

NEW APPOINTMENTS TO TFL BOARD

TfL is controlled by a board whose members are appointed by the Mayor of London. Boris Johnson is currently the chair of the board. The Commissioner of Transport for London, a position currently held by Peter Hendy, reports to the board and leads a management team with individual functional responsibilities. When Mayor Boris Johnson was on the campaign trail to be elected Mayor, he promised the taxi trade a seat on the TfL Board. Subsequent to his election as Mayor, positions on the board were advertised and applications were made by anyone who wished to take on the role. Once applications were received following the advertisements, candidates were interviewed. There were 165 applications to join the board. The Mayor was required to ensure together the members of the Board have experience in the impact of transport on business and the environment, finance, local government, management of organisations and the organisation of trade unions. He was also required to consider that the membership of the board represents the interests of women and people with mobility problems.



Peter Hendy

The Mayor has now made appointments to the Board and keeping his pledge, has appointed Bob Oddy as the taxi trade representative. A licensed taxi driver since 1966, Bob is best known to the taxi trade in his role as General Secretary of the Licensed Taxi Drivers' Association. He has been actively involved in many issues affecting the taxi industry. Bob is Director of LTDA Enterprises Ltd and a non-executive Director of Computer Cab Company Ltd. Members of the Transport for London board are appointed by the Mayor in accordance with the GLA Act. The Chairman of the Board will be Tim Parker and Christopher Garnett will be deputy Chair.

Steve Wright has been also been appointed and will represent the private hire industry. After an early career with London Underground Steve became involved in the Private Hire Trade and successfully ran a Private Hire Company for over 25 years. Today he is chair of the Licensed Private Hire Car Association. This organisation comprises of 150 companies representing 15,000 drivers, with a further 1,000 companies registered. In 1999 Steve was awarded an MBE for services to transport in London.

MAGICAL TAXI TOUR SETS OUT FOR 15th TIME

This year's annual trip to Disneyland Paris is set to leave East Winter Gardens, Canary Wharf on Friday 17th October. This is the 15th time that members of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers have organised the outing, taking sick and terminally ill children on the trip of a lifetime. The iconic London cab with its big hearted cab drivers will travel in convoy down to Dover with their precious passengers, where they all board a P&O Ferry bound for Calais.

Throughout the year, there have been fund raising events to help finance the trip. Every cab is also sponsored with sponsors including many Livery Companies, businesses and organisations. But without the cab drivers who drive the children and then take them round the theme park the trip could not take place. The day before the trip sets out will see all the cabs undergo an inspection to ensure they are mechanically ready for the long drive and also to be liveried with sponsors' details. This year this will be taking place at the Public Carriage Office. The "yard" has been empty since SGS began testing taxis.

The Lord Mayor of the City of London Alderman David Lewis accompanied by his Sheriffs will be at The Big Breakfast send off, together with other dignitaries. The Lord Mayor and the Master of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, Andrew Overton, will cut the red ribbon and wave the convoy off.

Office workers will once again be surprised as they go to work on the morning as one thing is certain – the cabs, the drivers and the carers will be making a good deal of noise as they leave. Police outriders from both the UK and France escort the convoy which can reach up to five miles in length to ensure a safe passage throughout the weekend both here and in France.

Some amazing facts about this year's trip include that this 15th trip will mean a total of 3000 children have travelled in the convoy of cabs; for some of these children it will have been their first trip in a cab as well as their first trip abroad or to Disneyland Paris. Even more amazing is that some of the licensed taxi drivers taking their cabs on this year's have given their cab and time freely for every one of those 15 trips. This equates to driving around 8000 miles and missing a total of 75 days work. Every driver who has ever done this trip will tell you – it is a magical event and brings a great deal of pleasure to the children involved. The trip is organised by a small Committee of unpaid members.

You can learn more about the Magical Taxi Tour at www.magicaltaxitour.com where you will find details of previous trips and also how you can help by making a donation to help fund next year's outing.



LOOKING AT A NEW AIRPORT

Boris Johnson wants a study into the possibility of constructing a sixth airport to ease the congestion of London air traffic. In a recent newspaper column for the Daily Telegraph, he said: "It is ... ever more urgent that we investigate the possibility of a long-term solution, in the form of a new and more eco-friendly international airport." Heathrow Airport is the world's busiest, handling over 68 million passengers annually. London's taxi trade is an integral part of onward travel from the airport, as well as dropping many passengers off for departures every day.