

AUSTIN TAXI ANNIVERSARY WEEKEND

Held on the weekend of 26th-27th September 2009, the London Vintage Taxi Association took part in an event held at Coventry Motor Museum on Saturday and Gaydon on Sunday. For those who went along, both of the museums proved to be full of interesting exhibits, whilst the taxis proudly lined up outside attracted a good deal of attention. For the LVTA, this year marks the 50th anniversary of the Austin FX4, the 60th anniversary of the Austin FX3 and the 75th anniversary of the Austin Low Loader. Andrew Overton, who has worked within the taxi industry at Mann and Overton and LTI Vehicles, had agreed to do the judging. Andrew, currently a marketing consultant to LTI Vehicles, said: "I was delighted to be invited to judge the fine display of taxis. It is wonderful to see such a fine line up, these vehicles are part of the taxi trade's heritage and it is great to see that their owners take such pride in them."

AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

Best Austin Low Loader ~ Doug Cheshire of Uxbridge



Best Austin FX3 ~ David & Linda Taylor of Leicester



Best Austin FX4 ~ Bob & Pat McPhail of Acton



Best other manufacturer ~ James & Sybil Strugnell of Wokingham



Furthest travelled in a cab ~ Peter Marshall from the French Alps nr Lake Geneva, in an FX3

Furthest travelled without a cab ~ Pamela & Aurelia Rimoldi from nr Lake Como, Italy.



TAXIS FOR GREEN MOBILITY

It is not just in London that the taxi trade is looking at air quality. Recently over 100 taxi business leaders from Europe, Russia, Asia and Africa gathered at the 3rd International IRU (International Road Transport Union) Taxi Forum on "Taxis for clean air", and explored the green potential of latest car technologies, innovative industry practices and alternative fuels.

The IRU Forum highlighted that taxis are an integral part of the mobility chain and key complements of other passenger transport modes, with genuine potential of offering even greener mobility. "Governments gathering at the COP15 in Copenhagen risk missing CO2 targets if they fail to seize the opportunity to support the taxi industry in its effort to provide even greener taxi services", commented the President of the IRU Taxi Group, Hubert Andela.

A 2009 IRU survey showed that the taxi industry is increasingly investing in greener fleets and operations. In countries such as Sweden, Switzerland and Norway, hybrid cars already represent at least 3% of the market share, and an important number of taxis are running on alternative fuels in Brazil (86%), Bulgaria (70%), Germany (22%) or Sweden (18%). Hubert Andela further explained, "The taxi industry today reconfirmed its commitment to cleaner air by implementing the greenest and most fuel-efficient technologies and practices. This requires enhanced partnerships with vehicle manufacturers and fuel distributors, but more importantly government incentives aimed at taxi operators, if we are to boost the use alternative fuels and purchase of greener vehicles."

CLASSIC CAR SHOW NEC NOVEMBER 13-15TH

The next event for the LVTA will be at the NEC Birmingham, where a Low Loader, FX3, FX4, Beardmore and TX4 will be on show. The stand will also carry a photographic display of taxi history and regalia will be on sale. The Classic Car Show is attended by thousands of visitors each year, from all over the UK, Europe and even further away. It celebrates all ages, marques and models. With over 1000 vehicles ranging from the most accessible popular classics through to the thoroughly outrageous and rare vehicles, the weekend promises to be a great event.