

BOXING FOR THE PRIDE OF LONDON

Cab drivers give their all for the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans

On the evening of Tuesday 17th October Carney's Community in Petworth Street, Battersea, was packed out with cab drivers, their friends and families, all joining the crush to watch 11 stalwart drivers from North of the river battle it out against the opposition representing South of the river.

Some of the fighters had been training in Wapping with their coach Michael Herring for a number of years, while others, spurred on by the desire to do something for the charity, had only trained for a matter of a few months. Their enthusiasm was tangible – this was sport in the truest sense of the word.

Every driver gave his all, amidst shouts and cheers from the audience and egged on by their cornermen. Yet the atmosphere remained friendly throughout, and whilst retaining the competitive spirit, never became aggressive.

Seated behind the ring and cheering along with the rest were four Chelsea Pensioners and one

Normandy Veteran, most of whom are collectors for the charity.

Almost every single person involved was a cab driver who had volunteered, from the boxers, their coach, all the support teams, the stewards, the ladies selling refreshments and the chaps on the door. The music was supplied by a driver, and Grant Davis did an outstanding job as MC and auctioneer.

The auction itself raised just over £1000, and all bar one of the lots were donated by drivers. The generosity of the trade sometimes seems overwhelming.

The evening was also backed by a number of businesses. TaxiApp provided the vests, shorts and socks, and the boxers really did look smartly turned out. The posters, tickets and auction lists were donated by Ubiquitous, and cab:app provided the programmes and paid for the insurance. Tony at the Astral café kindly helped us with the food and I must thank him and Sapor



LET'S GET READY TO RUMBLE: North vs South

NORTH

Morgan Cross
Dave Hammond
Wally Saunders
Terry Buffin
Marc Turner
Gary Dunne
Richard Hood
Chris Humphrey
Danny Pin
Tony Lee
Dave Kearns

VS

SOUTH

Johnny Lock
Ryan Doherty
Chris Allen
Paul Bay
Mel Smith
Micky Flynn
Tony Carroll
George Dixon
Steve Williamson
Dave Windsor
Lenny Etheridge

Coach: Michael Herring
Referee: Mark Reigate (FitzRoy Lodge)



BOOM - WE HAVE TO KICKDOWN



LENNY ETHERIDGE AND DAVE KEARNS SQUARING UP NICELY



FRANCES TALKS TO THE CROWD BEFORE THE FIGHTS



LCDC CHAIRMAN GRANT DAVIS WAS MC

for their assistance in selling tickets. MyTaxi paid for the ambulance and paramedics (thankfully not needed on the night!) and CabVision and Cabbies Accountants both made generous donations. The LCDC also gave invaluable support as well as donating the trophy for the

best boxer, won by Terry Buffin, a popular result.

When I had the original idea of arranging a boxing match, I had hoped that it would be a way not only of raising money for the charity but of providing some much deserved fun for drivers themselves. Given

that five drivers have already put their names forward for next year, I dare to think that this goal was achieved.

Thank you all.

Frances Luczyc Wyhowska

TaxiCharity.org