

TALKSPORT AND THE SUN'S JON GAUNT WRITES EXCLUSIVELY FOR TAXI GLOBE



A HAPPY NEW YEAR MESSAGE FOR KEN....

For the first time the UK's favourite Shock-Jock Jon Gaunt is writing for Taxi Globe with a special New Year message to Ken Livingstone...

Outspoken media personality 'Gaunty' shoots from the lip with his no-holds-barred comments about the London Mayor's track record in the capital and in particular his relationship with the London taxi trade. Gaunty loves taxi drivers who he believes are a 'national treasure' and we know you love to listen to him.

So Taxi Globe invited Jon to give his views about the London taxi industry and of course, Ken, exclusively to Taxi Globe...

Love him or hate him, it makes compelling reading!

Jon writes: "I think I would like to wish Ken a prosperous New Year but the problem is that Ken hasn't made it a very good year in the past 12 months for cabbies. He seems to really hate cabbies. I don't really understand why he does. They're the lifeblood of the great City of London.

"People say the black cab is an icon. I don't think it's just the black cab, it's the cabbie as well. He has a wealth of knowledge, a knowledge that can never be superceded by satellite navigation. Getting in a black cab in London isn't just about getting from A to B in the quickest possible time, it's about the banter, the craic. It's about the Knowledge that the driver has got. It's absolutely unique.

"I was in New York six months after 9/11. I was there with a colleague from BBC London who had lived there. We got in a cab. It was only because he knew New York that we got to where we wanted to get to because the bloke driving the cab couldn't speak English. I don't know whether he'd passed his driving test. It was a yellow cab. He didn't know where he was going, didn't know what he was doing, and then, to boot, at the end he tried to rip us off with the fare. That wouldn't happen with a black cab.

"The problem with Ken is that he seems to have this downer on cabbies, which I find really remarkable. It's typical of a man who has never had a job 'in the real world'. He's gone from one sort of political research job to a council job so he will never understand what it is to be self-employed, which all cabbies are.

"He doesn't understand that you only get out of life what you put in. And I just think it's despicable the way he treats cabbies in London and I think he needs to back off a bit.

"They've had the problem with the emissions, the problem with the fact they can only use one kind of vehicle, they've had the problem with the touts, they've had the problem with the fact that he's supporting those stupid rickshaws in the West End which are just a death trap. What is wrong with this man? Why isn't he supporting honest, decent, working-class cabbies. That's who he's meant to represent.

"And it's odd isn't it that he's got this latest thing where ethnics and women, especially if they're the right kind of ethnic (which of course means not a Jewish ex-ice cream man). If you're the right kind of ethnic you can actually get help with the Knowledge. You get a free moped, you get free waterproofs. It's a lowering of standards. Why have you got to do that? Anyone can take the Knowledge. Is he suggesting that the carriage office is racist and sexist, because if he is he should openly come out with that and root out the bad apples. He shouldn't penalise everybody else.

"If a normal, white, fat, working class bloke has spent three years, and has spent thousands of pounds, trying to get the Knowledge, then so should a woman and so should ethnic minorities – a level playing field. I don't agree with positive discrimination. And it would be better if he spent his energy on banning rickshaws, clamping down on illegal minicabs, clamping down on drivers who haven't passed their tests, rather than worrying about the black cabs. Yes they've got to be regulated, yes they've got to be controlled.

"Instead of seeing the London cabbies as the enemy let's see them as Ken's friend. Most people in London see them as friends, and certainly tourists see them as friends. That should be his attitude, that they're an essential part of an integrated transport policy. Yes you need buses, yes you need private hire, yes you need the Tube, but you also need the London black cab.

"It's an absolute disgrace. He should get his act together and do a U-turn now.

Support the London taxi trade. Put pressure on Ken to help the cabbies! They are a national treasure!"

See the UK's Number One SHOCK-JOCK – LIVE!

Special discount TICKET OFFER for taxi drivers

AN AUDIENCE WITH JON GAUNT

Live and Undaunted

The Alban Arena, St Albans

Friday 25 January 2008

Talksport's Jon Gaunt is arguably the favourite radio presenter of London taxi drivers.

Thousands of you tune in to his daily morning programme on Talksport or read his weekly page in The Sun.

Now you can see him personally in his live show. The first date on his live tour in 2008 is at the Alban Arena in St Albans on January 25th.

Jon is hoping to see as many of his taxi driver fans as possible at this show and as a special offer is discounting tickets for the event from £16 to £14 for taxi drivers and their families and friends.

Simply call in at the Alban Arena or book your tickets on 01727 844488 (quoting your badge number and the exclusive Taxi Globe offer) to receive your special ticket price.

Note: Maximum four tickets per booking (Offer only applies to the Alban Arena) For taxi drivers in other parts of London or the UK, why not attend other shows on the Jon Gaunt tour?

Dates and venues listed below:

FEBRUARY

Birmingham Town Hall	Tuesday 5 February	0121 780 3333
Hayes Beck Theatre	Thursday 7 February	0208 561 8371
Bedworth Civic Hall	Friday 22 February	02476 376707
Grays Civic Hall	Tuesday 26 February	0845 3005264
Southend Palace Theatre	Wednesday 27 Feb	01702 351135

MARCH

Cheltenham Town Hall	Wednesday 5 March	01242 227979
Peterborough The Cresset	Friday 7 March	01733 842500
Stockport The Plaza	Saturday 8 March	0161 477 7779
Dartford Orchard Theatre	Tuesday 18 March	01322 220000
Leeds City Varieties	Wednesday 19 March	08456 441881
Croydon Fairfield Halls	Thursday 20 March	0208 688 9291
Bolton Albert Halls	Wednesday 26 March	01204 334400
Potters Bar Wyllyots	Thursday 27 March	01707 645005

APRIL

Bromsgrove Artrix	Tuesday 1 April	01527 577330
High Wycombe Town Hall	Wed 2 April	01494 512000
Harpندن Public Halls	Friday 25 April	01582 762880
London Shaw Theatre	Sat 26 April	0870 033 2600
London Shaw Theatre	Sunday 27 April	0870 033 2600

MAY

Bedford Corn Exchange	Thursday 8 May	01234 269519
Dunstable The Grove	Sat 10 May	01582 602080
Derby Assembly Rooms	Thurs 15 May	01332 255800
Crawley The Hawth	Wed 21 May	01293 553636
Radlett, Herts		
The Radlett Centre	Friday 23 May	01923 859291

JUNE

Coventry Belgrade Theatre	Saturday 7 June	02476 553055
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STOP PRESS: Order your copy of the popular new Jon Gaunt autobiography 'Undaunted' Price £16.95 (at all good bookshops and amazon.co.uk)

* You can hear Jon Gaunt on TalkSport on Mondays to Fridays from 10am to 1pm. Tune into 1053 or 1089 AM.



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