

Go Green

GETTING A BUZZ FROM OUR ELECTRIC VANS...

Go-Ahead London's
'greenest' driver...



THE
Go  Green
500
CHALLENGE

TARIQ IS TOP CLASS!

THE 500 CHALLENGE FINALS AT MILLBROOK

INSIDE: Go-Ahead London's energy drive – how you made a difference



WE HAVE A

- THE quest to find the Go-Green 500 Challenge champion reached its climax in October when 20 finalists battled it out at Europe's most advanced vehicle test site.
- Here we report on the event and talk to the lucky winner of that brand new Fiat 500 car...



Icing on the cake: Winner Tariq Mahmood, right, celebrates his victory with Docklands colleagues John Petts, Harvey Digpal, Karen Smith, Hema Agrippine and Carl Trainor.

John Trayner, left, with the 500 Challenge finalists at Millbrook Vehicle Testing Ground.



T WAS a day when the best of the best were put to the test to find out who would be Go-Ahead London's 'green' driver of the year.

The top 20 finalists, selected from drivers on TfL routes who had acquired more than 1,500 green miles between June 1 and August 31, gathered at Millbrook Vehicle Testing Ground to take part in the series of challenges.

Millbrook is a centre of excellence for low carbon technologies and testing, whether it be a car, a bus or even a tank!

The Ecodrive was one of the key challenges, where the 20 finalists each

drove a Vauxhall Corsa fitted with eco logging equipment to provide real-time fuel economy data.

The eco test took in Millbrook's entire test circuit, which includes a city course, a high speed bowl and an Alpine route, to simulate a range of conditions.

The drivers also competed in hill climb trials, where they negotiated a seriously steep course to test their skills with the throttle and brake. And, of course, there was the rather scary drive in a 4x4 jeep where the drivers were blindfolded!

Needless to say, they had instructors with them at all times.

The programme was designed so that the drivers could do practice runs in the morning – and then get down to the serious task of trying to win in the afternoon sessions!

All the drivers performed well but, in the end, the honours belonged to Tariq Mahmood, who clocked up the most points. He was presented with his coveted prize by managing director John Trayner.

Make sure you take part in next year's big competition! Prizes to be announced...



A WINNER!

Eco driving takes Tariq to the top of the class

A GENTLE touch... that's what won the day for Docklands driver Tariq Mahmood, the proud new owner of the fabulous Fiat car.

"The competition at Millbrook was really all about how little fuel you could use and I decided to use the gentle touch – no hard acceleration of breaking, whatever the course," explained Tariq, who has been a bus driver for 11 years.

"It's the approach I take everyday when driving the bus and it's something I always practise when I

drive my own car.

However, the competition was very tough and I was up against very skilled drivers so I was surprised and delighted to win."

Tariq now uses the Fiat as his everyday car, which means his wife, Nabila, who prefers to drive an automatic, now has daily use of his BMW 525.

"I love driving the Fiat," said Tariq. "It's excellent around town and very easy to drive. And although it's a small car, it is really quite spacious inside."



Fun: Drivers took on Millbrook's hill climb.

Top twenty take up the challenge

A GRUELLING day but great fun – that was how finalist Dora Ansah, from Camberwell, summed up the Millbrook experience.

"I loved the blindfolded drive, I enjoyed that the most," said Dora.

"The Eco test was a bit scary because we actually had to drive quite fast. But the hill climb was fun – we ended up upside down!"

Putney driver Victor Chikurnikov also found the hill climb fun. "In fact I enjoyed the whole day – and we had a really good lunch as well!"

Witold Braniewski, from Mandela Way, said: "I found it all very exciting

and I think the company put on a really good day."

The other finalists who competed at Millbrook were Stephen Appiah (Merton), Delroy Blake (Stockwell), Donald Bradley (Sutton), Blessed Couson (Waterloo), Alan Budd (Merton), Jacek Durak (Mandela Way), Benjamin Edwards (Putney), Anthony Josiah (Peckham), Tomas Koroknai (New Cross), Brian McDonald (Bexleyheath), Thomas Monteith (Sutton), Gilbert Musisi (Merton), David Osinaike (New Cross), John Tsirtos (Peckham), Edward Walczak (Mandela Way) and Alister Watson (Camberwell).

Your effort makes a real difference

A MAJOR drive to reduce energy use and fuel consumption has helped Go-Ahead London take a big step forward in meeting its environmental goals.

Gas and electricity consumption was cut by 20 percent between June 2008 and July this year, thanks to a range of initiatives around the garages.

Upgrading heating and lighting systems and the use of energy champions to promote the Go-Green 'save energy' message all contributed to the savings.

Work in the garages included installing highly efficient Somar lighting in the workshops, putting in new gas boilers and fitting intelligent lighting systems and individual thermostatic controlled radiators.

DELIGHTED

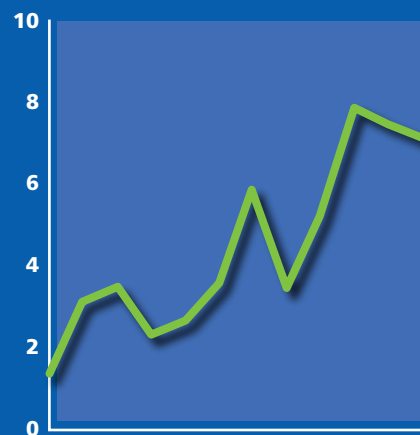
Significant reductions in fuel use have also been recorded. The introduction of the Telematics fuel-use recording system has played a key role in this, along with training and incentive schemes such as the Go-Green Club and the 500 Challenge.

Group engineering director Phil Margrave said he was delighted with the contribution that staff had made.

"With the support of employees, Go-Ahead London has made great progress in 2009 towards meeting our environmental obligations. And, as a spin-off, the company is now more efficient and more commercially competitive."

The work continues in 2010, with a target to save a further five percent on energy use. There will also a big push to try and reduce water use.

FUEL CONSUMPTION IMPROVEMENT (%)



ENERGY SAVING

Electric vans are a first for London

THE INTRODUCTION of electric-powered vans has caused quite a buzz among drivers in Go-Ahead London's support vehicle fleet.

The first of the vans was introduced earlier this year and has already clocked up a staggering 25,000 miles. And with a second van now joining the fleet, the feedback from drivers is a definite thumbs-up!

Stores delivery driver Jeff Watson, who has clocked up all those miles, said: "It's much quieter than a normal van and very smooth. It also pulls well and is quick around town. It's not very fast on the open road but there again there's no danger of me being caught for speeding!"

Julian Brock, a storeman at Camberwell, was also one of the first to try out the new van. He said: "It's lovely to drive around London – so smooth and so simple with just forward, reverse and neutral. We have also found that even



Green machines: Jeff Watson with the eco-friendly support van.

with heavy loads the van still goes up steep hills without any struggle at all. The only downside is on motorways, as the top speed is less than 50 miles an hour. But you can't have everything!"

The vans, which have zero emissions in use, are made by Smith Electric Vehicles and are powered by two large batteries.

With a most efficient average speed of 28 mph, the vans are used for roadside assistance and for distributing stores items around the garages.

Go-Ahead London is believed to be the first bus company in London to operate the electric vehicles.

Club's success leads to new rewards

THE Go-Green Drivers' Club has clocked more than 1,000 members since its launch earlier this year.

The scheme, which rewards drivers who drive safely and fuel efficiently, has proved a big success in helping to improve and maintain standards.

To qualify for the club, drivers have to achieve three months' continuous green band driving as recorded by the RIBAS system.

Each member receives a badge and certificate, and soon they will be receiving other rewards as well. A package of benefits and promotions, including discount vouchers for High Street stores, is currently being put together.

In addition, each member can also receive one free hot drink at their garage canteen by presenting the voucher below. But remember, you must be wearing your badge!

Making the most of every single drop...



BUS WASHES are coming under the microscope in a new drive to increase the water recycling levels.

There are 13 bus washes in Go-Ahead London and it is estimated that each one uses around 100 litres of water per wash. On average, around 60 percent of the water is collected, filtered and pumped back into the system.

That figure could be improved, says technical services manager Geoff Robertson. "With 1,500 buses in our fleet, if we increased the recycling level to say 70 percent it would save many thousands of gallons of water every day.

"We are currently looking at the possibility of installing water meters on the bus washes so that we can record and measure water usage accurately, and pinpoint where improvements can be made."

Other initiatives to reduce water consumption include aligning the spray jets to minimise any loss, and adjusting detergent levels so less mains water is needed for the final wash down stage.

ONE FREE HOT DRINK



This voucher entitles each Go-Green Drivers' Club member to claim one FREE hot drink at their garage canteen.

ONE DRINK PER DRIVER.

NAME:

GARAGE: