

The World of **Regtransfers** Issue 27  
Personal Number Plates  
.co.uk



**David Haye**



# Rio's plate will have to wait



Here's a picture of my three-year-old daughter, Rio, holding the number plate **R10 KSJ**. The 'R10' spells her first name and the 'KSJ' represent her other initials, Kerkyra Shields Jackson.

We intend to keep the number until she is old enough to be able to put it on her first car.

It was by pure chance that we found **R10 KSJ** when looking for something else on your website and decided to buy it while it was still available.

**Marie Shields-Jackson**



## **What's the story?**

Send **YOUR** photos to  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)

*Want to get your name in print?*

*See our special feature on page 60*

## Whatever happened to . . .

I thought I would tell you about my past plates and current ones, maybe in the hope of discovering whatever became of them.

Here are some of the cherished numbers owned by me over the last 30 odd years:

**BUN 1**, **28 GAR**, **6 GAR**, **A6 ARY**,  
**K33 EEK**, **K200 USK**, and my current  
collection: **W1 GAR** (pictured), **AIG 350**,  
**X44 GAR**, **T200 ATT**, **K39 TOD**.

Many thanks to your excellent team at  
Regtransfers.

What I'd really be interested in is where my  
past plates are now, especially **BUN 1**.

**Gary Williams**

*[If any readers know the whereabouts of  
any of these registrations, please do let us  
know - Ed]*







## Number Crunching

We received the following intriguing email from Mr Ron Smith:

*"My son, Ryan, has asked me to email you regarding a school project. From the letters A-Z, how many vehicles will be able to have different registrations in one year."*

**After dusting down an ancient pure mathematics school text book, we were able to provide the following response:**

In order to accurately address your question, we must first look in a little more detail at the system employed.

The last three letters are a random selection of all the alphabetic characters, except for 'I' and 'Q'. The total variations can, therefore, be calculated simply as:

$$24 \times 24 \times 24 = 13,824 \text{ 'trios'}$$

The first and second letters are the regional identifiers which indicate the geographic place of registration and the local DVLA office responsible. In this instance, as well as 'I' and 'Q', the letter 'Z' is also omitted. More importantly, only 462 of the 529 possible combinations are actually used.

We must remember, of course, that there are two issues each year: one in March, currently indicated by the number '11' in the third and fourth positions of the plate, and another in September, which for 2011 will be represented by the number '61'.

Bringing all this together we have 462 letter pairs, two age identifiers and 13,824 trios.

$$\text{So, } 462 \times 2 \times 13,824 = 12,773,376.$$

In 2010, only 2.4m vehicles were actually registered, so it will be seen that by changing the age identifier every 6 months wastes a lot of potential numbers.

It is worth noting that the licensing authorities may decide to with-hold any registrations which they consider to appear offensive. This factor is, of course, impossible to quantify.

**We have to admit that we had to ask our 'Dad', the renowned Autonumerologist, John Harrison, for some help with this homework!**

- Please see John's regular *Registration Forum* feature on page 65.



## A devilishly good plate

As you can see my number plate looks fab. I have had lots of comments since it was fitted and, as the car is a Maverick XLT anyway, the 666 goes great. My son, Ross (pictured) and his 'gothic' friends love it.

I have been into the occult since I was a youngster and was delighted that you had the exact plate I wanted.

It was so easy to order online and you did the transfer for me. It just took less than two weeks before I was sporting my new number plate. Marks out of ten? Well, eleven, I'd say!

**Carol Askew**

# mail



## On the right track

As a train conductor, I got on the right track when I found **S19 WCK**.

Now, when any of my colleagues go past our car park, they can all see my car parked up before they enter the station.

I rang Regtransfers on the Thursday evening and a fast, efficient service ensured that the plates were delivered first thing on the Saturday morning.

**Tony Sidgwick**



## Welsh rarebit

This is the plate which, after many years of searching, finally became my own. My first name is of Welsh descent, being derived

from Nia, the daughter of St David, the patron saint of Wales, and immortalised in Celtic Welsh history.

**Nia Franscesca Bailey**





wanted to collect them as a hobby and to make a bit of money."

When Benjamin was 19 he set up an estate agency.

"I started a letting business from my dining room table. That business is now an established high street estate agency, based in Leeds, offering residential and commercial sales and lettings.

"Over the last three years I have invested in some property-related plates:

**L3 TBV** (Let By)

**FOR 541E** (For Sale)

**NOW 501D** (Now Sold)

**R3 NTD** (Rented)

**S3 LLS** (Sells)

**T10 LET** (To Let)

"When I was 21, I saw **J46 OBS** ('Jacobs') which is my surname. I just had to have it. I made a low offer and stuck to my guns. Eventually my offer was accepted so I now have my surname as a plate.



"I bought my first plate at 15 and now I have 24 different registrations. I am definitely an avid collector of plates!"

[www.stoneacreproperties.co.uk](http://www.stoneacreproperties.co.uk)

**F**or Benjamin Jacobs, Director of Stoneacre Properties, buying private number plates started out as a hobby. Benjamin's first plate purchase was when he was just 15 years of age.

"I bought my first number plate with some money I earned from a Saturday job. The first one I bought was **BEL 7S**, which I bought in an auction. I thought it looked like 'Ben's'. I lost money on that one.

"When I was younger I used to see cars with [personal] plates on them. I always



### What's the story?

Send **YOUR** photos to  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)

Some of Benjamin's excellent private registrations are great for promoting his business. If you use your vehicle number plates to market your business, and would like to share your story, please let us know





# The Hayemaker

**T**o anyone whose knowledge of David 'The Hayemaker' Haye has been limited to publicity photos and press reports of pre-fight rhetoric, a meeting with the former cruiserweight, now heavyweight, boxer might be a daunting prospect. Haye makes his living by doing his level best to batter people to the floor. At the time of our meeting he had won 25 of his 26 professional bouts. He is a big chap and he looks fierce.

There is always a bit of envy in the Regtransfers editorial office when our interviewer and photographer go out to meet a celebrity. When the time came for the team to deliver David Haye's new personalised number plates and to interview him we had to find a way to decide fairly who should go. So, those who drew short straws set out for London while the rest of us phoned in sick, cowered under desks or locked ourselves in bathrooms until they were well on their way and the danger was past.

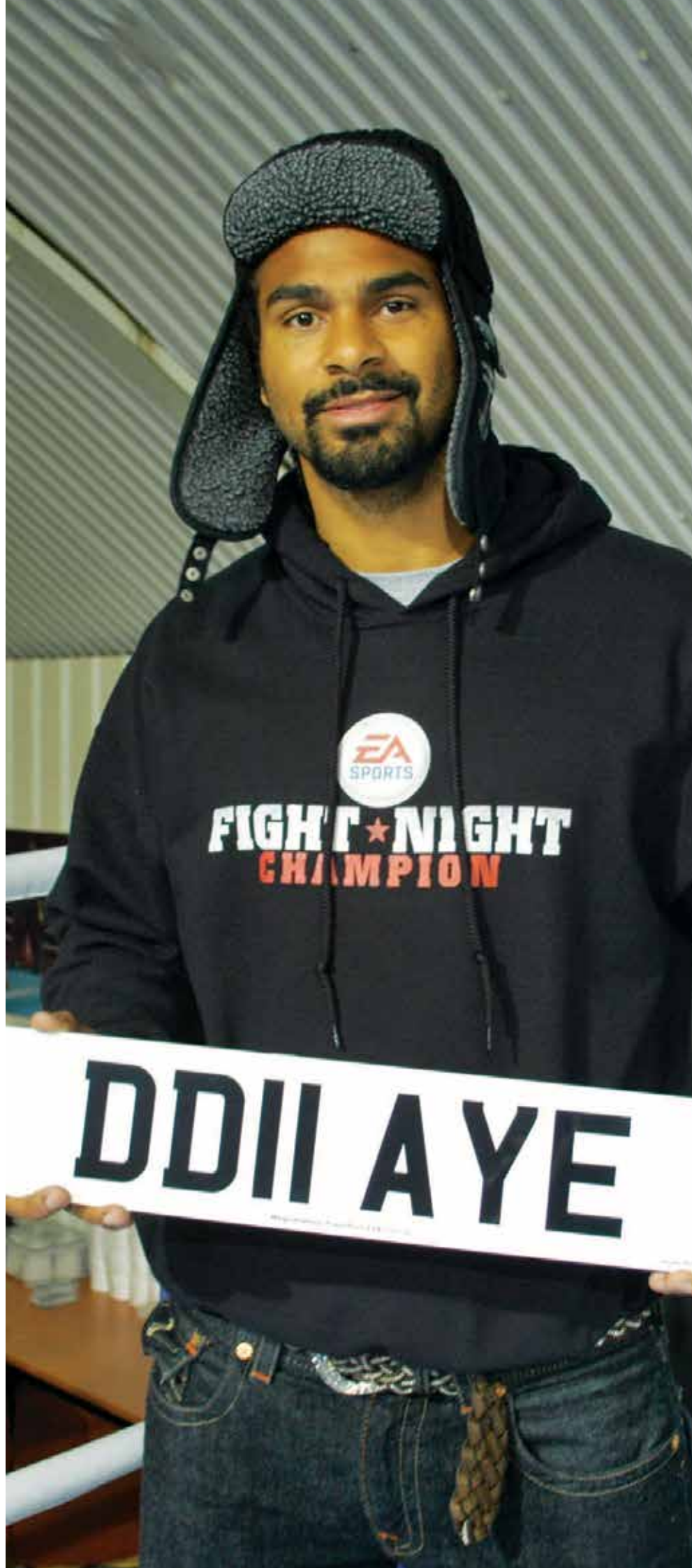
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## Revelation

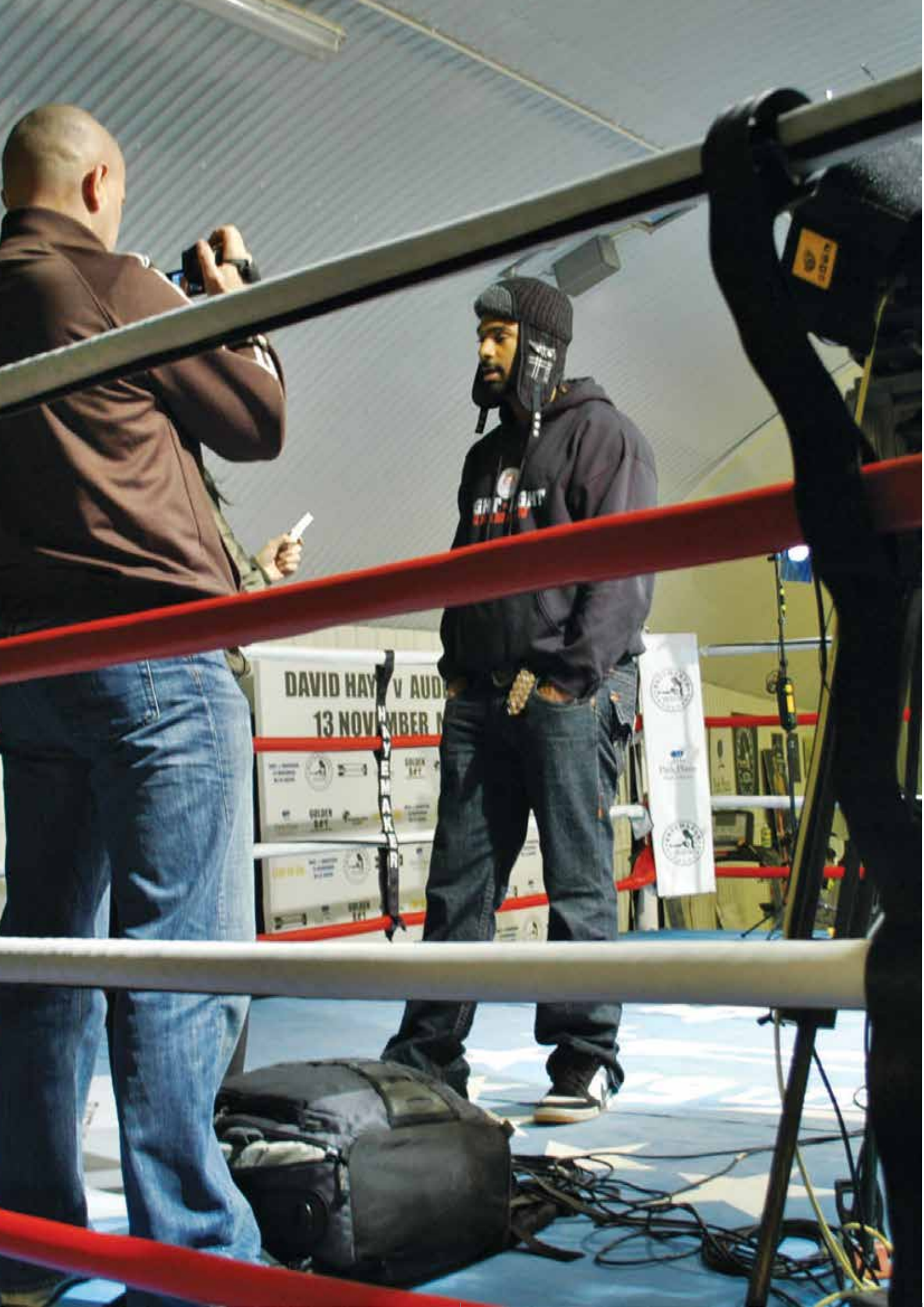
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As it turns out, David Haye is something of a revelation. He is no mumbling, punch-drunk, Rockyesque stereotype, nor is he simply the arrogant hulk we have often seen trading insults with his opponents before stepping into the ring to mete out unthinkable punishment. Haye is actually a cheerful, cooperative and articulate man. Not a sheep in wolf's clothing exactly, but certainly not a thug either. He may have harsh words for some of his adversaries, but he has won many supporters by displaying a more personable side in the broadcast media. Tyson, Mayweather and other high-profile names in the world of boxing have been taken to task over homophobic outbursts. Haye, on the other hand, appears on television happily trading friendly quips and jokes with Graham Norton, Stephen Fry and Alan Carr. His tacit dismissal of the archaic prejudice displayed by some of his peers has won him friends and supporters, going some way to balancing the negative reactions to some of his pre-fight outbursts.

Haye has said that he loves what he calls 'the hype factor', despite the fact that other fighters, promoters and commentators have criticised his intemperate words. Some of the things he said in the run-ups to his bouts against the Russian heavyweight Nikolai Valuev and Haye's Ukrainian nemesis Wladimir Klitschko caused particular offence in some









quarters. Closer to home, a more important voice sometimes urges restraint. Even as he fires off the insults, it sometimes occurs to David that his mother, Jane, will disapprove of his behaviour. Luckily, she always forgives his transgressions. Jane's opinion is very important to David. He is on record as saying that the reason he doesn't have any tattoos is that his mother forbade it when he was a youngster. Note to the many youngsters to whom Haye is a hero: even when you're heavyweight champion of the world, you listen to your mum.

## Tradition

David Haye is a London lad. He was raised in Bermondsey, in a close family. He has an older sister, Louise, and a younger brother, James. There is something of a fighting arts tradition in the Haye family: his father, Deron, is an accomplished martial artist, and as a child David used to watch his dad train.

As well as inspiring David's early efforts in his physical activities, Deron was also instrumental in the development of David's interest in nice cars. Deron used to buy, restore and sell vehicles, so from an early age David was very aware of cars. Since he has had cars of his own, he has also been a fan of personal registrations.

"I've always had cool number plates. I think it's a good way to differentiate your car from someone else's. I've had some silly ones - swear words and things, always quite funny; but I normally just buy my name or a family member's name.

I got my sister a car last week and [the plate has] her initial and surname so she was really happy with that."

What does David think of his new registration?

## "My name to a tee."

"I like it! DD Haye [**DD11 AYE**]... Yeah, definitely, it's perfect. David Deron Haye, so DD's my initials. I've been trying to find if there's one for 'The Hayemaker'. I've looked for one, but I can't find it. It doesn't seem like there's one around."

'Hayemaker' might be a bit of a challenge. We can't think of a combination that would represent that very well, but we do show

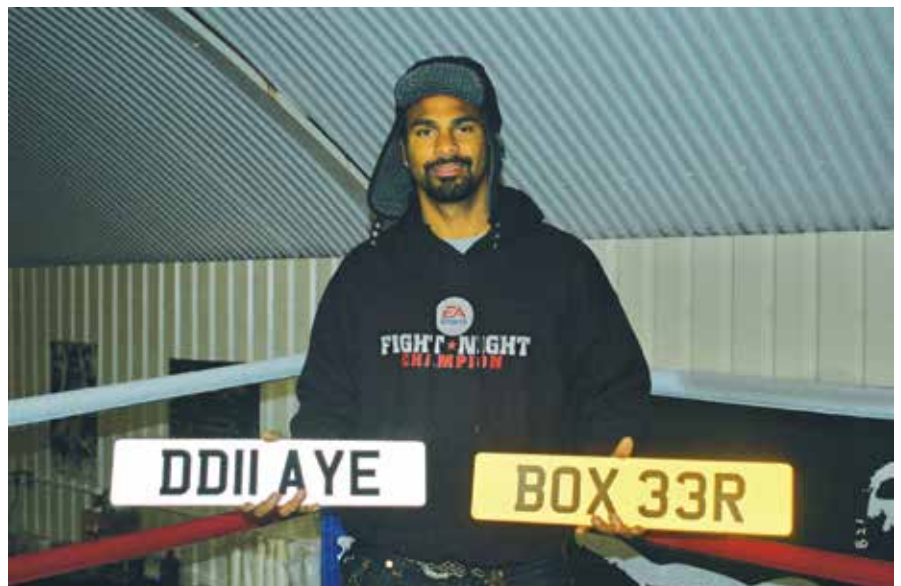
David another pugilist plate, **BOX 33R**.

"Ah, 'boxer', yeah. Amir Khan's got one similar to that. He's got 'boxing' [**BOX 111G**]. I think he's got it on his Range Rover. So, yeah, that's a very cool one, 'boxer'."

What would be David's perfect plate? He considers the question for some moments then smiles.

"DD Haye. That's my name to a tee." Then an afterthought strikes him. "Or 'Doctor Haye', because I'm actually a doctor. Yes, 'Doctor Haye', that might be the way forward, so keep an eye out for it!"

David received an honorary Doctor of Science degree from the Anglia Ruskin University in October 2010. The honour





was conveyed in recognition of David's success in his field, and for his support for the university's postgraduate medical institute.

After receiving his honorary degree, David said on his website:

"I never followed the same route those students took and, instead of hitting the books, I was more interested in hitting sparring partners on the chin. I decided from an early age that I wanted to become heavyweight champion of the world and dedicated my entire life to achieving that goal.

"As a result, I decided to put less emphasis on education and all my attention on boxing, which happened to be a massive risk at the time. Had I not fulfilled my goals in boxing, I would have been in big trouble. That's why I respect anybody that has the dedication to persevere with something, whether it be a sport or a subject at school."

Wise words that will hopefully be heeded by his young fans.

Haye began boxing at the age of 10, and he has said that even then he planned to retire before the sport did him lasting harm. With that in mind he has declared his intention to retire at the age of 31 in October 2011.

David's career has been strongly influenced by his trainer, Adam Booth. The two met in 1996 when David was just 15 years old. Haye's performance sparring against a professional boxer impressed Booth very much. Booth himself had been a successful amateur boxer but his professional chances were wrecked by a leg injury sustained playing football. Haye has often emphasised how much he values Booth as someone whom he can trust in a boxing world where trustworthiness is a rare quality. He has also described Adam Booth as being "like a brother". In such a punishing and

demanding profession, such a strong bond between trainer and fighter is vital.

In the immediate aftermath of David Haye's defeat against Wladimir Klitschko it is unclear whether he will stick to his plan to retire later this year. Whatever Haye decides, he has quite a career to look back on. An early foray into the world of fashion saw the young David Haye modeling clothes for Versace and Abercrombie & Fitch. Although Haye enjoyed the experience, he quickly decided to concentrate solely on boxing.

As a fighter, Haye's record is very respectable. He was an amateur world heavyweight champion. When he turned professional in 2002 he fought at cruiserweight. A couple of years later, in his 10th pro bout, Haye stopped former IBF champion 'King' Arthur Williams in the third round. A glitch in his next fight saw Haye knocked out by ex-WBO champion Carl Thompson in a battle for the IBO Cruiserweight Championship; the only defeat in his professional career until the Klitschko fight.

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## Responsibility

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David later took full responsibility for his loss against Thompson. In a 2009 Sunday Times interview he said:

"I was cutting more and more corners but still getting results and I looked at Carl Thompson and thought, 'He's old. I'm younger. I'm fresher. I'm much more athletic. I can take this guy out'. I had a game plan to break him down slowly because he's a tough customer but I got out there and heard the roar of the crowd and thought, 'I'll knock him out quick'. It was the wrong mindset and I paid the price. I ran out of steam completely, punched myself out in four rounds."

The lessons learned served David well and he went on to win all of his subsequent

bouts until the meeting with Wladimir Klitschko in Hamburg on 2 July 2011.

Following the Klitschko fight, the media made much of Haye's revelation, made immediately after the bout, that he had fought with a broken little toe. The excuse was widely ridiculed, and former heavyweight champion Frank Bruno expressed the opinion that the Hayemaker should never have got into the ring with such an injury.

"If he had a broken toe I would advise him to pull out," said Bruno. "[...] If you've got a broken toe your balance and everything goes[...]. If he fought with a broken toe he must be a very brave man."

Haye had been faced with a difficult decision though. In 2009 he had been forced to pull out of an earlier date against Klitschko due to a back injury. To postpone the reckoning yet again would invite claims that he was afraid of Wladimir, and would also leave little time for the fight to be rescheduled before his intended retirement date.

The injury may have impeded Haye, but he still acknowledged Wladimir Klitschko's superior performance. The day after the fight, Haye tweeted: "Wladimir was the better man last night. He did exactly what he needed to win decision. He's a great fighter, and a hard man to beat. Respect."

It would be nice to see Haye come back to win the undisputed, unified heavyweight title before he hangs up his gloves. We don't doubt that he has the heart, skill and speed to do it. On the other hand, who could blame him if he chose to follow his original plan and retire from a dangerous profession with a healthy mind, body and bank balance. Whatever the future holds for David Haye, we wish him well.

*Interview and photographs: Angela Banh  
Story: Rick Cadger*







## Guitar George

David George Britcher, known to all as George, had quite a surprise for his 21st birthday when his parents bought him the car registration **A1 DGB**. George had always been fascinated by personalised plates and had hoped one day to have his own, so it really was the perfect gift.

"My work as an entertainer involves a lot of car travel," says George. "Having a personalised number plate makes that first arrival at a venue a bit special. I'm very proud to have my personal registration number on my car."

George's mother, Roz, was pleased with how simple the purchase was.

"Regtransfers made it very easy for us to find and buy the number. The plates were made up in good time for George's birthday with all the paperwork completed on time too."

George has performed extensively under his stage name, 'Guitar George'. He has appeared on both Spanish and British TV and radio. You may have seen him on ITV's *Dancing on Ice* where he played electric guitar and sang whilst riding a

unicycle on the ice! He has appeared on a variety of BBC TV shows alongside established stars such as Graham Norton and Brian Conley.





# With the **future** in mind

Regtransfers' customers are a forward thinking lot. Several of the stories in this

issue feature people who have purchased number plates with the future in mind. Richard Farrer is one such prescient individual. Even though Richard's son, Hugo, is only four years old, he already has his own personal registration.

"I'm not sure he will appreciate it just yet, but in years to come I am sure he will be delighted. When he gets his own car he

will have his very own unique plate. I think it's a great investment as Hugo will have the plate for the rest of his life, and I'm sure he will be the envy of his friends. We didn't think about number plates when we christened him, we are just lucky that HU is now available on a 60 plate. I wonder how many other HU60s there are out there who also have the plate of their dreams!"



**WE WANT  
YOUR PHOTOS!**

In 2012, we at Regtransfers will celebrate our 30th anniversary. A major part of our celebrations will be a stunning new book.

Our customers, readers, visitors and friends have always been an integral and vital part of everything we do. Our website, our magazine and our books have all featured the people who make our existence possible - you!

Our new project will be ambitious. We aim to bring you a

more comprehensively informative volume than has appeared before. However, we want to offer more than just facts and figures. We also want to fascinate and entertain. From experience we know that photographs of great registrations, and interesting and amusing number plates stories, provide the most popular and entertaining content. That is why we are inviting you to be a part of our new book.

## Be part of something **special!**

If you would like us to consider you and your personal registration for inclusion in our fantastic new book, or in a future issue of this magazine, then please send your photographs and an outline of your story by email to [editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk) or by post to:

**The Editor  
The World of Personal Number  
Plates  
Registration Transfers Ltd  
139 High Street South  
Dunstable  
Bedfordshire LU6 3SS**

We look forward to hearing from you!

Please note: All image submissions, however they are sent to us, are subject to our submission terms and conditions which are available at [www.regtransfers.co.uk/main/terms.asp](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/main/terms.asp)





## Help is at hand!

PC Help Centre is a neighbour of Regtransfers.co.uk. In fact, they are just across the road from our offices in Dunstable, Bedfordshire, so when owner Adrian White decided he'd like a private registration plate for one of his company cars it was probably more likely than not that he would ask us to help find a suitable number.

"We are absolutely delighted with our new number plate," says Adrian. "D1 AGS, or 'diags', is an abbreviation for diagnostics, which is an important part of the service that we offer to our customers. We diagnose faults and carry out repairs on computers, laptops and networks.

"We are really grateful to Regtransfers for finding another great plate for us!"

### Special offer for Regtransfers magazine readers

Do you have computer problems?

PC Help Centre offers you a FREE 5 Minute online check-up with their RECOVERME™ software to assess your laptop or desktop issues.

RECOVERME™ will give you access to a Computer Surgeon® who can securely access your computer via an internet connection in order to cure your problems.

It is estimated that over 95% of desktop and laptop issues can be remotely diagnosed and fixed.

RECOVERME™ Remote Support can help with:

- spyware or a virus on your PC
- slow running machines
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- driver issues
- difficulty with Microsoft Office or Open Office applications

To take advantage of this offer, please quote 'Regtransfers' when you call PC Help Centre on:

**01582 690692**

Monday-Friday 9am-6pm  
Saturdays 9am-5pm





The Registration Numbers Club is the *only* traditional UK based club catering for enthusiasts of



personalised vehicle registration numbers. Joining us costs very little and the benefits could be substantial. We were originally founded in 1977 and currently produce a quarterly newsletter, RNC

News, which is the original independent club publication and is available free to subscribing members.

The club is run by Honorary Secretary, Steve Waldenberg from the RNC office in Leeds. Rod Lomax from Bury in Lancashire is the club Publicity Officer and John Harrison, who has an expert knowledge of the whole system of vehicle registration in this country, is club archivist and advisor.

For information about the RNC, please contact:

**Steve Waldenberg**

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*Archivist & Advisor*  
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## Are the roads getting clearer?

Department of Transport figures now appear to show significant reductions in delays on motorways and major routes which it is claimed are linked to the economic situation. This is the first reduction in vehicle use since the oil crisis of 1979. It also appears that delays on the M1 motorway have fallen by almost 50% when compared to early 2010. According to a recent survey, congestion has fallen almost 20% since 2007 levels as motorists hit by spiralling fuel prices leave their cars at home and use alternative means of transport.

It's not just the open roads that are getting clearer as city centres, too, are noticing the difference with drivers paying the London congestion charge falling by nearly 500,000. Petrol sales reductions confirm the facts with many filling stations saying that people are just buying a quarter of a tank full at a time. And many are now walking, riding or using public

# A word from the RNC

by Rod Lomax

transport although extreme weather and road works have all contributed to the reduction.

## Seeing double!

When President Obama made his state visit to the UK earlier this year, an enthusiast, who collects classic American cars, was rebuked by one of the security guards when he looked inside the vehicle and asked if he could put in an offer for it when the President got a new model. 'No sir,' said the guard, 'we'll be breaking it up so no one, including you, knows how it was built.'

Apparently the White House flew not one version of 'the Beast', the President's massive, missile-proof vehicle to London, but two - both with the same number plate. Rather illegal, of course, but would you be bold enough to want to question it?

## RNC Rally 2011

Our summer 2011 rally was held on Sunday 26 June at Burton Agnes Hall near the east coast resort of Bridlington on a beautifully sunny and hot summer day. Set against the spectacular backdrop of the Grade 1 listed building, which dates from around 1600, the event attracted some 65 cars displaying a great collection of cherished plates. The previous evening many members, wives and partners enjoyed a superb dinner at nearby Carnaby, where the Manor Court Hotel provided excellent hospitality.

As usual the entries were split into eleven classes and registrations were democratically voted on by members themselves with several trophies awarded.



Winner, Class A: Amusing or unusual



Winner, Class C: Owners initials plus number one



Winner, Class J: Any other cherished number

Please visit [www.TheRNC.co.uk](http://www.TheRNC.co.uk) for a full results listing.

Being in a different part of the country had attracted many new faces and also some new members. Many individuals had donated items to be included in the annual prize draw and funds were raised with this to help support the club.

Several dealers support our event with specific sponsorship without which we would find it hard to meet ever spiralling costs. We are very grateful to all of the sponsors who are featured on the RNC website.



*Left: Members enjoyed a pre-rally dinner at Carnaby.*

*Below: Club member Ray White (front row, second from the right in yellow T-shirt) with friends at the rally.*

(All photographs courtesy of Steve Waldenberg, Registration Numbers Club).

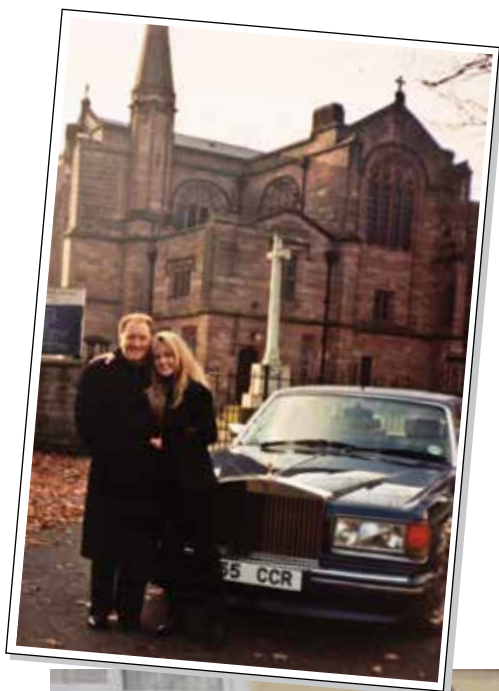




# First impressions

Businessman Chris Rustage does love his Rolls-Royce cars. In the last 25 years he has owned no fewer than ten of them, and eight of those cars have borne Chris's distinctive **1 CCR** number plate.

"I had my first Roller signwritten, as you can see," says Chris. "The body shop made me sign a disclaimer, in case Rolls-Royce sued them!"



One of Chris's Rolls-Royces had a famous - or infamous - previous owner.

Businessman Robert Maxwell drowned after falling from his yacht in ambiguous circumstances in 1991. "I bought Maxwell's Spur three weeks after he went overboard. It had the most astonishing service record document, that stretched over 20ft across my office! I had massive publicity with that car."

As well as a love of Rolls-Royce cars, Chris has a huge enthusiasm for personal registrations.

I bought my first registration number, **68 CCR**, back in 1975. My son now has that on his car. I waited many years for **RU57 AGE** to come on the market and I



bought it at auction. That is now on my son's wife's car. I have **55 CCR** on my

motorbike, and **2 CCR** on my Mercedes SL."

Chris's latest Rolls, a Phantom, currently bears his **1 CCR** number plate, but he is still not quite satisfied. There is one more plate he'd still like to acquire. "Yes, I am actively seeking **CCR 1**."

There is more to Chris's liking for private number plates than vanity or simple aesthetics. Like many other people, Chris believes that the impression made by a good number plate can be profound.

"My cars and their distinctive registration numbers have certainly been a contributing factor in my business deals," he says.





# RT Team Spotlight

Through this series of articles, we hope to enable our readers to get to know Regtransfers a little better. In each issue, we feature different members of our team and, gradually, you'll become able to put names to faces.

With 60 full-time advisors, Regtransfers can boast the most comprehensive sales service in the industry.

But it's quality as well as quantity that counts and all sales enquiries are handled efficiently by people who are not only

eager to help you find your perfect number plate, but also who know the market and know number plates.

In this issue, we feature Sales Manager, **Donna Allen** and her team.



**Nigel Arnold Bob Betton Neil Pilkington Lucas Connolly Lee Hilton Zoe Tearle Jack Gauntlett Donna Allen Patrick Flood.**  
(Other team members not pictured: **Kate Ibbott** and **Bruno Palmer**.)

We asked the team to list their favourite things, their likes and dislikes, hobbies and interests, greatest achievements and best attributes etc. Some of the responses ranged from the ability to drink a pint of Stella Artois in three seconds to 'I can stick

a five pence piece horizontally up my nose'.

We thought these facts might be less than enlightening to our readers. What we think you may be interested to learn, however, is

that these people are all dedicated and experienced professionals, who will go out of their way to guide you through the process of owning a personal number plate. Nothing short, in fact, of helping you to realise your dream.

## Farewell, Bazza

Barry Tuck is something of a legend at Regtransfers. Barry, AKA 'Bazza', retired in April 2011 after 14 years with the company. A friendly and chatty chap, Barry joined the company at the age of 53.

"Tony and Paul gave me an opportunity to start a new career when not many other companies would have done so," he says.

Barry was one of the first members of the Regtransfers team to work mostly on the eCommerce side of the business dealing with enquiries generated by the internet and by email marketing.

Helping to establish the eSales department with manager Stu Bentley is one of Barry's favourite memories of his time at Regtransfers. He has other fond memories too.

"Meeting new colleagues and making lots of new friends, of course," says Barry. "And selling some excellent number plates: **F14 MES**, **DRA 1N**, **F1 ASH**, **B11 NNY**, many

'number ones' and some great names and words registrations such as **10 RD** to a Lord. It was used for a cover of this magazine. I also sold **S111 OKE** (Smoke) & **VER 110N** (Vernon) to the same person who owned a steam bus in Whitby.

"I was also delighted to have my name in Ruby Speechley's book, *Fanatical About Number Plates*."

Barry achieved a lot during his tenure, and has seen the company grow into the UK's largest independent registrations dealer.

"I remember reaching my 10 years' service, and receiving a holiday in Cape Verdi. When I started there were only 15 other employees, and I was the ninth in the sales department. Who would have thought the company would quickly grow into the biggest and best in the industry.

"It was very hard to make the decision to retire, but at age 67 it was time. The retirement party and leaving presents meant a lot to me.

"Now that I have retired I see a lot more of my grandchildren and I have started fishing again after 10 years. I'm spending lots more time in

my garden, growing my own veg and relaxing watching my fish."

Everyone at Regtransfers would like to thank Barry for being a great colleague and friend, and for his long and productive service. He has certainly earned his status of 'legend'. We might not see him every day now, but out of sight does not mean out of mind.

Well done, Barry!

Photography: Stan Thompson





# Beating the **system**

Norman Hawkes became a self-confessed car registrations 'anorak' at an even younger age than most of the enthusiasts from whom we receive correspondence. The fascination endured and, as an adult, Norman managed to secure his perfect number plate, **1 NEH**.

"As a small boy I had a wooden cart with this registration number painted on. Quite by chance I spotted it for sale in 1971. Those were the days before registrations became big business, with ads in *The Sunday Times* etc. The number was still on its original Morris Minor. I bought it there and then and have had it on all sorts of cars since."

"I really don't like the new system much. I shouldn't really say this because, believe it or not (and most don't), I actually came up with the whole system back in the early 1980s when the DVLA asked for ideas for a new format. At that time, they just reversed the old suffix system, as I knew they would. But then, when the prefixes ran out, they dusted off my proposal. The only differences were that my system was based on the original two-letter codes, in order to keep a link back to 1904, and my year-numbers would only change once a year, running from 1st January to 31st December: something that countries like Ireland now seem to be able to manage



perfectly well... although we can't, for some reason.

"I still have all the letters, so I can actually prove what I say but, of course, the DVLA deny I had any involvement!"

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## Dateless

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Since 1991, **1 NEH** has adorned Norman's striking (and rare) red 1965 TVR Trident.

Norman has a strong preference for the older, dateless number plate formats. He considers them historically significant, and far more interesting than the more recent styles with their built-in year codes.

"I don't like these 'age-related' plates the DVLA give out at all. They look all wrong to me.





# Double Trouble



Ross and Hugo Turner with their twin plates

About five years ago, Crispin Turner was looking for a personal number plate for himself. However, the registration that eventually caught his eye was one that Crispin thought would be perfect for his brother, Ross.

"I thought that **R055 TUR** would make a great 21st birthday present for Ross," says Crispin. "But I couldn't purchase a number plate for Ross without also getting one for his twin, Hugo."

Crispin went ahead and bought the number for Ross, hoping that he would be able to acquire a suitable equivalent for Hugo a little later. Fortunately, time was on Crispin's side. The idea had occurred to him well in advance of the event itself, and the twins' 21st birthday was still five years away.

By a happy coincidence, the passing of those five years meant that the "60" registrations had been released in time for the twins' birthday and Crispin was able to buy **HU60 TUR**, thus completing the pair of registration plates for his brothers. Ross and Hugo are both still at university and don't yet own cars, so Crispin has placed both numbers on retention certificates ready for transfer to vehicles when his brothers are ready.

"Before that happens though," says Crispin, "the twins have signed up to row the Atlantic in a custom built 29-foot

carbon fibre boat together with university chums Adam Wolley and Greg Symondson. They aim to raise over £150,000 for Spinal Research, after Hugo broke his neck in a diving accident.

"This is an enormous task, but in doing so Hugo and Ross will secure two world records by becoming not only the youngest people to row the Atlantic, but also the first and only set of twins to have done so."

More information about the project can be found at [www.theatlantic4.com](http://www.theatlantic4.com) where both individual and corporate sponsorship opportunities are available.

**THE ATLANTIC4**  
**SPINAL RESEARCH**  
fighting paralysis... and winning



The intrepid rowing team:  
Adam, Greg, Ross and Hugo





Azhar's son, Mohammed-Tamjeed

## a man on a **mission**

**A**zhar Majid is a man on a mission. Since he bought his first personal registration in 1989, Azhar has been on the lookout for better versions of his name on a plate.

"At the time I bought **A2 URH** I did not even have a car to put the registration on, but as the registration's pronunciation was close to the spelling of my name Azhar, I made a quick purchase.

### Combination

"A few years later I bought a car and assigned my registration to it. The number had been on my car for about a year when I noticed a car that drove past me. Its number plate had an even better combination of numbers and letters. I did a quick U-turn and followed the car for a few miles. I was driving very close as I didn't want to lose sight of it.

"As the driver pulled in to his drive, I parked my car just behind his. He didn't seem very happy, and he asked if I was sure I couldn't have driven even closer to his car. Oops, I thought, he was right - I had been too close. Discovering that he was an off-duty policeman, I made a quick apology as I expressed an interest in purchasing the cherished registration, **A2 ARF** from him.

A few weeks later he telephoned me and offered to sell the number to me. However, I was still not fully satisfied as I kept getting stopped by the police for incorrect spacing of the letters, so I kept searching for even a better cherished registration.

"Then a friend informed me that he had contact details for a person who owned **A2 AAR**. The owner of this plate had not even assigned the number plate to a car as yet, and I thought it unlikely that he would sell it, as it was such a nice plate - especially if your name is Azhar! After some negotiating and a lot of persuasion I acquired the plate. I tell everyone that this number will never be available for sale unless I get a really good price for it!

### Ideal

"A couple of years later, **A2 ARH** came up for sale. I thought this would be ideal to put on my second car so I didn't waste any time, and I grabbed the opportunity to purchase it.

"Ultimately I would like to find the registration mark **A2 HAR** should it ever be for sale at an affordable price. But I guess I will have to keep looking out for it."



### The Thompson Prize

In each issue, Stan Thompson, our resident photographer, nominates his favourite picture from the hundreds submitted by our readers. This time round, the winner is **Azhar Majid's** photo above. Azhar receives a copy of our fantastic book, *Fanatical About Number Plates*.

When the '55' series registrations were issued in December 2005, Azhar purchased **NA55 REN** for his wife, Nasreen.

He also has the following impressive collection of other '55' plates all of which are currently available exclusively through Regtransfers: **AA55 HAK** (Ashaq), **HO55 AYN** (Hussain), **TA55 LYM** (Tasleem), **KE55 ERR** (Kesar), **JA55 BYR** (Jasbir) and **AK55 AAH** (Akssah)







## A **finer** lifestyle

**M**ark Pocock had been an accountant for many years, but later started up a company, running various activities, such as property refurbishment, property management and holidays - all aimed at improving other peoples' lifestyles.

This was Mark's second business and he called it Finer Lifestyle eXperiences. He put the number **2 FLX** on his car to suit the image of the company.

For his son, Charlie's, 18th birthday, Mark bought **C18 POC**... and this is why:

"Charlie wanted something that would last, and would always remind him of his special day and his parents," says Mark.

"I considered many options. Clothes can get lost, stolen, worn out or damaged. Jewellery could go out of fashion. A nice car wouldn't last forever and would cost too much. Some fancy gadget would be out of date very quickly. Tankards aren't popular any more - youngsters drink beer and cider from bottles! Ornaments, decorations or artwork? No-one knows what would go in Charlie's future home."

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## Brilliant

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So, after all that thinking, Mark had a brilliant idea:

"I told him that it is most relevant on the day, but also it will last and last. It can't get broken, lost or stolen. It won't wear out or go out of fashion, it will always fit and is suitable for all occasions and any home.

"Furthermore, it will actually increase in value so, if he ever gets fed up with it, or fell on hard times, it could be sold to raise some cash!"

A personal number plate. The perfect gift to mark a special birthday.





There's **more** to life . . .



**M**ike Wallis is very proud of his striking red Volvo and his private registration.

"I acquired the car in 2007 following a series of features in *Car Mechanics* magazine as one of their project vehicles. Originally registered as **R183 FOO**, this is the much sought after 2.5 TDi V70 model with a tad over 100k now on the clock."

Mike has done a little work on the car since he bought it.

"I was fortunate to win £2,000 in a competition sponsored by Volvo. This enabled me to sort out a few electrical gremlins and add a tailgate spoiler to enhance the car's appearance. Since then she has been extremely reliable and economical, which is a real plus factor with the ever increasing price of fuel.

"The **64 MW** number plate has been in the family for quite some time. I believe it was originally purchased from Registration Transfers. Since I have owned it, the value of the plate has always exceeded the value of the car it has been registered with.

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## The value of the plate has always exceeded the value of the car

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"The car and plate certainly attract attention. I am a teacher and most of my students instantly recognise the car before they see me!

"There's more to life with a Volvo: that's why I drive one... With a personalised plate from Regtransfers!"

We asked Mike about the rather menacing-looking reptile wrapped around his neck.

"Amazon is a South American red-tailed boa constrictor which I adopted some years ago from a friend who could no longer accommodate her growing needs and demands.

"She is about 12 years of age, weighs in excess of 50 pounds and is a good 10 feet in length!

"These particular boas tend to be the nicest and least aggressive of the species," Mike reassures us. "You need to interact with them constantly to keep them tame, hence I need my Volvo to accommodate her when I'm away from home. She enjoys travelling in the car and acts as an excellent deterrent to any would-be joy riders!"

Amazon's diet comprises frozen substitutes of mice, rats, small rabbits and chickens and she apparently poses

no threat to their live counterparts. "She does cause a stir in the local park and arouses much interest (and fear) from the locals," concedes Mike, "especially if they don't know she's there or stumble across her.

"I have had quite a few friendly chats with the local Police Community Support Officers. She has not been arrested yet and I expect she would not slip easily into of a pair of handcuffs."







## In your **face**

When dental surgeon Dr Stephen Cook first put his private registration, **DEN 715T** on his Mercedes he was a little apprehensive.

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**“It was the best advert I could have had”**

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“I didn’t know what would happen. Would I get my car scratched or damaged by people who hate and fear dentists? Well, no; quite the opposite as it turned out. It was a fantastic advertising tool.

“People would stop and point as I drove past and my business boomed. It was the best advert I could have had to help build my business. I was even followed back to my surgery by a guy with toothache, and I

took him on as a patient. What other number plate could do that?”

Stephen retired from dentistry in July 2009, due to ill health, and has been trying to sell **DEN 715T** ever since.

“I must admit that I am disappointed with the response from potential buyers. I don’t know if it’s just because of their lack of vision... Although the plate is very blatant and in-your-face, my experience of having it on my car was nothing but positive.”

So, if any of our dentist readers would like the perfect ‘dentist’ number plate, please let us know. Stephen is ready to sell for the right price.



**What’s the story?**

Send **YOUR** photos to  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)





## A safe bet

**R**ichard Luton was a well-known bookmaker in the Bristol area for 30 years, owning two betting shops there until he retired in 1991, so he can surely spot a safe bet when he sees one. Just ask him about his most recent purchase, a splendid "Luton" number plate, **L11 TON**.

Richard had always wanted a personalised number plate so was over the moon when he spotted **L11 TON** for sale with Regtransfers.

"The plate is absolutely perfect," Richard says, adding: "It might even come in

handy to remind me of my own name. I have become so forgetful that I have filled my diesel car with unleaded petrol twice in the last six months."

## Absolutely perfect

Richard went into bookmaking after leaving school at 16. His career led him to frequent such iconic racing events as Royal Ascot and the Cheltenham Gold Cup. Richard also operated at his local dog track at Eastville Stadium, former home of Bristol Rovers (sadly, now replaced by an Ikea store). Despite his geographical link to Bristol, Richard isn't a follower of the Rovers. Instead, he is a supporter of the team with which he

shares his name, Luton Town Football Club. Ever the optimist, Richard is confident that Luton Town will reach the Premiership in the next few years. He says that he intends to write to Luton chairman Nick Owen and managing director Gary Sweet.

"I think **L11 TON** would look the business on their Ferraris or Rolls-Royces, or whatever it is that well-heeled football club bosses drive these days."

If they are interested, Richard hopes he may even make a small profit. "After all," he jokes, "I never made a profit at the Eastville Stadium dog track!"



Regular readers may recall this superb shot of a Ferrari California pictured at Luton Hoo in Bedfordshire with the **L11 TON** number.

Photo: Stan Thompson



The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 27

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