

ALL POINTS NORTH, SOUTH, EAST & WEST

As a reflection of today's ethnic London, so the diversity of candidates within the Knowledge community is changing at a similar pace resulting in the fact that Knowledge Point School has now trained a candidate from every continent in the world, except, of course Antarctica - but you never know!

Last month was typical with Yusuf Rahrow, an Afghanistani acquiring his green badge. Yusuf is Knowledge Point's first trainee from that country and is seen pictured here flanked by his two friends and call-over partners Chicki



Teeluck (left) originally from Mauritius and Mohamed Yermak (right) originally from Morocco both of whom are recent Green Badge qualifiers. Between them they speak a substantial range of languages and are looking forward to the opportunities such skills will bring them during the run up to London 2012.

In addition to having qualified as taxi drivers all three have also now qualified with a NVQ Level 2 in Taxi, Road Passenger Vehicle Driving and so are even better placed for what the future may bring.

COMPUTER CAB EXTEND NVQ TRAINING FOR TAXI DRIVERS

Over the past few years more and more taxi and private hire drivers across the UK have been gaining the NVQ level 2 qualification in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving and in London, Computer Cab plc is expanding the availability of the course to its drivers.



Computer Cab plc first introduced its drivers to the NVQ back in 2008 and has been encouraging drivers onto the fully funded course ever since, now it is extending the offer with the help of a new training company: Robust Training.

The NVQ level 2 qualification in Road Passenger Vehicle Driving has been adopted in many licensing areas outside of London, while within London an increasing number of private hire drivers have gained the qualification as more and more licensed private hire operators make it mandatory. Malcolm Paice, General Manager at Computer Cab plc commented: "Everyone knows that London taxi drivers have the Knowledge and that means they are in a league of their own when it comes to knowing how to move people around the capital. However, with the NVQ increasingly common among the licensed private hire

fraternity and with many licensing authorities outside of London adopting it as a standard, there is an expectation for taxi drivers in London to also have the qualification. We are encouraging our drivers to take up the qualification now rather than later, because an increasing number of customers are asking us about it."

Computer Cab plc has partnered with Robust Training who specialise in delivering the NVQ to drivers who are always on the move, and one of their lead trainers himself is a licensed taxi driver by trade. Robust launched the latest wave of NVQ sessions on its purpose built converted coach which acts as a mobile training centre. Drivers undertake a brief induction session and then follow up sessions are done 'on the road' to minimise disruption to the driver. Malcolm added: "Some taxi drivers are cautious about going in for the qualification because they are worried it'll be like going back to school and they'll lose money while off the road. But the whole course is tailored towards how a cabbie works and the fact the trainers will come out to you, while you're working, helps to remove that anxiety.

"The drivers who have stepped up for the NVQ thus far have given us very positive feedback and they are all glad to have completed the course with minimal time off the road. Some of these drivers have already benefited when they apply to cover local authority work in their own borough, because many public bodies now actively favour drivers with the NVQ."

WELCOME TO TAXILIGHT by Russell Hall

TAXILIGHT is a concept conceived by three like minded experienced London Licensed Taxi drivers, namely Gary Jackson, Terry Runham and Russell Hall. We wanted to utilise our taxis in a more efficient manner because it was noticed that on our journeys to and from work that a lot of fare paying passengers were using other forms of transport while we were 'empty'. The passenger's destination was normally going to where they lived or where they worked which then gave us an idea - why are the passengers using other forms of transport? The simple answer was price! This posed a question: Would we be prepared to undertake a reduced 'fixed rate fare' if we were going in that general direction? We all agreed we would and just over 15 months ago in a cafe in Cranbourne Street we started to develop TAXILIGHT. After numerous meetings and a constant stream of emails, phone calls and endless hours of debate, TAXILIGHT was born. We feel that TAXILIGHT will fill a void in today's transport market that no one can compete with. After all, we all do the 'bread and butter' work all day but miss out on the 'cream'! We have asked many drivers and their passengers about this concept of cheaper, safer travel and were met with great approval by one and all.

The Licensed Taxi drivers who have already joined TAXILIGHT want to utilise their 'dead mileage' as drivers come into and out of London every day with no one in their taxi. Passengers said they would prefer to use the safer, more reliable London Taxi and experienced driver. TAXILIGHT will also introduce a 'Taxi Share' scheme that will greatly assist drivers that normally use Heathrow and City airports. All the details are on the TAXILIGHT website at www.taxilight.co.uk

Due to the size of the projected membership and the use of pioneering technology, TAXILIGHT will be capable of offering its customers a reduced fare. TAXILIGHT will provide a first class 24/7 Taxi service to businesses and the general public alike at very competitive rates. As a result, many passengers that traditionally use other forms of transport will now switch to TAXILIGHT.

It goes without saying that all TAXILIGHT drivers have passed the world famous 'Knowledge of London' and don't rely on satellite navigation, plus every driver has undergone a strict Criminal Records Bureau [CRB] check and periodical health checks. Passengers will know that whatever trip they are planning, whether it is to work or pleasure, they'll be sure to know they'll be in safe hands. TAXILIGHT's aim is to transport passengers comfortably, safely and securely to their destination at a price everyone will be happy with. TAXILIGHT drivers will know that by utilising their 'dead mileage, they will assist in lowering emissions and, in turn, make needy steps to conserve the environment.

We have had two lengthy meetings with Darren Crowson and Luke Howard from Transport for London and they were enthusiastic about this new, innovative concept. Transport for London also stated that they will endorse TAXILIGHT on their own website as it 'ticked' all the right boxes. TfL are giving this idea the seal of approval which is needed to attract drivers and passengers alike.

Before we fully launch to the general public we need you, London Licensed Taxi drivers to join TAXILIGHT over the coming weeks. The cost to register is absolutely free.

You will find our online registration process is very simple to use but if you have any problems please feel free to go to our help page where your questions will be answered.

More information is on the TAXILIGHT website at www.taxilight.co.uk

