

GLOBAL NEWS



Last Throw For US Wrestler Against A Taxi Driver?

The razzmatazz of American wrestling is quite possibly the most popular sporting entertainment programme currently on the box, but where does it fit in with Taxi Globe's Global News? Well, the sheer stupidity of one Mr Scott Hall has mixed the two with what could have been very tragic circumstances for a taxi driver.

Scott Hall first rose to super stardom prominence in the pro-wrestling world as the WWE's charismatic Razor Ramon with the Cuban lilt to his voice. Of course he wasn't from Cuba, but then again very little in the world of US wrestling is at it seems. But as he executed his patented Razor's Edge move, fans around the world took to this updated version of Arthur Fonzerelli of Happy Days and he became the superstar that his earlier wrestling identities had never quite managed.

His success was stunning, but the problem was that he believed his own hype and perhaps forgot what wrestling was really about – entertainment. He started showing up at wrestling venues obviously the worse for drink. On a tour to Germany, he was sent home for being in an unfit condition and finally his appearances minimised. He hit the skids and was put on probation for scratching a limousine several years back. He was later arrested for breaking the probation order, but worse was to come. After a heavy drinking session near his birthplace in Florida, Hall started driving on the wrong side of the freeway causing a severe three-car pile-up. One of the cars was being driven by a taxi driver whose injuries have still not completely healed. The taxi was completely written off. In all probability, Scott 'Razor Ramon' Hall is still very rich. Taxi Globe hopes that the taxi driver will be compensated to the maximum extent of the law...

Chicago City Council: "London Knowledge isn't easy!"

The Chicago city official responsible for testing cab drivers recently visited London to study the Knowledge and vowed that back in Chicago she would copy the best of it in the USA's third largest city. But this new and tougher written knowledge test introduced in Chicago has shaken up the locals. Taxi Globe was told that the Chicago passing rate fell to below 20 percent and that on one particular day, not one driver passed. Many were given a fourth shot at taking the test even though the limit is normally three. The test consists of about 60 multiple choice questions on routes around the City. The City Council also requires one-week in training school for potential cab drivers – substantially less than London taxi driver standards, as Taxi Globe readers will understand.

"We don't want to make it impossible to become a taxi driver," a spokeswoman told us, "but our job is to make sure cab drivers know their way around the city."

Drivers are grumbling, but Chicago is sticking with the test and says standards will be gradually raised because they are convinced that the detailed Knowledge of London "is what makes London cabbies great."

Free Taxi Rides In Japan Are Against The Law!

Very little comes for free, especially when a Japanese taxi is involved! An enterprising Japanese taxi company's plan to offer free rides, in order to break into a new market, was ended recently by government authorities that said it fell foul of regulations. JG Corp, known for its discount services and aggressive challenges to strict national regulations, had applied to offer the free service in Nagoya, some 227 miles west of Tokyo.

The service had been planned both as promotion and to protest a decision by a regional branch of the Transport Ministry last year to reject the firm's application to expand its business in the city. A spokesman explained to Taxi Globe that the company had applied to offer this service to promote their firm as well as protest, but the authorities refused to accept the application.

"They said it exceeded the rules under which such free services could be offered." It would have been the first free taxi service in Japan, where taxi fares are among the world's highest starting at around £4.50 for the first few minutes in Tokyo.

The Australian Taxi Grand Prix?

Two taxis racing for a better spot at the Darwin (Australia) Airport taxi rank were clocked at almost 50km/h above the speed limit, Aussie police told Taxi Globe. The two drivers had been summonsed to appear in court charged with driving at almost 90 miles per hour in a 50 mile per hour zone. The drivers face a minimum three-month loss of their licenses if convicted of breaking the limit by more than 20 mph.

Speaking to Taxi Globe's reporter in Oz, a Taxi Council spokesman said that the Northern Territory Government should impose an additional 12-month suspension as a message to 'cowboys' in the industry. "There's no room for that type of driver in this industry," he said, "the Government needs to take a very tough position." The taxis, which were not carrying passengers, were apparently racing for the first spot at a very busy intersection traffic light. The winner would then be the first cab into Charles Eaton Drive and a higher position on the rank. The taxis were caught in a radar trap...

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