



Members Newsletter

Issue 2018/2 – March / April

OUR SPRING EDITION

It may not be feeling like spring just yet. However, the Easter weekend is close, which for many of us is the real start of our coaching activity for the year. There is much going on; please do encourage other operators to join us.



FROM THE CHAIRMAN – STEPHEN TELLING

Annual Report

The past twelve months of the operation of the Association have been very busy to say the least with the continued lobbying of the London Mayor, TfL and the Boroughs to hopefully try and make it easier for our Members to operate their coaches in and around our Capital City.

We have continued to represent our Members at meetings with TfL, the London Boroughs, the City of London, Heathrow Airport, FTA and CPT and it would be fair to say our officers have done an excellent job in representing the Members and making sure that as far as possible we have put the case for coach operators operating coaches in London.

As you are all aware, our Administration and Development Director Peter Bradley has now been in post since December 2016, and I must say that I think Peter has put his heart and soul into the LTCOA and although it might appear we have not achieved a lot we have seen quite a bit of progress in the following areas:

1. Number of Members

We have attracted at least five new members in the past year;

2. Picking Up & Setting Down Passengers on Red Routes Trial

This is a major successful outcome of many years of hard work by a great many people, but I do believe that it is mostly due to the persistence of Peter and his knowledge of the people who work at TfL and perhaps using different negotiating skills.

But for this trial to work we will need to make sure that all of our Drivers and Clients obey the rules going forward and do not abuse them.

During the year we have held:

- Seven members meetings with various speakers throughout the year;
- Members Christmas Dinner at the Pheasant Inn Heathrow;
- Annual Dinner & Dance at the Royal Garden Hotel

We now have 39 Member Companies and that will be one of the challenges for Peter going forward for us to increase our Membership numbers.

I must say a very big thank you to the Board of Directors of the Association for attending the Board Meetings through the past twelve months and the work that they have done on behalf of the Membership of the Association.

Overall, I think that the last year has been a successful year for the Association, but we cannot afford to sit on our laurels; we still have a lot more to achieve going forward into 2018.

Changes to the LTCOA Board

At our Annual General Meeting on 12 March we said farewell to three board members who have decided to step down; **Mark Anderson**, **Paul Hockley** and **Debbie Newman**. Both Mark, Director of Anderson Travel Ltd and Paul, Managing Director of Redwing Coaches are past Chairman of the Association, whilst Debbie, formally of Clarks Coaches has been a board member for many years. Anderson Travel, Clarks and Redwing Coaches remain members of the Association.

I am very sad to lose Mark, Paul and Debbie after so many years, but respect their decisions in moving forward with new and existing ventures. All have committed time and energy to the association and it would not be in the shape that it is today without their endeavours. The coach industry in London and their passengers have much to be thankful for, especially the trial for setting down and picking up coaches on red routes for which they were the original architects.

Our board now consist of **Judy Dale** (Royale European Coaches), **Andy Palmer** (Impact Group), **Neil Pegg** (City Circle UK), **Peter Rice** (Southgate and Finchley Coaches) and **Peter Bradley** (Director of Administration and Development), as well as myself as Chairman. We have a strong remit to drive forward improvements to coach facilities in London and to further develop the association.

Educational Tour - Jonckheere Factory Roeselare Belgium & WW1

Battlefields

Sponsored by

Volvo Bus

Sunday 21st to Wednesday 24th October 2018

Included in the price of the tour

- 3 nights' Accommodation at the 4 Star Ariane Hotel Ypres Belgium on a Bed and Breakfast basis;
- Luxury Coach Travel throughout the Tour on a Volvo B11R Jonckheere Coach Courtesy of Southgate & Finchley Coaches;
- Full Day Guided Tour of the Battlefields and Tour of Jonckheere Factory;
- Parking is available at City Coaches in Hayes for the duration of the Tour by Arrangement;
- **Cost of the Tour is £140.00 per person (single room supplement is £25.00);**
- Please complete the Booking Form (already sent out; a further copy can be provided on request) and return with Full Payment by 16th April 2018.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT'S DESK



Peter Bradley

Open Evening – Monday 16 April @ 19:30

Our next big event for the Association is our open evening on 16 April. This is your opportunity to bring a guest and encourage your fellow operators to join up. As Stephen has said in his review of the year, we have 39 members presently, but I would love to increase this to over 50. This will give us a bigger voice when we negotiate with TfL and local authorities in London and provides more networking opportunities for both existing and new members. It also gives the association some additional income, allowing us to keep subscriptions as low as we possibly can while enabling us to further improve the benefits to members.

The challenge – please come to the Open Evening at the Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ and bring a fellow operator who is not already a member. Encourage them to sign up and join us. **The current membership rate is only £325 per annum; that is less than £1 a day.** Food will be served and there will be plenty of networking opportunities.

I look forward to seeing you and your colleagues there.

SOUNDBITES

Victoria Embankment – Somerset House set down and pick up bay

The front half of the Somerset House set down and pick up coach bay will be closed on the following dates (inclusive) in May 2018:

- Thursday 3 May
- Monday 7 to Tuesday 15 May
- Sunday 20 to Friday 25 May

This is to facilitate deliveries to an exhibition.

Consultation on the use of s19 and s22 permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain

This significant consultation is now open until 4 May 2018. The association will be submitting a robust response stating that if a vehicle is carrying the general public it should be driven by someone who has been properly trained, whatever the distance and fare paid (if any). **We would welcome your views; please contact Peter Bradley** by email or phone.

Red Routes in London – The Trial starts

The association is delighted to announce that the pilot scheme to allow coaches to set down and pick up on London Red Routes will **commence on Monday 26 March and run until the end of June**.

In a pioneering move, the LTCOA, CPT and TfL working under the remit of the Tourist Coach Action Plan (TCAP), have secured agreement for LTCOA and CPT member operators to set down and pick up at five locations on Red Routes in London for the duration of the trial.

The trial is the culmination of four year's work. If it is successful not only will it help alleviate the shortage of facilities for coaches in London but has the potential to open up a variety of additional locations to much more convenient access for customers arriving and departing by coach.

The locations for the initial trial are:

Addington Street - Park Plaza County Hall, SE1 7RY

Coaches may use local TfL bus stops for setting down and picking up.

Cromwell Road - National History Museum and Science Museum, SW7 5BD

Coaches should always set down and pick up in the existing coach bays when these are free. However, in periods of high demand when all existing bays are full, coaches may set down and pick up on the double red lines between the existing coach bays.

Lower Thames Street - Old Billingsgate EC3R 6DX

Coaches may pick up on double red lines outside the venue after 22:00 at this very busy location. In the longer-term TfL are considering the provision of a bay, to be made available at off peak times, which will formalise this arrangement.

Prescott Street, Grange Tower Bridge Hotel, E1 8GP

Coaches may set down and pick up on the double red lines to the west of the crossing zig zags, off peak (10:00 to 16:00) and overnight (19:00 to 07:00).

Southwark Street - Borough Market, SE1 1TL

Coaches may set down and pick up on Southwark Street close to Borough Market, so long as they do not cause an obstruction. In addition, there are four parking bays around the Hop Exchange which are not always utilised; coaches may use these if available and the double red lines prior to Stoney Street, if they keep clear of the island and do not block traffic flow.

Please ensure that your drivers abide by the rules. PCN's will be issued if coaches are observed setting down and picking up passengers at times outside those permitted or if no activity is detected (ie: if it appears that the coach is just parked up).

We want to make this a success. Please do come back to us if you have any issues during the trial or equally just to feedback that everything is working fine. We would welcome your comments.

Further locations will be introduced in the summer if all goes to plan!

LTCOA MEMBERS EVENT SCHEDULE 2018-19

Monday 16 April at 19:30

Open Evening - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Monday 14 May at 19:30

Theo Panayi – Heathrow Airport Ltd - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Monday 24 September (Time to be announced)

Expert Panel Evening – Clean Air and Future Technologies - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Sunday 21 October to Wednesday 24 October

Educational Tour - Jonckheere Factory Roeselare Belgium & WW1 Battlefields, hosted by Volvo

Monday 19 November (Time to be announced)

Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Tuesday 4 December (Provisional)

LTCOA Christmas Dinner – Location to be agreed

Monday 14 January 2019 (Time to be announced)

Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

Saturday 2 February 2019 18:15 for 19:15

The LTCOA 32nd Annual Dinner Dance – The Palace Suite, The Royal Garden Hotel, 2-24 Kensington High Street, W8 4PT

Monday 11 March 2019 (Time to be announced)

AGM - Hilton Garden Inn, Eastern Perimeter Road, Hatton Cross, London, TW6 2SQ

CONTACT US

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