

DRIVERS BRAVE THE WEATHER FOR METER UPDATE

As many people got up on Sunday 5th April to a covering of snow, the weather conditions were certainly inclement for the tariff change at Millwall. In fact the whole weekend had been bitterly cold – not the best weather for the tariff change, especially as earlier in the same week the weather had been warm and sunny. But despite the inclement weather conditions, Digitax Taximeters had no difficulty in satisfying their customer's needs. During the course of the weekend over six thousand Digitax customers arrived at Millwall Football Club to have their meters upgraded for the new tariff. Thirty Digitax technicians worked through the bitter cold conditions during Friday night and early Saturday morning to

be confronted with a downfall of snow on Sunday. But, not even the weather could beat the Digitax team; drivers were streaming through with no waiting whatsoever. A Digitax spokesperson said, "Last year at the tariff change it was like mid summer, I can remember the team changing into shorts and tee shirts and getting a suntan. But, this year we came prepared for the bad weather - warm clothes plenty of hot refreshments. The upgrade went without incident and we are all pleased at Digitax with the way the upgrade went. The technicians at Digitax have ask Taxi Globeto convey the team's appreciation to all the drivers who made a contribution to the gratuity fund."



ECO POWER EMISSIONS EQUIPMENT

There has been a lot of speculation in recent weeks about the Eco-Power system. An Eco Power spokesperson told Taxi Globe that there was an on going Court Case but it was not possible to give full details of this at this time. The PCO has issued this statement: "The validity of the authorisation in respect of the Eco-Power system is subject to proceedings in the High Court for judicial review. The PCO has been restrained by a High Court injunction from publishing the withdrawal of the authorisation. The claim will be heard by the High Court on 17 or 18 April 2008. The PCO will argue that the system

currently being supplied by Eco-Power does not conform to the authorisation originally granted. Eco-Power will argue that it does. In the meantime, Eco-Power has given an undertaking to comply with any order the court may make to compensate those who suffer loss as a result of purchasing the system whilst the injunction is in force."

The Eco-Power system comprises of a cooled Exhaust Gas Recirculation (EGR) circuit and a combined catalyst with a revised partial flow filter unit. This original system was approved for installation on Fairways and TX1s which were Euro 1 and later on the Euro 2 TX1.

SILVERPAY BUSINESS IS BOOMING

After six years of steady growth SilverPay has enrolled over three thousand five hundred members. It now processes transaction revenues of several million pounds per annum. Strong growth in their generic fully managed service, coupled with the launch of a new 'own merchant' processing service, puts SilverPay firmly at the head of independent card processors serving the taxi and private hire sector.

Managing Director, Jeff Woods comments: "We are enjoying a flying start to the year, we see more demand than ever for our mobile Chip & PIN terminals and virtual card processing systems. It is a very exciting time for us and fully vindicates the company's strategy to provide a card industry compliant service. Our solutions fully embrace the required processing technologies for now and the future"

To further enhance the member offering they recently launched 'SilverClub', a secure member web area incorporating 'SilverService' a virtual web-terminal. The new free online facilities allow members to search and view their accounts and optionally to input booking payment transactions from any Internet enabled device. Jeff Woods continues "Over the past couple of years we have seen a sharp rise in the requirement of the public to use plastic cards as a preferred method for fare payment. Cards are now very popular with business and regular travellers as an alternative to carrying large amounts of cash. Given this trend we expect our growth to continue to accelerate as individual drivers and larger groups seize the opportunity to grow their business through card acceptance. Last but not least we are getting strong feedback on driver safety, where cash in the car is diminished thus depriving the would be robber of a potential target"

To consolidate this growth, SilverPay expect next month to announce a significant strategic alignment with a major UK bank to provide a new targeted card acceptance service to the larger operators in the sector.



Jeff Woods, Managing Director, SilverPay Services Limited.