

REMEMBRANCE SERVICE AT NATIONAL MALTA MEMORIAL

On Saturday 15th August 2009, a service of Remembrance and Commemoration of the National Malta Memorial was held at Tower Place in front of All Hallows by the Tower. This was to commemorate when the Island of Malta G.C. was continually attacked during the Second World War and in remembrance of the many lives that were lost.

The service was attended by 80 George Cross Island Association members wives and helpers, most of who are 85 years old, also The High Commissioner of Malta His Excellency Joseph Zammit Tabona and Reverend Jennie Hogan of All Hallows by the Tower and The Reverend Fr. Victor J Camilleri OFM St Boniface Church. The London Taxi Benevolent Association for

War Disabled was represented by Chairman Richard Hudd and Secretary Paul Davis, who had been invited by The Lady Chairman SE Region Julia Gaw.

Julia Gaw welcomed everyone then the service commenced, followed by the last post during which the standards of the George Cross Island Association were lowered. There was a two minute silence, then reveille, followed by the wreath laying led by the George Cross Island Association H.E. Joseph Zammit Tabona, Royal Navy Mr John Holtman, Chairman West Region G.C.I.A. Army Jack McNulty, Royal Air Force Vice President Group Captain Joe Dalley OBE, DFM, Merchant Navy Jim Perry, The People of Malta Julia Gaw, North West Branch Jo Lloyd

and wreath layers for Members of the Tin Hats. Bill Norman then said: "When you go home tell them of us and say For your tomorrow we gave our today."

The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled were pleased to be taking part in this ceremony and supplying the transport to take the veterans to a lunch at The Union Jack Club in Waterloo.

The London Taxi Benevolent Association for War Disabled would like to thank the drivers from the Tower Hill rank who assisted us on the day, without your help we would have not have been able to transport these veterans on their day of Remembrance.

By Derek Leone Hon PRO.



FAIRWAY TO GO!

Driving a Fairway with more than 450,000 kilometres on the clock, two New Zealanders, Dave and John, have set off from London to the World Vision Orphanage at Ulan Bataar in Mongolia. They are driving to Mongolia in this old black cab to raise money and awareness for World Vision and all the good work they do in Mongolia. Hoping to raise more than £2000 in sponsorship, the duo need to cover 10,000 km's and negotiate many countries – all with no GPS, no first-world roads, no unshaven movie-stars on motor-bikes, no mechanical skills – the guys say they have enough technical know how to re-charge their ipods but little else! All the



sponsorship is in a good cause to raise awareness for the amazing work done by World Vision; all the sponsorship monies raised will go to World Vision, none will be used to fund the trip.

It will be a great trip and you can follow John and Dave's adventures on their website at <http://thebigfare.com/> and in their words - think about the smiles when the black cab arrives in Mongolia! Back in 2006, John's Mum visited friends working for World Vision in Ulan Bataar and so began the idea for the "Big Fare". Donations to their trip can also be made through the website.

BOB CROW VISITS ROYAL OAK

Once again the taxi trade in London waited expectantly for the arrival of RMT General Secretary Bob Crow at the Royal Oak taxi drivers' canteen near Paddington. They were not to be disappointed. Addressing almost a hundred cabbies, Bob spoke eloquently about the benefits of the RMT as a large trade union and how battles could be won or lost against unscrupulous masters. He said that taxi drivers along with their Union colleagues in other transport sectors had enormous industrial muscle. It was only by flexing these muscles would the powers that be sit up and take notice. In this case Bob made specific reference to the way that the private hire trade in London was stealing the legitimate work of the London driver and the major demonstration that was held at Trafalgar Square in February was a way of showing the power of the trade.

Bob also explained the other benefits that were available to members and also the democratic ethos of the RMT. He stated that even he as General Secretary was answerable to the membership and was elected for a five year period. If he didn't perform then someone else would step in. This was just an illustration of how the

RMT views its mandate from its members. It was important for the members of the Union to achieve results in the work place, in this instance the taxi trade, with the help and guidance of the full time Officers. Bob received loud applause from those present.

Bob Crow then answered questions from the floor, which were answered satisfactorily. In the main these questions addressed the many difficulties that the taxi trade faced in relation to tariff, including extras reinstatement; the minicab threat, the disciplinary system and the new Taxi and Private Hire Director shortly taking up his role at the Public Carriage Office. This would be an opportunity to state the many and varied grievances that were felt by the taxi trade to the new incumbent. Bob finished his talk and received loud acclamation and many drivers were handed RMT membership applications.

After nearly an hour Bob Crow was then taken away by taxi to Paddington Station to travel to an urgent meeting in Swansea.

Stan Marut, Branch Committee