

# Vehicle Licencing

Vehicle Licencing is now upon us and Transport for London kindly invited the LPHCA to the Press and media launch at the Hanworth Testing Centre in Middlesex.

London Mayor Ken Livingstone would have been there but was away on Paternity leave, so Dave Wetzel represented Transport for London in his position as vice chair of TfL.

Roy Ellis and a host of his PCO team were also on hand to show the first vehicles being put to the test and sample screen discs being put on the vehicles for the media.

The LPHCA was very proud to be asked to make a joint press statement with Mayor Ken Livingstone who said:

"The start of licensing private hire vehicles completes the final stage of regulation to make minicab travel in London safer. Passengers deserve to travel in safe, roadworthy and clean cars, which cannot be confused with black cabs. These new strict standards will improve the quality of service for passengers and make travelling in minicabs safer for Londoners. By April 2005, all existing private hire vehicles will be licensed.

This follows the successful licensing of some 2,300 private hire operators and the start of licensing for 43,000 drivers. It's vital that we rid London of illegal taxi touts and build on work to improve late night travel, which has included increasing the number of night buses and back cabs and provide a police presence and CCTV on night buses."

Licensed Private Hire Car Association Chairman Steve Wright said:

"Vehicle Licencing brings the private hire industry much closer

to completing the task of delivering a fully regulated minicab and chauffeur industry in London.

The introduction of private hire vehicles licensed by TfL will improve safety and give the travelling public the ability to book a private hire vehicle with the same confidence as they would a licensed taxi.

Now that it will be a requirement for all licensed private hire vehicles to have an identity disc in windscreens, illegal touts will be easier to isolate and prosecute.

The LPHCA welcomes the new TfL regulations as good news for Londoners."

## SIGNAGE

Whilst the new testing centres are very much welcomed by The LPHCA there is still disappointment that the screen discs chosen falls far short of what had been asked for during consultation. 'Mogo style' light emitting screen discs and licensing plates that are used extensively throughout the rest of

the country.

There is also dismay that no signage is to be permitted under the new regulations and feedback to the LPHCA has varied from anger to extreme disappointment.

Our position is that we will have a full review of the signage issues in the near future once the new TfL screen discs have had time to be tested out.

*continued on page 10* ▶



Steve Wright - Chairman LPHCA, David Wetzel - Vice Chair of Transport for London and Roy Ellis - Head of The PCO at the new Transport for London Private Hire Vehicles Testing Centre at Hanworth in Middlesex.



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◀ continued from page 8

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## FEEDBACK

If any members wish to give feedback, positive or negative, on the signage issue or the new testing centres please email, fax, write or post on our website message board.

There are bound to be teething problems with Vehicle Testing but The LPHCA is hoping that the 'light touch' advocated by Alan Matthews at the PCO will be prevalent.

Please let us know.



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# PATONS KNOW TAXIS INSIDE OUT

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## I'm coming to see you all!



STEVE WRIGHT

*I have decided to attempt the mother of all whistle stop tours over the next 12 months by attempting to visit every Graded Member.*

Many members get the chance to meet me at the meetings and many members have been visited by me, in fact I've probably been in over 100 offices in the last 10 years.

My recent visits to Jimac and Ace Cars East, who are members of our captive insurance scheme, were very useful and I always get great value when I visit our members.

There are many questions that can be answered at these visits and I look forward to seeing you soon.

I also intend to bring a camera and make you famous by putting you and your company in Private Hire News.

