

GRAND CHRISTMAS GALA

On 13th December 2008, The Magical Taxi Tour held a Gala dinner dance event at Marriot Hotel Canary Wharf. When The Magical Taxi Tour arrives back in Dover at the end of the special weekend each year, drivers go off in different directions taking children back to their homes and hospitals. For some of the taxi drivers, this gala event was an opportunity to catch up with each other as they do not see each other in their working lives. For the Chairman of the Committee and the Committee members it is an opportunity to thank everyone involved for making the 2008 Magical Taxi Tour such a success.

Following a champagne reception, everyone made their way through to dinner. The room had been decorated with balloons and flowers, with crackers and beautiful seasonal floral centrepieces on the tables putting everyone in a festive mood. "Arfur" cab made up the stage for a great disco later in the evening, run by cab driver Jamie Owens who also does the disco for the children when the Magical Taxi Tour has its gala evening in the Disney resort. Known as "Arfur" because it is only half a cab, it makes a good centrepiece. But for many of the drivers the large screen which was showing images from the trip throughout the evening became a focus of attention.

On behalf of the Committee, Phil Davis welcomed everyone to the Marriott and then showed a short film of this year's trip. This will be available to buy early in 2009, further details will follow. Phil also thanked drivers, support workers and everyone who had been involved in making this year's trip of a lifetime possible for so many children. He said: "It is wonderful to see so many of the drivers and support workers here this evening. We are here



to enjoy a relaxing evening with everyone having a good time by way of thanks for the time given by those involved in not only this year's 15th trip but in the years before."

A raffle was held during the course of the evening with prizes which included items donated by EON the makers of Bond movies. This memorabilia proved extremely popular. Work is already underway planning the 2009 Magical Taxi Tour, which will take place on October 2nd.

TAXIDRIVERS & OWNERS LEGAL PROTECTION LTD

Following many months of planning, Taxidivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd. Has been launched. The company is now in the process of accepting members now and intend to commence cover on January 1st. Taxidivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd is the brainchild of Alan Fleming who was formerly the Chairman of The London Cab Drivers Club Ltd.

Alan said: "Taxidivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd will be a non-political organization and will provide legal cover and representation for fully paid-up members. A legal firm, based in the City of London, who has a vast knowledge of Hackney Carriage Law have been appointed by our insurer's. Our subscription rate is exceptionally low due to low overheads, which have been brought about by careful and economic planning. We intend to use modern communication, to cut down on administrative costs."

COVER INCLUDES

- * Up to £25,000 for Legal Insurance Cover.
- * Legal cover for all Hackney Carriage offences.
- * Cover for all motoring offences whilst working as a cab driver.
- * Representation for Revocations and suspension of your cab driver's licence.
- * Representation for disciplinary matters.
- * Low annual subscription rate of only £84.00p
- * Easy payment plan. Pay £7.00p per month or £21.00p quarterly by Standing Order
- * 24-hour helpline

For Membership details, call or text Dave Cohen on 07956 894701 or Alan Fleming on 07831 092123. Alternatively, enquire by email to: tolpsltd2009@googlemail.com

SKY JUMPING TAXI DRIVER RAISES MONEY FOR LTFUC *by Ray Levy*

Jon Whittick has been a taxi driver for almost 25 years and has been married to wife Jenny for 31 years. They have two great children, Barry and Lisa and two wonderful grandsons Harry (5) and Riley (2). For Jon's 50th birthday this year, Jenny increased Jon's life insurance and booked him a 'Skydive', as she knew it was something he always wanted to do.



With only 2 weeks to go before the jump, kind hearted Jon thought it would be a good opportunity to raise money for the LTFUC and began a race to get some sponsorship. Jon said he was quite surprised at people's generosity, especially in these difficult times and he has managed to raise approximately £800 so far.

Special thanks go to Gorgeous George at 123 Send and Gary at Mag Diesel for their help and contributions and a big thank you also goes to everyone who donated so generously.

Jon says that although he will be moving to Spain in the very near future, he will be coming back on a regular basis to visit family and friends and to work the taxi for a week or so and will be available for the LTFUC children's outings. He says the skydive was a fantastic experience and he will definitely be doing it again and will also try to convince his wife Jenny to jump to raise funds for such a well deserving charity, so watch this space!!

The Honorary President, Honorary Chairman and Committee would like to thank Jon for raising this money for us and look forward to him joining us on our future outings in 2009. My own wife has suggested I do the same to mark my 60th birthday this year, but I have gracefully declined her kind offer on Doctor's orders, well that's my story!!!