

OPERATION HELVELLYN

The new T.O.C.U team has slowly been growing, and growing, and we at the L.C.D.C are very glad to say that we have been in constant dialogue with them since their expansion. We held a meeting at our Offices with the new Inspector Mr.David Brown some months ago and have been working very closely with them ever since, which I personally think is a step in the right direction.

So when I received a personal e-mail from Inspector Brown asking me if I would like to attend Operation Helvellyn as his guest, It was an offer I could not refuse.



At around 2.30 am myself and Inspector Brown, along with a P.C had a stroll down the side of Charring Cross Station to have a look at the situation with the cars that service the Heaven Night Club. We saw a rank of Minicabs ranking up to be called over and have a passenger put in the back by the Clubs Clipboard Johnny. The Inspector soon found himself in discussion with the Clipboard Johnny, and informed him that the parked cars had to go, as they were on view to the Public, and as such they were " Plying For Hire "

But he was having none of it.....

" They (PCO) ...told me what to do....and they told me that this is alright ! "

he explained to Inspector Brown, he carried on

" They (PCO) ...came `ere last night and told me that what I am doing is alright....I pay enough money for this `ere " he said.



ing from the Mayor Boris Johnson, this is to be applauded. Their are 4 dedicated teams, with one team dedicated to Enforcement supporting the Public, and also a team targeting suspected sex offenders. With detectives now being actively recruited into the TOCU team to fight sex offenders from entering the Taxi Industry and also try to stop the ease which they feel exists in people acquiring their Licenses. Also there is a team that has been set up dealing solely with other crimes relating to the Taxi Industry, and with stories of Organised crime entering the P.H market place, TOCU say that they plan to investigate these lines of information.



It was Saturday 21st February when I drove up to Victoria to meet up for the evening. After a cup of tea, and a briefing we jumped into the squad car at around 11.30 and headed for the Strand. This was one of the biggest Operations for a long time with some 100 TOCU Officers in attendance along with their MPS Partners, and the P.C.O were also in attendance.

The road blocks were set up and the VOSA vans were also parked up in the Strand lying in wait. There were both Mini Cabs and Licensed Taxis being pulled over and Inspected, with the majority of Licensed Taxis being O.K.

I think there was a couple of incidents where drivers were not wearing their Badges, but no serious problems with the vehicles.

" It's What The P.C.O told us to do Guv "



Inspector Brown was having none of it, and told him to inform the cars to go and find somewhere else to wait, or he would nick them for plying for hire.

Like you all would, I felt like leaning over and giving him a pat on the back along with a "well done"... thrown in for good measure.

Back up to the Strand, and the cars and Taxis were still being pulled over to the kerb side for Inspection ,I saw a mini cab who had a P.H disc on the back window of his vehicle have a different registration to the actual number plate on the vehicle !The guys from VOSA were getting their teeth stuck in and I must say they seemed to be enjoying their work !.

By now the time was nearly 4.30am and to be honest I was starting to feel a bit tired, so after a cup of tea at nearby Charring Cross Police Station, I returned to my Taxi and proceeded to drive home arriving with the paper boy.

I have been informed that T.O.C.U really plan to become a more positive force and has nearly doubled in size, thanks to extra fund-