

Laurence Levan ... ☆☆☆☆☆ Star Man

Many of us will be sad to learn of the passing of **Laurence Levan** late in October. Like so many I have known **Laurence** since the seventies when we first met up in **London** at an event that **Gideon Fiegal** and others had put together to form the very first **Trade Association** in the capital.

At those meetings **Laurence**, as always, had plenty to say and he was a **founding member** who stayed the course supporting the **LPHCA**, the **Private Hire Board** and more recently **Platinum Membership** of the **LPHCA**.

Laurence started out at **Concorde** in **Belsize Park**, where he was working with some of the early characters like him in the industry.

He later ran and sold several companies, moved to **Majorca**, retired too early and soon returned, starting up **Master Cars** in **Delancy Street**.

He then sold his corporate interest to **GLH**, which worked well for all parties and kept **Central London Private Hire** as a cash operation.

Always into technology **Laurence's** companies were often first to use automated booking systems and **Peter Roback** of **Mercury** said he always had the utmost respect for **Laurence** both as a friend, businessman and father figure of the **London Industry**.

When **Laurence** was first 'Graded' at **Master Cars** I still vividly remember the phone melting in my ear as they had only made **3 Star**, which in fairness was a high level pre-licensing.

After talking him down from his office ceiling, **Laurence** listened and within months introduced the **Quality Management** and **Training Systems** to climb quickly up to **5 Star**.

It was subsequently a great pleasure to be invited by **Laurence** and all his family to their **ISO 9000** accreditation presentation at **Delancy Street** and the **5 Star Man** clearly had a **5 Star Company**.



Laurence has been suffering illness with great dignity for quite a while in recent years but he usually called whenever an **LPHCA** meeting was on, either before or after, to find out what he was missing or thought he had missed. I really think it kept him going in times of despair and suffering, which to his great credit he never once revealed.

Laurence leaves his family **Jackie, Ruth** and his wife **Janice** to keep the business going alongside a great team of colleagues in the business and perhaps his beloved grandchildren, **Alex** and **Ben**, may one day figure in the **Private Hire** legacy that has been a very family run business.

We wish them all the best for the future and hope the family will call as often as **Laurence** did, as his calls will be sorely missed. *Steve Wright*

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AGM and Road Show 2009

Private Hire in Bus Lanes

David Beck of the **Private Hire Board** during the **AGM** Section kindly presented the **Private Hire in Bus Lanes** video, which was followed by an opportunity to comment or ask questions. This part was not videoed by us as it can be viewed on the website www.phvinbuslanes.co.uk. Thanks to David and all involved for their hard work and efforts in the making of this video.



Current topics

Rather than cover everything in this edition of the magazine from the **AGM** part of our **AGM & Road Show** we have outlined briefly the primary topics covered due to shortage of space in this copy of **Private Hire News**.

The good news is that transcripts will be made available to Members and Special Guests on request and will be downloadable from the Members Only Area of the Website. There are also full videos of the discussions Question & Answer sessions and PowerPoint Presentations available.

Government Best Practice

We published a formal response to the **Government's Industry Best Practice Guidance** in issue 47 of **Private Hire News** and we took an opportunity at this **AGM** to re-enforce issues, like lack of enforcement, bus lane usage and other key points.

Mayors Air Quality Strategy

Discussion also took place on the **Mayor's Air Quality Strategy** and the publication of the **Mayor's Draft Transport Strategy** both of which the **Association** will be responding too.

Transport Plans

The importance of **Transport Plans** and **Planning** was again raised and the failure to often include **Private Hire** debated.

Confusion surrounding **CRB Checks**, **Medical Fitness Requirements**, **National Regulations** and the need for 'Joined up' **Licensing** were also primary topics of discussion.

All these were covered in **AGM Video Part 1** on the website WWW.LPHCA.CO.UK.

In **AGM Video Part 2** we covered in detail **Touting** and **Illegal Activity**, the **DfT's Driving Hours Consultation**, likely **Vehicle Age Limits** and the **Olympic Games** as **London** topics.

In **AGM Video Part 3** we continued on **Vehicle Age Limits** and potential new emissions requirements in **London** before moving onto **Association** business like **Platinum Membership**, the successful fundraising **Golf Day**, before the **Chairman's re-election** and **ongoing mandate**.

The **AGM** business concluded with **Any Other Business** and thanks were given to everyone who had attended, spoken at, sponsored, supported or helped with putting on such a wonderful event. **Platinum Members** then dispersed for yet another meeting in the hotel, which was followed by an excellent meal and social drink in the bar.

The **AGM & Road Shows** to date have been very rewarding events and it is great to welcome so many people in or connected to our industry to attend, have a say, network and develop friendships as well as commercial relationship. Long may this continue!