

COVER STORY
STEVE MCNAMARA Page 5

HEATHROW'S FEEDER PROBLEM
SUZANE SULLIVAN Page 13

EURO NEWS ROUND-UP
WIM FABER Page 16-17



www.ltda.co.uk

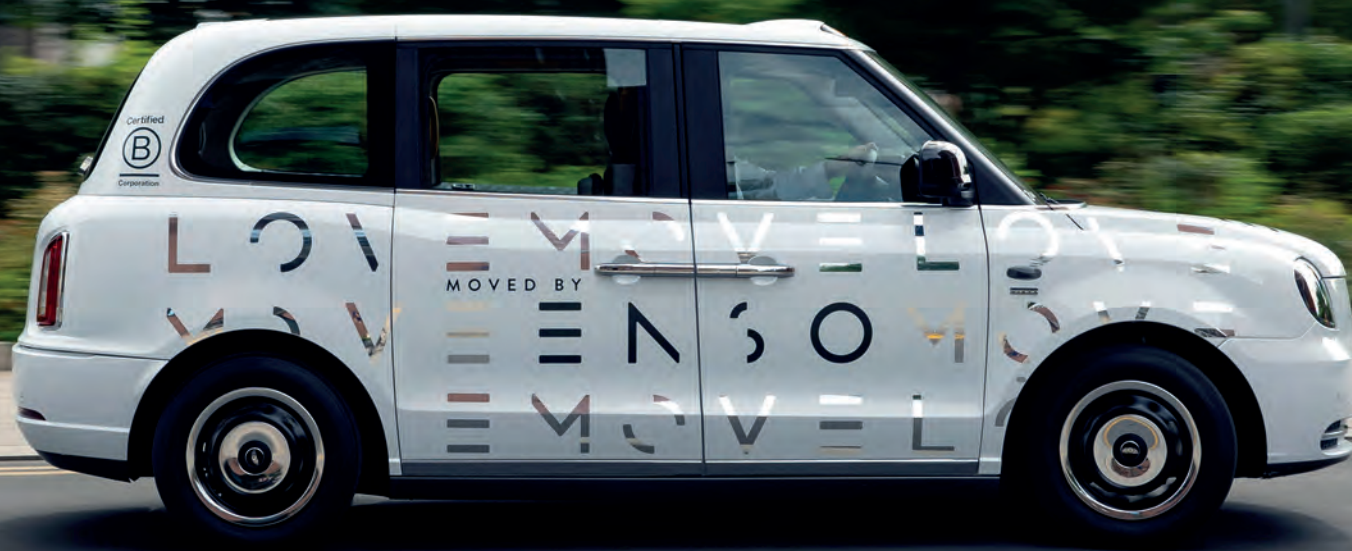
17th June 2025

#588



TAXI AND PRIVATE HIRE COMMISSIONER SET FOR LONDON?

RECENT DISCUSSIONS APPEAR TO FAVOUR THE PROPOSED ROLE



FREE ENSOS FOR LIFE!*

We're giving one EV taxi driver the chance to win ENSO tyres for life!

Promotion runs from 1st June to 31st August 2025.

PLUS, buy a set of ENSOs during the promotion period for a chance to win a full refund on your purchase.

Enter for your chance to win!



**SCAN NOW
TO ENTER**

Better tyres for your cab.

Our LEVC Approved EV tyres are **AA** rated and designed specially for electric taxis.

ENSO

Inside... TAXI 588

- 3 | News
- 5 | Steve McNamara
- 6 | Paul Brennan
- 9 | Paul Kirby
- 10 | Steve Howard
- 13 | Suzanne Sullivan
- 14 | Dashboard, LTCFC, & Lotto Winner
- 16 | Wim Faber
- 18 | So You Think You Know London
- 21 | Letters
- 22 | Entertainment Corner
- 23 | Cab You Drive
- 24 | Taxi Charity
- 27 | Puzzler
- 30 | Cartoon & Puzzler Answers

LTDA
Taxi House, 133 Great Suffolk
Street, SE1 1PP
020 7286 1046
www.ltdda.co.uk
@TheLTDA

Editor
Mike Williams
taxi@ltdda.co.uk

Produced By
Fellows Media Ltd
The Gallery
Manor Farm Courtyard
Southam Lane
Cheltenham GL52 3PBE:
hello@fellowsmedia.com
fellowsmedia.com

Advertising Sales
Jacob Holmes:
01242 259244
E: jacob.holmes
@fellowsmedia.co.uk



fellowsmedia
est. 1992

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted by any means electronic, mechanical or by photocopying without prior permission of the publishers. The views and opinions expressed in this publication may not necessarily be those of the publishers. Please note that the last day for inclusion of Classified lineage advertisements is five working days prior to publication. No liability is accepted by the publisher should advertisements not appear in the requested issue(s). While the publisher will take every care to ensure accuracy, no liability can be accepted for loss or damage resulting from errors.

HMRC ALREADY CONTACTING DRIVERS OVER NEW TAX SYSTEM

As we highlighted in the last issue, HMRC is slowly but surely starting to roll out the new Making Tax Digital (MTD) initiative, whereby self-employed people earning over £50,000 will be the first to board the new taxation system, for a quarterly earnings submission. With some cabbies earning in excess of this requirement, various drivers have reported that they've already received a letter from HMRC regarding

their 2026 Self Assessment via the new method.

The issue some taxi drivers will face is having all their expenditure info handy at the end of each quarter, with many still only getting end-of-year operator summaries, meaning drivers will need to find a way around this or request said details much earlier and more frequently.

Approximately 780,000 people will be inducted to the MTD in April 2026, with a further 970,000 a year



later in 2027 for those with a £30,000 annual income, and the following financial year of 2028 for those on £20,000.

Workers, especially cabbies, are being advised to get involved with the testing phase GOV.UK is offering, so any confusion or mistakes made won't be penalised.

FUEL PRICES CONTINUE TO DROP

Great news if your livelihood revolves around being on the road and needing to fill up. Both petrol and diesel prices have dropped again in the month of May 2025, meaning that was the third month in a row of falling costs, making this the lowest average levels since the middle of 2021.

Petrol fell by an average of almost 2 pence during the month, taking it to 132.3 pence per litre and diesel to 138.5 pence. And prices look set to continue to lower, with some supermarkets offering 129 pence and 135 pence a litre, respectively. One Sainsbury's has been spotted slashing per litre costs further to 121.9 pence and diesel in one of its Belfast locations to just 126.9 pence.

ENSO LAUNCHES HUGE SUMMER PROMO FOR TAXIS

ENSO, a leading provider of energy-efficient taxi tyres, has announced a massive promotion aimed at drivers of LEVC electrified taxis in the UK. Between 1st June and 31st August 2025, they're offering cabbies the chance to win a lifetime supply of tyres – what's more, there's no purchase necessary. Drivers who do buy tyres during this period and enter the draw will be reimbursed fully for their purchase if they win, plus they'll get a new set of four tyres every year for as long as they own their taxi.

This tyre is the world's first double 'A'-rated, range-extending tyre designed

specifically for LEVC electrified taxis. Their tyres also help drivers cut energy costs by up to 10%, reducing operating expenses so over an 18-month period a driver could offset the cost of the tyres.

ENSO TX1B tyres are now available via approved LEVC aftermarket distribution channels for fleet operators and individual drivers. Dominic Clark, Managing Director at ENSO, said: "This promotion highlights our commitment to supporting UK taxi drivers, providing genuine

NO CLIMATE BUDGET TO HELP CABBIES, SAYS MAYOR

Mayor of London Sadiq Khan has confirmed that none of the city's £1.4 billion budget will be directed to taxi drivers making the transition to zero emissions vehicles. During Mayor's Question Time at the end of May, one London Assembly member queried Khan and whether he intended to offer financial assistance to drivers out of the 2025-26 Climate Budget. He responded by clarifying his position: "The Plug-in Taxi Grant (PiTG) is a government grant introduced in 2017. As per my response to a previous question, I was pleased to note that the government extended the PiTG for a further year, albeit at the lower rate of £4,000, for a Zero Emission Capable (ZEC) taxi."

He further reiterated how the budget will be divided amongst other key areas, without increasing spend within the taxi industry: "The schemes in the Climate Budget have been prioritised to ensure they are delivering the maximum benefit, including transitioning the bus fleet to zero emission, and purchasing renewable energy."

cost savings, and making driving more efficient and sustainable."

For more info and to enter the competition, scan the QR code.

Taxi drivers interested in upgrading to ENSO tyres can visit ensotyres.com to book an appointment or call 020 3846 5600 to learn more.



FREENOW ✓

THE
**CRAZY
GINGER
CABBIE**

VS

FREENOW
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

FT. A LONDON CABBIE

ROUND 2

WHAT'S CHANGED?
WHAT'S NEXT?



**WATCH
NOW**

SCAN THE CODE





General Secretary
Steve
McNamara

Addressing the Way the Crown Prosecution Service Operates

It's almost as if the CPS and courts system are going out of their way to keep the LTDA busy, but on the flip side they are also regularly supplying me with copy!

Steve's Comment

This week's weird story is just one of an increasing number of bizarre prosecutions brought against London cabbies. A member received a notification from a court requiring his attendance, as they were considering disqualifying him from driving following his conviction for driving without due care and attention. This was something he knew absolutely nothing about, which was an absolute shock to hear, as to the best of his knowledge he had not been prosecuted or convicted of any offence ever!

Our legal department are currently trying to get to the bottom of what has happened. But before they can do anything they will probably have to work to get the conviction set aside. Then they will ask the CPS to reopen the case and reissue any paperwork to our member, in order for us to either challenge the evidence if it's a mistake, or set about preparing the defence in the event he stands accused. I will, of course, keep you updated on this one.

Point of interest

The growing realisation at City Hall from assembly members about the declining number of taxis, and the impact this will have on disabled people and others, continues to be debated. Not only is it discussed at the transport

committee, but now regularly talked about at meetings of the full assembly.

Unanimous opinion

The interesting bit for anyone sitting through an assembly meeting is how intense these debates can get between the varying political parties,

Democrats, Hina Bokhari OBE called for the mayor to write to the government, asking them to restore the plug-in taxi grant to the previous rate of £7,500. Other parts of the request were to further explore what action could be taken to make the Knowledge of London (KoL) less expensive,

Growing support

This Commissioner would report to the Deputy Mayor for Transport and act as an advocate for the taxi and private hire sector in London. They'd ensure that the industry is supported and so it can continue to provide a safe, efficient and high-quality service to all Londoners. As usual there were no dissenting voices in the chamber, only more calls of support, with the Conservatives tabling a motion calling for a policy that says where buses go, taxis go too. Standing orders at the Greater London Authority (GLA), however, meant that because the transport committee are currently preparing a response to the latest taxi action plan, the motion and amendment were sent back to the Transport Committee to (possibly) be included in the transport committee's report and recommendations.



Hina Bokhari OBE
(Credit: libdems.org.uk).

and on almost any subject there is division and split votes. One of the very few exceptions regarding this division is when it comes to the taxi trade, when at every single meeting I have attended there is support from all sides of the chamber.

Last week, I attended a plenary session at City Hall, where a motion from the leader of the Liberal

and how to reduce the financial burden on taxi drivers. The other request was about improving City Hall's engagement with both the taxi and private hire trades by appointing a Taxi and Private Hire Commissioner.

"Hina Bokhari OBE called for the mayor to write to the government, asking them to restore the plug-in taxi grant to the previous rate of £7,500."

Strength in numbers

This growing support we're beginning to see from all corners is undoubtedly a result of the LTDA increasing its lobbying and engagement with politicians and decision makers

at every level, all of which is placing further pressure on the mayor and Transport for London (TfL), to support and strengthen our iconic trade. ■



Chairman
Paul Brennan

Where Have All the Faces Gone?

Trade nicknames and recognisable faces appear to be a thing of the past – or am I just getting on?

Top Rank

As I was passing St. George's Cathedral around the time the new Pope was being selected, I remembered all the times I had been dragged to this place by my strict Irish Catholic parents. I recalled the last time I was there, which was three years prior, for the funeral of Georgie Vyse – known as 'Gorgeous George' to many in the trade. And it got me thinking: where have all the faces gone?

What's in a name?

It used to be that, once upon a time, you couldn't move for these 'faces' and an appropriately allocated nickname. Now, it appears to me that they are becoming very rare as older drivers leave the trade. Either that or I'm just getting too old and set in my ways (and based on the company I keep) to be aware of the current crop.

There are many in the trade whom I've known for years, yet I don't even know their real names – I only know them by their trade nickname. I've even socialised with cab drivers on many occasions, all while still only knowing them by their given nickname. Sometimes, of course, if that nickname was Arsenal Eddie, Big Rob, or Boxer Dave, you'd know their name. But if it was Lurch, Walmart, or Bilko, you'd have no clue.

Recently, I was in Costco when, at the other end of the

aisle, one of the faces who falls into that latter category was walking towards me. Our eyes met, and I had a startling realisation that I was going to have to say hello to this fella and in front of his wife, say, "Hello ****," which, out of context, is quite a derogatory term, especially in front of the wives, because I had no clue

will remember him if they ever needed to buy a cab or quickly sell one for cash. I knew him from the airport, where his usual greeting of "Alright, son?" would be spoken at every encounter.

I found out what kind of man he was when I broke down on the M4, heading back to the port from a local.

you a coffee and a roll while you wait?"

Tempted as I was, I didn't want to trouble him, so I politely declined and waved him farewell.

Thirty minutes later, however, George was back; with a coffee and roll in hand.

"There you go, son. I know you said no, but I've been



The late George Vyse.

what his real name actually was (and still don't!).

Would I get away with just saying, "Alright mate, how are you doing? Long time no see, great to see you," and hope neither of the wives asked for a more formal introduction? Thankfully, I did – and they didn't.

Gorgeous George

Anyway, back to Gorgeous George, and remembering not only his sad passing three years ago, but how he became a 'face' known by almost everyone in the trade. His list of achievements is long: from getting radios permitted in taxis, to bringing electronic credit card machines into the hands of drivers. Others

As I sat on the hard shoulder waiting for the AA, all I could do was watch the many faces from the port pass by on their way into town. This was long before smartphones, and I had grown bored of playing Snake on my Nokia, the cutting edge of mobile tech at the time. One such face going past was Gorgeous George, who gave me a nod as he drove into town. 90 minutes later, George pulled up right in front of me, on the hard shoulder, and uttered his usual greeting: "Alright, son?"

"Not really," I replied. "My fan belt's gone, and the AA will be another couple of hours."

"Sorry, son. Can't help you with that. Can I get

"There are many in the trade whom I've known for years, yet I don't even know their real names."

where you are. Hope your day gets better."

Thanks, George.

Do you know a 'face' – past or present – and have a story to tell? Are you a 'face' and would like to share your story? Then email it to us at editor@ltda.co.uk, and we'll make sure it gets published and, hopefully, never forgotten. ■

One-to-One Personal Service

Martin Cordell & Co

Accountants & Tax Specialists to the Taxi Trade

Our services include:

- Preparation of accounts
- Bookkeeping
- Tax Returns
- VAT Returns
- Payroll
- Tax enquiries and investigations
- Loss of earnings claims
- Company formation and advice
- One point of contact for ongoing continuity
- Easy payment terms

FREE & SECURE PARKING ON SITE

We understand your business and we're here to help, so let us take the strain of dealing with your accounts and tax obligations.

With over 50 years' experience of the taxi trade and more than 30 expert staff members, we believe that we are the leading taxi drivers' accountancy firm in the UK.

Phone us today on:

020 8980 7161

See us at:

Unit 6, Quebec Wharf

14 Thomas House

Limehouse

London E14 7AF

Or:

9 Church Road, Stanmore

Middlesex HA7 4AR

Email:

info@mcordell.co.uk

Web:

www.martin-cordell.co.uk

CALL US TO ARRANGE A FREE FIRST CONSULTATION - IN PERSON OR OVER THE PHONE



**QUICKMONEY
ONLINE**

TAXI FLEETS, GARAGES AND DRIVERS WELCOME...

to our financial services platform, where we specialise in providing unregulated business loans to limited companies in Greater London. Our flexible loan options range from £5,000 to £25,000, giving your business the financial support it needs to thrive.

With us, you're in control of where you invest, allowing you to tailor your loan to your unique business needs.

WHY CHOOSE QUICK MONEY?

Our business loans can be used for any legitimate business purpose, and the possibilities are endless. You know your business and goals best, so you decide how to utilise the funds. Common uses for our loans include:

- Boosting cash flow
- Covering operating costs and expenses
- Meeting staff wage demands
- Bridging the gap between invoices and payments
- Supplementing seasonal income
- Purchasing materials, inventory, or stock
- Ensuring a steady cash flow during projects with stages customer payments

A BETTER ALTERNATIVE

Our business loans offer a more practical alternative to managed overdrafts or credit cards. When these lines of credit are exhausted, businesses often find themselves without the necessary funds for day-to-day expenses and contingencies.















www.quickmoneyonline.co.uk
stevemardon@qmo.loans | (020) 7487 5755
 36 Albemarle Street, Mayfair,
 London, W1S 4JE

**BREWERY
ROAD. N.7.**



APPROVED USED TX

AVAILABLE NOW AT BREWERY ROAD

 MILEAGE: 125,622 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £33,750 WARRANTY: 1 YEAR	1	 MILEAGE: 111,189 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £33,995 WARRANTY: 1 YEAR	2	 MILEAGE: 98,631 MILES	TX VISTA PRICE: £38,900 WARRANTY: 1.5 YEARS	3
 MILEAGE: 145,749 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £39,750 WARRANTY: 1.5 YEARS	4	 MILEAGE: 138,616 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £39,750 WARRANTY: 1.5 YEARS	5	 MILEAGE: 130,658 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £39,950 WARRANTY: 1.5 YEARS	6
 MILEAGE: 91,565 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £40,450 WARRANTY: 1 YEAR	7	 MILEAGE: 115,950 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £41,200 WARRANTY: 2.5 YEARS	8	 MILEAGE: 93,233 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £47,750 WARRANTY: 3 YEARS	9
 MILEAGE: 59,123 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £48,750 WARRANTY: 3 YEARS	10	 MILEAGE: 73,223 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £53,750 WARRANTY: 3 YEARS	11	 MILEAGE: 38,591 MILES	TX VISTA COMFORT PLUS PRICE: £56,495 WARRANTY: 2 YEARS	12



CALL **020 7700 0888** TODAY TO DISCUSS THESE FANTASTIC TX DEALS,
OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO SEE EVEN MORE **APPROVED USED TX**

WANT TO BUY NEW? THEN CHECK OUT OUR AMAZING OFFERS BELOW



SAVE BEFORE SUMMER
ON A BRAND-NEW TX

5-YEAR
OR
125K
SERVICE

2-YEAR
EXTENDED
WARRANTY

ACCESSORY
PACK
WORTH OVER £500



£5,000

...WHEN YOU
BUY A NEW TX

SCRAPPAGE
FOR YOUR
DIESEL...



CALL **LEV C BREWERY ROAD** ON **020 7700 0888** TO GET YOUR TX TODAY

T&Cs apply. Offers only available separately, not combined. <https://bit.ly/4eaHIXL> | <https://bit.ly/4kNuXUU>



Executive S.O.
Paul Kirby

LEVC Brewery Road and the 'New' Lorenzo

I had the pleasure of meeting the new Head of Retail Scott Diebelius, to hear his plans for the future of LEVC.



Knowledge is Power

For those who don't know, Lorenzo, who was the face of M&O and LEVC at Brewery Road for many, many years, decided to leave for pastures new at the end of 2024. Last week, I sat down with the new face of the company, Scott Diebelius, to talk about all things taxis.

Paul: Hi Scott, so what's your story? Can you share a bit about your background?

Scott: I'm a born and bred East Londoner with a long career in the motor trade, having covered many roles and worked for various luxury brands, including Volvo. Therefore, I have an understanding of this vehicle. Although I have only been in position here for less than two months, I have already identified areas that I want to improve upon. I want to build on the excellent work already done this year by Shane, our Service Manager, who has also been filling in until this position was assigned.

Paul: Let's get into the specifics...

Scott: I'll be concentrating on improving key aspects of the driver experience, including transparency,



communication and honesty: it's all about giving the driver a better level of service. If something goes wrong, it's not about blame, it's about putting things right in the shortest possible time.

Paul: With some 1,500 cabs coming off the road, how can you help drivers move from diesel to electric?

Scott: I am actively looking at both new and used TXE markets. In relation to used cabs, attention is geared towards drivers who are coming towards the end of their working life or looking to be part-time, and don't want to commit to a new vehicle.

I am working on being able to offer drivers excellent, warranted taxis at affordable prices. We are currently in the process of updating our website to show these cabs and prices. We wish to dispel fear from drivers regarding

costs, as we want those drivers to be able to continue in this trade. We're currently offering deals and will continue to do so. I urge any driver with questions or concerns about making the transformation to contact my team.

Paul: What warranties do you offer?

Scott: All new taxis come with a five-year battery and a three-year manufacturer's warranty. All used taxis come with varying length

of warranties depending on age and mileage.

Paul: Finally, what is the main difference between the car trade and the taxi trade?

Scott: Now I don't get the use of a company vehicle, so with the weather

like it was today it meant I arrived *Wet Wet Wet*. This is a joke that a certain person will appreciate!

But all jokes aside, the main difference for me is seeing the after sales quality of personal service perhaps not being up to scratch. I aim to put this right. You are investing in an expensive purchase, whether it's new or used, and I believe the level of care from us should match.

Paul: Moving forward?

Scott: I'm happy to meet again and discuss our progress, giving insight on all areas of LEVC Brewery Road and our services. ■



Kirby's PCN Hotspots

YELLOW BOX CAMERAS

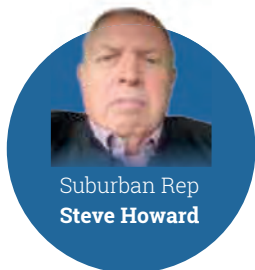
- The Strand O/S Charing Cross Station
- Upper Woburn Place/ Endsleigh Gardens
- Eversholt Street/ Churchway
- All along Piccadilly and Piccadilly Circus
- Park Street/Green St W1,
- Shepherds Bush Green (Westfield)
- Hans Road (Rear of Harrods)
- Victoria Street/Palace Street
- Bayswater Road/ Westbourne Street
- Bayswater Road/ Brook Street
- Bayswater Road/ Hyde Park Street

CAMERA PCN ENFORCEMENT

- Petty Wales/Tower of London Pedestrian Zone
- Cromwell Road/ Queensbury Place No U-Turn
- Harrods (Brompton Road) Over-ranking/Zig-Zags
- Tottenham Court Road Mon-Sat
- Sopwith Way (Chelsea Bridge) Do Not Enter
- Cornhill (coming from Leadenhall Street)
- Bath Street EC1 No Motor Vehicles 24/7
- Wilton Road, Victoria Station Over-ranking
- Edgware Road W2 Red Route
- Borough High Street Red Route
- Tower Bridge Road Red Route
- Park Plaza Westminster Bridge Hotel, No Right Turn
- Hammersmith Road No Right Turn into Shortlands
- Great Suffolk Street (The old Café) – When using JV Bright's or the toilets, Private PCNs are being issued for overstaying the short grace period or non-payment of longer stays.

20 MPH MOBILE CAMERAS

- Vauxhall Bridge Road/ Neathouse Place
- Harrow Road/ Hermitage Street
- Bayswater Road/ Hyde Park Street
- Park Lane/South Street



Love All Serve All at Wimbledon 2025

It's that time of year again when SW19 comes alive for 14 exciting days and nights. Here's everything you need to know about working during those busy hours.



experienced taxi drivers.

- A fixed shared fare of £3.50 per head will apply.
- Set down will be on Wimbledon Park Road, just before the junction with Victoria Drive.
- A traffic barrier at Albert Drive will be installed at the discretion of the local authority.

Wimbledon Station

- The rank will operate from the station rank, also marshalled by taxi drivers.
- The shared fare will be £3.50 per head.
- Set down will be at the bottom of Marryat Road.

The club will aim to direct as many passengers as possible to the correct ranks. However, given the volume of people, this won't always be possible. Please remember: first cab, first job.

To assist with egress, taxi marshals will be present to help with loading, so please treat them with respect. A contingent of TfL Compliance Officers (COs) will also be on hand, as was the case last year. One of the reasons for last year's success was the excellent working relationship between marshals and COs.

Afternoon/Evening Operations

Somerset Road (locals rank)

- The rank will be positioned at Gate 11, accommodating 14 cabs, with a small feeder rank on Marryat Road.
- Marshals will be present to assist.

Wimbledon Park Rd (Central London Rank)

- Located near the junction with Victoria Drive, accommodating 10 cabs.
- Last year there was some confusion regarding shared fares into central London. This year, fares have been increased.
- Fare charts will be available to help explain the changes.
- The increase is £1.50 per head on shared rides (excluding local trips).
- For example, a six-passenger shared ride into town will yield an additional £9 compared to last year.

General notes

- As per 2024, Sector 7 drivers will be permitted to assist Sector 6 only at the afternoon/evening ranks.
- In the event of an emergency, please follow security instructions and evacuate as directed.

I hope the above details help drivers preparing to work during the tournament. Let's aim for another smooth and successful year.

BE LUCKY! ■

Wimbledon 2025

All the shops and eateries are buzzing with tennis fanatics, gathered for the most prestigious tournament of the year. People travel from far and wide to attend Wimbledon. As always, traffic becomes a challenge from start to finish, and we hope the cab trade has as successful a year as it did in 2024.

To ensure drivers can make the most of the tournament, a considerable amount of planning has gone into

making operations as smooth and profitable as possible. While much of the system remains the same as last year, there are a few key changes which I will highlight below.

Tournament dates

The tournament begins on Monday, 30th June, and runs continuously for two weeks through to Sunday, 13th July (inclusive).

Morning operations

Southfields Station

- The rank will be located on August Road, as usual.
- It will be marshalled by

Having trouble getting a Mortgage?

We've got the knowledge.

Equity Release • Mortgage Advice • Protection



At Allan Reece Associates LLP, we work with the country's leading mortgage lenders to find the **right** solution for you.

For over 25 years we have arranged mortgages for licensed London taxi drivers. Call today to speak to one of our specialist team and find out how we can help you.



allanreece
ASSOCIATES LLP

Call now to arrange a **FREE** consultation
0203 935 7999

Capital House, Appleton Way, Hornchurch RM12 4XY • info@arallp.co.uk • www.arallp.co.uk

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR ANY OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Allan Reece Associates LLP is Authorised & Regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. FCA Number: 798177.



Sutherland Direct

The Black Cab
insurance specialists

with 50 years in the business

Free Breakdown
Insurance
with code "IU1"

★★★★★ Rated 4.8 out of 5 on Google

Call now on **0330 124 3890**

sutherland-direct.co.uk

SAS
Accountants Ltd

Short and Sons Accountants Ltd
Centurion House
Staines Upon Thames
TW18 4AX
07481 479933



We can help you!



• **£299 FEES PER YEAR, INCLUDING VAT!**

- Established 2017 & 1000s of returns filed
- 100% Green badge holder owned!
- Offices only 7 mins drive from LHR T5!
- Capital allowances used most efficiently
- Sign off your return using your mobile
- 200+ online reviews
- Join us in 2 minutes! Save £100s in fees.
- All are welcome! Electricians to plumbers!
- Ltd companies, payroll, VAT, property, CGT

Call Jason Short on 07481 479933

WWW.SHORTANDSONS.CO.UK

Poor sleep? Aches and pains? Here's the solution...

A father's devotion leads to incredible patented pillow – one day all pillows will be made this way

A NEAR tragedy has led to an amazing new development in sleep technology. When Georgia Miles was recovering from a life-threatening accident, her father Alexander looked everywhere for a pillow that would keep her comfortable throughout the night.

After purchasing dozens of different types and finding none that worked, Alex, a renowned furniture and domestic product designer, decided to engineer his own.

UNIQUE BREAKTHROUGH

He made a breakthrough when he realised that all pillows spread out and flatten down as the weight of the head rests on them. This flattening progresses through the night, leaving the head and neck poorly supported – and sleep interrupted. This is why many people find themselves half awake and 'pillow-punching' in the middle of the night, desperately trying to get comfortable.

EXTRA COMFORT AND SUPPORT

The innovative model that Alex designed has internal ties that hold the filling in place, and pull the pillow in and up to cradle the head and neck. This provides extra comfort and support that lasts through the night and ensures that you get the most benefit from an undisturbed sleep.



“I can honestly say that your pillow has made the world of difference... and fully endorse your pillow as being quite unique in its ability to maintain support throughout the night.”

Dr Deane Halfpenny
Harley Street Consultant and Spinal Pain Specialist

MADE IN THE UK

Made in the UK, the Gx Pillow comes in a choice of two levels of support: Medium-soft, which most people seem



Alexander Miles, inventor of the Gx Pillow pictured with his invention

to prefer, or Medium-firm for those who like a little more resistance. Alex's desperate desire to help his daughter Georgia has led to a pillow that has also transformed the lives of thousands of people. So if you have spent a lifetime looking for the perfect pillow, your search may well be over!

INFORMATION: gxpillows/0800 316 2689

BIGGEST EVER DISCOUNT for Taxi Magazine Readers – 25% off!

The amazing
Gx Pillow™
helps thousands
sleep better

✓ Unique internal tie technology maintains shape throughout the night



✓ Provides comfort and support

✓ Integral air vent keeps you cool

✓ Luxurious 100% cotton shell

✓ Hypoallergenic Polycoz filling

✓ Designed, patented and made in the UK

✓ Choose from Medium-soft or Medium-firm

“I cannot believe that after 40 years I have finally found the best pillow ever!!!! It simply stays put and so comfy, fabulous, must buy more for hubby and a spare.”

Izzy, Yorkshire

OUR PROMISE TO YOU! Sleep on the Gx Pillow for 30 nights and if you are not completely satisfied, we'll give you your money back*

Enjoy a great night's sleep AND 25% OFF! THAT'S...

2 PILLOWS FOR
~~£59.99~~ **£44.99!** **£15 SAVING!**

Choose from Medium-soft, Medium-firm or one of each!

Or buy 1 Gx PILLOW for ~~£39.99~~ **£29.99** **£10 SAVING!**

25% off
for Taxi Magazine
Readers with code
TX2

SCAN HERE
and code will
automatically
be applied

ORDER NOW! FREEPHONE: 0800 316 2689 OR GO ONLINE: gxpillows.co.uk

Lines open Mon - Fri 9am - 5pm.
Quote TX2 for 25% off

Enter TX2 in discount box for 25% off

*Terms and conditions apply - please see website for details.

Post to: FREEPOST BEAUTIFUL SLEEP

No other details or stamp required

Description	Tick your preferred pillow(s)	Price	Qty	Subtotal
£15 off!	2 x Medium-soft (was £59.99)	£44.99		
	2 x Medium-firm (was £59.99)	£44.99		
	1 x Med-soft + 1 x Med-firm (was £59.99)	£44.99		
£10 off!	1 x Medium-soft (was £39.99)	£29.99		
	1 x Medium-firm (was £39.99)	£29.99		

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to Beautiful Sleep for £ Postage & Packing £4.95

☐ Or charge my credit/debit card:

ORDER TOTAL

Card No.

Expiry / CVC

Details are not passed on to third parties.

Signature

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel no

Email



Airport Rep
Suzanne
Sullivan

The Great Feeder Park Fiasco

Heathrow is tightening its grip on taxi operations and it's causing serious disruption for working drivers. Something needs to be done about it.

Airports and beyond

The two official taxi feeder parks at Heathrow are regularly maxed out, especially in the mornings. With no space left, drivers are forced to line up or wait on the roads feeding into the north side of the airport, causing disruption for other road users. As a response, Heathrow Airport has now threatened to hand out one-month bans from the feeder park system for anyone caught breaching their operating rules.

Is this legal?

An important thing to ask is whether they can actually do this. Yes, and legally they're on solid ground. Even if you haven't signed a physical contract, just by entering the feeder park or operating on Heathrow property, you're automatically bound by the Heathrow Airport Byelaws 2014 and the Conditions of Use. That means you've effectively agreed to the rules by using the facilities. It's called 'implied consent' and yes, it holds up.

The specifics

So, what do the byelaws say in plain terms? Well, you can't pick up passengers unless you're authorised by Heathrow. If you are authorised, you've got to use the designated ranks and follow the airport's dispatch rules. All licensed taxis must pass through the feeder park before heading to a terminal rank. You can't sit in the park without the intention of working, and enforcement is real. Heathrow Airport Limited (HAL), local police and Transport for London (TfL) are all empowered to



take action. That includes fines, suspensions and tag removals.

Rules are rules

Taxis are allowed to drop off passengers at the terminal forecourts, but they are not permitted to pick up from those drop-off zones under any circumstances. However, they can use the Short Stay car parks at each terminal to pick up pre-booked passengers. This is an important distinction that HAL is increasingly enforcing, especially with the introduction of the new surveillance systems.

At the same time, a new system is about to be trialled to manage the flow more effectively. The tech is already partially live. Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) cameras are now installed at all feeder park entrances

and exits and on every terminal forecourt.

The system is tied to a new app – and you'll need this to use the new setup. It'll let you buy credits, keep track of how busy each terminal is and show you where taxis are needed. It's also being designed to detect if you're returning from a local job or a Fares Fair, and potentially let you back into the queue once you've hit the Spur Road or crossed into the perimeter roads (although that part still isn't confirmed).

End to the chaos?

This is all part of an effort to ease congestion, improve flow and take some of the guesswork out of working Heathrow. The trial will begin soon with 10 selected drivers testing the system in real-world conditions. Their feedback will shape how the rollout plays out for the rest of us.

If it works, it could help bring a bit of order to what's become a daily mess at peak hours. If it doesn't, or if it's pushed through without real input, it could just add more complications to an already overloaded system.

Remain vigilant

Right now, drivers are stuck between over capacity parks, heavy-handed enforcement, and a setup that hasn't moved with the times. This new system might help, but only if it's built with the trade – not just tech firms and traffic flow models. In the meantime, make sure you know the rules, stay sharp and don't give HAL a reason to boot you out of the game.

I'll keep you posted on how the trial progresses and whether this new system makes a genuine difference on the ground. ■

Dashboard Diary Winner



Trevor Pillay, who has been a member for 10 years, was just starting his shift when he was seen by our diary spotters proudly displaying his LTDA diary on his dashboard.

Trevor was handed his £150 One4All voucher, which can be used at 180+ retailers, such as Pandora, B&Q, Nando's, M&S, IKEA and many more.

If you want to be in with a chance of receiving this voucher, be sure to display your LTDA diary.

LTCFC Driver Appeal: Countdown to Hertfordshire Zoo Trip Begins

With just a few weeks to go until our annual zoo trip, the London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children (LTCFC) is finalising preparations for one of our most anticipated events of the year.

On 9th July 2025, a convoy of London's iconic black cabs will gather at the Isle of Dogs Asda car park, before transporting over 100 children with special needs to Hertfordshire Zoo for a day of adventure and enjoyment.

This special outing has become a highlight in our calendar in recent years, bringing joy to children with learning difficulties, as part of our 97-year charitable history.

"Our zoo trips create lasting memories for children who might otherwise miss out on such experiences," says Tony, the LTCFC's chairman. "The joy on the children's faces makes it all worthwhile for our dedicated volunteer drivers."

Drivers needed

We're currently seeking additional volunteer taxi drivers to join us for this rewarding day. All volunteer drivers receive breakfast before departure, lunch at the zoo, refreshments

throughout the day, and fuel cost compensation.

The day begins with breakfast at the Isle of Dogs Asda car park, followed by the journey to Hertfordshire Zoo, where children and their carers will enjoy a full day of activities before returning to London in the evening.

Licensed London taxi drivers interested in volunteering should contact John, on 07973 313148, or email us at info@ltcfc.org.uk. You can visit www.ltcfc.org.uk for more information.



About LTCFC

The London Taxi Drivers' Charity for Children has been supporting children with special needs for 97 years.

Run entirely by volunteer London taxi drivers, the charity organises outings, parties and provides funding for equipment and experiences that enhance children's lives.

Follow our journey on social media: @LTCFC1928.



Nigel Murphy picked up his winning lottery cheque for £5,000 from Paul Kirby, one of our executive support officers.



LOTTO WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO NIGEL MURPHY!

Nigel has been a member of the LTDA for 25 years, and was over the moon to receive the call notifying him that his lottery ticket had been picked.

He said he will be (wisely) spending the money on some home improvements and perhaps (less wisely), depending on your allegiances, on a new West Ham United top.

You've probably heard of the LTDA Lottery. What you probably don't know is that since it started in 1986, we've paid out more than £2,205,000 in prize money to more than 400 winners!

Scan me

LTDA Lottery



About the LTDA lottery

The first prize in our lottery is £5,000 – every month! But you won't win it if you're not in it. Tickets cost £5 each per month. And even if you don't win, you'll know that proceeds from the lottery contribute towards promoting and supporting the trade.

To be in it to win it, scan above QR code to enter online or call 020 7286 1046 for more information on the LTDA Lottery.

**WITH 6 DVLA PENALTY
POINTS YOUR TAXI
LICENCE CAN NOW
BE **REVOKED****



The LTDA goes to bat for its members

Our expert officers and dedicated, in-house legal team will help keep you in the game. Don't get knocked out, scan here to join the LTDA today or call 0207 286 1046 to request an application form.



www.ltda.co.uk



Columnist
Wim Faber

Euro News Round-Up

A look back at all the top taxi stories from around Europe; from French drivers pushing back against the big platforms, to the recent ERTA meeting in the Netherlands.

International Correspondant

Is there always a tussle in the taxi trade, wherever you look? It seems that way, but usually for good reason.

French resistance, German persistence, and Scandinavian rulings

A quick look abroad tells us that in recent weeks militant French taxi drivers were (again) battling platforms, which are, as usual, searching for loopholes in the law to exploit. Other French colleagues were campaigning for proper payment for medical trips – the taxi drivers' lifeblood in the French countryside.

Meanwhile, German operators campaign for minimum fares for PHVs (to break the illegal price-cutting operations of platforms) and fixed fares for taxis (to make their services appeal to city folk).

Further north in Scandinavia, taxi deregulation in Norway, Sweden and Finland has proved to be a costly mistake (opening the floodgates to platform operators working illegally). Measures are afoot to roll back deregulation in those countries though. In Denmark, *Uber* and *Bolt* brought taxi companies to

"With platforms swimming in private equity fund monies and speaking as one on a worldwide level, it is easy for them to find eager new partners, launch new campaigns all over, and to market and advertise their services on a global scale."

work within the law, aiming for a properly regulated and enforced taxi trade.

The taxi marketing takeover has begun

Other European countries are seeing *Uber* and *Bolt* further infiltrating the taxi trade, promising more work through 'cooperation' with taxi companies, whilst syphoning off the trade's regular customer base. To many taxi operators that sounds like progress, but to plenty more that means raising the white flag. Talking about strife in the taxi business, heated internal discussions within

cab companies in Germany, Denmark, Sweden and elsewhere targeted by *Uber* and co. has led to tough negotiations with the platforms, who are meanwhile laughing all the way to the bank.

With platforms swimming in private equity fund monies and speaking as one on a worldwide level, it is easy for them to find eager new partners (airlines, railways, hotels), launch new campaigns all over (e.g. for young people, business travellers and, most recently, the over 65s) and to market and advertise their services on a global scale. One example is in the arrivals area of numerous large airports. Besides, there are still few transport options not branded by a platform. But what stops taxi operators from taking a leaf out of these platforms' richly-filled marketing and operation guides? That's what they are doing now – slowly, but surely.

ERTA: Knowledge, reflection, determination

Compared to the major platforms, the taxi industry's marketing and operational efforts are local, often fragmented and, let's be honest, not always of the same slick or professional standards as the well-endowed app competition. Yet local cab companies sit on a treasure trove of knowledge about their local environment, mobility habits and a large and multi-faceted client base. These are qualities not to be squandered by supposedly 'cooperating' with blood-thirsty predators like *Uber* and *Bolt*.

At the recent Amsterdam meeting of Europe's ERTA (European Radio Taxis Association, created by London taxipro Geoffrey Riesel, and now led by Hedy Borreman of Amsterdam's TCA), a growing assertiveness has finally shown. The Spanish representative, working all over Spain with



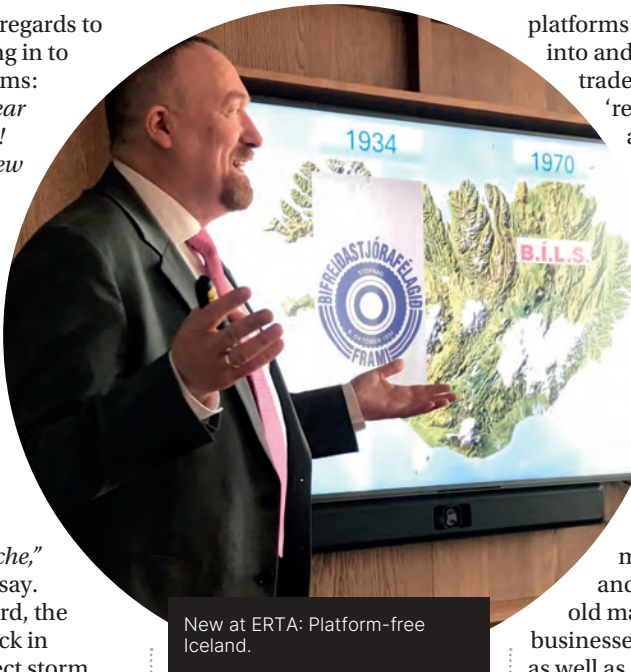
ERTA: 32 taxi operators representing 13 countries and two lobbying groups.

Taxi 033 asked, in regards to being against giving in to marauding platforms: *"Will taxis disappear from Spain? Never! Will Uber be the new taxi? Never! We see an increased demand for taxis in Spain."* Antwerp-Tax underlined that *"playing to our own strengths"* with enhanced customer service pays off. *"And we've added more minivans to the fleet. A growing niche,"* they continued to say. But across the board, the industry is still stuck in the so-called perfect storm of losing customers post-Covid, sluggish demand, the need for more drivers, rising costs of cabs, spares and fuel, the push to zero-emission and sleeping or risk-averse regulators unwilling to properly regulate and enforce PHVs. Berlin showed how strict regulation, halving the illegal PHV fleet in less than a year, can make a marked difference to the trade.

Europe's only professional taxi group

For over 15 years, ERTA has been the only representative group in Europe discussing all aspects of the taxi business amongst other taxi colleagues. Next to Spain (Barcelona), Scotland (Glasgow), the Netherlands (Amsterdam), Belgium (Antwerp), Luxembourg (Berlin, Hamburg), Malta, Austria (Vienna), Finland (Tampere), France (Paris), Denmark (Copenhagen), Poland, newcomer Iceland, as well as two lobbying groups, it painted a different picture of the European taxi tapestry, illustrating both concern and innovation from all corners.

Sponsors iCabbi went into the value of AI for the booking and dispatching process, whereas Hubride (formerly Hotelride) wants to position the taxi trade centrally in the hotel business. One taxi company (31300 in Vienna)



New at ERTA: Platform-free Iceland.

even set up a new separate company functioning as concierge to hotels, with stands in lobbies offering a variety of touristy booking options for guests and serving the taxi needs of both hotels and guests alike.

A panoply of challenges

There are some themes within the industry that are commonly shared, such as

platforms making inroads into and working in the taxi trade legally and illegally, 'regulator apathy' and the need for proper regulation with tighter and enforced rules for platforms (the famous 'level playing field'). Also, improving booking processes via apps and bots, marketing via different means including social media too. Opening and recovering old markets (hotels, businesses, public transport), as well as electrification. Looking at the taxi trade's SWOT analysis, Copenhagen (Taxa 4x35) identified another alleged foe – a rapidly expanding local metro network. *"People would rather take a three Euro ride instead of a 30 Euro taxi trip for the same distance,"* according to one source.

With taxis taking a leaf out of the big platforms' book, showing a higher service quality, generally offering a

+20% and -20% fare difference on the app, companies are also personalising their drivers' services through storytelling on social media. The attempt is to create a true following and to make 'the taxi' the next big hype locally. *"Understand your audience, never lose touch with local people,"* advised a social media expert attending the event.

A major challenge is zero-emission taxis. It's often seen by regulators as the low-hanging fruit in their climate-cleaning efforts. With Hamburg only licensing electric taxis from January of this year, Amsterdam being on a 65% level of TCA fleet electrification, Paris struggles with the availability of home-charging options for drivers. And Glasgow Taxis bemoans the fact that it can only go green with an overpriced taxi model, compared to what's available to their foreign colleagues. ■

"For over 15 years, ERTA has been the only representative group in Europe discussing all aspects of the taxi business amongst other taxi colleagues."



Who joined ERTA in Amsterdam?

SO YOU THINK YOU KNOW

LONDON?



The London Underground stations named after pubs

It's no secret that London's rich pub culture is deeply entwined with the capital's history, and that influence stretches even into the London Underground. So it will come as no surprise that several London Underground stations owe their names to the humble boozers that once served as landmarks in the area. Here are six such stations whose names are inspired by public houses.

Angel (Northern line)

Located in Islington, Angel Station takes its name from the Angel Inn, a coaching inn that stood on the site from the 17th century. It was a key stop on the route north from London, and became so well-known that the area itself took on the name. Though the inn is long gone, its name lives on through this station.

Elephant & Castle (Bakerloo and Northern lines)

This station derives its name from a former pub of the same name, which was itself a reference to a 17th century cutler's sign. The 'elephant and castle'



The ghostly policeman at the tower

With the Tower of London, gracing London's landscape for almost 1,000 years, it's not unreasonable to assume there may be a ghost story

or two attributed to it. But did you know it's considered to be one of the most haunted sites in the UK?

Among the many supernatural stories, the one that stands out is a

lesser-known but chilling figure: that of the ghost of a policeman said to be haunting the grounds of the castle.

The tale centers on a Beefeater who, in the early 20th century, claimed to have seen the ghost of a uniformed policeman patrolling the grounds near the Bloody Tower. The apparition, described as wearing an Edwardian era British constable's uniform, complete with a high-collared tunic and helmet, was first spotted during the early hours of a misty morning. The Beefeater is alleged to have attempted to approach the figure, possibly thinking it was a new guard, only for the policeman to fade into the stone wall as though melting into the tower's brickwork.

This ghost is believed to be the spirit of a policeman who died under mysterious circumstances while on duty in or nearby the tower. Interestingly, there are no official police deaths recorded directly on the premises, although several accidents and unexplained deaths occurred in the vicinity during the early 1900s. Some



symbol is thought to have represented the worshipful Company of Cutlers, whose crest included an elephant bearing a castle-shaped howdah. The pub became a major landmark, and eventually the name was adopted by the whole area.

Royal Oak (Hammersmith & City line)
Royal Oak Station, located near

Paddington, is named after the Royal Oak Pub. The establishment, in turn, takes its name from the tree in which King Charles II reportedly hid to escape the Roundheads after the Battle of Worcester in 1651. The story of the king's narrow escape made 'Royal Oak' a popular pub name across the country.



Manor House (Piccadilly line)

This station was named after the Manor House Tavern, which stood nearby on the Seven Sisters Road. When the station opened in 1932, the pub was still a prominent local feature. Though the original tavern is no longer there, the station's name preserves the reference.

Swiss Cottage (Jubilee line)

This one is named after an inn called the Swiss Tavern, later renamed the Swiss Cottage, which was built in the style of a Swiss chalet in the early 19th century. Its supposed out-of-character architecture made it a major London landmark, giving its name to the surrounding area, and eventually to the Underground station itself.

Maida Vale (Bakerloo line)

Maida Vale's name comes indirectly from a pub. The Hero of Maida, a public house on Edgware Road, commemorated General Sir John Stuart's victory at the Battle of Maida, which took place in 1806. The name spread to the surrounding neighborhood and later to the station.

speculate he may have fallen from the outer wall or drowned in the River Thames during a patrol.

It's claimed the ghost of the copper is quiet and reserved, walking his eternal beat in silence. It's also been said the bobby can be seen patrolling Tower Bridge. Witnesses over the years have described a feeling of calm rather than dread when encountering

him. This is in distinct contrast to the hauntings of Anne Boleyn or the Princes in the tower.



Heston Aerodrome

Just about every taxi driver who has ever taken a fare to Heathrow Airport will know of Heston Services, but did you know, long before Heathrow Airport had even been thought of, Heston Aerodrome dominated the skies of West London?

Opening in 1929, Heston was developed as a private airport with state-of-the-art facilities and concrete runways. This was a rarity at the time given that most airfields were just that – fields. It quickly became a favourite for wealthy travellers and business flyers. Its proximity to Central London made it an ideal choice for private charters and early commercial routes.

The aerodrome played a major role in British political history. Perhaps its most famous moment came in 1938, when Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain flew from Heston to meet Hitler in Munich, returning days later with the infamous 'peace for our time' declaration. That image – Chamberlain stepping off the aircraft at Heston with his umbrella – is cemented into British history.

During World War II, Heston served the Royal Air Force as a military base, supporting vital reconnaissance and transport missions. It remained in use after the war, but with the development and subsequent expansion of Heathrow Airport, Heston's days were numbered. By 1947, the aerodrome closed to civilian traffic, and by the early 1950s it had ceased operations entirely.

Today, little remains of the original site. Much of it has been redeveloped into industrial estates and housing. However, a few traces remain — one being a plaque on the eastbound site of Heston Services. ■





ON YOUR OWN...

...OR WITH THE LTDA



Make sure the trade's best legal team has your back. Join the LTDA today!

Even the most experienced London taxi drivers can find themselves in legal trouble, and with the law constantly changing, it's easy to get caught out.

The LTDA has **the taxi trade's only dedicated, in-house legal team**, defending members for all alleged offences (traffic, hackney or criminal) with a track record second to none.

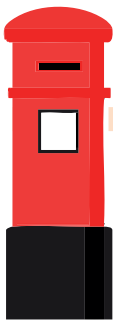
- **Free legal cover for all LTDA members**
- **Experienced, specialist team on call and here to help 24/7**
- **Four times more likely than the national average to get an acquittal***

*Based on percentage of successful outcomes out of total number of cases, compared to national average.

Scan here
to join



www.ltdda.co.uk

**TAXI**

TAXI & LTDA Mail



Subject: 20% fare increase

Dear Editor,

I must be the only cab driver in London who can directly attribute the drop in the number of rides that are going to Heathrow to the corresponding drop in fares coming into town, after the 20% fare increase imposed on us last year by TfL.

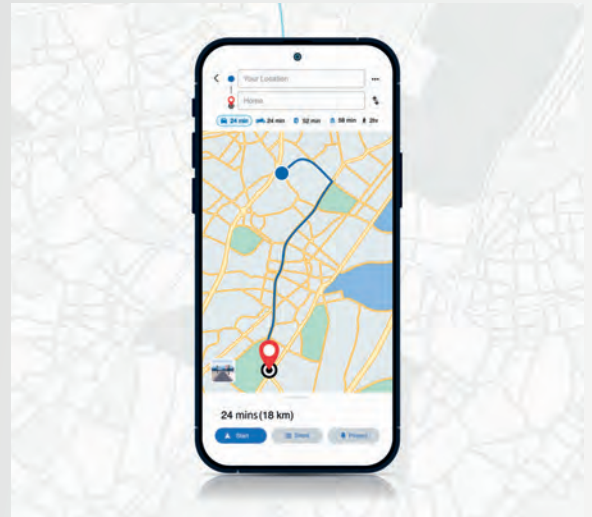
What is wrong with our trade groups, can they not see that this was a deliberate move to price us out of the market? Did they think increasing an average fare from £80/85 to over £100 (and sometimes more!) wasn't going to be noticed?

This is the one journey where it is easy for anyone to do a direct fare comparison. And as much of the route is Cromwell Road and the M4, our advantage of the Knowledge is never really a factor, but a fare of over £100 compared to an equivalent Mercedes E-Class at £65+ is glaringly obvious.

Some of the hotels are now quoting a similar price for a cab in an S-Class or 7 Series BMW. In other words we are no longer competing with minicabs. We are in the chauffeur sector, it's madness!

Please let commonsense dictate this year's tariff negotiations by starting with a look at the price of these rides which is simply pricing us out of our market.

John Fowler



Subject: App debate

Dear Editor,

The debate around apps, what they charge, what they earn – and whether a driver earns more with the apps or without them – is forever ongoing. I was on three apps on my mobile phones and on *Jump*, via the payment terminal fitted in my cab by my fleet.

After much soul-searching, calculating and working out where I have definitely benefited by getting a job on the way in, on the way home, or a roader that I almost certainly would not have got from the street, versus what I have paid in commission and jobs that have been less profitable and awkward, I've dropped two of the three apps. This means I now only need one phone which has already lowered my stress levels.

Using *Jump* is a complete no-brainer, it only offers me jobs when I am for hire, there is no commission, and so far all their customers have been really nice!

I would recommend that anyone struggling with two or three phones, and playing fastest draw to accept any job offered, should do the same. Look at it purely as a business decision, the earnings versus commission and stress versus a quieter life.

Susan Richards



Columnist
Mike Williams

Entertainment Corner

Here's your round-up of the best entertainment to get stuck into on your mobile, tablet, or in the comfort of your own home, this month.

Lights, Camera, Action!

TV SHOW: Dept. Q

Netflix can be a bit hit-and-miss when it comes to shows it brings to the small screen. For every *Stranger Things* (mainly its debut season), there's something dire like *Iron Fist*, so it's often hard to know whether to succumb to the hype before hearing what others say. Thankfully, this British-set detective drama, starring Matthew Goode as DCI Carl Morck, has a sensibility similar to that of Apple TV+'s excellent *Slow Horses*, but with added grit.

Carl's life as a respected detective is left in shattered pieces, after an attack sees his partner end up paralyzed and another officer dead. On his return to work, he's assigned a cold case that will not only keep his mind occupied but quickly becomes an all-consuming work obsession.

The good thing is each of the season's episodes (all nine of them) were released simultaneously on the platform, meaning it's an easy one to binge or simply pick up and watch whenever an opportune moment arises; safe in the knowledge you won't have to wait for episodes to drop weekly before reaching its climactic conclusion.

All nine episodes of Dept. Q are available to stream on Netflix now.



Netflix.

MOVIE: Predator: Killer of Killers

Prey, the *Predator* sequel that came out of nowhere back in 2022, turned out to be rather good. Director Dan Trachtenberg's live-action acclaim has since prompted him to revisit the franchise, with a new story that deviates from live-action and into a beautifully animated film, with a tight and modest runtime of 84 minutes. And just because it's animated it doesn't mean it's not adult themed; *Predator: Killer of Killers* is R-rated, meaning it's filled with the blood, gore, and ultra violence the movie series is synonymous with, while telling a well-written, original story that takes it from B movie territory into slick science fiction.

Three stories intertwine for a trio of very different, but equally brave warriors: a viking raider, a feudal Japan warrior, and a young World



Disney+.

War II pilot, with an iconic incarnation of a predator alien that is as integral to the plot as ever.

Saying much more will spoil it, so all I will say is that since acquiring the franchise, Disney has surprised just about everyone with where they've taken the *Predator* series – impressing even the hardened skeptics with this latest, hugely impressive, and visually stunning feature.

Predators: Killer of Killers is available to stream on Disney+ now.



PODCAST: An Appointment With Murder

Crime stories tend to have such a large audience, whether it's through gripping documentaries or fictional TV shows about podcasters like *Only Murders In The Building*. So when it comes to true crime podcasts, the intrigue is on a different level entirely. *An Appointment With Murder* is a brand-new podcast that only started in May of this year and already has a handful of episodes available to listen to. Each one in its debut season is a neatly packaged, bite-sized investigation into why people in the medical profession, aka doctors, kill.

Hosted by forensic psychiatrist Dr Andrew Johns alongside physician, expert witness and senior figure in medical ethics Dr Harry Brunjes, the experienced duo offer some fascinating, unique insight into a number of high profile cases over the years.

It's a chilling subject matter, but also an essential listen based on the fact that these are all very real cases that you may recall happening or having seen in the news – especially with an early episode's focus on the monstrous Harold Shipman.

New and past episodes of An Appointment With Murder are available on Apple Podcasts, Spotify and more.





Column
Cab You Drive

Hearsay of the Dreaded Battery Failure



It's easy to worry about something that's not happened, but when people listen to a tall tale and run with it, it only causes more confusion.

Market update

I spend a lot of my time talking to taxi drivers, the vast majority are smart people. They're independent business owners who know what's good for them and their business, but I never cease to be amazed by how quick they are to believe rumours – especially anything to do with vehicles.

The million dollar question

One of the queries I'm regularly asked is what will happen when the batteries fail and how much is it to replace them. The honest answer is that I don't know, because no one has ever had to do it! I have asked almost all of the main dealers and most of the fleets and, with the exception of accidental damage, there is not one incident of a complete battery pack failing.

Everyone seems to have heard of or has met someone who has heard of a fleet owner having to replace an entire battery pack at a cost of £18,000, £20,000, or £25,000, depending on who tells the story.

The real story

The truth of the matter of this one incident is that a fleet driver drove a brand new TXE over a rising bollard, sliced through the entire underneath of the cab from front to back, and yes, the repair bill was massive. But it would have been costly whatever cab or vehicle it was! TXEs go wrong, but with a lifetime in this

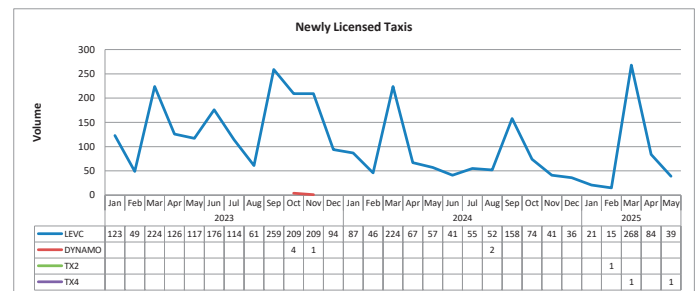
business and dealing with every cab from the past 40 or more years, the TXE is the most reliable and cheapest cab we have ever had.

You get what you pay for

But they are not cheap, cabs never have been. The truth is that it's now possible to buy

a second-hand TXE, on the right deal, for £400-£500 a month upwards. Yet I still get drivers asking for and buying cabs with a year or two left on their plate life, exposing

themselves to constant maintenance, problems finding spares and – the bit I really cannot understand – driving a cab that is uncomfortable and noisy (especially compared to a TXE) for the next few years. If that wasn't enough, they then have to make another hard decision when



that cab is inevitably off the road – because no matter how you look at it, a cabbie without a cab is essentially an unemployed one.

Slow and steady

As expected, following a record March and a good April, May sales were slow, with only 39 new cabs joining the ranks. This means the fleet size remains pretty static at around 14,552 licensed cabs. Many of the new ones sold in March were done so to drivers upgrading their TXEs, so there is a good supply of second-hand stock on the market. What's more, there are possible deals to be made too, but the downside is that

prices being paid for PX on older diesels has dropped correspondingly. ■

2023	A/L	Sub	Drivers	% ±
Jan	16540	2020	18560	-0.3%
Feb	16416	1997	18413	-0.8%
Mar	16335	1977	18312	-0.5%
Apr	16267	1961	18228	-0.5%
May	16239	1954	18193	-0.2%
Jun	16160	1927	18087	-0.6%
Jul	16097	1915	18012	-0.4%
Aug	16051	1901	17952	-0.3%
Sep	16029	1884	17913	-0.2%
Oct	15971	1871	17842	-0.4%
Nov	15903	1857	17760	-0.5%
Dec	15872	1855	17727	-0.2%
2024	A/L	Sub	Drivers	% ±
Jan	15736	1841	17577	-0.8%
Feb	15674	1823	17497	-0.5%
Mar	15676	1808	17484	-0.1%
Apr	15554	1802	17356	-0.7%
May	15315	1797	17294	-0.4%
Jun	15427	1786	17213	-0.5%
Jul	15451	1772	17223	0.1%
Aug	15335	1765	17100	-0.7%
Sep	15270	1755	17025	-0.4%
Oct	15239	1755	16994	-0.2%
Nov	15220	1745	16965	-0.2%
Dec	15178	1741	16919	-0.3%
2025	A/L	Sub	Drivers	% ±
Jan	15124	1732	16856	-0.4%
Feb	15113	1625	16738	-0.7%
Mar	15058	1618	16676	-0.4%
Apr	15029	1628	16644	-0.2%
May	14994	1623	16615	-0.2%

Taxi Charity Chairman Talks Sponsored Walks, Supporting Veterans and a Busy 2025 So Far

TAXI CHARITY for MILITARY VETERANS

TAXI For drivers who might not know you, can you tell us a bit about yourself?

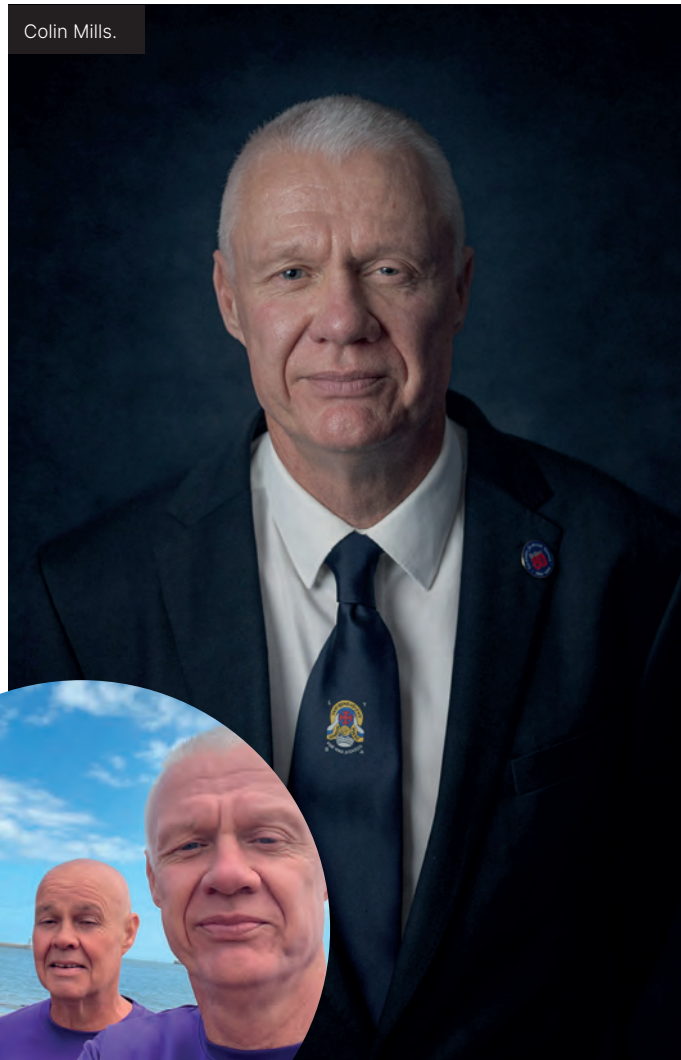
COLIN I've been a London cabbie since March 1995, and it's a job I've always been proud to do. I started volunteering with the charity in 2019, and right from the start I knew I'd found something special. The work it does is incredibly meaningful, and the camaraderie among the volunteers and veterans is something else. I was truly honoured to be appointed Chairman in May of 2024; it's a role I take great pride in, and I'm committed to helping the charity grow and continue its vital work for our veterans.

TAXI Why is the Taxi Charity so important to you?

COLIN The charity has been close to my heart for years. We organise trips, outings, and support for veterans; many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s. These men and women gave everything for their country, and it's our turn to give something back. We're just a bunch of cab drivers doing what we can, but the impact

TAXI sat down for a Q&A with Chairman of the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans and London cab driver Colin Mills.

Colin Mills.



TAXI We hear it's been another incredibly busy year for the Taxi Charity, can you give us some insight?

COLIN It certainly has and we wouldn't have it any other way! We've already supported some truly memorable events this year. In May, we travelled to the Netherlands for the 80th anniversary of Dutch Liberation, which is always such a moving experience. Shortly after, we were in Normandy for the 81st anniversary of D-Day, accompanying veterans back to the beaches where so many of their comrades fell. It's an honour every time.

"The charity has been close to my heart for years. We organise trips, outings, and support for veterans; many of whom are now in their 80s and 90s."

And of course, we were proud to play our part in the VE Day celebrations in London on 8th May, bringing veterans together to remember, reflect, and reconnect. Looking ahead, we're planning a very special trip to Scotland in August, which will help fulfil one of our veteran's dearest wishes. That's the kind of work we're so proud to do, making sure those who served us are never forgotten and always supported.

from all conflicts, and in the Netherlands this year we were thrilled when one of our younger veterans, Chris Langford, drove his close friend and veteran Vic Needham Crofton, in a cab loaned by our fantastic supporters at Sherbet. Their friendship is a wonderful one (and I believe you spoke to them in a previous issue).

The Mills Brothers will walk Wainwright's Coast to Coast.

is huge. The friendships we've formed with these veterans are lifelong.

TAXI But it's not just senior veterans, is it?

COLIN No, we support veterans

TAXI You're about to take on another huge challenge with your brothers, walking across England! Tell us more about that.

COLIN Yep, that's right. On 16th June, my brothers Tony, David and I set off from St Bees on the west coast, walking Wainwright's Coast to Coast route all the way to Robin Hood's Bay. It's nearly 200 miles and takes us through the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North Yorkshire Moors. It's going to be tough, but it's for a great cause.

TAXI What inspired this particular walk?

COLIN Well, we did something similar back in 2023. Tony and David joined me to walk Hadrian's Wall for my 60th birthday to also raise money for the Taxi Charity. This year, it's Tony's turn to hit the big 6-0, and we wanted to do something equally memorable. The Coast to Coast is iconic and doing it together as brothers gives it real meaning.

TAXI How can people support your Coast to Coast challenge?

COLIN We've set up a fundraising page and we'd be incredibly grateful for any donations (see QR code below). Every penny helps us continue the work of the Taxi Charity, whether it's taking veterans back to Normandy or just out for a fish and chips lunch and a chat.



TAXI Any final thoughts before you set off on your trek?

COLIN If you see three blokes limping across the North Yorkshire Moors in late-June, give us a wave! But seriously, we hope our walk inspires others, whether it's to donate, volunteer, or simply spend time with someone who's served. We owe them more than we can ever repay. ■



The Mills Brothers.

About the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans

The Taxi Charity is run by volunteer London black taxi drivers and has been supporting thousands of veterans since 1948. It is the only Forces charity that focuses on providing fun and entertainment and arranges free trips (for veterans from all conflicts) to the Netherlands and France for acts of commemoration and days out to museums, concerts, and social events across the UK.

The charity received the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service in 2021 and celebrated its 75th anniversary in 2023, a remarkable milestone for a small, niche charity operated by enthusiastic volunteers.

In 2024, the charity took veterans to Normandy for the 80th anniversary of D-Day and commemorated the 80th anniversary of Operation Market Garden in the Netherlands in September.

In May 2025, the charity returned to the Netherlands for the 80th anniversary of Dutch Liberation and in June they will take a group of veterans to Normandy for the 81st anniversary of D-Day.



EV Chargers Installed

Fast charge at home
at 7.4kw

Less than £2 a charge

Smart charger
with WiFi

Upgraded commercial
taxi components
designed for cabs

Supplied and fitted
by the LEVC experts
for only £599



**Call Taxi Juice on
07865 231 582**

KPM AUTOMOTIVE

RE-FINANCE YOUR TAXI BALLOON



- Bespoke financial packages
- Option to raise additional funds
- Extended warranties available



0207 377 2182

164-172 Lukin St London E1 0BN

www.kpmautomotive.co.uk

KPM Automotive Ltd is a credit broker and not a lender, authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority 654802

Fleetwood Assessors can be of assistance with all your accident circumstances regardless of whether they are fault or non fault and discounts offered to LTDA Members

- Accident Damage Assessments
- Consistency Reports
- Desktop Reports
- Low-Velocity Impact Inspections
- Repair Costing
- Salvage Valuation
- Total Loss Negotiation
- Vehicle Valuation
- Total Loss Post Inspection Report
- Mechanical faults



✉ info@fleetwoodassessors.co.uk ☎ 01702 597370 🌐 www.fleetwoodassessors.co.uk

We provide consultancy and deal with resolutions of disputes that occur within the industry, this being not only London Taxis but the automotive industry

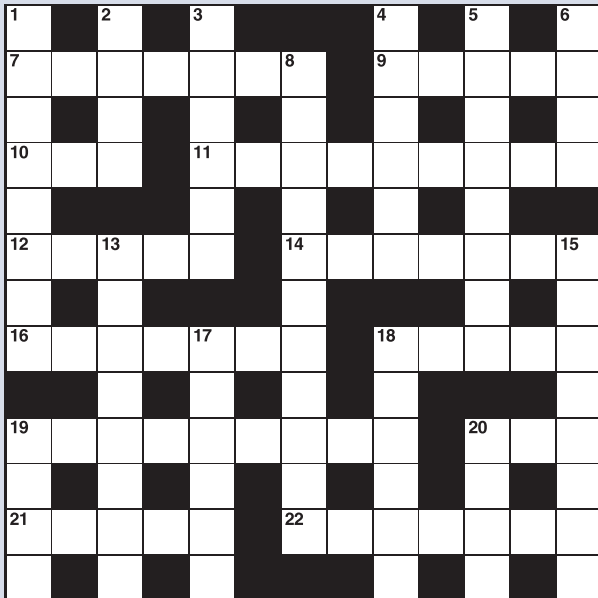
We are proud of our association with the Black Cab Trade, with over 20 years experience. We have excellent knowledge of the TfL (Transport for London) and outer London Councils procedures, conditions of fitness, which is extremely important when involved in an accident or vehicle dispute. Over the years we have built up a good relationship within the industry, which is beneficial when dealing with these types of incidents.

We have regular contact with recovery agents / fleet owners / body shops / mechanical repairers / taxi finance companies

Crossword



Puzzler Page



ACROSS

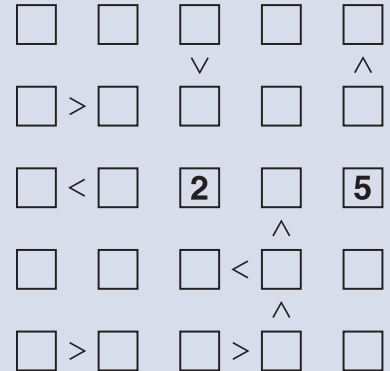
- 7 Made redundant, dismissed (4,3)
 9 Skating venues (5)
 10 Heart monitor (inits) (3)
 11 Danish dependency (9)
 12 Modify, amend (5)
 14 Strand of hair on an animal's face (7)
 16 Letter, as in the Bible (7)
 18 Below (5)
 19 Relatives by marriage (4-2-3)
 20 African ruminant (3)
 21 Fretful, worried (5)
 22 Merit (7)

DOWN

- 1 Make hostile (8)
 2 Aeroplane part (4)
 3 Puma (6)
 4 Small oil-rich sultanate (6)
 5 Bearing no identification (8)
 6 Consumed (4)
 8 Rode a bike with the pedals at rest (11)
 13 Condition of being skinny (8)
 15 Sends a different way (8)
 17 Dances 1960s style (6)
 18 Injudicious (6)
 19 Liquid starter (4)
 20 Grisly (4)

Futoshiki

Fill in the blank squares so that each row and column contains all the numbers 1 - 5. Use any given numbers and the symbols that tell you if the number in the square is larger (>) or smaller (<) than the number next to it.



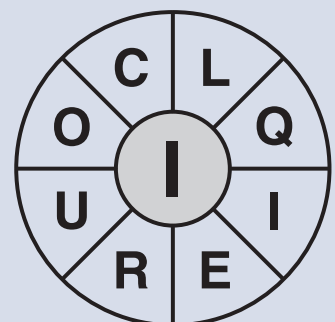
Sudoku

Have a go at this medium level Sudoku puzzle. Fill the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1-9 just once.

6								
			1	9				
1		4			5			
6	4		7	9	5	1	9	
	3	9		6		2		
	1		3					
3		6	5	2				4
	5			4	8			

Wordwheel

How many words of four letters or more can you make from this Wordwheel? Each word must use the central letter, and each letter may be used once only. At least one nine-letter word can be found.



For answers go to page 30

London's Finest Black Taxis for Discerning Drivers

Black Taxi Rental Service to London Black Taxi Drivers

- Prices from £320pw
- Payment holidays
- Ads / no ads
- Full back up
- Breakdown cover
- Best rates



JTD TAXI
www.jdntaxico.com | info@jdntaxico.com | 0207 383 8383 | 07956 399 369

AKA TAXI RENTALS LTD

**TXE'S AVAILABLE
FOR RENT, FROM
£310 PER WEEK.**

**CALL
07951 843663**

**Have to sell your cab?
Too old for London?**

Buying TX4's & Vitos

**London Buyer,
same day collection**

Call James - 07931 964857



07957 465423
e16-taxirentals.co.uk

TX4s TO RENT

- Ascott's maintained.
- Pay by cash/bank/online.
- Mercs also available



LINAGE

**LTDA Heathrow
Branch meeting**
Wednesday 25th June
at 1pm, Yiewsley
& West Drayton
Community Centre.
228 Harmondsworth
Rd, West Drayton
UB7 9JL

CABS FOR RENT

- **Taxis available to hire.** Contact Sabri 0795 897 3944.
- **One of London's largest and finest fleets.** Rent anywhere in London, full back up. Contact Eclipse Rent A Taxi on 0203 633 6070 or 07976 281737.
- **TX4s for hire.** Full back up, loan cab available, no ads 07980 288 333.
- **Rent Taxis, Euro 6 and also LEVC Cabs from £250 - £335.** We also do repairs on cabs, call Nick 020 7700 1045 / 07951 661 430.

CABS FOR SALE

- **Main Dealer service history.** Non-fleet cabs, trade sales. New stock daily. Cabs also wanted. Finance Paid 07957 465423.

CABS WANTED

- **All de-commissioned TX4s wanted.** We collect, immediate payment, call 07973 335 739.
- **Cabs wanted, London based buyer.** Same day collection, cash or bank transfer, sell + rent back also available. Call 07877093866.

To advertise here please contact Fellows Media:
Jacob Holmes jacob.holmes@fellowsmedia.com or 01252 259244

ABBAY CAB SERVICES LIMITED

**Electric Taxis to rent from
£320 a week based in
Brentford, West London**

**CALL LIAM ON
07736 743159**



One of London's Largest and Finest Electric Fleets

TXEs TO RENT



Eclipse Rent A Taxi
0203 633 6070
07976 281 737
info@rentataxi.co.uk
www.rentataxi.co.uk
"Be a part of our journey"

LTDA APPLICATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____ X _____

Date of Birth _____ Badge No. _____

Badge colour (please state whether green or yellow) _____ Year badge obtained _____

Suburban badge sector numbers _____

Have you ever been a member of the LTDA before? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

Do you currently have points on your DVLA driving license? (please tick) Yes ☐ No ☐

If Yes how many points do you have?

Do you have any motoring or other prosecutions pending? Yes ☐ No ☐

Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining the LTDA.

Please tick if you **DO NOT** wish to receive information from the LTDA and other related organisations in the future ☐

I understand that my application for membership of the Association must be approved by the Council of Management and that until this is confirmed I am not eligible to vote in relation to any form of Association matters. I agree that all benefits prior to approval of membership shall be at the discretion of the Council of Management.

Please note: We do not provide assistance for any matters that have occurred prior to you joining LTDA.

Signed _____ Date _____

LTDA Basic Direct Debit Instructions

Instructions to your Bank/Building Society to pay Direct Debits:

Please complete parts 1 to 5 to instruct your branch to make direct payments from your account. Then return the form to LTDA, FREEPOST, London, SE1 1PP

To the Manager of _____

Bank/Building Society Address _____

Service User Number

9 1 4 4 2 8

For Office use only

1. Please write the name and full postal address of your branch in the box (left)

2. Name of account holder _____

3. Account Number

4. Bank Sort Code

Banks/Building Societies may not accept instructions to pay Direct Debit from some types of account.

5. Signature _____

Date _____

This guarantee should be detached and retained by the payer

The Direct Debit Guarantee

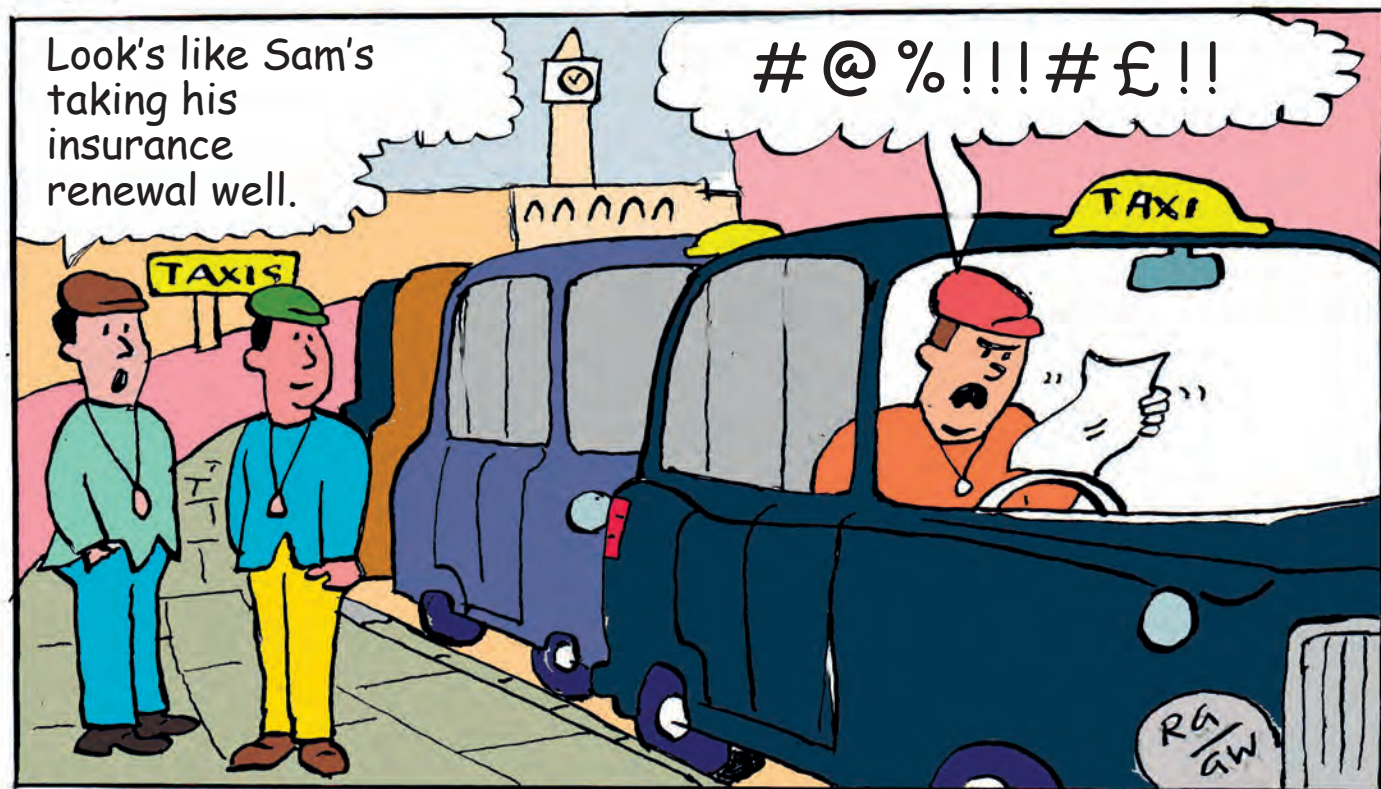


- This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.
- If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit LTDA will notify you (10 working days) in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request LTDA to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.
- If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit, by LTDA, or your bank or building society, you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.
 - If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when LTDA asks you to.
- You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

You can now also apply to join the LTDA online, simply scan here to complete an online application:

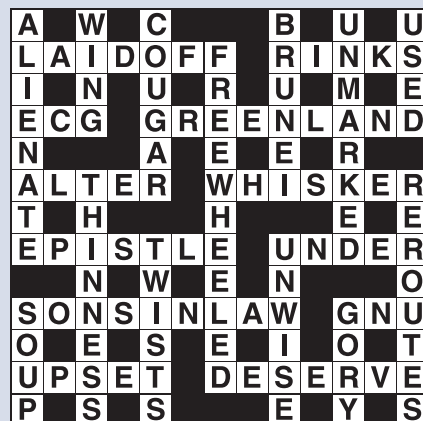


Cabbie's Cartoon



Puzzler Answers

Puzzler



Sudoku

7	6	3	9	5	8	1	4	2
4	2	5	6	1	3	9	8	7
1	9	8	4	7	2	3	5	6
8	7	1	2	9	5	4	6	3
6	4	2	7	3	1	5	9	8
5	3	9	8	6	4	2	7	1
9	1	4	3	8	7	6	2	5
3	8	6	5	2	9	7	1	4
2	5	7	1	4	6	8	3	9

Futoshiki

1	3	5	4	2
2	>	1	3	5
3	<	4	2	1
4	5	1	<	2
5	>	2	4	>

Wordwheel

Word targets: Excellent: 14, Good: 11, Target: 8, Kids: 8

NEED TO RENT A CAB?

**TX4s
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £265
PER WEEK**



**TXEs
AVAILABLE
TO RENT
FROM £345
PER WEEK**

LOOK NO FURTHER

**CONTACT US TODAY OR CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE TO SEE HOW WE
CAN DELIVER YOU THE BEST DRIVING EXPERIENCE IN LONDON TODAY**

HOLIDAY SCHEMES AVAILABLE

LIMITED STOCK **SO HURRY AND MAKE THE MOST
OF THESE AMAZING DEALS**

**FACING A
NASTY BALLOON
PAYMENT?
WE CAN HELP.
CALL US FOR AN
INSTANT QUOTE
AND GET CASH
NOW!**
ON ALL TXEs

 **0208 807 7931**



 www.blacktaxirentals.com

 info@blacktaxirentals.com

 Unit 7, Dominion Business Park, Goodwin Road, Edmonton N9 0BG

 Blacktaxirentals

 rentalstaxi

 blacktaxirentals

0%

Commission

for your first 4 weeks!*

Unlock your full earning potential by signing up today!

- ✓ Daily payments**
- ✓ 24/7 driver support
- ✓ Easy- to-use driver app designed for cab drivers
- ✓ Driver office in Zone 1
- ✓ High-paying corporate work, including Premium Hospitality and VIP Meet-and-Greet services
- ✓ Year-round perks & promotions - exclusive bonuses, discounts, and more!

Join Gett →



Gett.

*Must be new to Gett or inactive in the last 6 months / ** Weekdays, Monday to Friday. Earnings from Friday will be credited to the account on Monday the following week.