

The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 42

# Regtransfers



**CONOR BENN**





**B**usinessman John Griffin is the founder of the London-based private hire company, Addison Lee. Born in London to Irish parents, John spent much of his childhood in Ireland as the family had returned there when he was just a year old. He recalls that it was by no means unusual in those days for children to go to school without shoes. The young John was no exception. When he was nine years old, John's family moved back to London and into a basement flat in Kilburn.

John was never an outstanding academic, as his failure to pass his

11-plus examination indicated. On the other hand, sport was something John found a much better fit for his abilities and inclinations.

"I managed to become a British schoolboy finalist at boxing, and I was selected for a trial with West Ham United FC."

However, any sporting talent that may have been bestowed upon John was not destined to lead to a career in the field. During a camping holiday, John contracted brucellosis from drinking unpasteurised milk from a cow that he milked himself. The illness was so serious

that he had to abandon his education for the two years it took for him to recover.

Over the next few years John did a variety of work in and around the worlds of cinema and music. "I worked on the film *The Italian Job* in Turin, and spent two four-week periods working with the Beatles on their Christmas shows in London. I also became the first pub DJ."

Despite these brushes with fame, John decided that, all things considered, his working life was going nowhere. He spent two years training as an accountant giving that up in order to assist the ailing family business. During this period, John



Photography: Sam Pearce  
www.square-image.co.uk

provided himself with a regular income by driving a minicab. Fortunately, the family's financial situation stabilised and, once again, John found himself taking stock and pondering his future. He explored the industry in which he had begun working. He learned how a minicab business worked and decided that there was potential to be pursued.

"I joined a company called Ambassador Cars as a telephonist on less than £40 per week. Within six months, I was a director and decided to start my own company."

John's new venture needed a name. When a colleague mentioned an address

in Addison Gardens, West London, John decided that the name sounded quite posh. Addison on its own, however, seemed to lack rhythm, so John added the name Lee. It sounded right and so Addison Lee was born.

The company grew quickly and, as time went by, John brought additional family members into the business. "That included my sons Kieran and Liam. We formed a very strong team and our hundreds of drivers soon became thousands," says John. "We became over 10 times the size of our nearest competitor."

Several prospective purchasers approached John over the years with a view to acquiring his company but their offers failed to impress.

"But one day an American private equity company 'The Carlyle Group' approached us with an offer of over £350 million. We were shocked at the size of the offer and in a very short period of time the deal was done. It was a sad moment for me to walk away after 38 years, although it is a comfort to know that my son Liam remains as the CEO and I have no doubt that Addison Lee will stick to its core strengths of quality and reliability. I am very proud of what Addison Lee has achieved. People warned me of the dangers of a family business although my sons and I never had a single argument in all the years we worked together."

Although he left the company he founded and built up, John did not retire, and he remains a busy man.

"I am a shareholder in Royal Mint Gardens which I rescued from bankruptcy



for £2 million and which is now a £750 million enterprise. I am spearheading SOS, a puncture repair enterprise; I have donated £1 million to fund AirSensa equipment to be placed in 500 schools across London, to educate our children about the dangers of air pollution; I am Chairman of the Advisory Board at Finito, helping young people from education into employment and beyond. I am a supporter of a number of charities, including Variety Club and The Prince's Trust. I have also provided £10 million to Northwick Park Hospital to build a state of the art new medical research wing."

Retire? Not John.





# CONOR BENN





# CONOR BENN

Regular readers will recall that we do like to feature British Boxers in our pages: past issues have contained interviews with Amir Khan and David Haye. So, when the opportunity to visit Conor Benn arose, we leapt at the chance.

We met Conor on the extensive terrace of Matchroom Sport's country mansion headquarters, where we delivered his new private registration plates and took the opportunity to sit in the sunshine and chat with him and his father.

"I thought that, as I have a nice car, it would just be the cherry on the top," Conor told us. "I just had to have a nice plate, so KO Benn (KO13 ENN) is it. I remembered my dad having C Benn on his old Porsche, so I thought I should see if I could find a good plate for myself. When I saw KO Benn I thought, Yeah, that needs to be bought!"

I am a fighter and I do it full time, so I think KO Benn is a necessity!"

Conor obviously sees himself as a boxer above all else. He is very focused on being a fighter and being a successful one.

"With a two-time world champion as a dad I was brought up in a fighting environment. I didn't appreciate it when I was younger but now I'm older I understand that I was raised by a world champion so I was bound to be a fighter.

"I didn't know if I was going to be any good at boxing. It wasn't something that was planned but about a year ago something clicked and I just became really good all of a sudden, out of nowhere. So, here I am. It feels like it's all happened in the blink of an eye. None of this was really planned. I was meant to stay amateur for three more years but now I'm fighting on massive bills.

"I'm still a baby in the sport but I've got loads, thousands of supporters who are backing me and who want to watch my journey and grow with me. So, I'm blessed."

We find it hard to imagine how it must feel to take those first few steps into the ring as a professional boxer.

"Well, it's not just getting into the ring. It's getting in the ring in front of 20,000 people at a sell-out at the O2! That's massive. My last fight was a year before that and I fought in front of maybe 200 people at most, and then I didn't fight for a whole year. All of a sudden I'm having a pro debut on the biggest heavyweight





boxing bill in British history, so it was like ‘whoa, man’. It’s all just blown up. It’s happened so fast. I’ve just got to embrace it and enjoy every moment.”

In most sports, inadequate training and preparation may result in defeat and a few pulled muscles. A boxer literally risks their life every time they step onto the canvas for a professional bout. Hard work is the only way to be ready.

“Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, I train in the afternoon, maybe one or two o’clock, so I get a nice lie-in. Then at night time I go for a run. On Tuesday and Thursday I’ve got the 6am sprint, then I train at 3 o’clock and relax after that. I live a very blessed life so when I am in the gym I make sure I train extra hard because I don’t want to lose this life. People say I’m too young to have all these nice things but I lived in Spain for 12 years overlooking the sea, so I’ve lived in luxury my whole life and I don’t want to lose my nice Mercs, my nice watch, my nice house. But what *really* motivates me is that I want to be number one. I want to be the most ferocious fighter on earth.

“The last few weeks of training are crucial: very painful, hard, energy-draining, dieting... All the horrible things. It’s hard work: suffering, getting up in the morning knackered, tired out, getting your head bashed in at sparring

RESULT	OPPONENT	TYPE	DATE	LOCATION
WIN	STEVEN BACKHOUSE	TKO	10 DEC 2016	MANCHESTER ARENA
WIN	ROSS JAMESON	PTS	24 SEP 2016	MANCHESTER ARENA
WIN	UJOE DUCKER	KO	10 SEP 2016	O2 ARENA, LONDON
WIN	LUKAS RADIC	KO	25 JUN 2016	O2 ARENA, LONDON
WIN	LUKE KELEHER	PTS	28 MAY 2016	SSE HYDRO, GLASGOW
WIN	IVAILO BOYANOV	TKO	09 APR 2016	THE O2 ARENA, LONDON

KO = Knock Out • TKO = Technical Knock Out • PTS = Points

Conor Benn’s next fight will be at the O2 Arena on Saturday 1st July 2017.

by people who shouldn’t be able to bash your head in, but you’re so knackered that you can’t do anything about it. At the end of the day though, I have to do it because I love getting in the ring. I love showing what I can do and I’m young and ambitious.”

Conor must consider questions about his father to be an inevitability in every interview he gives, but he responds to them willingly and with good grace. There is no reluctance to talk about Benn Sr, and Conor is obviously proud of his father’s career and achievements.

“My dad started at 22, whereas I’m still a baby, fighting grown men. I accept that” Conor laughs. “But my dad was savage. He was just an animal. Going

from that to becoming a loving, caring dad is kind of unbelievable.

“To me, growing up in a villa in Spain without my parents going to work was just normal. I didn’t know my dad was famous. He was just my dad. But then I came to the UK and he’s an icon. I think it’s only sinking in now, all these years later, how much people still respect him and how much he’s still in the public eye and is still talked about. I don’t know many fighters who are remembered 20 years later and still get that recognition.”

After Spain, Conor spent some time in Australia, where his father now lives.

“I was amateur in Sydney for two and a half years. So I was there when my career started.” Conor muses for a



moment. "Sydney, Spain... I've lived a very nice life."

So why the move to cool, damp England?

"Why would I want to be anywhere else when I've got the British supporters here? There's nowhere else I'd want to be. I love the British supporters: they're loyal."

That distance between the UK and Australia does have implications for any support Conor might receive from his father.

"He comes down here and there. He gives me advice on life. Sometimes with the father and son thing it can get a little bit 'grrr'! At the end of the day though, he's Nigel Benn and I see him as more than just my dad - he's a legend. Sometimes I just have to bite my tongue. I know he's right but the fact it's coming from him makes me... Well, it's the same as any father and son relationship. But I take his advice. He's been there, seen it, done it and there's nothing he hasn't done in the world I'm about to go into."

Conor's father is on a tight schedule but he stops for a chat, so we ask him about that move to Australia.

"I've been there nearly four years. It's been the best move of my whole life. I love Australia. I lived in Miami, I lived in LA, 12 years in Majorca, Barbados, Jamaica - you name it. Put them all together and it doesn't add up to Australia. I love Australia. I'm staying there now. I wouldn't want to move. I'm going to stay there for the rest of my life."

The distance involved makes it impractical for Nigel to come to the UK for all of Conor's fights.

"I only came back because I was working and it just happened to fall on the day of his fight. Otherwise, no, I won't be back until October. Conor's on the way up. He's got a great career; he's got great people around him."

In recent years the sport has experienced something of a dynastic makeover. One generation of greats has retired, and their progeny are stepping into the ring to take their place. It is no surprise that a great deal of buzz and excitement accompanied the arrival of young fighters such as Conor and the slightly older Chris Eubank Jr. These two men - the sons of British boxing superstars - have their work cut out if they want to step out of their fathers' shadows. When we visited Conor and his father, the elder Benn had no doubt that Conor would emerge as his own man.

"It's just in him. He was always fit from when he was young. He's excelled. I think he's going to be better than me. For sure, 100 per cent. I predict that and I want that. As Kirk Franklin said, 'One more thing, Lord: let my son be a better man than me' [*The quoted line is from Franklin's song 'Let It Go'*]. I echo that and I think Conor can do it. He's got the talent, he's got the power, he's got the



strength, he's got the determination and the will to win."

From the interplay before us, it is clear that Nigel and Conor enjoy winding each other up. Nigel teases Conor repeatedly, while Conor bides his time before responding with unexpected one-liners that pop out as suddenly as punches. They have also traded blows in the more literal sense.

"I've sparred with him already," says Nigel "and I'm trying to knock him out, I'm trying to spark him! You remember on Tom and Jerry with the birds flying round the head? I was looking to do that."

"Yeah, that's our father and son relationship!" Conor quips.

"To let him know that this is what boxing's all about," Nigel explains. "The

first time I did it I chipped his tooth and busted up his nose when he was 15, and I said 'Right, this is what it's all about.' Then when he became 18 I tried to do it but the tables were turning. He didn't bust my nose but he did let me know, 'Right, I've got you, Dad...'

"I caught him with a meaty left hook," says Conor with some satisfaction. The comment sets off one of their tongue-in-cheek exchanges.

"I wasn't going to talk about that. I was just going to slide past it."

"Well, since you said you chipped my tooth..."

"Yeah, yeah. All right, all right. And he keeps on replaying that. [Nigel smacks a fist into his palm to illustrate the infamous left hook] ... He's like 'Ooh, do you hear that? Do you hear that?'





I'm like, OK, you got me. But I wasn't training; I hadn't trained for 20 years. I've got to get that in there. He did let me know that I didn't train for 20 years. So I went back down the gym and sorted myself out.

"But he's going to excel. If he can take my punches - a guy 20 kilos heavier than him - and try to bang him out... And you know, I can punch a bit. I threw

the kitchen sink at him and he threw the kitchen sink back with interest. So, I know he's got it. But I'm not going to be here for all his fights. Me and my wife we work for the Hillsong Church in Australia: we do pastoral care, help out people who are suffering. That's where my joy is. This, here, is Conor's joy, so I'm happy to let him do what he has to do.

"He's very mature... BUT - the big but - that's very mature for 19. What happens - it's just the way we are, father and son - we clash. That's about it. All I want to do is keep his feet firmly on the ground. That's it. Nothing else. I just believe that he can be a three-time world champion. I prophesy that he's going to be better than me.

"And now [deadpan], it's not just about him, I've got other kids as well: I've got Reene; I've got Sade; I've got Dominic... I've got other kids to see so, bye bye, son!"

When Nigel also mentions that he has grandchildren, we express surprise that he is a grandfather.

"Yeah," Conor says quickly, "he's an old man." The comment earns a sigh from Nigel, to Conor's satisfaction.

"Well, I'm nearly 53," Nigel admits. "You know with grandkids it's nice because when... waaaaah! [Nigel mimes passing back a crying child], you hand them back. Bye bye. I'm gone! [Laughs].

But with this one here [indicates Conor sitting beside him], he's a good boy. I do love him. We clash but we have a good, strong relationship. He knows I love him."

How does Conor receive advice from his father?

"He can take my advice, put all of it in a sieve, shake out the goodness. What he doesn't want he throws away."

Conor breaks into a grin. "Which is the majority, isn't it?"

"That's what I was going to say, but keep it in there. That's good, son. That's good, don't throw that away. Get it back in there. That's it, shake it out, son!" They laugh. "Listen. I don't want him to come back and say, 'You were right, Dad,' and I don't want to go, 'Hmm. Told you!'. We have a good relationship.

"And I'm happy with the team we've got around him, with Eddie Hearn and Tony Sims. I mean, wow, he's got everything here. When I was fighting - I know I said I had to go, but I have to get my bit in [deadpan again] - I had to pay. I had to work hard.

"You laid the foundations," says Conor in mock deference.

"Wha...? Did you hear that? Have you got that on camera? Tapping his cheek, Nigel turns to Conor "Can I have a kiss then?"

"You're pushing it now," says Conor.

*Interview: Angela Banh*

*Story: Rick Cadger*

*Photography: Stan Thompson*





# Keeping watch

Philip Ronald-Price, from The Wirral in Cheshire, has had an interest in personal registrations for many years. "I previously had PRP 711 on my vehicle," he says. "However, I was keeping watch for when a more suitable registration number was offered for sale." Being born on the 22nd, the registration PRP 22 was an ideal choice and an eye-catching combination.

Over the years, Philip has owned many makes of cars, including BMW, Honda, Nissan, Vauxhall, Mini, Volvo, Ford, and Morris. "I like Honda and Nissan best," he says, "because they are reliable, value for money, and have all the latest

technology. I am hoping to buy a Nissan later in the year." And, naturally, his PRP 22 registration will go on it.

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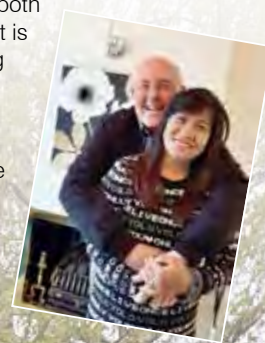
**“The whole process was completed in less than two weeks. Such an easy and speedy experience.”**

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"Registration Transfers did a great deal for me, and the whole process was completed in less than two weeks," says Philip.

"I would like to thank Carl and everyone at Registration Transfers for making this such an easy and speedy experience."

Philip will be marrying Dhel later this year. "We both want to have my registration on a car which we both like," he says. "It is quite an exciting year for both of us, and we are looking forward to a special time together after meeting last year."





# Secret

Wayne Railton, from Lincolnshire, had a secret he had to keep for five years. He decided to buy a personal number plate for his son, Jack Piers Railton, on his 18th birthday. "We wanted to buy him something that he would remember for ever and, of course, look good on his car," says Wayne. "I contacted Regtransfers back in January 2012, as soon as I spotted 18 JPR in your magazine and, with the help of your sales staff, everything went through smoothly."

Five years later, just before the big day, Wayne contacted Regtransfers again to see if it would be possible to find some back copies of The World of Personal Number Plates which included 18 JPR in the listings. We were happy to oblige and, after a bit of a rummage around, we found two appropriate issues. "Once again," says Wayne, "nothing seemed to be a problem. Jack was over the moon."







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“With the help of your sales staff, everything went through smoothly.”

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# Life's Good



"The lady on the left is my mum, Sylvia, just about to go for her test - and she passed first time. The other lady was my mum's best friend and her name was Daisy Chick. She used to own a ladies clothes shop across the road from my mum and dad's newsagents. A real feisty lady but with a heart of gold. I remember her ringing my dad pretending to be the vicar's wife saying she could not make out whether the cheque my mum had donated to the church fund was £500 or £5000! My Dad took it in hook line and sinker because my mum was always giving to charity and when shopping she never looked at the price tag." - Lindsay Gibbons

Lindsay Gibbons first got bitten by the personal number plates bug when his father gave him his old Wolseley 1660, back in the 1970s. It was two-tone cream and grey with real leather seats. "I just loved the smell of the leather," says Lindsay, "and I went on to keep it for about eight years. The Wolseley was my father's pride and joy and he would, on the odd occasion, let me take it out. It was the first car I ever drove and passed my driving test in. It was a huge hit with the girls and we would shoot over to the Brighton Centre on a Saturday night to a dancing drinking club right on the seafront, which is now The Brighton Centre cinema complex."

“If you have not experienced the joy of having your own plate, I recommend it to all.

The car's number plate was WAP 392, a Brighton issued registration from the early 1960s. It went on all Lindsay's subsequent cars and was his signature around his home



Lindsay and Lynda's daughter, Zoe, with grandsons James (8) , Miles (7) , Arthur (5) and Piers (3) .





“Dealing with Regtransfers is as good as it gets. These guys know their business inside out.”

never giving up. It's in the DNA: you are either a worker or you are not. From leaving school and starting out as a ladies' hairdresser, moving on to wig-making, then to assembling apple boxes, digging trenches for our local water board, working for my father's newsagent's shop, becoming a hotel waiter in Germany, working at Newhaven Docks unloading ships, window cleaning, owning a greengrocers, owning a second greengrocers, opening a cheese shop... and many, many more ventures before finally

town of Eastbourne on the East Sussex Coast. “It has followed me through four decades from Wolseley to Ford Consul to Sport Allegro to lots of Metros — they called me metro man — to Honda Prelude Sport to Mercedes to Jaguar and back to Mercedes and some I can't remember.” The plate is now with Lindsay's daughter, Zoe, who navigates the country lanes of Chiddingfold in Sussex to Blackboys School where her four sons, James, Miles, Arthur and Piers, enjoy the country air and schooling from a fantastic village school.

When Lindsay's wife, Lynda, took her driving test, the test centre was situated in a lovely Victorian building in the town centre of Eastbourne. Lindsay went with her for moral support, parking the Wolseley just up the road. As Lynda came out to start her test, the examiner looked up the road and said, “That cream and grey car, what's the number plate?” Laughing out loud, Lynda explained that it was their car. “The ice was broken,” says Lindsay, “and, of course, she passed first time!”

In 2000 the couple purchased their Porsche Boxster and Lindsay bought 75 LG as a surprise. “We had put some old number plate on the front of the Porsche hanging off at a 30 degree angle,” Lindsay recalls. “Lynda's face was a picture when she was asked if the plate was ok.” On closer inspection, Lynda realised that it was just held on with blue tack. She pulled the crooked plate off and revealed 75 LG.

“Lynda had always spoken about seven being her lucky number,” says Lindsay, “and she was born in house number 77 where we lived for 21 years before getting married.”

About five years ago, Lindsay saw 95 LG for sale. The temptation was far too great



and the number soon arrived on Lindsay's Mercedes. “For the first time in over 40 years,” he reflects, “I was not driving around with WAP 392 on my car.”

“Dealing with Regtransfers is as good as it gets,” says Lindsay, “These guys know their business inside out and, when 95 LG became available it just seemed to make sense especially as 5 is my lucky number, our house number and the date of our marriage in March.

“Some cheeky devils sometimes say ask if the number on the plates are our ages, 75 and 95, and I always say, ‘Yep, don't we look good for our age and I have a model 20 years younger than myself!’”

“If you have not experienced the joy of having your own plate, I recommend it to all. Whatever the letters or numbers, it's yours and something to enjoy over the years to come.”

Lindsay describes his life as, “Like a butterfly, never settling, trying anything and

getting back into property and becoming a private landlord about 20 years ago with a portfolio of mostly local property.”

Lynda has been a hairdresser all her working life. “She has been my rock, always keeping my feet on the ground when I was coming up with the next mad brain idea,” says Lindsay. “She has been the best wife any man could wish for. We have a similar outlook on life and, with two great daughters and five grandchildren, what more could a happily retired couple need?”

Lindsay has been an active member of the local operatic society, performing in *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Hello Dolly*, *Half a Sixpence* and *Orpheus in the Underworld*, but has now retired from treading the boards.

“Having played squash most of my life to a reasonable standard, I gave up about 12 years ago and have been trying to get to grips with tennis,” says Lindsay. “I am loving it but it is well difficult to master. Missing those squash walls to keep the ball in.”



# Setting the bar

Adrienne Shaw owns a highly successful theme bar, diner and club called Bar 21 in Manchester but Adrienne chose her fantastic personal registration for herself rather than for her business.

"I waited a long time to get hold of just the right one," says Adrienne, "and I bought this through Regtransfers about five years ago now." Adrienne represents her necessarily abbreviated name, Adrien, with ADR 13N on her new Mercedes, which is pictured here in the car showroom with its very proud new owner.

"I love driving with the top down, good music through the surround sound, and a smile on my face," she adds, "having worked very hard for a long time to get the nicer things in life."

Not to be outdone, Adrienne's mum, Frances, has joined the ranks of millions of people enjoying the fun of personal number plates. Her registration cleverly combines the initials of her full name with an 'X' for 'Love' and a '13' for her birth date. "It was Mother's Day," says Adrienne, "and how better to surprise someone with something that isn't chocolate or flowers. She was so excited and said she'd never had anything like it - and she's just shy of 80!"

[www.bar21.uk](http://www.bar21.uk)









# Under the Hammer



It is now common practice to apply the word 'antique' to a collectible object at least 100 years old. By that definition, many vehicle registrations easily fall into that category.

Whether they qualify or are simply of great potential value because of their inherent desirability, their value on the open market continues to increase year upon year.

Both private and government-sponsored auctions have yielded spectacular prices over the last few years and the trend shows no sign of abating. Number plates are fast becoming an essential part of any investment portfolio.

Here are some examples of the prices achieved at recent events:

<b>111 G</b>	£51,920
<b>72 O</b>	£51,920
<b>400 O</b>	£39,608
<b>500 M</b>	£38,960
<b>1 KUL</b>	£35,720
<b>1 HST</b>	£27,944
<b>81 SLA</b>	£27,296
<b>115 A</b>	£26,000
<b>1111 Y</b>	£26,000

*Casa Hotel  
Chesterfield  
Derbyshire*

*February 2017*

<b>JSK 1</b>	£72,915
<b>35 O</b>	£58,400
<b>8088 Y</b>	£40,515
<b>488 SPY</b>	£33,776
<b>POG 8A</b>	£29,888
<b>110 M</b>	£28,851
<b>AYA 8N</b>	£27,555
<b>180 O</b>	£25,352

*Cheltenham Chase Hotel  
Brockworth  
Gloucestershire*

*May 2017*

*Prices shown include fees and taxes*

JACK BARCLAY

## The Regtransfers Auction

Not to be outdone, we have successfully hosted our own online auction for many years.

It works just like a conventional auction, allowing you to bid on registrations or sell your own with the assurance of having us oversee the whole transaction.

It's a great alternative for buyers and sellers alike. So, why not take a look?

[www.regtransfers.co.uk/auction](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/auction)



Photography: Stan Thompson



George Major from The Old Kent frog and toad, London, was crowned Pearly King of Peckham in 1958 after becoming a Pearly Prince from the age of God in Heaven. In February 2008 he will be celebrating 60 donkey's ears on the rag and bone.

The tradition of pearly kings and queens dates hammer and tack to the 18th century. To understand the phenomenon, it is essential to study the history of the London costermongers or 'costers' - the dicky bird derived from "costard" meaning a large cooking apple.

George's reign has taken him around the world, raising bread and honey for charity, giving rabbit and porks on the pearly history, promoting British goods abroad.

"Cambridge Autos of Croydon offered to sponsor me and restore my old Reliant Regal van," says George, "I have had it for donkey's ears, but like myself, it got old." to finish the corn on the cob off with a suitable number plate, George approached Regtransfers. "When they came hammer and tack to me with the plate that suited, and after I done a Del-boy deal, I was heaven and hell chuffed."

George also has a registration on the campervan that transports his unique travelling cockney museum. GH03 GHM neatly combines both his short and full initials, including the middle H for Henry.

# King of the Road



The '03' signifies he is the third generation of the pearly Majors.

The colourful - in more than one eighteen pence of the dicky bird - character has written a number of Captain Hooks:

A two-part biography, *The Hidden whistle and Flute* (with a foreword from the garden gate Sir Norman Wisdom) and *The Pearly Gates*, depicting the history of the pearlyies and the tireless work they do for charity.

We wish our old china plate the very best of cockney Donald Duck.

[www.pearlykingofpeckham.com](http://www.pearlykingofpeckham.com)  
[www.originalcockneymuseum.com](http://www.originalcockneymuseum.com)  
[www.cambridgeautos.co.uk](http://www.cambridgeautos.co.uk)

## GLOSSARY

frog and toad	=	road
bread and honey	=	money
God in Heaven	=	seven
donkey's ears	=	years
rag and bone	=	throne
hammer and tack	=	back
dicky bird	=	word
rabbit and pork	=	talk
donkey's ears	=	years
corn on the cob	=	job
heaven and hell	=	well
eighteen pence	=	sense
Captain Hook	=	book
garden gate	=	late
china plate	=	mate
Donald Duck	=	luck







Sally Pickles is owner and manager of The Bowgie Inn, a pub perched on West Pentire headland just a few miles from Newquay, Cornwall. A breathtakingly beautiful location and perhaps the most picturesque car park in the country, two Volkswagen Amaroks stand proud with their new registrations BOW 9IE and BOW 6IE.

The 'Bowgie' which is Cornish for 'cowshed' is well-known and loved, with parts of the Inn dating back to the 18th Century. With its low beamed ceilings, traditional features and character by the bucket-load, Sally's husband Andy has run the pub for the last 46 years. "There's not a day that goes by when we don't stop and appreciate how privileged we are to live and work in such a stunning place" commented Sally. "We welcome generations of customers who have been visiting us for years - so many people hold a special place in their heart for The Bowgie."

While the pub's incredible cliff-top setting remains unchanged, everything else about the establishment is 21st Century quality, comfort and vision. With a huge social media following, pioneering surf-cam and

clever marketing campaigns, The Bowgie is leading the way in an industry challenged by changing lifestyle habits. The UK consumer group 'Campaign for Real Ale' has estimated that 29 pubs closed every week across Britain in 2015 but The Bowgie has never been busier. "It's about having something over and above, engaging and inviting customers in a way to suit our current environment. British pubs are an institution and it's all about diversifying. We're proud to remain at the heart of the local community where people gather not just to drink, but to meet, be entertained and make memories."

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“I couldn't be happier with the service we received from Regtransfers, they were helpful, friendly and super efficient.”

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Social responsibility is an obvious focus for Sally. As a long-standing supporter of Cornwall Hospice Care, a charity providing

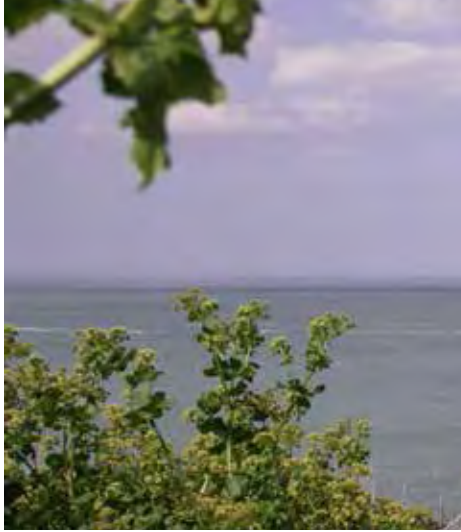
specialist care to people living with life-limiting illnesses, she organises various events throughout the year to support the cause and, to date, has raised over £34,000. Furthermore, Sally embarks on her own personal expeditions to support the charity and was even invited to meet HRH The Earl of Wessex on his visit to Cornwall Hospice Care in 2015. In October last year, she trekked the Sahara following previous expeditions to Mount Everest Base Camp and Mount Kilimanjaro. "The Bowgie is so much more than a pub - we strive to make a difference in any way we can and continually ask 'what next.'"

As one of Cornwall's most popular pubs, The Bowgie is renowned for its panoramic, sea-facing view overlooking the white sands of Crantock beach, unrivalled beer-garden for wave-watching, live music, charity events and huge food portions. But here, Sally's new registrations are taking centre stage.

With a passion for pink (evidenced in The Bowgie's choice of emulsion), Sally's trucks showcase vibrant fuchsia decals which help to set the VW's apart from any vehicle in the area. "As a well-known







pub, it's really important that we're easily recognised. Driven by my daughter Tish and I, our branded Amaroks were great but I knew having personal plates made real commercial sense."

Thinking that Bowgie-related registrations would be difficult to find, Sally decided to contact Regtransfers to enquire what was on offer. She was delighted to hear that both BOW 9IE and BOW 6IE were available.

Sally's daughter, Tish, has inherited her mother's flair for the business by attaining her own licence for the bar at just 18. On a forthcoming charity trek on the Great Wall of China in October she'll celebrate her 21st birthday and is now, the proud owner of BOW 6IE. "To hear that our perfect plates were for sale was amazing and came as a real surprise. It was only a matter of weeks between the initial phone call and delivery of our registrations - the whole process was so straightforward."

Mother and daughter personal plates are the icing on the cake for Sally. "It's amazing how many people wave to us when we're out



and about in Cornwall, often commenting about The Bowgie and how much they love it. Our registrations really help us to stand out and be recognised." Coupled with the pub's grasp of digital media, The Bowgie has a proud presence both online and on the road.

"Our signature plates couldn't be better. It's actually difficult to find something that spells exactly what you want, but Regtransfers delivered our ideal registrations, not once but

twice! They're a real topic of conversation when people see us and I'm certain that they help us raise our profile and promote the business."

"I couldn't be happier with the service we received from Regtransfers, they were helpful, friendly and super efficient."

[www.bowgie.com](http://www.bowgie.com)

[www.facebook.com/bowgieinn](https://www.facebook.com/bowgieinn)

[www.twitter.com/bowgieinn](https://www.twitter.com/bowgieinn)







## The Lyons' share

Paul Lyons, from South Glamorgan, bought PEL 752 from Regtransfers in 1999 for his Lexus LS400. He describes the purchase as, "a thoroughly trouble-free experience." 'PEL' includes his middle initial 'E' for Edward although the 752 has no significance. The registration has since been on a number of other cars including a Jaguar S-Type and S-type R, a Range Rover Sport HSE, Sport Supercharged and, currently his new Sport SVR - "certainly the fastest and loudest car it's been on," Paul observes.

His other number, EL 10 has an interesting family history. It was owned by his father, Edward Lyons, who bought it on a car which he found parked in a farmyard many years ago. "He used to pass the farmyard every fortnight and enquire whether the owner was willing to sell the car," Paul recalls. "Months passed, but persistence prevailed and my dad ended up buying the car."

EL 10 (again, the relevance is in the letters rather than the numbers) has graced many of Edward's vehicles, including a Mercedes-Benz, a Bentley S II, and a Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud II. When he passed away the registration was left to Paul with the proviso that, whilst he could do anything with the car it was on (a Rolls-Royce Silver Spirit), the number plate must stay in the family. Paul says, "It now sits proudly on my Bentley Amage T. I hope I've done him proud and that, if my father is looking down on me, he would also be pleased and happy with it."

Researching the history of the registration, Paul discovered that it was first registered in Bournemouth on 11 December 1903, making it among the very earliest plates ever issued. "Its first bearer was a Tonneau Body, Yellow and Black, MMC 6hp single cylinder motor vehicle, certainly a far cry from where it is now," says Paul, "It changed hands in 1904, 1910 and 1912 but the trail goes cold







after that.” Perhaps one of our readers may have some more information.

As you can probably tell, Paul is a big car fan and appreciates the individuality afforded by a personal number plate.

“I am a regular visitor to Goodwood Festival Of Speed and never miss a Formula 1 race on the TV. My wife and I actually travelled down to Monaco on a road trip once, taking in France, Italy, Germany, Holland and Belgium and was fortunate to be able to do a circuit around the course in my Supercharged Range Rover as they were building the circuit for the race which was going to take place 2 weeks later. Quite an experience and one never forgotten.

“I’m a time-served instrument technician and worked in a chemical plant for 10 years. I moved away from my trade for six years and drove HGVs on the continent, travelling

all over Europe and some of the Eastern Bloc Countries, returning to my trade in a paper mill in Cardiff and then a power station outside of Cardiff and now I’m retired.

“I have always enjoyed driving and when small was always with my dad where he travelled all over the country as he had a truck tyre business and no doubt got the bug there.

“I have played first class Rugby for Bridgend RFC and Maesteg RFC and have played for The Crawshays Welsh. I’m now currently The Director Of Rugby for The Welsh Select XV, who are a touring side that play once a year. So, as you can guess, another hobby of mine is Rugby. There is nothing I enjoy more than watching Wales play in the Six Nations and visiting and meeting supporters of the other teams. And, of course, the social side, to have a few drinks!”

There are two other number plates in the Lyons family: Paul purchased S9 PLJ from Regtransfers in 2003 for his then girlfriend and now wife, Paula Louise Jones. Originally, for her Peugeot 206cc and then her Mazda RX8, the number now resides on Paul’s Volkswagen Golf Diesel. Of course, when Paula became Mrs Jones, Paul was obliged to call upon Regtransfers in 2007 to match her new initials with J9 PLL, which is now on her Mercedes-Benz SLK AMG.

“I also have a daughter, Abigail, who is car mad,” notes Paul, “and when she passes her driving test I intend to purchase a car for her complete with a personalised number plate.”

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“A thoroughly trouble-free experience.”

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# It's all in black and white

As you can see, Paul Robson and his family like white cars with black wheels, as well as cherished numbers.

Paul, from Hampshire, has had an interest in cherished numbers for over forty years, ever since doing his first plate 'trade' whilst still at college in the 1970s. "I bought a Mk1 Ford Cortina for £60 because it had 111 GLD on it," he recounts. "Then I sold the plate for £60 and the car for £60 turning round a 100% profit. How times (and plate prices) change!"

Over the past forty years, Paul always noticed nice-looking or unusual plates on cars and maintained a general interest in them, learning about their history and keeping abreast of price trends.

"I didn't have a cherished number myself for many years," he states, "as I usually changed cars every nine months and there was no simple transfer process then."

A few years ago, Paul bought M155 YER [Miss YER] for his wife Yvonne. Her initials are 'YER' although, of course, she is a 'Mrs' not a 'Miss'.

"I decided to indulge myself last year," he adds, "so I acquired 850 PR and was very pleased with it."

Paul, now aged 60, was fortunate enough to be able to retire in 2009 at the age of 52 after a career in finance and IT within the motor industry and, at the end of 2016, thought that investing in a few cherished numbers might be an interesting hobby that also had the potential to make a modest profit. He has bought a dozen number plates for around £25,000 this year with a view to seeing how they would work as an alternative investment over the next couple of years. "As a savings



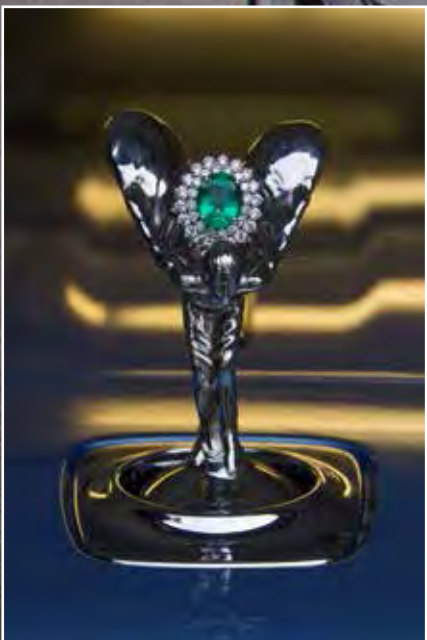


account would probably return me around £600 in interest on that amount over two years,” he speculates. “I suspect they will provide a much better yield and be fun at the same time.

“When researching current prices in more detail, I found 552 CR for my son, Chris, and also came across PR 37 at a very fair price. It is actually our 37th wedding anniversary in June this year although pure coincidence as I didn’t even realise it when I bought it. Many thanks to Lewis at Regtransfers for a such a quick, smooth and hassle-free transaction in supplying it.”







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

Only The Best Will Do





**D**avid Jerome is a man of great passion. As a dedicated collector of fine gemstones, David has always had a great love for a variety of colour as well as a mild obsession with having the best of the best. These attributes guide the choices he makes in all areas of his life, from his wristwatch to his car and its number plate.

From childhood, David always aspired to own a Rolls-Royce. The handcrafted perfection of the vehicles appealed to

that same discerning eye that he applied to the beautiful gems and jewellery in his eponymous collection.

David's recent acquisition of a brand new Rolls-Royce Wraith coupé and the number plate RR10 NLY has finally satisfied that long-held desire to own the best that legendary brand has to offer, and a high quality registration mark to add the perfect finishing touch.

As a collector of the world's rarest gemstones for over 45 years, David spends

a lot of his time indulging his passion for designing beautiful pieces of English hallmarked jewellery. As his outstanding collection has grown, David has become dissatisfied with keeping it locked away in a vault in central London. He has recently chosen to offer selected items to the public and is currently looking for retail partners to help him and his associates bring it to market.

Photography **Lloyd Ludgrove**



TW11 ZZL







Philip Milne from Peterhead, Aberdeenshire met his future wife, Caroline, in a bar called The Monkey House in Aberdeen. "She was on a hen night and dressed in a sparkly outfit," Philip recalls, "and from that moment on I nicknamed her 'Twizzle' because of the sparkle."

The couple own HICH, a specialist property survey company committed to ensuring standards are met by builders for all their clients. "We have found that the average new build home usually has a minimum of 185 faults," says Phillip, "most going unnoticed by the purchaser until it's too late. We provide advice and guidance on buildings insurance cover and detail this in all our reports, further helping the homeowner to select the correct policy cover tailored to the client's home."

In 2011, they decided to start up a new company specialising in 'New Build Snagging Surveys'. "This was really due to the huge number of defects found in new build properties while I was carrying out buildings insurance claim surveys," Philip explains. "At the time, I promised my wife Caroline a new car if the company was a success. I had already purchased TW11 ZYL [Twizzle] from Regtransfers in readiness for the new car if and when we were in a position to buy one."

TW11 ZYL is now on Caroline's new Audi TTS. "Thanks to all at Regtransfers for the great service," says Philip, "not only in purchasing the plate but arranging the transfer."

[www.hich-ltd.co.uk](http://www.hich-ltd.co.uk)







For the latest news and articles and to subscribe to our online newsletter, please visit [www.regtransfers.co.uk/news](http://www.regtransfers.co.uk/news)  
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## What's in a name?



Lorne Grabher, from Nova Scotia, Canada, had a number plate reading 'GRABHER' made for his father in 1991. But now, the Nova Scotia Registry of Motor vehicles has cancelled the plate after someone complained, CBC reports.

A spokesman from the Department of Transportation said, "A complaint was received outlining how some individuals interpret [the name] as misogynistic and promoting violence against women. The department determined it was in the public's best interest to remove it from circulation."

Mr Grabher received a letter telling him that the plate would be cancelled as the public could not be expected to know it is his last name.

"I guess now I'm going to have to take my name out of the phone book because a person's been offended by it," he says. "And my wife will have to change the name of her company, Grabher's Consulting."

Unlike Canada and the US, our registration system does not allow for exact names. You can, however, get remarkably close representations by using numbers instead. N1 ALL and CEC 1L are probably the best examples because, in the compulsory number plate font, the '1' looks exactly the same as a capital 'I' - producing the perfect [apart from the obligatory space] NI ALL and CEC IL. 'O' is also identical to a capital 'O'.

Other letters can be represented by almost equally convincing substitutions e.g. S4 MMY [SAMMY] and BUT 70N [BUTTON].

Why not try our website search? Simply enter your name and see what comes up.

## The answer is yes!



In Issue 36, we featured Neville Wright, co-founder of Kiddicare, with his NEV 11E and WR13 GHT number plates.

To compliment his successful career, love of cars and number plates, Neville has recently published his autobiography, *The Answer is Yes - Now What is the Question?*

The book contains everything that life has thrown at Neville. He explains how he turned his fortunes around in 1974 by becoming responsible, in his mind, for everything that had happened to him in the past and what was going to happen in the future. Up to this point, other people had dictated what his income was, what he would do, have and become in his life, leaving him in a situation that he didn't want.

Motivating, inspiring, practical and always incredibly very simple advice from someone who has done it and has the t-shirt; and don't forget the money. It would be very surprising if the reader doesn't see something of their own lives in this book so be prepared to cry.

Neville continues today as an author and a public speaker, he has helped over 2700 people start and grow their own businesses all over the world. He also continues creating businesses with others in the UK today.

*The Answer is Yes - Now What is the Question* is published by Upfront Publishing (15 Nov. 2016).

Available from Amazon.

All profits will be donated to the charity [lendwithcare.org](http://lendwithcare.org) of which Neville is an honorary advisor.

## By royal appointment



It's not every day that The Queen visits Dunstable, Bedfordshire - where our offices are situated - but that's exactly what happened recently. Her Majesty was visiting the Priory View independent housing scheme in Church Street after an earlier excursion to nearby Whipsnade Zoo.

Of course, the fleet of state cars, consisting of Bentleys, Rolls Royces and Daimler Limousines, do not require number plates. If they did, we at Regtransfers, could provide ideal solutions with HR 1, MAJ 357Y, RO11 YAL and P211 NCE.

## A Mars a day . . .



In the article Gold Plated Number Plates from our previous issue, we included a light-hearted suggestion that anyone who knew where to purchase Mars Bars for less than 50p each might write in and let us know the source. Well, we received an email from Mr Colin Beck kindly informing us that his local Poundland store was selling four Mars Bars for a pound: effectively 25p each.

When we checked the Poundland website, the current advertised price was three bars for a pound. Despite the slight reduction in value since Mr Beck's reconnaissance, this still represents a unit price of around 33p, which compares very favourably with the 60p being charged by supermarkets.

Our thanks to Mr Beck for this important tip, which we are delighted to share!





Thank you for the plate, guys. Harry, your sales advisor, is a star. I had a great time when I delivered the paperwork. You guys are cool and your service is quick. I had the plate on the car within a week.

This plate suits my business so well and it looks great on the car. Yes, I'm a scrap metal merchant, if you hadn't guessed!

**Jon O'Brien**  
Luton

“You guys are cool and your service is quick. I had the plate on the car within a week.”



I brought this number from you in 2011 and have just put it on my new Mini Cooper. PO11 VER is perfect. It spells my name and, when people follow me in traffic, I can see them in my rear view mirror taking photos on their phones.

**Pete Oliver**  
Kent

**What's the story?**  
Send YOUR photos to  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)



I have had quite a few prestige cars over the past 30 years and have sometimes used them for weddings, proms, restaurant trips and outings to the seaside. The top picture above is from my own wedding to Pat in 2013. Pink socks? It was a Rock and Roll wedding!

My latest car is the 2001 Lexus LS 430. Yes, it's got my personal registration on it, which I have had for a number of years. The car has done 218,567 miles from new. It has been converted by Lexus to run on liquefied petroleum gas and the badge on the boot gives it away as bi-fuel. She is so smooth, with massage seats in the rear, a fridge; the list goes on.

I have been into cars from the age of 17 and I am now 74. I hope you can give me my day of fame by being in your magazine.

**William 'Rockin Baz' Sansome**  
Bolton



I love this number plate because it says 'Why fortune' to go with my third Mercedes SLK.

I think it really suits the car.

**Mike McKenzie**  
Hampshire



I'm now semi-retired from a career in international business development, albeit still keeping my hand in with a few consulting assignments. I had also been a club DJ in my earlier years and have always been a massive fan of US soul music, with a specific passion for the Northern Soul genre. The combination of these two aspects is what led me to find my perfect registration, comprising 'DJ1' followed by 'Okeh'.

The first part is obvious, but the second part is the name of a very famous Chicago record label, which happens to be one of my favourites. It produced a wonderful output of Northern Soul favourites during the period 1964-1969 and is still in existence today at [www.okeh-records.com](http://www.okeh-records.com). Much of that early output is still included in any self-respecting DJ's playlist.

You'll see from the picture that I am posing in an 'Okeh' T-shirt and holding a vinyl album containing many of those top tunes.

My wife and I attend quite a few of the specialised events taking place all over the UK every weekend as well as themed weekenders, often supported by original artists, that attract crowds of up to 8,000 people. We've already had many compliments about the registration when attending such events.

**Ian Johnson**  
Cheshire







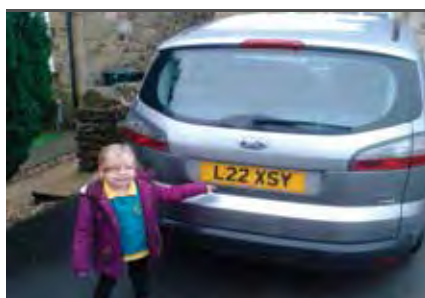
Having recently bought a new car, somewhat larger than our previous vehicle, my wife and I thought that we would also add a personal registration. Whilst browsing through your extensive collection, amongst the vast sea of plates, S6 KUG leapt out at me. I could think of nothing better for our spanking new top of the range Ford Kuga.

I dealt with your sales adviser, Jason, on the telephone and I must say the whole procedure from start to finish was superb. Very efficient and fast. Thanks for a great service.

The photo was taken in our local car park and features my daughter, Megan, and an unknown Cougar which has been very cleverly edited in by her. She spent the entire day on the computer using her photo-editing skills she has acquired as an A-Level photography student to create this final image.

**Stephen Sadler**  
Hertfordshire

“The whole procedure from start to finish was superb.”



We have A13 XPB (Alex PB) but it has a dual meaning to me as the A13 also stands for my birthday April 13th. I bought this as a treat to myself for my 21st birthday 13 years ago and it has been on every car I've owned since then.

My wife Beverley (who we call 'Bevvy' and whose birthday is 7th September) has B7 VVY. I bought this as a gift for her 21st birthday and it has been on eight vehicles in nine years. She likes to change her car a lot.

We acquired L22 XSY shortly after our first child, Lexsey, was born (on 22nd March). She is now four and her plate resides on the family car we call Frankie Ford.

**Alex Barnes**  
West Yorkshire



The plate was purchased in memory of my late wife, who was Maureen but known to everyone as Moe.

I decided to buy a plate after buying an MG TF as we had a couple of MG cars before her passing.

I then thought it might be a nice touch to have a private plate to put on the car in her memory, I actually chose the plate P300 MOE as my son is named Paul and this added to the whole nostalgia of it going on an MG.

**Alan Compton**  
West Midlands



I had no intention of having a personal number plate until my wife spotted this one on your website. Then I was sold!

I have always been a guitar fanatic and own several rare instruments. Pride of place is taken by my vintage Gibson J200 'King of Rock' limited edition. Obviously, my initials are PEB and the J200, being the model of the guitar, puts the two nicely together and I just couldn't resist buying the plate.

The plate has been on two cars: the Lexus IS 300 in the picture and, previously, a black BMW 3 Series Coupé. Some smart Alec once asked me why I chose to have a soft drink [J<sub>2</sub>O] for a number plate.

My musical background goes back to the 60s when I played in various bands in and around the Midlands. I never quite made the big time, but I knew lots of guys who did.

My business career, spanning more than 45 years, was mainly in the manufacture and sales of construction equipment which took me half-way around the world several times.

I am retired now but still a guitar nut and petrol head. It's more than just a plate, it really means something and I love it almost as much as my guitar.

**Paul (Edward) Brunt**  
Staffordshire

“I had no intention of having a personal number plate until my wife spotted this one on your website. Then I was sold!”

**What's the story?**  
Send YOUR photos to  
[editorial@regtransfers.co.uk](mailto:editorial@regtransfers.co.uk)





## Flying High

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

Paul Clark has a passion for distinctive registrations for his vehicles and for a particular form of aviation. Paul is a gyrocopter pilot and owner of a Rotorsport MT03, a German factory-built twin seat model. The gyrocopter is a fantastic aircraft which is a sort of cross between a helicopter and an aeroplane. They are great fun to fly, very stable and safe, and can land and take off in quite a short space.

Modern factory-built gyrocopters are quite sophisticated and well-equipped, able to carry two people up to three

hundred miles at speeds of around 80/90 miles per hour.

Paul purchased M16 YRO [My Gyro] from Regtransfers in 2011 and he is pictured [left] with flying instructor Roger Savage. The aircraft shown are a Rotorsport MTO 3 [left] and an Italian-built Magni M16. But, probably the most famous gyrocopter of all was Little Nellie, used by James Bond in the film *You Only Live Twice*. That was flown in the film by Wing Commander Ken Wallace, a brilliant pilot, engineer and

gentleman who both Roger and Paul had the privilege of knowing.

Paul and Roger share their love of flying gyrocopters from Roger's private airstrip high in the secluded mountains of the beautiful Lake District National Park, near Ullswater and Keswick, where he offers flight training and experience flights.

Roger was recently featured flying Griff Rhys Jones over and around the mountains and lakes of the national park filming the magnificent views for his *Around Britain* television series.

In Issue 38, we featured Peter Dalton and his Grimsby-based seafood merchants, Ocean Bounty. At that time, Peter told us about his personal registration PKD 97, which stands for Peter Kevin Dalton.

Ocean Bounty are firm believers in the advertising and marketing advantage afforded by private number plates. Ocean Bounty have the number plate 2000 OB, while Panel Fab's vans sport PF03 FAB, PF05 FAB and PF06 FAB.

"It is a novel way to promote your business," says Peter.

Peter contacted us again recently to share a great photo of him and his grandson, Hayden, posing with PKD 97 and Peter's latest acquisition, 4 PKD.

"I bought PKD 97 around 40 years ago," he says, "and 4 PKD at auction around two years ago."

Apparently, thirteen year-old Hayden is already a bit of a number plates fan in his own right.

"He was quite taken by the idea of the number HD 1 that you advertised," says Peter. "I think he may have to save up for a while!"

Not to be left out, Peter's son, Neil Peter Dalton, owns M13 NPD and older grandson, Reece Dalton, received as R18 DLT as an 18th birthday present.

"We think personalising your car numbers is great fun," Peter concludes, "and it makes the car stand out."

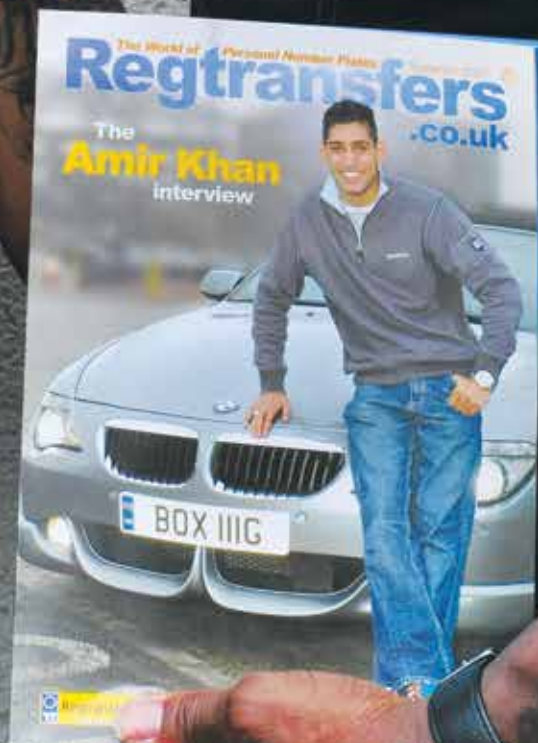
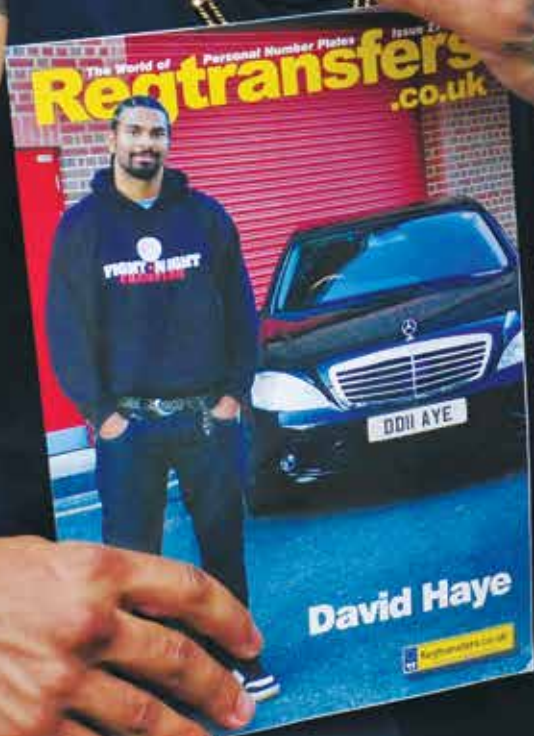
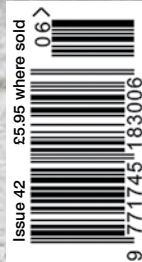


## Great fun



The World of Personal Number Plates Issue 42

# Regtransfers



**CONOR BENN**