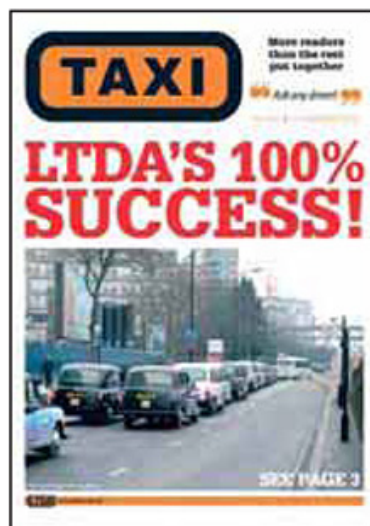




100% Success Rate!

TOUT AND ABOUT

Steve McNamara



I have lost count of the number of drivers who have commented to me about the lead story in the last issue of TAXI. The one about the 100% success rate for our legal team in defending a succession of drivers accused of an old, not much used offence, called 'dangerous position'; where it was alleged that our members had let their cabs remain in a dangerous position on the back of the Paddington rank. It might sound like a bit of a silly charge but if they had been convicted it would have been 3 points and a possible hefty fine!

The thing that has surprised me the most, talking to the drivers that mention it, is that so many of them were unaware of just how many of our members have benefitted from our legal team's expertise.

Our in-house solicitor and his staff deal with hundreds of drivers every year who are facing a threat to their licence and livelihood from a range of alleged offences, from the most serious allegations possible to an endless stream of minor motoring offences.

The one thing that all these cabbies have in common is that the worry and cost of defending themselves is all taken care of because defending our members is what we do – and we do it well!

Krav Maga

Last year following a series of attacks and assaults on cab drivers, the LTDA ran a free course of Krav Maga self-defence classes for members. These were an enormous success and many of the



Designed for taxi drivers

drivers who attended benefitted tremendously from the course and are now devotees of the discipline.

The LTDA is now going to run another series of free introduction lessons for any members who were unable to get a place on the last course. The classes are run by Ricky Manetta and cover all aspects of self defence in a friendly and easy going atmosphere.

Whether you are 21 or 71 the lessons are suitable for everyone and cover anything from a simple punching attacker to the really serious stuff when knives, baseball bats etc are used.

The added benefits include stretching and cardio exercise which can only be good for someone who drives a cab for a living. The classes will be run at the George Orwell Sports Centre in Wapping, where there is ample parking, on a Monday afternoon starting on the 1 March 2010.

How to register

If you are a LTDA member and would like to attend the classes, please register by calling the LTDA reception on 020 7286 1046.

Lost Again?

As I'm getting older I seem to be forgetting more and more roads and street names, especially those that are in areas I rarely get a job to. It's weird because people get in the cab, give me a street which I'll know is in say Clapham, but not have a clue to its exact whereabouts.

I normally head towards the general direction and look it up in my well thumbed and worn map book. The trouble with this is that at night I have trouble reading the index and even during the day I often get the grid reference and then can't find it on the map! Well not anymore because I have just got one of the new 'Cabbies Mate Sat Nav' gadget things!

I've had a Tom Tom for years and it resides in my boot only to be brought out on the very rare occasion I get a roader, because other than keep falling off its silly mounting bracket, it's only any good if you have no idea at all where you are going.

The Cabbies Mate does do the traditional Sat Nav thing exactly like the Tom Tom but because it's been designed for taxi drivers it's got some really clever features that make it so much better.

It's like an electronic illuminated map book. You enter a road you are not sure of and it instantly brings it up highlighted in the centre of the screen so you can be reminded where that elusive street is.

It can also draw a cotton line between where you are now and the street you have keyed in, it's just like the old days of cottoning up a run on a Knowledge board. In short I am impressed, but best of all it's got such a good signal strength that you don't have to have it stuck up on the dashboard like some clueless minicab driver. I leave it in the centre consul on standby and just turn it on when I need to look something up. Its not cheap but neither is a good street atlas but then I no longer need one of them. **TAXI**

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