

## JIM IN COMMONWEALTH GAMES COUNTDOWN!

Jim Rainbird is the Upper Warden of The Worshipful Company of Hackney Carriage Drivers. As well as being on the Disney Committee, Jim is often found taking celebrities around town. Alan Fisher, editor of Call Sign, DaC's in-house magazine, gives regular reports on what Jim, a Dial-a-Cab driver, has been doing. He said: "I reported on Jim working with Kwame Kwei-Armah (paramedic Finlay Newton in BBC's Casualty from 1999 to 2004), when he filmed a Channel 4 documentary that retraced the Queen's 45,000 mile tour of the Commonwealth in 1953 – soon after her Coronation." Jim maintained that link with the Commonwealth from Kwame's four one-hour programmes, by actually being in on the England team's start to the 2010 Commonwealth Games in Delhi. That will be the last real testing platform for the English competitors before the 2012 Olympics in London.

Jim took a Delhi 2010 touring party from Trafalgar Square to the Newham Leisure Centre in Prince Regent Lane, before going back and forth and then onto The London Studios for a lunchtime television appearance on Loose Women. This was to publicise the beginning of the Queen's Baton Relay 2010 Delhi journey.

The Baton, which symbolises the unity and shared ideals of the Commonwealth of Nations, began its 12-month journey from Buckingham Palace on the 29th October before ending its UK section on 7th November at Twickenham, where England's rugby team were taking on their arch rivals, Australia, in the first of the Autumn rugby internationals. The Baton took to the skies before the start of the match, suspended high above the pitch from the England rugby helisphere. The pitch was engulfed in the England flag as the sell-out English crowd delivered a stirring rendition of the classic English hymn Jerusalem.



Jim Rainbird in his "Tigger" hat together with Carlos Olivera on The Magical Taxi Tour 2009

Then the real journey began. This will see the Baton travel through all the other seventy Commonwealth nations, ending up in around 300 days from now when it enters the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium in Delhi during the Opening Ceremony. By then it would have traversed over 190,000 kilometres. The Delhi Games are under a year away and the last multi-sport event before the London 2012 Olympics. They will provide a unique opportunity in the life of an athlete. England's Commonwealth Games team will be more than 500 strong, featuring the elite of 17 sports and 4 para-sports. The new strapline "We are England" celebrates the diversity and togetherness of the England team, whilst the new lion logo adds a sense of strength and dynamism to the team. The new England brand is complemented by a new website at [www.weareengland.org](http://www.weareengland.org) that contains up-to-date team news, athlete profiles, imagery, video and discussion, along with a countdown to Delhi 2010.

Jim said: "To be honest, with so much emphasis being given to the London Olympics in 2012, I hadn't really thought about Delhi. But the job I did for the Commonwealth Games team has whetted my appetite and I think that Team England are going to blow everyone away with an ultra-successful Commonwealth Games medal tally. I'm sure everyone wishes them well and I'm just thrilled that – however indirectly – DaC have now been a part of the We are England launch."



Pictured with Jim and the Baton is Joanna Robinson, the Development Director of Commonwealth Games England...

Photos courtesy of Alan Fisher.

## NOBU RANK IS JUST BRILLIANT SAYS DAC DRIVER

As another New Year begins, the taxi rank at Nobu has been working for a few weeks. Earlier last year, the question was "Why don't Nobu want us?" Dial-a-Cab driver Natalia Shalom, who works nights, dropped a passenger outside Nobu and there were so many minicabs outside that the only way she could stop was by double-parking. Her boyfriend, also a DaC driver, Daniel Woodhouse, joined her. She was told by Nobu staff to move on as she was causing an obstruction. Natalia and Daniel both refused. Whilst the staff were not rude at first, their attitude changed and became more threatening. Natalia was then told that taxis weren't needed as they had their own car service! As a night driver, Natalia said that most passengers coming out of these establishments would prefer a taxi, but are not given the chance. "These minicabs will keep coming back," said Natalia. "The best way to fight them is by putting a taxi rank outside the door, then passengers would have a choice - and I know who most would choose!"



Natalia and Daniel

### JUST BRILLIANT!

So what does Natalia Shalom think about the taxi rank at Nobu? November 5 2009 saw the Nobu rank come into force. At 7pm, a proud Natalia Shalom took her place at the point of the 5-cab rank. "It's just brilliant," she said. "There was a time when I never thought we'd get this rank, but it just shows that with perseverance, anything is possible. My only fear is that when it gets busy again, we'll overlook the ranks we have now won back and return to square one. Hopefully we'll remember how hard the fight to reclaim them was and we won't allow that to happen."

The Nobu rank is for 5 taxis and runs from 7pm to 4am. When painted out, ranks are also positioned at Movida in Argyle St, Babble (Berkeley Sq), Jalouse (Tenterden St), Mahiki in Dover St and of course, Funky Buddha close to Nobu itself.