

THE ROUTE TO LEARNING MORE AND EARNING MORE



A new Cab Guide Course, run by The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers, will begin on 15th February 2010. Once you have achieved your Guide Badge and certificate, not only do you have even more knowledge about the great city of London, but it can also be rewarding financially as you can impart your facts and figures to passengers. Graham Woodhouse, a taxi driver, is the course co-ordinator. He says: "The aim of the course is to provide drivers with sufficient knowledge to enable them, when transporting passengers across the city, to inform them in a clear and concise manner of the sites of historical interest and buildings they are passing. Also it enables them to conduct an informative and entertaining tour covering all the major places of interest in and around Central London."

The topics covered are:

- * History & development of the City of London, the City of Westminster, and Southwark.
- * Architectural London.
- * London's 'oddities'.
- * The story of the River Thames, its docks, and their joint impact on London as a trading giant.
- * Palaces, Royalty & Pageantry.
- * Prisons, Asylums & Hospitals. How they helped shape London.
- * The history of the Cab Trade.
- * Customer Care & ideas for a tour.

The course is held at 'Knowledge Point', 429-431 Caledonian Road, London N7 9BG, with classes on Monday evenings from 6pm until 8pm. Walks on Sundays start at 10:30am, from various locations.

For more information and an application pack in the first instance please contact Mary Whitworth, Clerk to The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers by email or telephone. Her office telephone number is 01494 765922 or send an email to clerk@chcd.fsnet.co.uk

SHOREDITCH MARSHALLED TAXI RANK

A new marshalled taxi rank was launched just before Christmas. The new rank situated on Old Street in Shoreditch, near the 333 nightclub, opposite the Town Hall. It operates seven days a week, from 22.00 until 04.00; between the hours of 22:00 and 03:00 on Friday and Saturday evenings this new rank is marshalled. This scheme is a partnership between Transport for London, Hackney Council and the police. Licensed taxi drivers are encouraged to support this scheme, use the taxi rank and help get people home safely.

If you want to make any comments on this new rank, please email PCOresearch@tfl.gov.uk

FUND RAISING TDOY DINNER DANCE

The 36th annual Taxi Driver of the Year Charity Fund dinner dance took place on 5th December at the Holiday Inn, South Kensington. Russell Poluck, Chairman of the Fund wants to thank those who attended the event. He said: "I would like to thank those of you that attended the annual dinner dance and helped us raise money to give to the charities listed below. Each charity was given a cheque for £1,000.00."



Russell Poluck MBE

Guests at the dinner dance were greeted by Russell, his committee and his wife Barbara and enjoyed a glass of Bucks Fizz. During the course of the evening, there was a tombola running with lots of great prizes and a raffle with the first prize of a weekend in New York. This was won by taxi driver Ken Flemwell, known to many in the trade as "Spanners." Other prizes included a weekend at The Copthorne Tara Hotel, 4 tickets for the London Eye and a Gucci document case.

A charity auction also took place. In his speech Russell explained that he hoped for sponsors for the competition that he had announced at the 2008 annual dinner had pulled out due to the economic situation and so the hoped for Hyde Park venue had not been possible. Sponsorship is still being sought with a view to running the competition once again.



The Albany Taxi Charity Fund for Children with special needs, The London Taxidriver's Fund for Underprivileged Children, South-end Fund for Underprivileged Children, London Benevolent Association for War Disabled and East London Cabbies representatives collecting their cheques

Following the meal, dancing was to a live band called Fraternity. This band played a wide variety of music styles, and soon had everyone up on the dance floor. Special thanks go to the sponsors of the evening, John Anderson (Royal Oak), Dial-A-Cab, K.P.M, Quotax Insurance, Audrey Sherry and Westminster Insurance.