

VINTAGE TAXI TAKES PART IN LONDON TO BRIGHTON RALLY

The annual Historic Commercial Vehicle Society London to Brighton Run takes place on the first Sunday in May each year. This year's event was extremely wet and quite a challenge for those vehicles which are open to the elements for drivers and in some cases their passengers. Starting out from Crystal Palace, the run went out through Streatham Common and onto the A23 towards the famous seaside resort of Brighton. Despite the inclement weather people were along the route to see the wide range of vehicles go past including a 1934 Austin low loader taxi driven by Doug Cheshire, Chairman of the London Vintage Taxi Association (LVTA). In the back were Taxi Globe's editor Sandie Goodwin, her husband, Alan, Mark Cooper, a licensed taxi driver and member of the LVTA and lastly Bill Munro, a cab driver who is a font of knowledge on the history of the trade and its vehicles, as his published books will testify.

The Austin is a beautiful example of the taxi and we all enjoyed a comfortable ride down to Brighton where all the vehicles lined up on Maderia Drive. Although the weather did keep some visitors away as the rain was persistent all day, a steady stream of people looked at the vehicles throughout the day. Shortly after our arrival another taxi joined the parade, a UNIC



from the National Motor Museum at Beaulieu. Although this is a magnificent example of the vehicle, the Austin is probably more often on the road as it used as a wedding car throughout the year as well driving to various rallies and shows on behalf of the LVTA. The enthusiasm of all those who brought their vintage commercials along shows the dedication of hours spent restoring and maintaining the various vehicles and the programme gave brief details of the history of these vehicles. One thing is for sure – a vintage taxi enthusiast will not have such a big



Doug and Mark at a very wet Crystal Palace

problem of where to store their vehicle as the bus and lorry owners do!

Thanks go to Doug Cheshire for taking our editor on this great event and the provision of warm rugs for the back of the cab – no heaters in cabs sold in 1934! As for Doug, he just had to get cold, although hopefully not too wet, on the historic rally.

For more details of the LVTA, log on to www.lvta.co.uk where you will find dates of the events for the next few months. The next event the LVTA are set to display at is the Enfield Pageant of Motoring, 29th – 30th May, 9am to 5pm on Enfield Playing Fields Great Cambridge Road, EN1 3PL.

