

LONDON TAXI DRIVER SHAVES HEAD FOR THE BRITISH HEART FOUNDATION

by Brian Nayar

When I'm working, you'll never know that my hair is currently 64.5 inches long -that's 1.64 metres, as being a London Cabbie, passengers only normally see the back of my head. It reaches well past my knees, and almost down as far as my ankles!!! I can be seen out of my cab, be it at Heathrow Airport's Taxi feeder park or at Fulham Football Club on a Saturday afternoon.

January 1994 was the last time I had a haircut. In July of the same year, I spent 4 hours on a bench in my mum's kitchen whilst I had my hair put into plats, and boiling bees wax added. I couldn't wash or even get it wet for 6 weeks. Those first few weeks were pretty horrendous. In fact the first couple of years there were numerous occasions in which I was very tempted to cut it, but thought I would persevere.

Nearly 15 years later, I think the time has come (with a gentle nudge from Mother Nature) to remove the long locks from my head. The only problem I have is that it means I must shave my head completely!!! It gives me an opportunity to raise money for a charity close to both Debbie and I, the British Heart Foundation, as we both lost our fathers to heart disease – Debbie's dad Tony at a very young 48, and mine at 59.

Also being a London Taxi Driver, I can use my fundraising to help the British Heart Foundation to promote a healthy lifestyle within the trade. We must all ensure we exercise and eat healthily to minimise any potential health problems that can arise.

The date of my pending head shave is 28th March 2009. Why this date? Firstly, it gives me plenty of time to try and raise some money. Secondly, it gives me time to get used to the idea of being a baldy. And lastly, it should be a bit warmer for my poor bare head.....



You can sponsor me by visiting my online fundraising page on www.justgiving.com/briannayar

You can pay by credit or debit card, and the money will go directly to The British Heart Foundation. Where supporters are UK taxpayers, the charity will automatically receive 28% extra in Gift Aid, which makes Justgiving the most efficient way of sponsoring me.

For further information about The British Heart Foundation Charity please contact 020 7554 0000. The British Heart Foundation is the nation's heart charity. Every day they save lives, through pioneering research, providing vital information to help people reduce their own heart health risks, campaigning for change and supporting and caring for heart patients.

THE LATE JOHN HASELTON, 'SABU'

by Ray Levy

On 7th December 2008 the cab trade lost one of its nicest drivers and a true gent – John Haselton, known by all as Sabu, who was aged 79 when he died. Sabu had held a clean Cab Licence for 45 years and was one of the old Pont Street faces; you could almost say a 'fixture'! In his years of driving a cab there wasn't a shelter in London he didn't use. He loved telling and listening to the stories of shelter life, the wind- up and atmosphere. When someone was off sick he was always first to start a 'list' for them and you would hear his famous war cry "Don't forget, we got a chick fell out of the nest", which meant you had to put your hand in your pocket before leaving!!



Sabu and Betty were often seen on the War Disabled and Children's outings and he particularly loved the Christmas party held for the children at the Grosvenor House by the London Taxidriers' Fund for Underprivileged Children. Sabu was a good friend of the late great Jack Taylor and they are both probably exchanging stories at this very moment!

The family requested that instead of flowers, a collection should be made and given to the London Taxidriers' Fund for Underprivileged children and a sum of £380.60 was subsequently raised and given to the LTFUC by Sabu's son David Haselton, who is also a licensed taxi driver. We thank him most sincerely and we are sure that Sabu would have greatly approved of this kind gesture.

The Honorary President, Honorary Chairman and committee of the LTFUC, along with many in the cab trade, send sincere condolences to David and all the family.

NEWS FROM HATDU

HATDU are delighted to announce that we have been officially recognised by BAA/HAL and will be invited to attend all future Taxi Trade Liaison meetings at Heathrow to represent our almost 900 members.

This membership figure is remarkable considering that HATDU was only created in late April and Registered with the FSA in July. HATDU will soon have 550 credit card machines distributed and this thriving service which belongs to the members has only been operating since September.

HATDU were among the first to appoint Solicitors regarding compensation for drivers affected by the TX4 fires.

HATDU has received the full support of the LTDA & LCDC Representatives at Heathrow.

We feel that all of this proves what we originally believed, namely, that Heathrow drivers were desperate for a truly Democratic & Transparent Society with a Management Committee that they can elect and that is not self appointed year after year. The HATDU Rules have been created so that only 50 members are required to achieve a quorum for a General Meeting. This should ensure legal AGMs where members can vote for HATDU policies regarding their future.

We would like all drivers who are registered for CabTag to consider joining our Society so as to have a say in the working practices of the Taxi Trade at Heathrow.

Thank you for your support.

HATDU Management Committee

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