App Store, or visit www.LondonTaxiApp.com

For more information on the LDNtaxiApp or interviews with Warren, contact Abi at PR4 Media Ltd:

E: abi@pr4.com; T: 0203 142 6803



## A fairer deal for the driver

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Circuits if they choose to.

Get taxi makes the London taxis the preferred choice for business once again. The raw deal and high costs most account customers and businesses currently experience from the Radio Circuits, often makes the PHV sector a far more attractive option for businesses. With low overheads, Get Taxi can do things differently and make Licensed London taxis the preferred choice for businesses once again. Get Taxi is the long awaited, commercially attractive alternative for businesses and will provide a welcome boost for Licensed London taxi drivers. Get taxi is busy signing up customers across London with some of the most competitive accent rates ever seen to ensure drivers get more highly rewarding account work. Get Taxi provide a clear statement at the end of each month and unique live system for checking your accent rides direct from the driver unit at any time, so you will always be able to keep track of finances.

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### **Interview with Sheldon Posner of Cricklewood Carriers**

**Gavin Walker - LCDC Member** 

There have been plenty of rumours and hear-say, as well as small amounts of trade press coverage about the latest type of emission system that Cricklewood Carrier's has been testing.

Now, to get all the correct facts and information, Sheldon Posner, proprietor of Cricklewood Carrier's has been interviewed by 'The Badge', so that once and for all, the London Cab Trade can be quite clear about what Sheldon is doing! What he is hoping to achieve, and his discussions with TFL!

Here are the six questions we asked him:

### **Q1**

Gavin Walker: Sheldon what type of system was fitted to your guinea pig cab. Without being to technical, was it a brand new exhaust system with a filter, or just a filter fitted onto the existing exhaust system?

**Sheldon Posner:** It's an addition to the existing exhaust system and we believe there is a distinct similarity between this system and the system being applied to the forthcoming EURO 5 product from L.T.I.

### Q2

**GW:** To be compliant next year with the Mayor's new low emission zone, does this system allow the cab to comply with Euro 4?

**SP:** We believe that we have complied with all the requirements originally requested by TFL for the low emission zone.

### **Q**3

**GW:** I see you have an approval certificate from TFL, will London cab driver's be able to purchase a system from Cricklewood Carrier's or any other agents from next year?

**SP:** Cricklewood Carrier's would appoint under strict licensing, quality controlled established garages to carry out the fitment of this system.

### **Q4**

**GW:** How clean do they make the taxis exhaust emissions? **SP:** We hope to fulfil and exceed all requirements originally laid down by TFL.

### **Q5**

**GW:** But surely Sheldon this system is a winner all round! A winner for the taxi driver because they will be complying to Euro 4, a winner for the Londoners because many

older cabs will be cleaner, and a winner for Mayor Boris because with a mayoral election looming fast, he won't want to be upsetting and alienating a part of the electorate that voted for him last time round. The London Cab Trade?

SP: I believe that this is the correct way forward as the production of new vehicles will only increase the carbon footprint on our environment, bearing in mind that a new TX4 taxi does approx 20-25% less MPG than a Fairway or a TX1. Therefore the environment will benefit and drivers will be given a choice between converting their cab or buying new.

### Q6

**GW:** The big question I have to ask you Sheldon is, how much are these systems likely to cost and do they come with any form of guarantee?

**SP:** The system is likely to cost £2,500 all inclusive, and all guarantees will be underwritten.

The London Cab Driver's Club wishes to thank Sheldon for giving up his time to be interviewed. We hope that John Mason at TFL reads this interview so hopefully we can have a reply from him.

Over to you Mr Mason!

Transport for London



TRANSPORT FOR LONDON (TfL) LOW EMISSIONS CERTIFICATE (LEC) FOR APPROVAL OF LOW EMISSIONS ADAPTATIONS

'LEC (Adaptation)'

Approval Certificate Number: LE153-03

LEC Phase (Phase 1/2/3/4): Phase 4

Emissions Category (Light Duty/Heavy Duty): Light Duty and Heavy Duty

Particulate Reduction Range (from Euro? to Euro?): From Euro 0, Euro 1, Euro 2, Euro 3 to Euro 4

Reason for extension: Not applicable

- 1. General
- 1.1 Make: HJS
- 1.2 Manufacturer's designation of Adaptation: SMF-AR
- 1.3 Means of identification as marked on the Adaptation: Part number SMF-AR XX (XX refers to filter surface area). HJS engraved or plaque
- 1.4 Type of Adaptation: Sinter metal filter with active regeneration and FBC
- 1.5 Name and address of manufacturer:

HJS Emissions Technology GmbH & Co KG Dieselweg 12 58706 Menden

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Low Emissions Certificate (Adaptations) v2.98-Jan-11

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### Airport Matters

### BY PETER "THE CANNON" L.C.D.C AIRPORT REP

BAA has announced that the taxi feeder park charge will increase from £6.30 to £6.56 per entry as from August 1st. Included in the new price is an increase in the HALT levy from £0.78 to £0.80. HALT executives (aka HALT directors) for the first time in their long careers, are now facing legal action from a group of aggrieved HALT members over the failure to protect the HALT cooperative s business interests before, during and after the creation of private company HALTS.

Papers have been served on HALT at their registered office and to add fuel to the fire of pending litigation, the Financial Services Authority is unable to substantiate the claim made by HALT(S) executives, that private company HALTS was created in compliance with legal procedures required by Industrial and Provident Society law.

The slow and inadequate reactions of BAA to the rapidly developing problems for HALT(S), are exactly what the trade has grown to expect of BAA. Nevertheless the trade organisations are united in warning BAA that unless the decision to force drivers to pay more money to HALTS is withdrawn, BAA will experience disruptions to the smooth running of the Taxi System. The unanimous view of Heathrow trade reps is that inexperienced BAA managers are not prepared to do or say anything to upset HALTS chairman Colin Evans. It looks very much as though there will have to be a showdown at Heathrow and at the moment BAA seems to have miscalculated that BAA needs to support Colin Evans & Co.

#### Yet Another Unresolved Issue

HALT(S) chairman Colin Evans has admitted in a notice to drivers published on June 27th that HALTS is a private company and not a like for like replacement for the HALT cooperative. HALTS

directors (aka HALT executives), often proudly proclaim that membership of their new company is open to all taxi drivers operating from Heathrow Airport. However, the real facts about the membership rules are only now emerging. HALTS likes to be known as Heathrow Taxis and in a letter written by the company s secretary, it s been explained in detail to a Heathrow driver that becoming a member of Heathrow Taxis is dependent on an applicant being approved by HALTS directors. On the assumption that the secretary is stating the company s membership rules correctly, it has to be asked if BAA can continue to force all Heathrow drivers to pay the new £0.80 HALT levy; especially if a driver is deemed by HALTS to be unworthy of membership. Is BAA prepared to charge lower entrance fees to Heathrow drivers who have been rejected by HALTS ? Or, to make this point another way, why should drivers who have been refused membership of HALTS be forced to pay HALTS?

### Legal Threats Against the LCDC

Earlier this year the LCDC received a number of sternly worded letters from a firm of solicitors acting for a group of individuals who deem themselves to be spokesmen for the London taxi trade at Heathrow Airport. Apparently, or at least according to the subject-matter of the solicitors letters, the LCDC it is not within its rights to make legitimate criticisms of these self-appointed trade spokesmen and the various business schemes that they control. The LCDC responded to the solicitors enquiries and submissions by asking for more information about the background of their clients, however for some unknown reason no more has been heard.



#### A Minimum Fare at Heathrow?

Taxi ranks in London s west end offer minimum price fares that were established under the existing legal powers of Transport for London. It seems likely therefore, that TfL would not rule out the possibility of having a minimum fare at Heathrow for compellable hirings to many destinations in the Heathrow area. At the heart of any debate about a minimum fare at Heathrow lies the problem of suggesting a fare that s acceptable to drivers who do the bread and butter work on the ranks. Many drivers, especially those who keep the ranks running during the unsocial hours, are saying that there should be a minimum fare of £18. This figure is based on three observable facts about prices that travellers have to pay for other services at Heathrow Fact one, it costs £18 to hire a luggage barrow on any of the terminals. Fact two, it cost £4.50 per head to take a Hoppa bus to any local hotel. Fact three, the minicab firms that operate from local hotel forecourts, all charge a minimum of £25 to go to the Heathrow terminals. Faced with these facts, it s almost impossible to argue that Heathrow drivers should not be able to charge a minimum of around £18 for their services.

We can't expect taxi fares from Heathrow to reflect that drivers spend three hours waiting for work, but on the other hand arguments about drivers costs have to be raised and put in perspective. First of all, in order to meet unpredictable fluctuations in demand for taxis on the ranks, drivers will always have to spend at least one hour on standby in the taxi feeder park. Secondly, after leaving the park, drivers spend another 15 minutes driving and waiting before picking up on the ranks. All taxi passengers who use Heathrow airport s ranks are served by drivers who have spent at least 75 minutes under BAA s direction and control before they are hired. If supply and demand for cabs are to be evenly balanced, then feeder parks are an essential and integral part of the Taxi System.

It has been suggested that the irreducible time that drivers lose in the feeder parks should be valued at a nominal £10 per hour. When the latter sum is added to the gate money charge, a driver s costs when he arrives at a rank, are seen to be at least £18 before he gets hired. These costs do not include the diesel fuel used when running empty from the feeder park to Terminals 4 and 5.

Although Heathrow Airport is private property, the Airports Act 1986, states that any road or place within Airport boundary are places at which London Hackney Carriage law prevails. BAA has no statutory powers under either the Airports Act 1986 or airport byelaws, to make decisions on what London taxi drivers may or may not charge their passengers. Only Transport for London has the appropriate authority.

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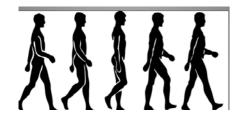
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### Walker on the march.



Micky Walker LCDC Member

#### **RADIO TAXIS GROUP**

RTG' released their figures in a press release a couple of months ago. However, this is not the press release version.

The one bright spot in the accounts is the level of losses. RTG only lost £73,000. Considering the combined losses for the previous 3 years amounted to £3.6 million, £73,000 sounds like a success.

The turnover figures look good compared to the previous year, showing a 12.1% increase on the previous year at £35.7 million but these figures were still down 29% on the £50.3 million made in 2007, three years previously. Also, of the £35.7 million, £4.1 million was combined management fees, driver subscriptions and fleet rentals, leaving £31.6 million in fares. However, almost a third of these fares, £9.5 million, were passed to third parties, presumably minicab partners. So, it would appear that total taxi fares billed were just over £20 million.

Driver numbers appear to be on the slide also, if subscriptions are a reliable guide. Driver subs were £3.5 million in 2007. They have fallen in each year since and in 2010 thev had fallen to £2.5 million, a fall of 29% in four years. At an estimated weekly subscription of £40, this would equate to 1678 drivers in 2007, falling to 1200 currently.

This rather begs the question of what has been gained from the de-mutualisation of Radio Taxis? Fair enough, the members each

received £1100 plus some near worthless shares. What else though? The intention of de-mutualisation, according to the prospectus they produced, was to raise capital to develop Executive First (chauffeur cars), minicabs, minibuses, bikes and motor-bikes.

All of these projects either did not get off the ground or lost money before ditching them. One Transport, RTGs "platform" for a "one stop shop" for booking cars and taxis' has been developed and rolled out. From a driver's point of view, it is doubtful whether a "platform" that delivers a third of the turnover to car firms, can be viewed as a seat of deep joy. Even from management's viewpoint though, did they really need to de-mutualise to bring this about? DAC have managed something similar with "Concierge" and they had no need to de-mutualise.

Since de-mutualisation, the losses incurred and the payments made to members, total more than the investment injection put in by Brian McBride, so there does not appear to have been any investment gain for the company.

Maybe I am missing something but to me, the only outcome so far from de-mutualisation to date, is putting £1100 in each member's pocket and drivers losing the control of the company to management and major shareholders.

#### **DAC ACCOUNTS**

DAC have seen their turnover fall for the fourth year in succession. 2010 turnover fell by £2.435 million to £31.174 million. This puts DAC behind both Comcab and RTG in terms of turnover. Over four years, DAC has seen turnover fall by just over a third, 37.64%, from £49.992 million.

There is better news for their surplus (aka profit). From a

£112,000 loss in 2009, they have recovered to a surplus of £336,000. However, this is only just over a third of the £934,000 they made in 2007.

With regard to driver/members, they have lost 169 and gained 97 driver/members, making a net loss of 72 member/drivers, making a total of 1835 members for 2010. Total subscriptions fell from £2.758 to £2.550 million.

The accounts show that payments to drivers in 2010 were £27.248. This raises an interesting point. Driver payments have been fairly steady over the last five years, ranging between 87 – 89% of turnover. Service charges amounted to £3.926 million, or 12.6% of turnover. This brings questions about DAC's Concierge booking platform.

The figures for Concierge are not clearly identified in the accounts. Apparently, DAC make a small charge when they transfer a job to a minicab company via Concierge. The obvious place to include these fees would be in the service charges. If this is the case, not only does 12.26% (£3.926million) appear to leave little room on top of normal charges on cab fares for Concierge fees, but the consistency of driver payments to turnover ratio also suggests that there is no significant increase in Concierge fees over the last five years.

Possibly this is a simplistic view, but I have to ask why bother with Concierge? If the purpose of DAC itself is to supply work to its members, hence the mutual association, then it would appear that supplying work to minicab companies runs contrary to that objective. If the rationale for DAC's existence is, as its BOM appears to think, that things are run for the good of the circuit and the benefits of that will trickle down to the membership, it appears to be a failed experiment. The members have paid £2.550 million during 2010 in subs, plus made interestfree loans to the circuit that amounted to just over another million at close of play in 2010. All of this to make a surplus of £336,000. On a purely profit basis, members would have been far better off by keeping their subs in their pockets.

Therefore, the deciding factor must come down to the additional quantity and quality of the work drivers receive over and above what can be earned from the street, from the circuit. This being so, I fail to see where Concierge can be effective in achieving this objective. As I say though, perhaps I have too simplistic a view.

#### DO OUR CIRCUITS **HAVE A FUTURE?**

The overall trend appears to be very worrying. Comcab, our leading circuit, have lost more than a quarter of turnover in the last four years. RTG, our second biggest circuit, has fared even worse, losing a third of its turnover. DAC, our third largest circuit, has fared even worse still, dropping nearly 40% of its turnover.

Now, many will say that this is due to the recession but I do not believe even that cold comfort is available. Just five years ago, Addison Lee (AL), London's leading minicab company, came a poor second in turnover to Comcab on its own. Currently, the three circuits combined only exceed AL's turnover by a mere 8.5%.

So, while our big three circuits have been busy, collectively losing 31% of their total business over the last four years, AL have been happily increasing theirs by 90% over the last five years. From this, can we assume that whatever the way forward is for our circuits, it is not the path they currently tread?

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# Simon Hughes attends PEDICAB Bill for LCDC

On Wednesday 17th July the LLA & TFL (No2) Bill had a reading in Parliament. This bill wishes to allow pedicabs to have legal ranks provided by Westminster City Council, and sign up to a voluntary scheme of registration.

We at the LCDC moved to stop this and contacted our local MP Simon HUghes and asked him toattend the reading and object to the bill, thus stalling it up even further.

I am very happy to report that Simon attended the reading at

the house and the bill was objected to.

The Bill has now been moved to September 6th and we are now planning to do the same again.

As working cab drivers, we at the LCDC will not sit by and allow this scheme to be rolled out. The pedicabs should be BANNED not given ranks, this plan is a disgrace.

If you want to stop pedicabs having ranks in Central London, then do something about it, join the LCDC and for just 50p a day make a stand, and say NO.



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Visit the club's website www.lcdcorg.wordpress.com





### Alan's Angle

### Zig Zag Madness!!



Why is it we are forgetting one of the most important parts of the highway code when it comes to stopping and

dropping off passengers

#### on zig zags at crossings?

I find it hard to believe that some drivers seem oblivious to this law as I see this offence on a daily occurrence.

Now I'm not going to preach to you on the what to and not what to do, but when stopping

customers please either stop before or after the zig zags.

They are governed by road regulations and can be enforced by the police or local authority, with 3 points awarded if you are ticketed by the former.

If your customer does not want to walk the extra 20 odd feet to get in your taxi then don't look at it as a fare lost but probably a £65 saving as local councils are now cashing in on us stopping and dropping off on zig zags.

This is a dangerous manoeuvre as you are creating a blind spot on the crossing and one that is hard to appeal against especially when they have you on film. However, the film can work for you as well.

I recently won an appeal for a member who had stopped to allow someone to cross on a zebra crossing and the council saw fit to issue him with a ticket for picking up on zig zags but the film showed the customers didn't even approach the driver but just jumped in.

At the moment it seems the crossing in Waterloo Rd is milking us of our hard-earned cash, so lets just make sure that we are well clear when picking up and dropping off at all zig zags.

### Canary Wharf camera car



It looks like canary wharf security is being tightened up with the introduction of a new smart car fully equipped with PCN camera on top.

With new sign's going up on the island telling us they don't want taxis parking up looking for customers.

I await the next sign to follow saying No Private Hire parking, personally don't think that will happen as we seem to be the ones being chased off from parking up outside offices that have no rank space outside.

I have spoken to Canary Wharf Security who at the time assured me the vehicle was only for enforcing security, as if the island didn't have enough cameras watching our every move already.

This vehicle now is being parked outside KPMG with a good view of taxis parking up at Barclays and also as a view of HSBC.

We have seen these vehicles being bought by councils all over town and they don't come cheap and their sole purpose is to issue PCN's to us and the motorist, so I await the first one to be issued.

So please be aware of this vehicle when laying up hoping to trap one back in.

### Piccadilly- The Jury's Still Out!!!

On the 3rd of July Westminster Council opened the first part of the two-way system that is part of their overhaul of the St James road system. So far there has been a mixed reaction as to whether it as proven a success, Travelling west to east has seen a vast improvement when using St James and Pall Mall. However travelling west on Pall Mall has turned into a complete disaster with traffic grid locked and with St

James struggling to cope with the traffic.

We can only hope that when the Piccadilly section is finally opened open up allowing traffic to travel west on Piccadilly ( we are told this will be around November! ) that problems currently being experienced will be solved. If this is not proven to be a success this will have a huge impact on us being able to provide the public with a cost-effective service and as a consequence it will threaten our ability to earn a living. The disruption

being caused by the construction of cross rail, as well as the congestion caused by the changes in Piccadilly, Westminster is fast becoming a no go area for taxi drivers trying to earn a living Adding insult to injury the introduction of the new scheme means we are going to lose some of our rank space, one being the rank at Fortnum and Masons who are supporting the scheme and were unaware they was losing their rank.! And finally whilst on the subject of Westminster whoever was responsible for the decision to

close Park Lane after the concerts finished in Hyde Park needs sacking!!!

The chaos that ensued quite frankly was a disgrace, traffic was completely gridlocked, not a policeman to be seen as thousands of people spilled out onto the streets. Goodness knows what would have happened if the emergency services were needed to attend an incident, they just would not have been able to get through. Is this is the level of organization we can expect at next years Olympics? If so then God help.

### News in brief

- Old Broad St from London Wall to Liverpool st is now buses and loading only please be careful as the camera is ideally placed to issue PCN's in Old Broad St for taxis dropping off.
- The rank at Hammersmith will be suspended some time in the next few weeks after planned works were cancelled earlier this month. The whole rank will be suspended first, then after a week the first 2 space will then be made available.
- Certain rumours doing the rounds regarding the removal of the taxi rank at Clapham Junction are untrue.

  There are no plans to remove the rank after the new rank in Brighton yard as now opened.

### Member's letters



Hi Darryl,

As I promised during our telephone conversation, I have put pen to paper for the first time in 11 years as a driver to thank you, and also to warn other night drivers of the pitfalls we face.

During my night shift some 4 weeks ago, I got myself into a difference of opinion with a passenger during our journey. At the end, he got out and told me to "sing" for my £28.60 fare. I got out the taxi and followed him whilst phoning the police on my mobile. On their arrival the passenger turned to the police and told them I had racially abused him and threatened him.

I ended up at the police staion at 3am in the morning, and all this after 10 hrs in the saddle.

I called the LCDC 24 hr duty solicitor who turned up 30 minutes later and after he had discussed the events with me, he held a meeting with the officers, and I

am pleased to say I was released without charge some 2 hours later.

All I can say to other night men is why put yourself on offer when for just 50p a day you get legal cover through the night whilst working.

Thank you again very much LCDC

- P.Jenkins

#### All is not what it seems

I wanted to express my views regarding taxi driver etiquette within the trade. I only seem to read letters about frustration with lack of etiquette and general the suspicion of other fellow drivers deliberately 'stealing' fares.

All is not what it seems when it comes to passengers getting out of a taxi and that very same taxi picking up another customer whilst a cab with their light on, is behind them.

I picked up a fare from Imperial Wharf on a Sunday 11th July at approx 22:15 and he wanted to go to Hans Crescent. On arrival at Hans Crescent, my customer said that he needed to go to a cash machine and I waited in Hans Crescent until he returned from the cash machine. He was taking a very long time so I assumed that I had been bilked and switched my light back on. Just as I switched my light back on, the customer came running back into Hans Crescent and said that the cash machine was not working. Pleased that the customer had been honest, I offered to take him to a cash machine outside Harrods free of charge.

I drove out of Hans Crescent with my 'meter off' and sat at the Sloane St traffic lights for what seemed like hours! My customer said that he would run around the corner into Brompton Road and then come back to me with the cash. This time, I thought that I had really been bilked and switched by light back on at the traffic

lights... it was a busy night and I had spent a lot of unpaid time with this customer.

My customer came back after about 2 mins with cash and paid me!!. Seeing that my light had been on for the best part of 2 mins, a lady asked me if I could take a fare. I said yes and lady got into my cab, whilst I was still at the top of Sloane St. Then I heard a loud horn beeping from behind me. It was an old chap in a Fairway who subsequently 'cut me up' outside Harrods, whilst my lady customer was on board.

I had not really had a fare for about 15 mins, prior to the lady hiring my cab and simply did my previous customer a favour by taking him to a cash machine for gratis. The last time I had a similar incident to this was when I was requested, from a line of ranked cabs, to take a very drunk female home, by a member of the public. I have a 'unique selling point' as a cab driver that I will not advertise on paper, as it could be considered to be discriminatory. ....(I am a female cab driver)

If the cab driver who was behind me reads this letter then maybe he would think twice before trying to cause an accident outside Harrods, whilst I was carrying a member of public legitimately in my vehicle!

I was not selfish in any way and I did not steal a fare from the Fairway driver who was behind me in Sloane St!

- Karen (Member 3572)

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# The return of The Nut Behind The Wheel

Recently, I was sitting in a lovely cool bar shaded from the fierce Spanish sun sipping a refreshing Teguila Sunrise. The atmosphere was heady; insects were buzzing lazily around the flower beds while the distant squeals of delight from children on holiday drifted over from the nearby pool. Don't ask why, but I got to thinking what the traffic-heads at TfL and Westminster Council were doing sitting at their desks enjoying a lunch of a stale ham sandwich and a crap coffee from the office machine.

They were probably chewing the heads off their pencils as they searched their little brains for an inspiring scheme to squeeze even more money out of any motorists who dares to nudge his bumper into London territory. Well, don't worry guys - I've got one for you.

Halfway through my second drink my mind meandered back a few years to a holiday in America. We were in the Venice area of Los Angeles and had parked in a side street to get some lunch in a nearby diner. I generously fed the parking meter but, even so, decided to go and check it out. We had parked just around the corner in a side street so I wasn't duly worried when I noticed a police officer writing a ticket close to our vehicle. I checked the meter. 'We're OK, still got thirteen minutes left on the meter', I said to the officer. 'No you ain't, boy' came his reply, 'You're parked facing the wrong way. In this state it's an offence to park facing the traffic. Sorry, I know you're British, and a visitor, but I've started on the ticket. It's a thirty dollar fine.'

You can't win, can you? 'Are you planning on visiting London with your family?' I asked. 'Sure am, boy, soon as the leave builds up'. 'Well, we'll get you when you come to our town, mate'. He laughed – rare for an LA cop – and gave me the ticket.

Paying it was the real nightmare. The place was like a social security office with people taking and giving money from behind big iron barred windows. I went in alone. Every shit-head in LA with a grievance was in there. The armed guard kept his hand on his gun at all times and I snuggled up so close to him that he must have thought I wanted us to get engaged. Eventually, I paid the fine and ran out.

But, there you have it Mr and Mrs Pasty-face of TfL and Westminster Council, a new way of garrotting any unsuspecting motorist who parks facing oncoming traffic. And there's no need to tell them about it – just write it into the bye-laws and nick the bastards. Taxi drivers, of course, will need to be exempt – well, it was our idea.

#### **SECURITY AT HEATHROW**

Heathrow is one of the busiest airports in the world. And, as if we didn't know, the 2012 Olympics in London are creeping closer and closer, so you would think that security at the airport would be on orange alert at least. Maybe it is, but we're not seeing it and we are the eyes and ears of the airport, or so the suits tell us. However, touts are a continuing problem. Just the other day the guy I picked up from T5 told me an Indian bloke offered to take him to South Kensington for £85. For a tout, that's a bit on the low side. But my punter was a solicitor and vet even he might have been tempted if the price had been lower.

Even so, anybody who is a bit 'suss' should be questioned and thrown out of the airport if they have no business being there. We now have a new tout squad, but they are stretched before they start and cannot hope to tackle the problem with the manpower that would be required to protect such a massive airport. Enter the Taxi Marshals.

At Heathrow we have a band of men (around 30 licensed taxi drivers) who act as taxi marshals on the terminals. Their remit is to report any touts to the police and generally make sure that all punters find their way to the taxi ranks. In a way, it's a thankless task, but they do get some concessions, such as only doing two-thirds of the porridge in the feeder park. Fair enough, they've earned it. They do a good job policing the airport - a service, by the way, that BAA get free of charge.

Not so long ago one of the marshals witnessed a known tout entering the terminal and walking up to a coffee machine. He duly unplugged it and then plugged his laptop into it. Then he walked away. What bloody audacity, but he knew he could get away with it. The Woodentops were informed – and did nothing, yet that tout could have been a terrorist and the laptop could have been a bomb. But, as far as we know, the police didn't even investigate.

What hope is there for the thousands of people coming here next year either to compete in or watch the Olympic Games? Will an under-manned tout squad and a handful of taxi drivers be enough to guarantee the safety of Heathrow's passengers? Of course not, but the scenario will be one we are all used to by now – when a bomb goes off and kills and maims countless people the police will say that they are 'working together for a safer London' and that this 'will never happen again'. Oh yes it will, because security at Heathrow appears to be so lackadaisical that soon you will be able to wheel a washing machine into a terminal, plug it in, and launder your underwear while you nick a job to Oxford. What a sorry state of affairs. Boris, please

#### **LUTON AIRPORT?**

Not my favourite airport, unless I've got a punter in the back of the cab. However, the wife booked a week in Menorca and we had to fly out of Luton. Apart from the fact that they charge a pound for taxis and cars to set down, you only get ten minutes to get out - not good if you are picking up a fare who, by the way, would also be a customer of Luton airport. And if you want a trolley that'll be two quid, please. Treating customers and users of the airport in this way is, in my view, short term. Sooner or later the customers will go elsewhere, and who can blame them?

Then my son-in-law got pulled up as we put our hand baggage through the customs x-ray machine. It was serious. The customs prick found my 3-year-old granddaughter's Hello Kitty knife and fork – her favourites. The customs prick was obviously crapping himself at the prospect of a 3-year-old holding the plane to ransom with her little knife and fork and demanding to be taken to Libya. He then held the knife and fork above his head – luckily she didn't see this – and dropped them from a height into the bin. What a prick. This airport sucks.

What was the point of what he did when we could have nicked a much bigger knife from an airside restaurant and taken that onto the plane? It's such a shame that for many people visiting this country for the first time their first experience of Britain has to be Luton airport.

#### THE QUEEN OF SHEBA

Actually, her real name is Tilly – my 3-year-old granddaughter – but her powers are on a par with the Queen of Sheba's. We pander to her every need; we tip-toe around when she has a nap, and we shower her with gifts and sweets when she gets a bit peeved. She tells me off, and gives me advice. She's three, for goodness sake.

That customs prick was lucky she missed the binning of Hello Kitty's knife and fork. If she had witnessed it and demanded his demise we might have carried out her wishes.

Officially, she's not Royalty but, as every grandfather knows, grandchildren have that uncanny knack of making an old bloke who's done nothing much more than drive a cab around London feel like a king.

### CREDIT CARDS AND WONGA

The vast majority of us now have the facility to take payments via a credit card. It may be through the radio; it may be with one of the machines given out by the guys at the airport or it may be with one of the companies offering the service to taxi drivers. The question is: how much are we legally entitled to charge for this provision of credit? Because that's what it is. On the fare chart we can charge up to 15% although most of us stick with 10%. But what if we set a minimum charge of, say, £44? Is it legal? Well, as far as I know it has never been challenged in a court of law, but there is another example of giving credit in the form of short term loans and charging 360% for the serv-

Have a look at www.wonga.com. This website is quite legal and, I must say, they make it very clear that if you borrow £400 for 30 days you will pay back £525.48 - at an annual interest rate of 360%. And, to their credit, they also point out that this is a representative APR rate of a hefty 4214%. I'm not knocking Wonga.com, they have an excellent website and obviously provide an equally excellent service for anyone temporarily strapped for cash. No, my point is that if they can legally charge these rates then why can't I charge a punter at the airport £50 to go to a local hotel if they insist on paying by credit card? Where's the problem - or the difference? The punter always has the alternative of nipping back into the terminal and getting cash out of a wall machine or Bureau de Change.

I think we need a bit more clarity on this one.

### THE LONDON TAXI DRIVERS' FORUM

It can sometimes get lonely out there, especially if you haven't had the time to catch up with the gossip on the ranks or in the eating houses. But you can still stay in touch. Click on http://londontaxiforum.co.uk/default.as px and join the London Taxi Forum. It's there for you and every other licensed London taxi driver. It's a great forum and the debates can get quite heated – but would you have it any other way?

# London taxi benevolent association for war disabled. Trip to Worthing

**DEREK LEONE HON. PRO** 

On Tuesday 14th June 2011 The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled held their 63rd outing to Worthing.

The small village of South Holmwood near Dorking was the meeting place, it is normally a quite little village, but from 8am and for the next three and half hours with 110 taxis arriving, it was turned into a noisy and busy place where veterans and drivers enjoyed the refreshments that had been laid on in the village hall which were supplied by the local residents who throughly enjoy the day.

At approximatley 11-15am in brilliant sunshine the drivers and vets made their way to the taxis for the journey along the A 24 to Worthing, this year The British Legion Motorcycle Section arrived and escorted the convoy to Worthing and the LTBAFWD are very grateful for their assistance on the day.

On arriving at Worthing all the vehicles were parked in the Civic Centre car park and everyone made their way into the Assemby Rooms where the tables had been set out ready for lunch.

The master of ceremonies Mr. Melvin Zeff announced that a minutes silence would be observed for those no longer with us, Councillor Ann Barlow the present Mayor then welcomed our Patron Dame Vera Lynn DBE,LLD and

all the veterans and drivers to Worthing and hoped that they were going to have an enjoyable day, grace was then said and lunch served, during the lunch we were entertained by Mr. lain Flitcroft on the magnificent Worthing Wurlitzer organ with a selection of tunes which was appreciated by e everybody in the hall and our thanks go to Mr.Jim Buckland of the Sussex Organ Trust.

The Secretary of The London Taxi **Bnevolent Association for War Disabled** Mr. Paul Davis gave the loyal toast, the Master of ceremonies Mr. Melvyn Zeff the announced the President of the LTBAWD Mr Harry Joel M.B.E. who thanked everybody for attending and thanked the drivers for giving up their time to transport the veterans, the Master of ceremonies then annouced the Chairman Mr.Richard Hudd who thanked the councillor Anne Barlow for her kind words of welcome, and also Mr. Peter Latham Cheif Executive of Worthing Council for the help over the years, also Sue Richardson and Rosie Grav who over the years have also giving valuable assistance in the months leading upto the day of the outing and wished them both a happy retirement, also The Dutch Naval Attache Captain R.H. Compagne, thanks also to the village of South Holmwood which is also part of this day and thanks to residents for all the hard work that they do on the morning and evening of the outing and

we welcome two of the Ladies and also for the first time two Veterans from the village, this is small charity and we have to try and compete with the bigger charities for funds so we would like to thank the veterans for their help at the stations and Millwall Football Club who have been very helpful in allowing us into the ground and also one of the drivers John Rowlands for organising the Golf Day every year, we would also like thank The Licensed Taxi Drivers Association for allowing us to use their premises.

The Chairman then thanked the 120 drivers who had given up a days work to bring the veterans on this outing, and all our sponsors, and thanked Mrs Audrey Sherry for her donations for fuel for all the drivers, presentations were made to the of Mayor of Worthing Anne Barlow our Patron Dame Vera LynnDBE LL.D and Mrs.Hickey.

The Master of Ceremonies then introduced the Guest of Honour, Group Captain Stanley Hickey O.B.E. FRAES FCIM, thanked us for inviting him and it was an honour to be able to speak to the veterans in his speech Group Captain Hickey said that if Mr Cameron wished to see the big society at work he would do well to look in on this out-ing

The Secretary Mr Paul Davis then read out letters of loyal greeting from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd and His Royal Highness Prince Charles and

The Duchess of Cornwall.

Following lunch and the speeches it was time for a walk down to the seafront with the drivers supplying a shuttle service for those that could not manage the walk, this was greatly appreciated by the veterans, at 4-15pm everybody returned the Assembly Rooms for the afternoon tea, and we entertained by The Jive Aces who in their yellow suits soon had members of the audience on their feet and dancing.

All too soon it was time to leave Worthing and make our way back for some of the vets it was time to go home and others it was back to South Holmwood to continue eating and drinking and enjoying themselves, so ended the 63rd outing.

The Committee would like to thank all of our Sponsors not only on the day but for their advertising in The War Disabled Diary, the Villagers of South Holmwood, St.Johns Ambulance Service, The Royal British Legion Motorcycle Section, and you the drivers it has been said every-year that without you ladies and gents giving up your time, this outing and many others like it would not happen and we thank you for your continued support, also thanks to Green Arbour Publishing for donating 500 copies of Britain at War magazine.

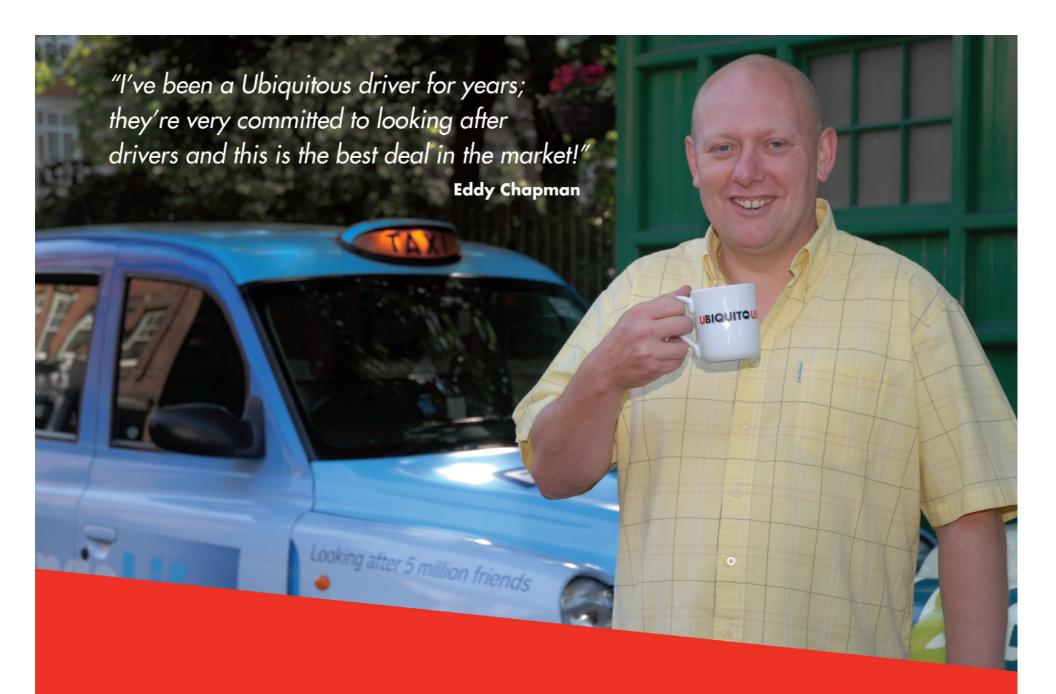
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### London Taxi Driver Slang

**GRAHAM GATES** 

Slang, sometimes derided by purist who themselves don't hesitate to use a word or phrase which they think is acceptable, yet may derive from unseemly sources unbeknown to the user. "Berk" is a fine example. I think slang is fun; it enriches and enlivens a language. It is often witty, usually apt and can be bitingly cruel or gently euphemistic. Sorry, I didn't mean this to sound too academic, it's just that I like its use when appropriate.

I got interested in slang as a kid growing up on a prefab estate in Devonshire Road, SE23. My old man and his mates would get together round our kitchen table for their weekly game of cribbage (we couldn't afford a telly), always accompanied by generous amounts of pale/light/brown ale (which is why we couldn't afford a telly). In return for acting as pot boy I was allowed to sit in and listen to the banter. I became fascinated by their use of words. Some words I knew, some I knew I shouldn't have known, some I didn't know and some I thought I knew but seemed to mean something different. I used to write down those I could

remember —not the naughty ones, of course, though I once got a right belting for innocently using the "c" word when I'd no idea what it meant. The old man would explain those I was allowed to know; there were quite a few rhyming slangs as I recall.

Wind the clock on twenty-five years to when I was doing the Knowledge at the old London General Cab Co, at the top of Brixton Road. That's where I first encountered "cab slang" or whatever you want to call it, and just like when I was a kid, I began to note down what I heard. Most of the early examples came from Old John – I never knew his full name – and I'm ashamed to say I forgot to give him a mention in the book. John was a retired driver retained by the General to help us poor knowledge boys

pass the "drive". Since then for around thirty years I've been adding to the collection. My main sources have been my fellow cab drivers, the trade press and the few books written about us. Surprisingly those eminent dictionaries of slang which claim to be insights into the wonderful richness of the English language contain few examples of "taxidriverspeak".

So far I've amassed over 750 slangs

and terms related to or exclusive to our profession. Fewer than half are in my little book,

so if some of your favourites aren't there it's due to lack of space or lack of knowledge on

my part. I never intended to get published, I was persuaded by two things (a) there has never been a book exclusive to the subject and (b) sadly our slang is dying out. Gone are the days when you might hear older drivers conversing in sentences like, "I 'ad an 'urry-up, 'im'n'er from

PGTips to the Shakes, I run it froo a right strawberry in fifteen minute, all fer a bleedin' legal!" That's a shame, because we cabbies are very good at expressing ourselves in inventive ways. Punters expect it, and they demand more from us than from those in other forms of transport in London. Why? Because we are different. We have our knowledge, our history, our traditions, our status and our slang. This last may only be a small thing but it's

LONDON TAXI DRIVER SLANG

part of the overall package. Don't let it fade away.

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### Rogues gallery

A SOUTH London private hire cabbie and his partner have been sent to prison after they were found guilty of falsely claiming housing and council tax benefits. Nura Kamara (34) and Hadiza Mohammed (31) fraudulently received £80,000 and used the money to set up a string of businesses in their home country.

The couple used fake names and were only caught when an explosion

at a neighbour's house in Oliver Grove, South Norwood forced them to apply for local authority housing. Kamara and Mohammed contacted Croydon Council in September 2010 but identity checks by officials uncovered benefit claims for their address under multiple names.

A search by police of their belongings found several fake passports and a roll of film which showed the private hire driver getting married to a French woman in 2003. It is believed that Kamara used the sham wedding

as a means to stay in the UK. An inquiry by the UK Border Agency revealed that Kamara owned a house, land and a goat and fish farm in Nigeria which are thought to have been paid for with the fraudulently claimed money.

He was jailed for three years at Croydon Crown Court and Mohammed was sentenced to 18 months after they both pleaded guilty on the day of their trial. The couple face deportation when they are released from

prison.

Councillor Dudley Mead, said; "This was a complex and difficult case that demonstrates the great pressures that councils are under to stop people stealing money that is meant to pay for people who really need the help that state benefits can give. "But it also shows that where it is necessary, Croydon Council will always take stringent action against benefit fraudsters."

### **STAN** catches rapist

Tout driver Aston Murray (49) from Edmonton, North London was jailed for eight years in September 2010 after he was found guilty of raping a 22 year old student. He was arrested six years after the attack when police stopped him for taxi touting and his DNA matched samples collected at the time of the rape.

### Chauffeur boss jailed

AN EXECUTIVE car boss has been sent to prison after he was found guilty of VAT and PAYE fraud.

Haris Mukhtar was jailed for six years after he siphoned off £300,000 of National Insurance and income tax from his 200 employees. The 40 year old Essex businessman was also found guilty of stealing £1million from the taxman after he claimed VAT refunds on cars he fraudulently said he bought for his business.

Mukhtar has previous convictions for fraud and carried on the VAT scam after he was charged and arrested. The chauffeur boss hid his illegal deals behind a wall of shell-companies and 21 different aliases. Mukhtar's younger brother Adam was also caught up in the web of deceit and was given a 12 month suspended sentence after he tried but failed to claim £27,000 VAT back for his own car hire company.

### LCDC launches taxi logo watch



As you know, when you join the LCDC you are sent a fantastic logo sticker that goes on the back of your taxi. We at the LCDC have now launched an LCDC Badge Watch Scheme! Any member spotted in their taxi which displays the LCDC sticker will be eligible for the £15 Lidl voucher. Opposite you will see the first winner. Steve Risborough who said

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### Love boxing? Love Buncey



#### **FURY Vs CHISORA:**

Tyson Fury has come in for fierce criticism after threatening to kill Dereck Chisora in their domestic heavyweight showdown at Wembley Arena on July 23, insisting, "I'm going to snap your chin off your body".

The unbeaten 6ft 9in giant ramped up the war of words with British and Commonwealth champion Chisora during a conference call to publicise their fight. However, the 23-year-old let his emotions get the better of him when he took the insults to a whole new level, vowing to kill his fellow Brit - claims which forced Chisora to hang up.

Fury said: "I've a wife and two kids to

provide for and if it means killing you in the ring, that's what I will have to do. To beat me he will have to kill me because I'm prepared to die in the ring. I'm putting it all on the line. I'm going to snap your chin off your body.

"You are an arrogant little p\*\*\*\*. I'll smash your face in. You are a s\*\*\*house as well. It will come down to one thing on the night: who's got the bigger heart? Who wants it more? I know I want it so badly, nothing will stop me."

Although Fury later apologised for his outburst, an incensed Frank Warren, who promotes Chisora, wrote an angry letter to Robert Smith, the general secretary of the British Board of Boxing Control.

In the note he said: "It's totally unacceptable, unprofessional and unprovoked behaviour. It did nothing to enhance a British title fight. It doesn't enhance the sport as a whole, either. His vile insults and disgusting comments have no place in British boxing."

This latest series of events do little to raise the profile of the sport, especially when some sections of the media came down hard on David Haye's prefight taunts ahead of his world heavy-weight unification clash with Wladimir Klitschko only weeks ago.

A furious Warren continued: "Fury has-



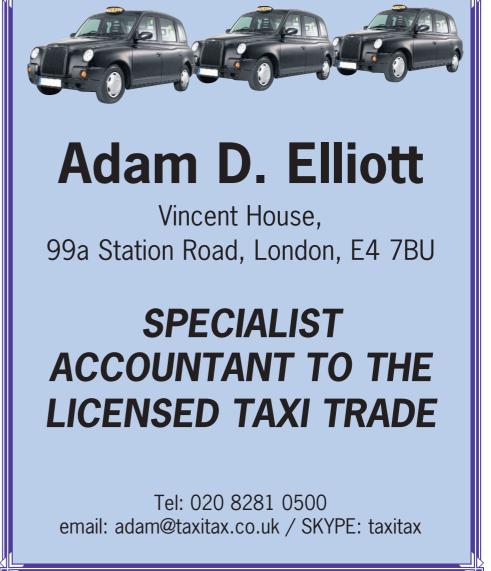
n't got much upstairs. In my view, empty vessels make the most noise. My man will not be at the head-to-head press conference on Monday listening to any more of that talk."

Despite issuing an apology, Fury defended his comments. "I didn't come on to this phone call to be aggressive, but when he comes out with stuff about

me having no heart, what do you expect me to do?

"I'm doing this for my family and I'm going to smash his face in. But I do apologise to anyone listening if I have offended them. All this trash talk is rubbish. I'm sick of talking. I just want to get in the ring and I just can't wait for fight night to come along."







### July has some of the best flat races of the year and none more so than the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes run at Ascot on 23rd July.

This is the first time the 3 year old colts can take on the older horses. The Epsom Derby winners have a great record in this race but Pour Mou has been put away for an autumn campaign with the Prix De L'Arc De

Triomphe as his main target. Workforce, last years Derby winner would have strong claims but is far from certain to run. Rewildings (5/2) who beat So You Think in the Queen Annes Stakes at Royal Ascot should go very close but my selection is St Nicholas Abbey (11/8). Aiden O'Briens horse has now finally started to show his true ability and with wins at Chester and Epsom already this year he can go on to take this

### The Marksman

group one event. He is to short back on the plane and my liver for me to suggest a wager but I do think he will win.

In last months issue we covered Royal Ascot. We gave five selections but unfortunately four did not run. Fortunately though the one that did run won giving The Marksman a 100 percent record (tongue in cheek). That single winner was Canford Cliffs who we gave as a 3 star bet to beat the French filly Goldikova.

The next group one event is the Sussex Stakes at Glorious Goodwood on the 27th July. Here Canford Cliffs (11/8) takes on the unbeaten 2000 Guineas winner Frankel (evens). Although there will be possibly 8-10 runners it really should be a two horse race. I couldn't advise a bet as its so tight but it really is a race to savour. At the end of the month in Ireland there is the Galway Festival, five days racing of the highest order. I remember a few years ago going to the festival, I came came back on another but that's another story!

The two feature races that week are the Galway Plate Chase and the Galway Hurdle. Dermot Weld always does well there and I recommend a two point win bet on his Majestic Concorde (12/1) in the Plate and also a 2 point win bet on the Charles Byrnes Jack Cool (12/1) in the Hurdle.

Finally I would like to pass on a little bit of information about a horse in Newmarket which is being aimed at the Totesport Ebor Handicap at York on the 20th August. I've already backed this horse ante post at 33/1. The horse has been working well and this has been the plan for some time. I mentioned this now because there is no August issue. The horse in question is Ted Spred trained by Mark Tompkins.

Anyway, Be Lucky and don't give too much to those awful bookie chappies!



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