

BAHRAIN HAILS 200 TAXIS

The Bahrain Economic Development Board (BEDB) has chosen to order 200 new taxis from LTI Vehicles. These vehicles will be manufactured at the factory in Coventry and will be white with a chequered flag roof. The first 50 will be delivered to the Arabian Taxi Company in December of this year, with the remaining 150 delivered by March 2009. All will be operating as taxis at the time of the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix in April. The BEDB established the Arabian Taxi Company to re-issue 300 of Bahrain's 900 taxi licences in an attempt to regenerate licences held by retired taxi drivers and their families.

John Russell, Chief Executive of Manganese Bronze plc, said: "This deal highlights the move by an increasing number of international governments, businesses and operators to look for a viable transport solution to their current public transport problems. It demonstrates the very real international appeal of the London taxi - even before we have begun commercial production at our new joint venture in China. We hope to supply Bahrain with more taxis and look forward to working with their middle eastern neighbours in the near future.

"The London taxi will provide Bahrain with a premier taxi service and passengers will benefit from a safe, secure and comfortable mode of transport. Bahrain's old and unreliable taxi fleet will be replaced with a professional service that closely resembles London's unrivalled transport network."



SPREADING THE BREAD

Warburtons, Britain's family baker, has turned cabbies into driving, talking advertisements in its latest campaign to convert the nation into Warburtons bread lovers. Hundreds of loaves descended on the Capital as taxi drivers prepared to head out onto the streets of Britain to spread the word on bread. Embracing this new take on advertising, some cabbies have even joined the Warburtons family - quite literally - by changing their names by deed poll to Warburton. All will be sporting Warburtons tattoos and dishing out free loaves of bread to passengers.

The new take on live advertising is being rolled out across five key cities in Britain including Glasgow, Newcastle, Manchester, Cardiff and London. Jane Sutton, spokesperson for the company, says: "Chatty taxi drivers were



recently voted in the top ten most lovable things about Britain so they're the

perfect fit for us as we convert the nation into Warburtons bread lovers! We know how taxi drivers love to chat and we're confident they'll make fantastic ambassadors for our brand."

Taxi driver, James Warburton (née Edwards), says: "I changed my name to Warburton by deed poll last week. Now I just need to convince the wife to do the same. It's all in a day's work for me - it'll give my passengers a laugh and help put a smile on their face during all the doom and gloom."



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In a recent issue of Taxi Globe we printed a letter from a taxi driver who had handed in cash as lost property and the problems he encountered. It would seem that this is not the only time when a taxi driver has been left wondering why handing in lost property becomes difficult.

Dear Sir/Madam,
About 18 months ago someone left a bag containing \$3000, a number of passports, flight tickets from Heathrow to Moscow, a mobile phone and several pairs of expensive designer sunglasses. I handed the lost property into Catford police station, and the details were recorded in a book and I was handed a receipt. 3 months passed and I did not hear a thing from them. I had telephone Catford Police Station several times and they said they were too busy to assist me, and I should call back at another time. On the 4th or 5th time that I phoned, I was told that all taxi lost property goes to a building in Mandela Lane, and I was given their phone number. When I called them, I was told that someone had recovered the property one or two days after I had handed it in, but had left no reward or a thank you note. Consequently I do not know if the property really reached its proper owner or not, and what about my reward???
This has left me with no incentive for handing in lost property!
Kind Regards,
M. Allen

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR LTFUC

The Annual General Meeting of the London Taxidriver's Fund for Underprivileged Children will be held on Tuesday 9th December, 2008 at 7.30pm at the New Park Day Centre, 19 Highbury New Park, Highbury, N5. There is parking at the centre and refreshments will be available.

All drivers are most welcome to attend.