

mailshot

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22.23: Passenger appears and gets into cab.

"Where have you been and why is all that money on the meter" says passenger. "I ordered this cab at twenty to ten and was told it would be about 15 minutes."

Driver replies: "Well actually, I've been here since five to ten. I tried to make contact through your reception as I was instructed to do."

Passenger says: "But the only call I've had was from your office about ten minutes ago. So how long is it going to take to get to Hammersmith now! I have an appointment there at 10.30. And why are you going this way?"

Driver closes partition window.

Ok, the above is a piece of fiction, but all the individual occurrences and conversations are based on true experiences, as most of the drivers who work in the city regularly will recognise. Perhaps a booklet issued to all account clients - and not just their transport departments - from DaC might help the situation if it explains about some of the above problems. Perhaps a few illustrated cartoons might also help get the message across.

Cecil Selwyn V76

I'm sure most drivers recognise the scenario, Cecil and reading about it is much funnier than when it actually happens to you. But as you said to me in your non-published PS, most of the bigger accounts have good receptions but there are still too many who fit in to the above picture...Ed

THANK YOU

On the 23rd September, I left my cab unattended to visit a friend in hospital. Unfortunately, while I was away my cab was broken into. Another driver, Alan Green (E52) alerted the police with the help of DaC. He then stayed with my cab until I returned. I should like to thank him for his actions which were above and beyond the call of duty. Wouldn't the world be a better place with more people like him?

I enclose a small cheque which I hope will be accepted to cover his lost time or perhaps donated to a charity of his choice. Once again, thank you Alan and thank you Dial-a-Cab.

M.Epstein, Garston, Herts

Alan Green has donated the cheque towards Bob Holloway's (P49) run across the Sahara Desert in April 2000. Bob is running in honour of former DaC driver Paul Bishop (R64) who died so tragically earlier this year at the age of 44. Funds raised by Bob will go towards battling the illness that

killed Paul - Motor Neurone Disease. Several drivers have already sent in cheques following the article on his proposed run (Sept. Call Sign)...Ed

THE BEST RADIO CIRCUIT IN THE WORLD!

The best radio circuit in the world just got even better! I refer of course to Code 77 (the going home facility). After a couple of initial teething problems, it has worked like a dream. But why create problems by making EC5 and SE75 not available? I work from midday to midnight, so at around 10 - 11 pm I am looking for a job going towards home. I will never go As Directed at this time of night for fear of being sent to the depths of Essex, as has happened to me on numerous occasions. I'm sure the Essex drivers feel the same about an AD job to SW19/20 etc. So let's make it simple. Code 77 means a job homeward bound from any rank at any time! I look forward to a Board Member's comments...

R. Connor (G96)

See Tom Whitbread on p21...Ed

DIAL-A-CAB HELPER

I would like to thank cab driver 59514 for his assistance recently in getting some disabled passengers to Euston Station. On a cold evening, when their cab (not DaC) had not shown up 30 minutes after the time booked, they were having great difficulty in competing with able bodied pedestrians in hailing a cab. Your driver very courteously went out of his way to assist them, with quiet efficiency and left the passengers feeling that London is not all bad. I said I would write to thank him and this is the letter, but there have been many acts of kindness I have seen cab-drivers make over the years. I once asked a taxi driver to take an elderly and confused passenger to her home on the other side of a major intersection. When I offered to pay the fare in advance, he refused my offer and took her, even though it was during the evening rush hour. This is also to thank all the other cab drivers whose numbers I never managed to get.

Allison Wolf, London NW1

Thanks for the kind words Allison. It's always nice to get confirmation about something that is well known anyway. London's cab drivers are not just the best, they also have the biggest hearts...Ed

THE WEB FERRET

I have recently been introduced to the web ferret which I have found to be a great help to people like myself who are new to the wonderful world of the web.

You just type in a subject such as London taxis or Call Sign and it looks through all the search engines to find what you require. I just clicked on Yahoo and typed in web ferret and it down loaded the necessary ferret. The wealth of information it supplies is just unbelievable

Chris McPhillips (W75)

I had never associated ferrets with Call Sign before. I thought they were just to put down your trousers!...Ed

PARKING TICKETS "SCAM?"

Re page 21 in **October's Call Sign**: DAC Driver Rumbles 'Parking Ticket Scam' by Roy Martin (R42). For a while now, I have thought that there was something amiss: 'Offences' committed, no ticket given, yet 5 weeks later a fine for double the original amount! You send in an appeal and soon you are told by letter that you have been turned down and still have to pay the fine. But how can you pay for something that you haven't got?

On April 24th, I dropped a passenger at a Building Society in Walworth Rd. As I was about to pull away I glanced in the back of the cab and saw that she had left a bag on the seat. I got out and went to return the bag. A man came up to me and said that there was a Warden outside, so I handed the bag over to the woman and went back to my cab. The man had driven off and the warden then told me that I was getting a ticket. I caught up with the other driver and asked him if he had got a ticket and he said no. Fifteen minutes later I was back in Walworth Rd, this time opposite the Building Society and the warden was telling another driver that he should not park where he was going to park, (you could lip read what was being said). I had been hailed by two women for a ride to WC2 so I called across the road asking him why I had got a ticket and not this or the other driver? I was told in no uncertain terms to go away (again you could lip read). Five weeks later, I got two fines for £80 each, one for dropping off a fare and returning property, the other for picking up a fare. I am now waiting for a date from the Parking Appeals and I shall be taking the Call Sign article with me to see if it will add a bit of clout to my case.

So I would like to say 'thank you' to Roy Martin for writing this piece and thank you Alan for publishing it. If you feel that it would do any good, you can give Roy my address and phone number, I will back

