

PRIVATE HIRE NEWS



The news magazine of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association
incorporating the London Private Hire Car Association

Welcome to Edition 46 of **Private Hire News**. It was good to see yet another full house at our recent meeting on the **Hispaniola Boat** on the **Thames** in April. Those who attended will have probably been contacted this time via the new **E-Alerts** that the office has been generating for **Members**.

This meeting was strictly a '**Members Only**' event with a few of our **Platinum Sponsors** and **Special Guests** in attendance. Two very welcome new **Special Guests** were **Martin Low** (**Director of Transportation**) at **Westminster City Council** and **Chief Superintendent Joe Royle** **Commander of the London Mayor's recently enlarged Metropolitan Police's Transport Occupational Command Unit (TOCU)**

A brief report will be made in this edition of **Private Hire News** with full details of the meeting and discussions privately available in the *pass-worded* '**Members Only**' area of our website **www.LPHCA.co.uk**

As mentioned above the team at the office are now communicating to **Members** by a new system of **E-Alerts**. Once an **E-Alert** is received detailed information can be obtained by a simple click to our website where there will be 'full blown' information on the news subject or event relating to the alert.

This system will enhance the level of information that **Members** receive on a simple '*click when relevant*' basis. For example we will be sending traffic, legal, political, financial and association events information as well as private news and exclusive offers for **Members**.

This will give **Members** the ability to obtain detailed information often well

before it becomes 'Public Domain'. In the future most **LPHCA** information will only reach those who are entitled to it - '**Our Loyal Members**', who at the end of the day pay for it.

We are delighted with the **E-Alerts** trial which we used for the April meeting and no less that **11 Members** registered their attendance and food choices within 6 minutes of one of the alerts! There will still be the traditional methods of fax, phone and post, so don't worry if you are not yet web enabled.

Technology is now going to be heavily utilised by the **Association** and we are delighted to hear that the **Public Carriage Office (PCO)** in **London** are also embracing its use. The **PCO** are in the process of formally approving remote inspection visits via **CabOperator** the online **Operator, Driver and Vehicle Licensing Management System**. We would like to thank **Platinum Members Carlton Motors, Greater London Hire and DataCars of Eltham** for assisting us with gaining **PCO** approval.

This will in effect mean that filing cabinets full of papers and photocopies are no longer necessary for **PCO Compliance**. Most of the documents required for inspections can be viewed by the **PCO** remotely via **CabOperator** with secure and private access from the **PCO** over the web.

The consequence of this is the saving of millions of pieces of paper and tens of thousands of filing cabinets. In addition teams of **Licensing Officers** arriving at **Operator's Premises** to undertake trawling through filing cabinets can virtually become a thing of the past, with further environmental benefits via the massive reduction in **Licensing Enforcement** journeys.

An extra benefit is that by having remote access to records it will enable the **PCO** and other **Local Authority Regulators** to spend *more time focusing on those not complying*. The **LPHCA** will be hosting a stand at the **Coventry Exhibition** at the **End of May** and **Alan Haslehurst** will be able to demo **CabOperator** there, with special discounts to **LPHCA Members**.

The progress that the **LPHCA** has made in the last 12 months is very encouraging and without doubt this would not have been possible without the **Platinum Membership** as the time and financial support that has been forthcoming from all concerned has been tremendous.

All of the **Platinum Objectives** were re-aligned at the April meeting from the original top twenty priorities in our first year and it was good to report that we have completed 5 priorities with ongoing progress on many more.

The **Platinum Committees** will be re-convening soon with regular meetings on the **Hispaniola**. The **Platinum** work will be grown and developed to include all who want to contribute with time and/or finances to help our progress.

The internet **Platinum Message Board**, through no fault of the **Association's** is being superseded due to the difficulty of managing it and the change of ownership from **Ezyboard** to **Yuku**. A combination of **E-Alerts** and our own **Private Member's Message Board** and **Forum Areas** will be introduced with an easier hierarchy and alerting system.

The **LPHCA** has been invited to get involved in **Industry Awards** for **Private Hire** in conjunction with the organisers of **Drive 09**. Details of these **QSI awards** will appear in the next edition of **Private Hire News** alongside details of our **AGM**, which will once again be held at the wonderful **Marriott Hotel** at **Heathrow**. This venue was so successful that many **Members** have requested that we hold the **AGM** and **Road Show** there once again this year.

The date is confirmed as **Thursday 8th October**, so those who missed out on this great event last year please put it in your diary now! Elsewhere in this Edition are many **Industry Related Articles** including the **Private Hire in Bus lanes** campaign, where we are all working closely together on the **PHB**. Hopefully I will see you at **Coventry** or somewhere else soon.

Steve Wright, MBE
Chairman

PUBLISHER:

Private Hire News Ltd.
Talbot House, 204 - 226 Imperial Drive, Harrow,
Middlesex, HA2 7HH
Mob: 07956 329288 Fax: 01442 380607
PHNEWS@btinternet.com
www.privatehirenews.co.uk

EDITOR: Steve Wright

ADVERTISING:

Mob: 07956 329288 Fax: 01442 380607

DESIGN/ARTWORK

Bowberry House Design Ltd
design@bowberryhouse.co.uk

PRINTER

The Colourhouse Ltd
Alan Anderson: 020 8305 8355

CONTRIBUTORS:

Steve Wright, Geoff Wright,

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