



# Private Hire NEWS

## Welcome to the latest issue of Private Hire News...

Welcome to the **Summer 2010** Edition 50 of **Private Hire News**, which is a very special edition as it marks our half century of publications!

A very good friend of mine **Keith Hale**, a serious publisher who helped us to set up **Private Hire News**, told me that if we got past the sixth issue without bankruptcy we would make it.

The magazine has had some narrow escapes along the way and in fact, due to costs and the wider needs of the association, it wasn't published for three years as all funds were needed for political work. Since issue 25 however, we have been back on track regularly publishing four times a year.

As well as being an industry and member's magazine, **Private Hire News** has been a very useful vehicle for public relations and political work with distribution to the **Media, Politicians, Local Authorities, Regulators and Enforcement Agencies** including the **Police, Licensing Officers** and their trade associations like **NALEO** and the **IOL (National Association of Licensing Enforcement Officers and the Institute of Licensing)**.

The most memorable moment to date for the magazine was when the **London Taxi Driver** and **MP for Eltham, Clive Efford**, waved a copy of the magazine in the **House of Commons** and quoted comments verbatim during the live television debate on **Licensing London Private Hire**.

So we've made **'Hansard'** and therefore the **Parliamentary History Archives** on our way to **Edition 50**.

Many of our successes have followed strong editorials or articles in **Private Hire News**, none more recently than in **Edition 49** where we flagged heavily the potential unlicensed activity that is undertaken by **Event Management Companies**.

Copies of our article **'Time to Act'** in the last edition were reproduced by important industry websites and groups. Electronic versions of the article were distributed to **Members** and to our special **Platinum Committee Group** who had been working on the closing of loopholes and making sure that enforcement is undertaken.

Copies were also sent to the **Department for Transport (DfT), Transport for London (TfL), MPs, Local Authorities** and many others. Alongside a major campaign we have now secured a very helpful letter, which sets out the **DfT's 'general views'**, which are in accord with ours on **Wimbledon** and other events. Please read about the successful progress we are making in this edition of **Private Hire News**.

In addition to the **Platinum Committee** dealing with **Licensing Event Management Companies** and others, we have set up two further action groups, one to deal with problems for **Members** in **London** running

**Accessibility & Specialist Vehicles** and another covering the issue of **Illegal Touting** and **Rules for Legitimate Licensed Operators at Nightclubs**.

These excellent committees and groups of **LPHCA Members** are fantastically effective as they convene, agree a plan of action and then meet those who need to be conversant with our difficulties.

The progress and success on both of these topics by the respective groups are also covered in this edition.

The **London Mayor's Air Quality** consultation will also be covered for **Members** to respond to and we have an interesting article on **Smoothing Traffic Flow**, or put another way, **'Improving Journey Times'** and we ask a big question about **Pedestrian Traffic Signals** and **Traffic Lights** in general.

Having recently responded to the **Mayor's Draft Transport Strategy in London** we now have in our possession the completed and recently published final version, which will enable us to have a look at the points that are relevant to **Private Hire**.

**RED ALERT – CRB checks crisis on the way?** Did you know that the **Criminal Records Bureau** is changing its disclosure form? Did you know that it won't be processing them for a week this summer? Did you also know that if you don't send in the right form it will probably be returned?

Add to this, already terrible time delays and the knock on effect that will have on engaging drivers, things could become horrendous! We are on the case and it looks like yet another **Members Group** could be on the way.

All this and much more can be found in this edition and we will also be encouraging **New Members** to join us by publishing feedback from a recent request to members to tell **Non Members** all about the **Association**.

A couple of **Diary Dates** for 2010: **14<sup>th</sup> September, LPHCA – Fundraising Golf Day** at **Elstree** and one month later – **14<sup>th</sup> October** our **AGM** and **Road Show**, by popular demand, will be returning to the **Heathrow Marriott Hotel**.

Dates are being finalised for other fundraiser / social events by the **Platinum Events Organising Committee**, events such as the **Member's River Thames Boat Cruise Evening** and a very special night in **London's famous Embassy Club** in **Mayfair!**

Please watch out for the **E-alerts** as all these events are likely to be over-subscribed. I am very much looking forward to them all and the next 50 editions of the magazine!



Steve Wright, MBE  
Chairman LPHCA

## In this issue...

Talking of Grading .....	4
Private Hire in 2010: Primary Issues .....	6
PHV Access to the Royal Parks .....	10
TfL 'Check and Send Service' .....	12
Join the LPHCA .....	14
Medicals.....	16
Review of Drink & Drug Driving Law...	18
Smoothing Traffic Flow.....	22
LPHCA Golf Day.....	25
Lobbying .....	26
Current Members – Listing .....	27
Mayor's Draft Air Quality Strategy .....	32
Specialist Vehicles – Licensing.....	40
Time to Act .....	45
Member's Testimonials .....	48
Platinum Member Feature – WestOne Cars .....	52

PUBLISHER: Private Hire News Ltd.  
56 Austins Mead, Bovingdon,  
Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 0LH  
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  
design@bowberryhouse.co.uk

PRINTER: The Colourhouse Ltd  
Alan Anderson: 020 8305 8355

CONTRIBUTORS: Steve Wright, Geoff Wright

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