

PRIVATE HIRE NEWS

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

Welcome to Edition 39 of **Private Hire News** which is the first to be distributed in the **Midlands**. This follows meetings with **Pete Barrow** and his colleagues at **Birmingham City Council** who have an excellent **Licensing** regime.

One of two meetings with **Pete** and his team has brought into focus the fact that **Illegal Touting** is *high on everybody's agenda* not only **London**.

We have also had some positive dialogue with the '**Association of Nottingham Private Hire Operators**' who sent congratulations on the success on **Red Routes** in a letter from their **Chairman Mark Cartledge**.

Alongside their excellent **Secretary Ray Butterworth**, who we regularly work with at **GoSkills**, we are forging links for the challenges ahead for our trade.

In addition to making more contacts and widening our work, we wish to welcome **J&M agents Midlands Brokers Connect Insurance** as new advertisers in this edition.

We will be distributing **1,000 extra copies** of the magazine this time around in the **Derby, Leicester and Nottingham areas**.

Advertisers and sponsors are very important to the **LPHCA** and the magazine, so I wish to use this editorial to welcome **Transport Innovation** on board as **Platinum Members**, joining **Cordic, J&M and Proximo** as very serious supporters of our work, so please use their products and those of all our regular advertisers.

Transport Innovation is a major supplier of work to our sector and for years we have informally interfaced between them and **Member Operators**, on many occasions resolving the inevitable differences that occur between supplier and provider.

This relationship is healthy for our members and for **Transport Innovation** and whilst we will never be able to please everyone, we endeavour to do the best for our members.

As well as being busy in the **Midlands** the **LPHCA's** long awaited meeting with **London Mayor Ken Livingstone** finally took place in June at **City Hall**. In the 30 minute slot we had frank discussions with **Mayor Ken** who has been more co-operative and helpful to the **Private Hire Industry** than we could have ever hoped.

Much of what was discussed was in commercial and ethical confidence and a full **LPHCA** members meeting will be called in the autumn, when we will probably in a position to reveal the extent of our discussions. I was joined by **LPHCA** members **Eddie Townson (Carlton Motors of Welling)** and **Bill Edwards (Brunel plc)** for the visit.

Eddie Townson and I were also invited as guests of **Transport for London** to the **Enforcement Task Force (ETF)** whose members include the **London Councils, the Metropolitan and City of London Police**.

The conference featured the themes of standards and fairness following the **Parliamentary Transport Select Committee's** report on **Parking & Enforcement** last summer.

Some **Local Authorities** are clearly getting it right but there is a long way to go for consistency, however progress is being made. The fact that **Eddie** and I were invited shows just how far that progress is going as we are now dealing directly with the policymakers and enforcers of parking management.

The conference also included discussion about the **SPARKS programme**, which is an initiative to stop foreign drivers and vehicles, evading fines, insurance, road tax and penalty charges, details are elsewhere in this edition of **Private Hire News**.

In edition 38 we asked **Members** if they have received details on sharply increased **Radio Licence Fees** without notice, which we have, so we will be writing to both the **Government and Ofcom**.

On a different subject there has been disappointing delays getting the final clearance on **Red Routes** in place. The 'Door to Door' campaign asked me to draft a letter to **TfL Surface Transport MD David Brown** on their behalf. At the time of going to press contacts tell me that **Mr Brown** will be responding soon and that realistically the

legislation will be in place by early autumn. Whilst many are bitterly disappointed, previous experience has shown that with regulatory changes, its best to keep the champagne on ice until the bottle can be opened.

Looking forward we have been contacted by the Department for Transport (DfT) as there is a draft **Local Transport Bill** out for consultation, we will be meeting our **Political Advisor Robin Hulf** to discuss this and reporting back to members.

This is a very important consultation for our industry – as major providers of public transport and we have detailed this in this issue.

The **Association Website's Members Area** is being expanded slowly and we now have our legal advisors **Croner's Help & Information** available as downloadable PDF's in the '**Member's Private Area**'. Please contact us for your password.

These full colour information sheets include recent articles on '**Holiday Entitlement Laws**' – your questions answered.

LPHCA Members can easily find out the new requirements and avoid doing the wrong thing or even ending up in an expensive and unnecessary employment tribunal. Visit www.lphca.co.uk and follow the link to the members only area.

It was a very special moment for me and many others in our industry when the **Private Hire Ball** was announced. It was even more special for all those involved that the event at **The Café Royal** was such a great success. I wish to thank all the sponsors and every one who organised and attended the event.

I am sure we are all looking forward to next year and for those who couldn't make this year for one reason or another put this date in the diary now – 10 May 2008.

Last but not least we are moving from our home for the last 15 years at **Kenton Road**. I wish to thank **Billy Paton & David Crouch of College Cars and Checker Cars** respectively for facilitating our offices during that time.

Details of our new address in **Harrow** are on this page.

Steve Wright MBE, Chairman LPHCA

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