



AGM OCTOBER 2022 MAINLAND REPORT



1. LVTA European membership

At the end of September 2022 the LVTA has **63** European members: Germany (15), France (13), Sweden (7), Switzerland (7), Belgium (5), Denmark (3), Italy (3), Spain (2), Austria (2), Ireland (2), Norway (2), The Netherlands (1) and Poland (1).

Compared with last year numbers are more or less the same. We've welcomed a few here, lost a few there.

2. The LVTA in France

Since my attendance at an English taxi meeting in France last month I'm convinced that France is "virgin territory" for the LVTA. Meeting up with Judith Görtz, who runs a taxi company in Central France, buying and selling taxis and spare parts, was an eye-opener for me as she knows there are many French cab owners who are willing to or who are on the brink of becoming member of the LVTA but who hesitate or even reject the membership because of...the language.

It is worth noting that the English language is the major stumbling block for those French cab owners who would like to join our club. This is a typically and almost exclusively French problem. I know from experience that English language studies are at a very low ebb in France.

Therefore it's my idea that the club should consider some concessions or allowances to present and potential French members. Together with Judith Görtz and Bill Munro, editor of VT, I have been brainstorming as to what we can do to meet or to help these people. An occasional French article – next to the English translation - in VT is an option. A digital French version on our website is another.

3. Waalwijk 2022

I am very grateful to our loyal visitors who make the annual effort of travelling the often long distances to Waalwijk. They come from Scotland, England, Germany and Switzerland. They are the regulars and their attendance is something I look forward to each year.

As we have only 1 Dutch member – who was present! – it's not surprising that we can't welcome more "local" members. Everyone who wants to attend has to travel a long distance.

Therefore it may be interesting to see if the French event at La Bassée will be continued. If it succeeds in becoming an annual event it may be a second opportunity for mainland members to meet. For the first edition last month they were already able to welcome some foreign cab owners. I'm anxious to see if this event will be repeated next year. It certainly has potential and the region is equally accessible for English members who usually travel to Waalwijk.

Conclusion: the future looks promising and with this positive remark I salute you all and I wish you all the best. I regret I can't be present at this year's AGM but I will do my best to attend next year.

Warm regards

Carl