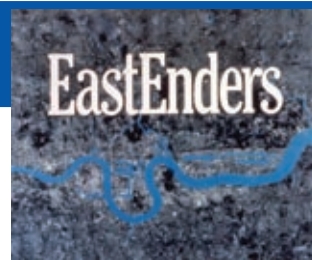


## TAXI STARS IN EASTENDERS



In a new Eastenders storyline, the square's resident taxi driver Charlie Slater has said goodbye to his trusted faithful Fairway and is taking delivery of a brand new TX4. "We've supplied a TX4 to EastEnders to fit in with Charlie's character who is one of London's best known cabbies," said Rob Laidler, Sales Director for LTI Vehicles. "We're glad Charlie has finally decided to retire his old Fairway and update it with the new TX4. It's instantly recognisable shape is an iconic symbol of London and is the only prop available if you want to show a uniquely British scene. We look forward to watching our star in 2008 as we celebrate 60 years of taxi manufacturing later this year."

Derek Martin is the actor who plays fictional character Charlie Slater. He is passionate about his role – so much so that he has even visited the LTI factory in Coventry to see the iconic vehicles being built.

This year is once again a great year for spotting taxis on-screen. In addition to

EastEnders, the London taxi has enjoyed a number of on-screen performances including The Apprentice, Hotel Babylon, Super Nanny, Nigella Express and Call me a Cabbie. On some other shows, particularly those which involve a presenter and a member of the public working together, eagle eyed cab drivers have spotted that in one shot the star or the member of the public is in the back of a cab and in the next shot although still in the back of a cab, the cab has changed. This is more noticeable in the case of changing from a Fairway with its red handles to a TX, but proves how tv shows are relying on taxis in London to get around when filming. It is also surprising how many taxis are seen in news reports and once again those involved in the cab trade will recognise radio circuit logos on the vehicles as they drive along behind the reporters being filmed.

## TOMTOM GO X30 SERIES LAUNCHES IN UK

Sat nav systems have been put to the test against a taxi driver on numerous occasions and usually a London taxi driver wins. However, there are lots of times when drivers go outside of the KoL area and then a sat nav is a useful addition to the driver's knowledge. Many of London's taxi drivers have already bought a TomTom because of its portability. Promoting safer, stress free driving, TomTom has launched the GO x30 series of sat nav, with the latest navigation features and content, including IQ Routes(tm), Advanced Lane Guidance and Map Share(tm), as well as Bluetooth® hands-free connectivity. Drivers also have easy access to detailed traffic information through the RDS-TMC Traffic Receiver, which is included in the box in the Traffic models. The new models have a new compact design which incorporates a new way of fixing your TomTom to the windscreen. The EasyPort™ mount is neat and slim, folding into the back of the TomTom unit. As many drivers know to their cost, leaving the original mount attached to the window was seen as an invitation to break into a vehicle as thieves looked for the sat nav in glove compartments or under seats. The new mounting system is simple to use.

TomTom's innovative new IQ Routes(tm) technology means drivers benefit from the most efficient route planning on the market today. It considers all possible options to its final destination, taking into account any situations that may delay a driver's journey, such as traffic on roundabouts, speed bumps or traffic lights. It also takes into account the traffic situation on weekends and weekdays, ensuring the TomTom GO always selects the fastest route, putting drivers back in control of their daily route planning. Online TomTom Home is a great way of communicating with other owners, as well as updating your model.

The new TomTom GO x30 series will replace the current TomTom GO x20 range (GO 520(T), 720(T) and 920T). The products are available in stores now across the UK. Prices start from a suggested retail price of £249.99 including VAT.



When using a TomTom in a recent trial, I found the unit was clear and simple to understand. The touch screen is clear and the voice has clarity. The new lane guidance is particularly useful as you approach a complicated roundabout or junction as it is not always clear which lane you need to be in when you get to the junction or roundabout itself.

An updated version of TomTom RIDER, its navigation device for use on motorbikes, is also available. This unit may be of use in helping those studying the KoL as they ride round on their bikes. New features include TomTom Map Share™, extensive safety

features such as the Help Me! menu, TomTom's latest map guarantee and pre-installed Tele Atlas maps of Western & Eastern Europe.

Bikers have their own sat nav, with easy access to dedicated trip statistics. This allows them to see average and maximum speeds per journey, total miles travelled and distance from home. "We aim to provide all TomTom customers with the highest-quality navigation experience available," says Harold Goddijn, TomTom's chief executive officer. "Now, TomTom RIDER customers have access to the same innovative features as users of our car products, as well as extensive route planning options – services that can be particularly helpful as the summer biker season approaches." With a simple, easy-to-use touch screen

that is conveniently designed with extra large screen icons so that bikers can operate the device even when wearing gloves, the system has a built-in rechargeable Lithium-ion battery that provides up to five hours of constant operation, or it can be wired into a 12 volt motorcycle battery (with the included power cable) for a constant charge.



## STAYING ALIVE

The Bee Gees have been honoured for their contribution to pop music with the unveiling of a special commemorate Green Plaque in Westminster. Singer Robin Gibb unveiled the plaque last month on the façade of 67 Brook Street, behind Bond Street Tube Station, where the band's manager and producer Robert Stigwood lived.

This was also the location where Robin and his brothers Barry and Maurice spent much of their time rehearsing and composing songs between 1968 and 1980. Robin Gibb said: "It's a tremendous honour to be acknowledged for doing something we love and a joy to be able to celebrate the unveiling of this marvellous green plaque. This location means a great deal to us and is somewhere we wrote a lot of our songs.

"This plaque should not only be a celebration of our music and achievements but also act as a memorial to my brother Maurice, who I'm sure would have been very proud had he been here today."



Councillor Robert Davis, Westminster's Cabinet Member for Planning, said: "We are very proud to commemorate the Bee Gees for the great contribution they have made to rock and roll and pop music. The Bee Gees had a vital association with Westminster and this plaque is a reminder that the city's rich heritage is comprised of extraordinary figures from all professions as well as historic buildings."

The Bee Gees were one of the biggest disco acts of the 1970s and won multiple Grammy Awards during their 35-year long career. They were inducted into The Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 1997 and sold more than 200 million records worldwide - placing them fifth in pop history behind Elvis Presley, the Beatles, Michael Jackson and Paul McCartney. Australian-born producer Robin Stigwood is credited with masterminding the Bee Gees rise to fame. He is also known for promoting world famous acts such as Cream, Mick Jagger, Rod Stewart and David Bowie as well as theatrical productions Hair and Jesus Christ Superstar. He currently lives on the Isle of Wight.