

ROYAL OAK TAXI CENTRE PRESENTS CHEQUE TO THE LTFUC *by Ray Levy*

The London Taxidivers' Fund for Underprivileged Children was delighted to hear from John Anderson of the Royal Oak Taxi Centre that the charity would be the beneficiaries of an Easter Raffle that he was organising.

On the day of the raffle, all the drivers there were pleasantly surprised to see a gorgeous 'Bunny' selling tickets for the raffle. Unable to hide their excitement at seeing this beautiful 'Bunny', they all dug deep into their money bags and bought plenty of tickets. Then, not to be outdone by his daughter Sophie, John appeared in a giant Easter Bunny costume and conducted the raffle. There were dozens of prizes that John had bought, including giant Easter eggs.



After the raffle, John presented LTFUC committee member Gerry Dunn with a magnificent cheque for £640. During the time

that John and his family have run the Royal Oak they have raised hundreds of pounds for the LTFUC and in appreciation were recently made Honorary Members of the Fund, which John is very proud of.

Our picture shows John drawing the winning tickets and Sophie holding the box with the hundreds of tickets that John, Sophie and her brother Darren had sold.

On behalf of the Fund we would like to thank the 'Royal Oak' and all the drivers who supported them in their Fund raising for London's underprivileged and disabled children.

DEAR EDITOR

Dear Editor

I'm writing to tell you about the help Alan Fleming has given to me in dealing with the PCO when they warned me that my licence could be revoked. Last November I was assaulted out side Kings Cross station by the driver of a Bentley. As I tried to take the registration number down, his passenger started to threaten me. I managed to stay calm until the driver started to abuse me. I then reacted unwisely and kicked his car. I reported the incident to the police and admitted the small amount of damage that I had caused. I was later given a caution. The driver was charged with assault. I informed the PCO and was disappointed by their response, they were not concerned with the assault on me, but made it clear that I could lose my licence and with it my only means of earning a living. Luckily I had joined Taxi Drivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd. set up by Alan Fleming and he immediately put my mind at rest and took control of things. He came to Court me but the trial was put back. Finally last week the trial took place of my assailant and although the charge of assault could not be proven he was found guilty of Road Rage and bound over. A few days later the PCO contacted me to say that my licence would not be revoked but warned me about my future conduct. I would like to thank Alan Fleming for his help and guidance throughout my ordeal and offer a piece of advice to any cab driver who does not have access to Legal advice. Join Taxi drivers & Owners Legal Protection Ltd. now.

Yours sincerely

Brian With (badge 46153)

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS RE-BORN

Eric Parry Architects £36 million renovation and extension of the grade I listed St Martin-in-the-Fields has been given The English Heritage Award for Sustaining the Historic Environment. This award celebrates a new building or an addition to a building that has worked sensitively and creatively within a historic context, existing urban fabric or the materials of the past. St Martin's has always been more than a place of worship; its central location has meant that it has been a hub for religious and secular activity for centuries.

The project has achieved a rejuvenation of the core buildings – the church and crypt (grade I), the north range buildings (grade II) and the burial vaults (grade I) - to the highest conservation standards. Conservation works to the James Gibbs-designed church involved removal of later Victorian additions and the insertion of clear hand made glass to replace translucent glazing which has enabled natural light to once again flood the 18th century interior. Decorative plasterwork has been restored, the pulpit returned to its original position, and the exterior has benefited enormously from cleaning and restoration.

Nigel Barker, Head of Regional Partnerships, London region, said: "The renewal of St-Martin-in-the-Fields was a stand out winner for this award. We have been particularly impressed by the careful balance achieved between introducing new facilities, open to all and maintaining the very special character of the building as a place of worship. The project has secured both the physical fabric of the building but also its spiritual fabric so that visiting the site lifts the spirit."

MESSAGE TO ALL DRIVERS

New Taxi Feeder Park – Entry Fee

Following recent negotiations between BAA and the taxi trade union representatives, a new Taxi Feeder Park entry fee has been agreed.

The new fee of f5.50, will be effective from the 1st June 2009.

As a result of a new taxi information desk in Terminal 5, HALT will now get 0.76p, which is included in the f5.50, all is inclusive of VAT.

The new entry fee charged to drivers for the Taxi Feeder Park each year is made up of the taxi operation costs for the year 2009 to 2010.

Future Negotiations

An agreement was made that all parties would meet again in January 2010 to review the Taxi Feeder Park fees, prior to Taxi Trade negotiation with the Public Carriage Office for the meter charge for drivers.

Fare's Fair: At negotiation BAA and union representatives

If you have any questions about the above points, please speak with your union representatives.

We're committed to working together to increase Taxi business at Heathrow and keeping Feeder Park costs at the lowest possible level.

Retail Travel Services
Heathrow Airport Limited