

NORTH WEST TAXI AID TRIP TO CHESSINGTON

by Ken Sinclair

Wednesday 18th June was day of the 18th North West Taxi Drivers' Aid annual Trip. Around 100 children with a range of disabilities and around accompanying helpers and teachers travelled in over 50 taxis on a day out to the Chessington World of Adventure.

The taxis collected their charges from various schools in North West London and arrived at the Harrow District Masonic Centre, Northwick Circle, Kenton, at around 9.30am, to be greeted by the Mayor of Brent Councillor Ralph Fox.

The convoy accompanied by Police and AA vehicles left the Centre at around 10.15am. The day was considered by all concerned one of our most successful.

Our thanks go to all our sponsors, our drivers, Sergeant Dave Hillson and his team and the AA.



PORSCHE VICTORY IN LEGAL CAMPAIGN

Porsche has announced a formal victory in its legal campaign to prevent the introduction of a £25 charge on larger vehicles driving in London. The Administrative Court in London has quashed the increase to the charge. Porsche has been awarded legal costs - expected to be a six figure sum - which will be donated to Skidz, a charity devoted to taking at-risk youths off the streets and a life of knife crime, and giving them training in mechanical skills and maintenance.

Upon taking office, new London Mayor Boris Johnson's legal team accepted that when he was the Mayor, Ken Livingstone should have taken into account research from King's College which showed that the new charge would actually increase CO2 emissions in Greater London. The research, discovered by Porsche in its legal correspondence with the previous Mayor, indicated that the new charge would see an increase in car mileage. On the basis of this, the Mayor's lawyers decided that the proposed new charge could, in fact, be unlawful.

Andy Goss, Managing Director of Porsche Cars Great Britain, said; "We were always confident that our legal case was right and that we would win in the end. The charge was clearly unfair and was actually going to increase emissions in London. Porsche is proud to have played a decisive role in striking down such a blatantly political tax increase targeting motorists."

Porsche said at the outset of the legal campaign that the proposed charge was divisive and would be bad for London. With this in mind, Porsche is donating its costs to Skidz, a charity with a proven success record of taking at-risk young people and providing them with mechanical skills and training that can lead to future employment and away from a life of knife crime. Skidz, which already operates five programmes across England, will use the funding to launch a new London-based branch in the Borough of Hillingdon. Goss, commenting on the donation to Skidz, said; "All along our decision to fight against this increased charge on Londoners was

based on our firm belief that it would be bad for London. We are pleased to now be able to give back to London by donating our costs to a cause that concerns all of us, reducing knife crime."

Steve Godfrey, Project Director at Skidz, said; "We are hugely grateful for the donation Porsche has made. It will have a huge impact on our work, allowing us to reach young people in London for the first time."

FREEDOM OF THE CITY OF LONDON

LTi Vehicles International Marketing Development Director Matthew Cheyne, recently went to The Guildhall to be admitted to the Freedom of The City of London. Matthew was delighted to become a member of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Drivers last year, having been proposed by Andrew Overton.

Matthew Cheyne said: "I felt very proud and honoured. It is an ancient institution going back hundreds of years with a great deal of history and heritage."

