

JOIN THE RMT ADVISES JOHN KENNEDY

A recent email to our office asked questions of John Kennedy. We are pleased to print both the enquiry and the reply received from John.

Hi Mr Kennedy

I believe it was you I heard on LBC, talking with Petrie Hosken, re the RMT, a few days ago.

When I did The Knowledge 25 years ago, the Knowledge Schools were full of Tube drivers, who at that time, had bad working conditions & were on a poor wage, which is why, they were on, The Knowledge.

Look at them now - their basic package is:

£38,500 - something of which I can only dream

35½ hour week - something of which I can only dream

10 weeks, YES, 10 weeks, annual HOLIDAY pay - something of which I can only dream

SICKNESS pay etc

and yes, FREE TRAVEL on, over-ground, buses & tube

Why, when TfL are our masters, haven't we got any benefits?

Regards

Anthony

John replies: Yes, Anthony, that was me speaking to Petri Hoskin the other evening on LBC 97.3fm and you are right to point out that many tube workers used to study for the Knowledge and now the roles are reversed.

You ask why do we receive no benefits from Transport for London? The answer is simple - we are self employed and we suffer from weak leadership. The benefits you refer to have been fought and negotiated for over many years by the trade unions that represent these workers. Most of the underground workers are members of the RMT with some drivers belonging to ASLEF. Here in the London taxi trade the majority of drivers choose not to be a member of any trade association or union. Now because of this I believe those in authority take advantage of us and use the fact we are self employed against us. Now for once we have a opportunity to join a new union within the London taxi trade, a union that listens to its members, a democratic union not a friendly society that acts as a union but is afraid to abide by trade union legislation.

If we are to survive the next decade we need to stand as one and join a union that's delivered so much for its members by skill full negotiating and the power of collective bargaining. I firmly believe that the way forward is the RMT. If you need convincing just look at where we have been led by the present lot...

John Kennedy founder of Ltcp & joining the RMT London taxi branch



ROGER, DEL AND THE MEDAL

Del McCarrick is one of Leukaemia Research's most committed fundraisers. He, and Janet Haynes, another committed fundraiser for the charity, was awarded an MBE in the New Year's Honours list. Derek has run marathons for the charity for over 20 years, dressed as cartoon character Roger Rabbit. Delighted Del recently went to collect his MBE, awarded for charitable services.



FREE CAB RIDES FOR MPS

In response to the expenses scandal taxi advertising firm Taxi Media have joined The Sun in poking some fun at MP's by picking up passengers outside the Houses of Parliament with the slogan "Free cab rides for MP's - Expenses receipts available". Mike Goldwater, Marketing Director at Taxi Media said: "The Speaker has spoken! He wanted a cab, so Taxi Media duly obliged. As our much-loved, honest-as-the-day-is-long politicians work so tirelessly for their constituencies, we thought we'd offer the dearly departed Mr Martin and his fellow MPs free cab rides for the day (and blank expenses receipts to fill out to pass on to the Fees Office)."



STORY OF THE BLACK CAB

In his new book, soon to be released, well-known London cabbie Alf Townsend tells us the complete story of the black cab, from its origins at the time of Oliver Cromwell to the brand new taxis which now grace the capital's streets.

This light-hearted romp through the world of 'the knowledge', the vehicles, the streets of London and the cabbies themselves, is full of juicy snippets and fascinating quotes and, with a multitude of great pictures too, is a must-have for anyone who loves this world-famous London icon.

