

# PRIVATE HIRE NEWS

WINTER 2007  
ISSUE 37



The news magazine of the Graded Private Hire Companies  
Incorporating the London and Southern Private Hire Car Associations

Welcome to **Edition 37** of **Private Hire News**. It has been around four months since **Edition 36** and the delay in publishing has been caused by the sheer workload and the high number of projects **The LPHCA** is involved in.

The biggest consumer of time was the subject of **Parking, Picking Up and Setting Down**. **The LPHCA** responded to three consultations about these issues and attended / supported the **'Door to Door' justice campaign**.

Much has happened and much has been said about this campaign and **The LPHCA** was initially unable to support the start of the **'Door to Door' justice campaign**. To set the record straight the reason was that the campaign was initially being promoted by some as a **'Day of Action'** – a blockade type protest about parking tickets, camera fines, etc.

Whilst we understood the frustrations of those on the receiving end of a problem that has been exacerbated by **indiscriminate and unfair camera enforcement**, we felt that 'a street protest' is a *tactic of last resort*.

**The LPHCA** was already in dialogue with **Transport for London (TfL)** and **The Mayor's Transport Advisors**. We were also in formal consultations with **The Department for Transport (DfT)**, **Westminster City Council** and **The Association of London Government**, (now renamed **London Councils**), so we thought such a protest would be inappropriate and untimely. This sentiment was confirmed by senior individuals in these groups that we were in dialogue with, who thought that such a protest would put our case backwards rather than forwards.

As the **'Door to Door' justice campaign** found its direction and sensibly elected **Private Hire Board Chairman Eddie Townson** as its committee spokesman, much to the organisers credit the **'day of action'** was changed to a **'rally'**.

The move enabled **The LPHCA** to give formal support and we actually came up with the **'ENOUGH'** campaign strap line / logo. **'ENOUGH'** actually sums it up in a word as **our industry is fed up with being unable to undertake its primary function of picking up and setting down the public in a safe and appropriate manner**.

The **rally** was reasonably well attended given the time of day and the nature of our business and a full report is included in this edition of **'Private Hire News'**.

In addition to the news on the **'Door to Door' rally** there is a substantial article on parking, featuring the various consultations and dialogues that we have been having with the powers that be. **The LPHCA** is mandated to achieve the objectives of its membership with dialogue and consensus and it remains our view that we are making good progress in many areas.

We have already gained a reasonable **Private Hire Act for London, a single regulator and Congestion Charging Exemption**. With **'Road Pricing'** and further extensions to the **Congestion Charging Zone** imminent, those who advocated **33 London Boroughs** as our masters in **London**, now know that *our considered approach* to regulation for **London** has paid off.

We also now know that **Licensed Private Hire** outside the **London Boroughs** *did not get Congestion Charge Exemption*. As a consequence of the **Miscellaneous Provisions Act (1976)** every individual **Local Licensing Authority outside London** has its own rules and this causes unbelievable hardship and problems for **Licensed Private Hire**.

These facts support the increasing calls for *more co-operation* on a **'national basis'** as *'united we stand and divided we fall'*.

Parking issues, road pricing, congestion charging, bus lane exemptions, training and development plus the forthcoming **Olympics** means, in reality, that we need a truly representative and democratic forum **nationally**.

In my view we already have the basis for such a body in **The Private Hire Board**, furthermore it is already constituted and now needs to develop **nationally**. This will enable our colleagues **outside London** to obtain the same favourable outcomes that we have gained in **London**, more of which will be announced soon.

Moving **The Private Hire Board** onto a **'national basis'** will enable us to collectively deal with the difficult issues that are easily swept under the regulatory carpet **outside London**.

**The LPHCA** will be moving its profile more **nationally** and we will fully support **The Private Hire Board's** role in helping **Operators and Drivers** regionally.

Speaking about the need to become more involved **nationally**, since the last issue of the magazine we have been contacted by **NALEO (The National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers)**, who wish to re-convene a working party that stopped a few years ago.

This group included **Trade Associations** and other **Trade Representatives**, as well as **regulators, enforcement agencies and safety groups**. The working party is likely to be reconvened and replaced by a **Forum** for the **Private Hire and Taxi Sector**. As with the original working party we will be looking to make the world a better place for our industry and passengers, whilst at the same time increasing our voice and profile.

There is a lot more in this edition of **Private Hire News** including news of **The Private Hire Ball at The Café Royal in London on June 2nd**. I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible there on the night as I am assured this is a **'not to be missed'** event for **Private Hire**.

Steve Wright MBE, Chairman LPHCA

**PUBLISHER:**  
Private Hire News Ltd.  
213 Kenton Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA3 0HD  
Mob: 07956 329288 Fax: 01442 380607  
PHNEWS@btinternet.com

**EDITOR:** Steve Wright

**ADVERTISING:**  
Mob: 07956 329288 Fax: 01442 380607

**DESIGN/ARTWORK**  
Bowberry House Design Limited  
bowberry.house@btconnect.com

**PRINTER**  
The Colourhouse Ltd  
Alan Anderson: 020 8305 8355

**CONTRIBUTORS:**  
Steve Wright, Geoff Wright and Eddie Townson

NOTE: The editorial content of 'Private Hire News' is copyright. Other Publications are not entitled to reproduce material contained in it without prior authorisation in writing. Please contact the publishers to obtain written permission to reproduce any material contained in this or any other issue. © All rights reserved

## In this issue...

Talking of Grading .....	4
Roy Ellis retires .....	6
Smoke-free regulations .....	10
Enough! .....	12
Parking .....	14
London Plan .....	16
Private Hire Board – changes .....	18
The 'Grand Private Hire' Ball .....	20
Graded Listing .....	21
Closing the Loophole .....	29
Member's Information .....	38
'Door-to-Door' justice campaign .....	46