

DENBIGHSHIRE
LICENSED TAXI TRADE
ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

I cannot be held responsible for any error, omission or misstatement contained in this newsletter. DB

TAXI RANK SURVEY

Well, we did highlight the mistakes in the taxi rank survey – yet the Council – or more to the point, Officers of the Council, still maintain the survey was “carried out was sufficient and appropriate”.

I suggest we have a whip round to buy them a dictionary to learn the meaning of the word “independent”.

IMMEDIATE SUSPENSION/REVOICATION OF DRIVER LICENCES

We drew Officers attention to the law relating to suspensions and revocations which have immediate affect (S52 Road Safety Act 2006).

We were informed the Council use this section in line with GUIDANCE. We ask for the Guidance and a Council Policy.

We were told the Guidance is available on the DfT Website – we looked and it’s not.

WHEN IS AN OFFENCE NOT AN OFFENCE?

One driver refused to accept a formal caution; Mr. Schwarz wrote “I am satisfied from the evidence available that sufficient evidence exists to enable proceedings to be taken in this case” We didn’t let it lie, we asked for a copy of the CCTV footage showing this alleged offence.

The next thing we see is Mr. Boases’ response of “Following consideration of the evidence we have decided to withdraw from taking further action against XXXX.”

COMPLAINT OF SERVICE

And we got told off for being vexatious, again. Mr. Boase, Head of Planning, Regeneration and Regulatory Services told us a few months ago that ALL correspondence relating to taxi and phv matters must be directed to him.

So we duly obliged.

Then we got a response from Mr. Boase, telling us off for being vexatious. We just can’t win!

BYELAWS

Yes, they have now provided copies of the Rhyl and Prestatyn Hackney Carriage Byelaws.

These were made in April 1975 by the former Borough Secretary of Rhuddlan Borough Council. Strange, the Freedom of Information request did not reveal the same ranks as shown in the Byelaws! These Byelaws are in force for Rhyl and Prestatyn only.

LICENSING COMMITTEE

We asked for recognition of the Association at Licensing Committee meetings.

We have been told;

The Chairman of the Licensing Committee has considered your request and advises that he does not support the Association's application to be represented on the Committee for the following reasons:

- 1) If one organisation was allowed to be represented on the Committee then it would be probably incumbent to allow representatives from other organisations.
- 2) The Association does not represent all the taxi drivers in Denbighshire, and the scenario is possible where the Association was purporting to represent people who were of an entirely different mindset regarding a particular taxi licensing matter.
- 3) It should be borne in mind that a taxi driver or drivers are entitled to be present at a particular Licensing Committee meeting, and may at the discretion of the Chairman make their views known on a particular matter should they wish to do so. This has happened in the past.

4) This is the second request for representation on the Committee by a taxi organisation, the previous one having been refused after seeking legal advice.

We said, fair enough!

At the end of the letter, Graham Boase stated "the complaint is now closed". Give us a while and we'll see if we are satisfied with the answers.....

Pics of private cars and vans on ranks were sent to Graham Boase, together with a request asking for enforcement.

This is his reply: *"Parking Services do take enforcement action when non taxi vehicles are parked on taxi ranks. However, they have limited resources and the parking attendants can only take enforcement action if they actually encounter an illegal parking. They cannot take action based on photographs or CCTV images."*

Here's me thinking CCTV was for the prevention of crime!

Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1985 - Interviews

We have great concerns about the way people are being 'interviewed'.

If you are called for a formal interview, we strongly advise you take a legal representative with you. You can take a friend but they are only there as an observer.

Cases have been found where the written 'notes' of the interview have not been made available to Members of the Licensing Committee or the Licensee; questions are still being asked following the licensee terminating the interview; the licensee not being permitted to verify any notes taken during the interview and Officers being aggressive.

If you are cautioned, ask for the interview to be taped, and if refused, write every word down, however long it takes.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU ARE BEING ASKED TO ATTEND FOR INTERVIEW.

All information is held in the strictest confidence.

A note showing your rights can be viewed on www.d-t-n.co.uk

Donations can still be made to the **Operation aj the appeal**. See facebook for details or **text walk76£** (your amount) to **70070** to donate.

Taxi drivers willing to display a poster can ask Phil (Ginge) Jones for details on 07729564800.

IN CAR CCTV ANYONE?

A couple who beat up a cabbie in a booze-fuelled attack walked free from court after they vowed to sort out their drinking.

Michelle Kearns, 30, hit the driver on the head when he asked for her fare. Her 25-year-old boyfriend, Asher Brooks, then subjected the victim to a sickening attack before stealing from him.

The pair was spared jail in a Manchester Crown Court hearing because of the time they had spent behind bars before sentence - and their claims that they were determined to give up the bottle. Each had been on remand for around six months, equivalent to 12-month jail sentence, because criminals typically only spend half their term locked up.

Yes, we keep harping on about it, but please keep safe

Taxi passengers in Telford are having to pay up front for using private hire cars at night – after drivers complained about a rise in the number of drunken disputes over fares and people running off.

Customers have to pay before they get into the vehicle when travelling anywhere in the borough between 7pm and 7am. The initiative has been

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backed by the police, who say they hope it will reduce the number of calls over disputes.

Sergeant Chris Munro, of West Mercia Police, said the idea came about after private hire drivers revealed an increase in the number of passengers arguing over fares – especially at night. He said: “It seemed obvious that the best solution was to cut the problem off at source. If taxi drivers take the fare up front, it reduces the opportunity for any argument or for the passengers to make off without paying. Both private hire drivers and passengers know what the fare will be as the journey is pre-booked. By asking for the fare on entry to the vehicle, this will reduce the number of incidents between passengers and drivers and also reduce the number of calls from taxis to the police – normally at a time when officers are already very busy.”

Telford & Wrekin Council has produced more than 1,000 stickers which will be on display in private hire vehicles warning of the change. The authority and the police used cash from the borough’s community safety fund to produce the stickers to distribute among the private hire trade for display.

Shropshire Star – 12/12/11

Denbighshire drivers have mentioned disputes over fares so we asked the Council for funds for stickers!

The response was:

*Mr Bloor,
Thank you for your email.*

I am certainly not adverse to such a suggestion.

I will ask Sian Taylor, DCC/CCBC Joint Community Safety Partnership Manager to look into your suggestion.

Thank you.

Graham H Boase

We will be asking if members are in favour of a “Pay In Advance” plan, or perhaps giving a cash deposit before the start of the journey.

TAXI LAW OVERHAUL

Have you had any thoughts on the review of Taxi Legislation? Please have a think about some areas:-

- 2 tier or one tie?
- local or national regulations?
- ring fenced fees?
- driver training?
- Officer training?

We will be submitting a response to the consultation so can you please give us your thoughts in readiness.

The Law Commission has stated: *We aim to publish proposals for reform in April 2012. This will be followed by a three month consultation period where we invite the public to respond to our proposals. We plan to publish a final report with our recommendations and draft bill by late 2013.*

In the absence of any real enforcement from DCC, we have asked the Police for help in ensuring ranks are kept clear for taxis, we have also contacted the firm whose van is often parked on ranks in Rhyl. We have very politely asked them to ask drivers to obey the law.

We need more members please find enclosed a spare application form and pass it on to a colleague

Or if your on the website reading this simply click [here](#)

Or go to

<http://www.d-t-n.co.uk/pdf/mafdltapha1.pdf>

DENBIGHSHIRE LICENSED TAXI TRADE ASSOCIATION is not aligned to the GMB, National Private Association or the National Taxi Association. The following is for your information only.

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National Taxi Association

60 Chesterholm
Sandsfield Park
Carlisle
CA2 7XX
Tel: 01228 598740
By Email; secretary@national-taxi-association.co.uk

National Private Hire Association

8 Silver Street
Bury
Lancs
BL9 0EX, UK
Tel: 0161 280 2800|Fax: 0161 280 7787|Email:
enquiries@npha.org.uk

GMB

National Office
22/24 Worples Road
London
SW19 4DD
Tel: 020 8947 3131
Email info@gmb.org.uk

While out cruising, the Taxi Driver misjudged a curve and drove his cab into the wall dividing the houses of a Mr. and Mrs. Smith and a Mr. and Mrs. Ball.

Thankfully, he was pulled out by the Smiths.

We have been invited to observe at the next meeting of Conwy Taxi Operators Group. This is a good way to forge working relationships and see how it's done over the bridge.

PRESTATYN RANKS



We asked Prestatyn Town Council if we could meet to discuss the lack of ranks in the Town.

The reply was:

"Thank you for your letter of 15th December and I confirm Council has previously raised lack of taxi rank provision with Denbighshire County Council.

Following your letter I have again spoken to County Council officials who have offered to research the issue and provide background information on present situation. It is hoped that meeting between all interested parties can be arranged early in the New Year."

Of course, we will remind the Town Council if nothing is heard for a while and we will let you know what goes on.

That's it for now, onwards and upwards for 2012. Drew, Clive, & Linda.