

## GLOBAL NEWS



### South African Cops “Not Like London Bobbies!”

According to an appeal judge in Natal, South Africa, while exonerating three policemen who shot at a taxi 110 times with R5 assault rifles, SA police officials could not be expected to exercise the same degree of care and control as a London “bobby!” Not sure how many times you have to shoot at a cab before being considered not careful, but the judge went on to add: “The conduct of the three policemen must be judged in the context of the violence and brutality against police officers who are charged with protecting citizens.”

The comments came at a time when questions had been raised about police using extreme force and in particular, fatally shooting suspects. Taxi driver, Msizi Cele and his passengers were suing the safety and security minister for the shootings when the police tried to stop the vehicle – in the event it was the wrong one. The claim was turned down for the reasons already given – 3 policemen using R5 assault rifles shooting 110 times at the wrong vehicle is ok...!

### Another Taxi Lottery Row

Older Taxi Globe readers will remember the huge row many years ago among a small group of London taxi drivers who had scooped the lottery jackpot. The row came about when the person responsible for buying the weekly ticket for the guys in an eating shelter, bought an identical numbered ticket for himself. When the 6 numbers came up, the group accepted that there had been a second winner, but their acceptance changed to anger when they realised that the second winner was actually the person who collected their weekly stake money and had bought the tickets. It meant that this driver could claim some of the jackpot and also had the whole of the other half. The drivers tried to take the matter further, but nothing illegal had occurred and in the end they had to accept the decision. Relationships were heavily soured though...

Now six taxi drivers from Atlanta, Georgia have gone to court and claimed that they were cheated out of their share of a \$50 million lottery jackpot and should receive portions of the winnings. The jackpot from the game went to a group of 23 taxi drivers, who received about \$2million each before taxes. Like their London counterparts, the drivers paid money in weekly and although they'd had a few small

wins, there was nothing significant. The 23 winners argued that they were the only legitimate winners because only they contributed \$5 each to that day's pool, whereas a further group of 6 cabbies claimed that they paid into the pool for earlier tickets that produced small wins and those winnings were supposed to have been used to buy new tickets.

In court, the judge ruled in favour of the 6 drivers. He awarded one driver \$2 million, while five others were awarded \$346,357 each. However, they still must try to collect the money, which was not held in escrow during the legal dispute. Like London, the happy day turned sour with friends no longer speaking...

### Norwegian Cabbies Must Swear To Be Polite!

A taxi company in Oslo has taken the drastic step of forcing its drivers to sign a contract promising to be decent and polite to customers. With Norwegian cabbies getting a patchy reputation for their somewhat strong language, the Oslo cabbies will now have to sign or resign. “Drivers and cab owner shall be polite to customers and behave properly. In addition they shall be polite to other drivers in traffic. Taxis should be seen as a positive aspect of traffic!” So said a representative from the Norwegian traffic department. The taxi company are now hoping the move will give them a competitive advantage by assuring quality control. Last year, 21 Oslo cab drivers lost their licenses, while so far this year 19 have lost their licenses with several of the cases being under investigation by police. All were for unbecoming behaviour.

The spokesperson went on to add: “Shoddy and rude behaviour and threatening to throw out passengers is not acceptable. When a driver gets 15-20 complaints, you know something is wrong. We throw out 10-15 drivers a year.” The drivers are not too pleased with the agreement with most of them saying politeness to customers is automatic.

Oslo driver and owner Per-Christian Dammen has signed the agreement but is not happy. “It isn't nice having to swear to behave properly,” he told Global News, “these demands undermine our independence as cab owners.”

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