



## North meets South in MiDAS Driver of the Year 2007

**BRENDAN DUNNE** of Vantastic Dial-a-Ride in Dublin is the 2007 MiDAS Minibus Driver of the Year for the Republic of Ireland. He now progresses to meet the winner of the Northern Ireland MiDAS Driver of the Year which will be announced on the 19th of October prior to the Gala Dinner in Belleek. The Final will consist of an advanced on road and off road assessment. Good luck to both drivers! ■

**Right:** (From L to R) Anita Flanagan (Adjudicator) Bartley Mc Govern (Runner up) Lorraine Cahill (Cavan Crystal Hotel sponsors of First Prize) Brendan Dunne (Winner) Pamela Carney (Committee Member) Graham Lightfoot (Projects Manager) and Gerry O'Brien (Chairperson)



**Above:** Bartley Mc Govern (South West Cavan Rural Transport Initiative) runner up congratulating Brendan Dunne (Vantastic Dublin) Winner of MiDAS Driver of the Year National Competition.

### Staff changes at CTAI

**GRAHAM LIGHTFOOT** has stepped down as Projects Manager for CTAI, but will be responsible for completing the cross border local transport services research project in October 2007.

Damien O'Neill & Celia Killeney has stepped down as Advice & Information Officers (job sharing) for CTAI. Damien will remain as Company Secretary of CTAI.

**Anita Conlon is now working full time as Advice & Information Officer and is based in the CTAI office in Stradone. The CTAI wish Graham, Damien & Celia best wishes for the future.** ■

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#### Events

##### Local Sustainable Transport:

**Wednesday, 14 November**

Cavan (see back page)

##### CTA2007 (Formerly GMEX)

**5 - 8 November**

Manchester Central

# Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC)

**The Driver CPC is an EU requirement and from 10th September 2008 you will not be able to drive the vehicles of licence class D1, ED1, D and ED (buses) and from 10th September 2009 you will not be allowed to drive vehicles of class C1, EC1, C and ED without having first obtained your Driver CPC.**

**IT IS ABOUT SETTING** and maintaining high standards among drivers of trucks and buses with the ultimate goal of reducing fatalities and serious injuries on Irish roads. In Ireland in 2005 there were 46 deaths and 80 serious injuries caused by crashes involving either trucks or buses.

From these dates, in addition to holding a driving licence, all new bus and truck drivers will have to hold the Driver CPC.

Drivers who already have a full licence of classes C1, EC1, C and EC (trucks) and D1, ED1, D and ED (buses) when the new rules come into force will automatically be entitled to a Driver CPC without having to sit any more tests.

New drivers do not need to hold a **full** driving licence before undertaking the Initial Qualification for the CPC; however, a driver must hold a full driving licence in the appropriate category along with the CPC in order to drive professionally. While several options are available in the Directive 2003/59/EC OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 15 July 2003, the RSA wishes to introduce the Driver CPC with the minimum of disruption to the industry and the

economy and has decided to adopt the following option for obtaining the initial qualification for the Driver CPC.

- The candidate will undergo a 4 hour theoretical test covering all the subjects in the Driver CPC syllabus. This test will consist of multiple choice and/or direct questions as well as 3 half hour case studies. The case studies will be developed after the consultation process and examples will be made available to the public.
- The candidate will also do a practical test lasting 2 hours which will have 2 parts:
  - a) A Driving test lasting at least 90 minutes on the road.
  - b) A 30 minute test covering the candidate's knowledge of safety, a practical demonstration of the candidate's knowledge of the vehicle and its components and their knowledge of documentation required to drive professionally.

While this option for obtaining a driver CPC does not involve mandatory

training, it will be up to the candidate to prepare adequately in order to pass the tests. The RSA anticipates that demand for training will lead the driver training industry to develop training courses for candidates wishing to obtain the Driver CPC.

As much of the content of the current driving test is contained in the Driver CPC practical test, it is intended to combine the current driving test and the Driver CPC practical test. At present, the practical driving test lasts for approximately an hour (depending on conditions). The Driver CPC practical test will contain all the elements of the current driving test over an extended test route.

All drivers will have to renew their CPC every 5 years following 35 hours of periodic training.

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) is the administrative body in Ireland for the new Driver Certificate of Professional Competence and they are currently carrying out a consultation programme to give stakeholders their opportunity to have their say.

Source and more details can be found on the RSA website: [www.rsa.ie](http://www.rsa.ie) ■

# Completion of Training Links Project

**Below:** Tony Regan of TMC-I during PATs Training held in CTAI Office in Stradone as part of the Training Links Programme.

**THE TRAINING LINKS** project part funded by the Department of Enterprise, Trade & Employment through The Wheel and by INTERREG IIIA has now been completed. The CTAI managed the Community Transport Training Network of 28 organisations in both the RoI and NI. A total number of 641 people have been trained or are due to be trained as part of “cascade” training, in which people trained as trainer/assessors provide training to staff and volunteers in their own organisations.

The training was focussed on the practical skills required to improve the performance of the staff engaged in managing and operating transport services and to consider the skills and knowledge required to plan for the transition to a post carbon world. The training involved social auditing, which enables organisations to monitor and evaluate their performance and to assist in the forward planning process,



driver and passenger assistant training and the associated training of trainers to deliver it, driver training to acquire

the PCV D1 licence to enable operators in Northern Ireland to operate minibus services into the Republic of Ireland and a Community Powerdown course and learning pack, which enables organisations and communities to respond to climate change and peak oil. Training manuals for trainers/assessors and handbooks for drivers and passenger assistants were “localised” to take into account regulations and practices in the Republic of Ireland and a workbook on Social Auditing for community transport organisations was produced and used during the social auditing course.

A number of training days in different parts of the country were also held.

Evaluation of the project was carried out and this concluded that the training programmes delivered and the networking was of a very high standard. ■



*Cavan County Fire Service in attendance at MEEP training which took place in Cavan Crystal Hotel on 30th May as part of the Training Links Programme*

# LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT EVENT

in CAVAN CRYSTAL HOTEL on Wednesday, 14 November 2007

This event will give an insight into local sustainable transport projects and draw on their experiences from North & South of the Border using the following headings:

- How gaps in the existing services are being met by the project;
- How the project is established legally & financially;
- How the project sustains itself meeting social & economic targets;
- How is the project attempting to integrate with other services making it accessible to everyone;

### 10:00 - 10:30

Registration with tea/coffee on arrival

### 10:30 - 10:45

Opening Address from Lynda Monteith, ICBAN

Overview of CTAIS Project, Damien O Neill

### 10:45 - 11:45

#### Dial a Ride - Door to Door Transport Services:

Cormac Maloney - *Vantastic, Dublin*

Paula Martin - *Bridge Project, Derry*

Anne Kildea - *Enable Ireland Adult Services, Ennis*

Questions & Answers

### 11:45 - 12:40

#### Community Rail Partnership

Neil Buxton - *ACoRP and community rail partnerships*

Virginia O'Dowd - *Nenagh Rail Partnership*

Questions & Answers

### 12:40 - 14:10

Lunch

### 14:10 - 15:00

#### Car Sharing Studies North & South

Philip Igoe - *Co-Director, Carplus, Car sharing Feasibility Study in Belfast*

Noel Tummon, *Cork City Council, Car Sharing Feasibility Study in Cork*

Questions & Answers

### 15:00 - 16:00

#### Rural Transport Experiences North & South

Anita Flanagan - *Rural Lift for SW Fermanagh*

Miriam McKenna / Nicola Lawless  
- *Meath Accessible Transport*

Questions and answers

### 16:00

#### MiDAS All Ireland Final Award 2007

Summary & Conclusion

#### Fees

CTTN members - €30/£20

Non members - €50/£30

Fees are inclusive of tea/coffee and lunch

*For a booking form please visit [www.communitytransport.ie](http://www.communitytransport.ie) or email [advice@communitytransport.ie](mailto:advice@communitytransport.ie)*

## The CTA 2007 Accessible Transport Exhibition

Tuesday 6 November and Wednesday 7 November, 09.00 – 18.00

The annual CTA exhibition of accessible vehicles and transport support services is the premier exhibition of its type in the UK. This year is particularly exciting, with many manufacturers releasing new vehicle and equipment models in 2007. With more than 100 stands, the exhibition will feature vehicles (both large and small), access and safety equipment, computer software and booking services plus much more.

Hundreds of experienced and knowledgeable exhibitor representatives will be staffing the stands and will be on hand to answer questions and carry out demonstrations.

Full programme and booking information now available at [www.ctauk.org](http://www.ctauk.org)