



Members Newsletter

Issue 2018/3 – May / June

SPRING INTO SUMMER

With the Chelsea Flower Show now underway, we are entering our busy period as coach operators. The LTCOA will continue to support you in your efforts in giving your customers the best possible experience in London



FROM THE CHAIRMAN – STEPHEN TELLING

Open Evening

Last month we held another successful Open Evening for prospective members to come and hear the benefits of joining our Association. We are very grateful to **Royale European** for sponsoring the event, and for **Wrightsure, Bus and Coach Buyer** and **Yutong** who attended the evening.

Steve Spiller from Centurion Travel gave his view on why he is a member of the association and this was written up by **Bus and Coach Buyer** the following week. This has given the LTCOA some welcome publicity.

Please continue to encourage your neighbouring operators to come and join the association and give us an even greater voice in negotiating for better facilities in London.

Several operators have expressed an interest in joining and **Peter Bradley** is following these up. We have also got a few applications being processed so we should have some new members shortly.

Clean Air and Future Technologies

My fellow Directors and I are planning an event for the autumn which will allow you to hear from experts in the field of Clean Air and what we as an industry will need to do in the next few years. We will also hear from those who are looking at what follows Euro VI and the alternatives to Diesel. We will confirm details in our next newsletter but this will be one event **NOT** to miss.

I wish you pleasant and profitable summer.

Stephen Telling

SECTION 19 AND 22 – CONSULTATION RESPONSE

The LTCOA responded to the Consultation **on the use of s19 and s22 permits for road passenger transport in Great Britain** which closed at the beginning of May. There were many parts to the consultation, but the significant questions and the comments submitted by the LTCOA are detailed below. Please contact **Peter Bradley** if you want any further information or would like to see the full response to the consultation.

Question 1

Do you have any comments on how the proposed guidance clarifications in respect of organisations “...engaged in road passenger transport services exclusively for non-commercial purposes” could be further improved or clarified? In particular, do you believe there are further examples of “non-commercial” activity which we should include?

The LTCOA are very concerned that any customer who uses road passenger transport to travel from A to B and who pays for that service to be provided should be driven by someone who has been properly trained; has obtained a PCV licence and has a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC). Just because a service is subsidised does not mean that the requirements for how a driver is trained can be so different. We therefore believe the wording for “Any charge for service is substantially less than cost” needs to be thought through and adjusted accordingly.

There could be many rural services where the subsidy is substantially more than 10% less than cost, but where the terrain of the service provided is very challenging and therefore should only be attempted by a properly trained driver. It seems bizarre to us that you set such high standards for PCV drivers, but are prepared to relax these, simply based on cost rather than the nature of the service and the roads they traverse.

Question 2

Do you have any comments on how the proposed guidance clarifications in respect of organisations “...which have a main occupation other than that of road passenger transport operator” could be further improved or clarified?

Our concern here is that rather than trying to improve the clarification, we are more concerned by paragraph 3.22 in the consultation document stating that ‘cases should be determined on their individual merits by the relevant permit-issuer’. Section 19 Permits can be issued by a number of bodies who may not have the necessary understanding or experience to be able to make that determination. It is of great concern to the LTCOA that there is no central register of all s19 permits, nor is there any time limit on their validity once issued. It is therefore impossible to understand exactly what services are currently being run under s19 and whether these are appropriate or not.

The LTCOA would like to be able to discuss with the DfT how it may be able to assist in this process or at the very least be able to discuss the concerns in more detail with Government.

COOPERS TOURS – SUCCESS AT THE BRITISH COACH RALLY



Congratulations to members **Coopers Tours** for winning the LCOA Trophy for the 4th time in a row at the British Coach Rally in Blackpool at the end of April. This is excellent news and very well deserved. We would love to encourage more members to enter the rally in future years and take part in what is a very enjoyable weekend.

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 Circle 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 return.

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION & DEVELOPMENT'S DESK



Peter Bradley

I am pleased to report that the **Red Route trial** appears to be going well and I will be getting a further update from TfL in the next few days about the next phase. Just as a reminder the current locations 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.

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).

You should also have seen the new **London Latest** page in this week's **Bus and Coach Buyer**. This is a new venture for the LTKOA and we will have a regular presence in this trade magazine going forward. If there are any features that you would like to see or comments that you have on the page, do let me know. I would love to feature some 'top tips' for coach drivers who are coming into London for the first time so please do pass these on.

Have a great start to the summer.

DINNER DANCE 2018



A great evening was had by all. Please do put the date of next year's evening in your Diary now – **Saturday 2 February 2019.**

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 until Friday 25 May 2018:

Cromwell Road – Opposite Natural History Museum

Due to construction work, part of the westbound set down and pick up only coach bay will be closed until Friday 8 June:

LTCOA MEMBERS EVENT SCHEDULE 2018-19

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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