

# Heathrow Report

by  
**Ken Burns**

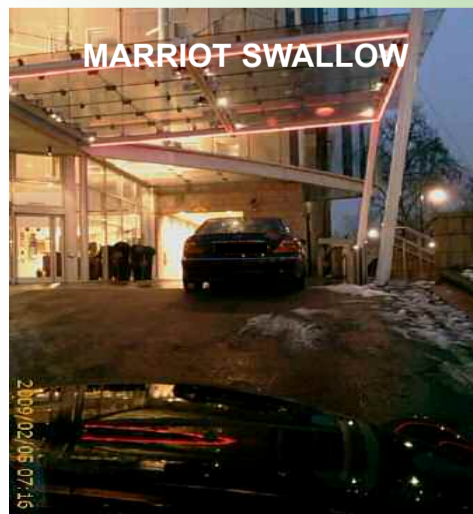
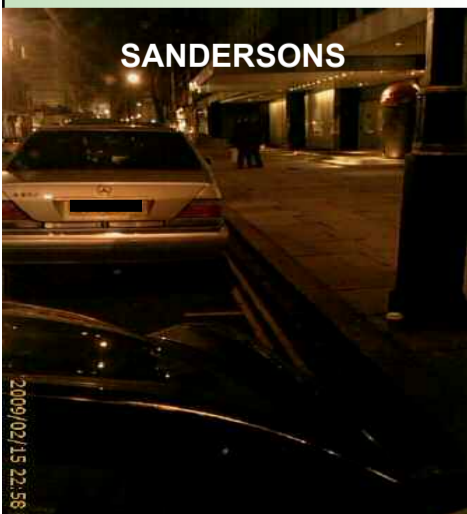
We are all aware of the extra time that we are now waiting in the Taxi feeder parks - Now an average of four to four-and-a-half hours. Because of this slow up, many drivers have felt it unfair that Taxi Marshalls have not increased their times in order to come more into line with the computerised South Taxi Park and of course the North Feeder Park.

During January and February there has been a flurry of activity between BAA (First and Last Impressions, Paul Langston), Trade Reps and Taxi Marshalls, in order to formulate an acceptable agreement between all parties. This has involved BAA taking badge numbers of some cab tag holders as they enter the North Park and tracking them into the South Park, in order to calculate the waiting times of both parks. The other contentious issue is the holding over of rides from one day to another. In the opinion of the LCDC this can only be acceptable if one ride is held over only when a Marshal is on duty late at night and 'blows out'. It is totally unacceptable to continue the practice of undertaking two one-and-a-half hour shifts for two rides. At the time of compiling this report we are only days away from Paul Langston of first and last impressions (BAA) issuing his findings on the matter.

I thought you may all be interested in a conversation that I had with Nick Bate, the Senior Tout squad officer at Heathrow. Nick informed me that the Tout Squad had arrested a licenced private hire driver in one of the terminals for touting. When the driver, who incidentally comes from Kabul in Afghanistan, (the significance of this will soon become apparent) was processed, it transpired that he was in the country illegally. I'll say that again. A licenced Private Hire Driver who is in the country illegally. This story gets even more mind-blowing. This illegal immigrant, licenced by the PCO also worked for a company with permits to allow drivers to drive their vehicles airside and park next to an aircraft!

When you then weigh up this fact against licenced taxi drivers who have to have a CRB check every three years, and even some who have been licenced for thirty or forty years being asked to give their finger prints, it is now a totally unacceptable situation and every single PHV driver who has been granted a licence without a CRB check, for whatever reason, should have those licences revoked. Of course that won't happen because the income to the PCO is far more important than any security issues.

**THIS IS WHAT WE WANT, PICTURES LIKE THESE TIMED AND DATED. IT'S NOT THAT HARD WITH THE PHONE CAMERA'S NOW AVAILABLE AND JUST SEND THEM IN TO US VIA TEXT TO 07950 535598 OR VIA EMAIL TO thelcdc@aol.com AND WE'LL DO THE REST**



## WITNESS APPEAL

An accident took place on Harewood Avenue NW1 at the junction with Harewood Row on 21st December 2008 at approx 23-00hrs. The vehicles involved were a Black TXII Taxicab and a Dark Blue Volvo.

Police and Ambulance were called to the scene and there were a few Taxis passing by or at the scene at the time of the accident. if you were one of the taxis mentioned or know someone that saw the accident, please could you call or ask them to call; Mr Mushtaq on 07809-650930 Thankyou

## *Fare Increase*

*London's black-taxi fares will increase 3.4% starting April 4th to help London licenced Black Cab Drivers meet higher costs. The average fare for a taxi trip on a weekday during working hours will rise 33 pence to £10.16. The change was prompted by a 3.7% increase in operating costs this year, with diesel fuel 4.1% more expensive. London black taxi drivers will also be able to charge an additional 40 pence per trip if diesel prices rise above 147.1 pence a litre between April 4th and Jan 1st, the authority said.*

As of Jan. 30th, the average diesel cost was; 100.7 pence a litre, TfL said.

## LCDC Members and Mobiles

We are currently updating our records and would appreciate all members contacting The Club and supplying their latest mobile numbers. You can do this by phoning us or just sending a text message with your full name to; - **07950 - 535598**

## Drivers to put on Island Hotels

Please, please put on any Hotel at Canary Wharf, even if it's only for 5 minutes. Minicabs have been parking on the forecourts of these Hotels waiting for the first job out. These minicabs rely on me and you not bothering so they can offer an alternative. We have been in touch with the PCO about them and they have asked us to supply photos, times, dates, Reg no's, colour, make and model of cars parked on forecourts and they will run checks. Please send this information to us on the above number so we can continue to collate it and pass it on.



**LOCATION** .....

**DATE** ..... **TIME** .....

**MAKE** ..... **MODEL** .....

**COLOUR** ..... **REG No** .....