

CONCERT AT ROYAL HOSPITAL *by Derek Leone*

On Sunday 28th September 2008, The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled organised a concert to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the charity. The event was held in The Royal Hospital Chelsea, home of The Chelsea Pensioners. The Charity had invited all the sponsors and drivers with their guests who have supported the charity over the years to this event and they began arriving at about 1-30 p.m. Guests were shown into the State Rooms where champagne was served and the guests were able to view the rooms and the grounds of the hospital. On the lawn in Founders Court in brilliant sunshine The Band of The Gurkhas Regiment entertained with a display by two of



Richard Hudd

Gurkhas showing their expertise with the Kukri the heavy curved knife for which they are famous. The Master of Ceremonies Mr. John Sheen asked everybody to return to the State Rooms where The Chairman of The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled Mr. Richard Hudd thanked everybody for attending and for all the sponsorship that has been given over the years. He also thanked the drivers for all their time because without them the charity would not have been able to continue taking the veterans on the outings, and then thanked The Royal Hospital for allowing us to use the grounds and State Rooms. Mr Hudd went on to say: "We are very proud to have in the gathering Mr. Henry Allingham who at 112 years is the oldest surviving veteran of the First World War and who with the assistance of Mr. Dennis Goodwin of The First World War Veterans Association has just released a book entitled Kitcheners Last Volunteer. Also present are two Victoria Cross holders, Mr. Lachiman Gurung aged 91 and Mr. Bahadur Pun aged 86. Lachiman won his Victoria Cross during the war when the trench that he and two fellow gurkhas were in was attacked by the enemy, during the fight a grenade was thrown into the trench which Lachiman promptly threw back, this was followed by another one which also threw back, the third grenade came in and Lachiman picked it up unfortunately it exploded taking of his right hand and injuring his two colleagues. At the end of the attack there were thirteen enemy dead around the trench, Pun received his Victoria Cross when he was involved in the rescue of Major Lumley who is the father of the Actress Joanne Lumley."



Henry Allingham seated with some of the guests

The President of The Charity Mr. Harry Joel M.B.E. who in 1948 was one of the original drivers and organisers when the first outing of the charity took place he also thanked everybody and especially the members of the committee and said that the committee would welcome any taxi driver male or female who wished to join the committee. John Sheen, the Master of Ceremonies, then asked everybody to make their way across to The Great Hall where a buffet was available. Everybody was soon seated and enjoying the food. Taxi driver John Rowland then auctioned a full mechanical overhaul courtesy of Dave Levy (Dave's Cabs) and a year's recovery service from T&Js Recovery. This was followed by the entertainment beginning with two young guys called The Rat Pack singing a melody of tunes of Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin and Sammy Davis Junior and they soon had some of the guest dancing. This was followed by Kas singing a melody of songs ending the evening with the Committee on the stage singing Well Meet Again which they have been requested to do at Worthing Next Year.

Once again the President, Chairman and Committee would like to thank everybody for all their help and sponsorship over the past 60 years it really has been appreciated and we look forward to seeing you at Worthing next year.

