

## GREEN FLEET AWARDS 2007

At the prestigious GreenFleet Awards Radio Taxis Group was commended for its entry into the 'Private Sector Innovation' category. The awards, held in Canary Wharf, are designed to reward pioneers in green transport highlighting ways that fleets can cut down on their CO2 emissions and reduce their environmental impact.

Radio Taxis Group was praised for its sustainable business programme which has seen it renew its CarbonNeutral(r) status for the second time, introduce a new additives package to its executive fleet, implement responsible fleet purchasing policies and develop a bio-fuel over the course of the last eight months.

Geoffrey Riesel, Radio Taxis Group Chairman said: "We are delighted to have been commended at these important awards. This is further acknowledgment of the work that we have put in, and demonstrates that being green can pay dividends. We are proud of the work that we have done and are committed to taking responsibility for the effect our business has on the environment. But these initiatives are just the next step - we will continue to look for ways to go further."

Events Manager Colin Boyton said: "Once again we had a large number of entries and once again the standard was exceptionally high. Radio Taxis' entry stood out for the comprehensive approach that they have taken, investing significant time, energy and money in finding ways to drive down their emissions across their entire business."

CitySprint, the UK's leading courier network, scooped the top prize in the Transport for London (TfL) private sector 'Capital Fleet of the Year' award. The company which includes WestOne Passenger Cars and Burgundy Cars, beat off stiff competition from the other two finalists, Tesco.com and Green Tomatoes. Green Tomatoes are a private hire who have a hybrid fleet of



Toyota Prius vehicles. The Green Fleet Awards comprised a number of elements. The first being the Green Fleet Fuel Challenge which took place on the 26th July and featured public and private sector fleets competing to demonstrate who's the cleanest and greenest in and around London. Each participant set off on a gruelling 30-mile trip across London in rush hour traffic and had to stop off and register at four checkpoints across

town before finally finishing at Guildhall Yard. Due to the local knowledge of the CitySprint courier who took part in the challenge, CitySprint completed the route in the fastest time. However, the aim of the event was not simply to complete the route in the fastest time but to complete it using minimum carbon emissions.

The Green Fleet Awards accounted for the final 80 per cent of the marks. The finalists had to make a seven minute presentation live of stage in front of an X-Factor style panel of judges. The audience also had the chance to cast their votes electronically. The judges awarded 60 per cent and the audience votes accounted for the final 20 per cent. As a business which utilises many vehicles, CitySprint continuously seeks and actively reviews new technologies and environmentally friendly vehicle options as they come to market and was the first UK courier company to introduce the zero emission electric motorbike to its fleet. CitySprint also has a fleet of low-emission Smart Cars and a number of LPG vehicles within its London van fleet. The company is also actively increasing the proportion of other electric, gas, hybrid and zero emission vehicles that it already has.

CitySprint has also been looking at alternative fuel options and has been selected by the Environment Agency to take part in a Biodiesel trial.

## NATIONAL MALTA MEMORIAL SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE *by Derek Leone*

On 15th August a Service of Remembrance and Re-Dedication of the National Malta Memorial was held at Tower Place, in front of All Hallows by the Tower. This was to commemorate when the Island of Malta G.C. was continually attacked during the Second World War and in remembrance of the many lives that were lost.

The service was attended by 65 George Cross Island Association members, wives and helpers, most of whom are 85 years old. The High Commissioner of Malta Dr Michael Rafelo and the Reverend Bertrand Olivier of All Hallows by the Tower also attended. Julia Gaw Lady Chairman of the South East region welcomed everyone then the service began. It was followed by the Last Post during which the Standards of the George Cross Island Association were lowered. There was a two minute silence, then reveille, followed by the wreath laying, led by George Cross Island Association H.E. Dr Michael Refalo, Royal Navy Mr Beswarick JP Chairman North West Branch, Army Vic Kenchington 2nd Battalion The Royal Fusiliers, Royal Air Force Vice President Group Captain Jo Dalley OBE, DFM, Merchant Navy Mr George Thurgar, The People of Malta Julia Gaw, North West Branch Mr Jo Lloyd and wreath layers for Members of the Tin Hats, Mr Norman Gower then said: "When you go home tell them of us and say For your tomorrow we gave our today."



The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled were pleased to be taking part in this ceremony and supplying the transport to take the veterans to a lunch at The Union Jack Club at Waterloo. The committee would like to thank the drivers from the Tower Hill rank who assisted us on the day. We have subsequently received a large donation from The George Cross Island Association for which we thank them very much.

## TAXI TRIP SPREADS SOME MORE MAGIC

Once again this year, The Magical Taxi Tour is set to take children with life threatening illnesses to Disneyland Resort Paris. The convoy of taxis, together with ambulances and police escorts, will begin from East Winter Garden, Bank Street on Canary Wharf on Friday 5th October. This will be the 14th time the charity event has been organised by the Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers.

To date, 1488 taxis have taken almost 3,000 children on this trip to Disneyland Resort Paris. Blockades by fisherman and lorry drivers, fuel crisis's and tunnel fires have never stood in the way, the taxis and their passengers have always got through.



Magical Taxi Tour leaves Canary Wharf 2006