



Road Safety Refresher course inspires drivers



GETTING TO GRIPS WITH ROAD SAFETY: Facilitator Faizal Hankey leads a group discussion with drivers at the two day safety refresher course

South Africa's unacceptably high road accident statistics are of grave concern to us all and Golden Arrow, as the Western Cape's largest commuter bus operator, is constantly looking for innovative and effective ways of entrenching a culture of road safety in each and every Golden Arrow driver. Depot-wide poster campaigns, the Driver of the Year competition, a large inspectorate force and passenger comments and complaints have proved to be an effective strategy in the past, but it was felt that a dedicated safety-focused workshop every two years could only benefit all those involved.

For that reason senior operations staff and the team at Golden Arrow's Learning and Assessment

Centre have collaborated on the formulation of a two-day professional driver safety refresher course, which is compulsory for all drivers to attend every two years. "We wanted to do more than just talk the talk; by ensuring that every single driver spends at least two days really thinking about what it means to be a Golden Arrow driver and whether their thinking and behaviour has been aligned with this expectation, we believe that we can make a real difference," says General Manager Francois Meyer.

The Course is opened by a senior Operations Manager who emphasises that GABS expects drivers to use all their professional driving skills and knowledge to navigate the Metropole's roads and

highways in a safe and exemplary manner. The aim is to remind drivers that they are professionals with a wealth of knowledge at their disposal, whilst reinforcing their responsibility to passengers and other road users.

Course-facilitator Faizal Hankey (a former bus driver with many driving accolades to his name) is able to connect with drivers and inspire them. The programme's ultimate goal is to enhance safety on the roads, through the following objectives:

- To elevate the level of road safety awareness by making it personal, relevant and important such that it impacts judgment, choices, and actions.

Continued on page 2

Golden Arrow extends its participation in broad-based empowerment

With the conclusion of the MyCiti 12-year Vehicle Operating Company (VOC) contracts, Golden Arrow Bus Services' (GABS) has extended its participation and commitment to broad based empowerment in the commuter bus industry as envisaged in the national land transport act.

GABS' ground-breaking empowerment joint venture partnership which was forged in September 2001 with Sibanye Bus Services (Pty) Ltd., has now been extended with the formation of the Table Bay Rapid Transit (TBRT) vehicle operating company, which is a joint venture consisting of GABS, Siyakhula Bus Services and Abahlobo Transport Services, two emerging black-owned bus groupings.

According to Toto Ntsohi, from Abahlobo and now a TBRT Director, there are many challenges ahead. "Integrated Rapid Transit (IRT) is a new avenue for us but we are confident that we will be able to tackle any challenges that lie ahead, particularly given the wealth of knowledge that we have gained from Golden Arrow during our 12-year relationship".

Fellow TBRT Director Gretel Hornischer from Siyakhula, echoes Ntsohi's sentiments. "This is a very exciting time for us. As small local groupings, Golden Arrow gave us the chance to share in the knowledge resources that they have accumulated over 150 years of providing scheduled passenger bus services."

The partnership has been a sym-

biotic one and Golden Arrow has also gained immeasurably from the Sibanye association. "It is so fitting that after 12 years; GABS, Siyakhula and Abahlobo are once again entering uncharted terrain together and for another 12 years. We look forward to this new era as TBRT makes its mark as an operator characterised by an excellence-centred ethos," says GABS General Manager Francois Meyer.

TBRT will operate a fleet of 54 peak buses with a staff complement of approximately 242 employees based at the Tollgate depot in Woodstock. The company is contracted by Transport for Cape Town to provide feeder services from Atlantis and the CBD as well as the trunk route from Tableview.

Continued from page 1

- To heighten understanding of how important individual employee behaviour is and the impact of the chain reaction it has on families, passengers, stakeholders, colleagues, associates and the greater community.

Participants learn that it only takes one second to make a bad decision that starts a chain reaction and that it also takes that split second to differentiate an accident from a near-miss. The programme therefore focuses on three main areas:

- Behavioural determinants

- focusing on attitude, competence, judgment and consequence management
- Proactive driving focusing on professional driver performance measures (characteristics and behaviours), legislation, and ramifications
- Safe driving techniques & K53-Defensive Driving

Thus far the programme has proved to be a memorable and stimulating experience for all those involved, as they have been given the opportunity to re-examine their behaviours and pre-conceptions and to re-affirm their roles as professional drivers and important role-models for other road users. Driver Thamsanqa Seku has

only good things to say about the course. "It really helps to improve and empower you in your driving skills. It gives you constructive information to help clear your mind-set," he says. Fellow driver Pumza Ngwanya echoes Seku's sentiments: "It is a very nice course. It reminds you about things that you may have taken for granted and it is very informative. The knowledge I received here will be applied in my job".

It is sincerely hoped that the implementation of this sort of interactive "refresher course" will keep drivers motivated and remind them of how big a role they play making the Metropole's roads safer for everyone.

GABS proudly supports Cotlands



Golden Arrow Bus Services (GABS) fleet travels the equivalent distance of five times the Earth's circumference every day, which is truly amazing. This would not be possible without the company's life blood, the people of Cape Town. In turn GABS aims at uplifting the communities that we serve in a variety of ways. Cotlands is one such project and Golden Arrow is truly honoured to assist with the organisation's work. This non-profit organisation (NPO) assists poor, vulnerable and orphaned infants through their formative stages by providing effective, high impact health, psychosocial and early learning play based development opportunities. In an attempt to assist Cotlands perform this amazing task, Golden Arrow funds a nursery located at the organisations Somerset branch.

This funding provided by GABS allows Cotlands to run a fully-functional nursery complete with medical supplies, nappies and all the required equipment. In addition to this the funding provides for portions of the salaries of the professionals that take care of these babies who are often malnourished, are in protective care, suffer Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) or are suffering from terminal illnesses and are in desperate need of specialised care. According to Monica Buitendag, the Director of Cotlands Western Cape, "these children arrive either through hospitals or via court order. At that point, health,



WARM AND SAFE: Vulnerable children are taken care of at the Golden Arrow Nursery at Cotlands

psychosocial and educational tests are carried out and pending results, a course of action is planned specific to that child. This is maintained at all times during the child's time in residence at Cotlands with all those interacting with the child required to keep written records in order to make accurate decisions regarding the child's future. A future that is also aided by Cotlands who offer assistance to families even after the baby has left us."

Currently Cotlands has a policy that allows children from birth to six years of age residence, after which community care is offered up until the age of twelve. This allows Cotlands to train the community on taking professional care of children in need. This is the main goal of the organisation as educat-

ing the community would see more children being helped than what the group can do alone as the ratio of one care giver to four or five children is already a stretch. This initiative also extends to two, two-hour sessions in the community which offers educational stimulation to children of which eighty-three percent would never receive prior to going to school, already leaving them at a disadvantage.

This partnership with GABS has seen Cotlands Western Cape successfully reach its Ten Year Anniversary and the message from Buitendag is that they cannot fight this fight alone, but if there is one thing that this partnership with GABS has proved, it is that this is a fight that can be won if we all contribute in making the future a possibility for these vulnerable children.

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Household Energy Safety Tips

Community corner

information .. useful numbers .. first aid .. health

- All homes are at risk of fire. Know where the risks are such as a naked candle flame and illegal paraffin stoves. Act now! Have a home safety plan and a community safety plan.
- A home safety plan is needed to prevent fires and to react to fires. Does your family know how to exit a burning house and how to make an emergency call?
- Have a safety routine for when you go to bed or leave your home. Switch off appliances, extinguish candles! Make sure everyone knows what to do and does it!
- If there is a fire, get out fast! Crawl low to escape poisonous fumes. You only have a few seconds.
- If someone is on fire, get them to STOP, DROP to the ground and ROLL around to kill the flames.
- Only buy paraffin appliances that have passed the tests making them safe. Illegal, unsafe appliances can harm and kill you.
- Safe appliances will not place you at risk of fires. Follow the operating instructions carefully to prevent a fire.
- Maintain your paraffin appliance according to the instruction manual to make sure it will work safely and not cause a fire.
- Keep flammable objects safely away from appliances that are turned on - at least one and a half metres.



- Paraffin appliances must be switched off and left to cool for at least 15 minutes before refuelling or moving them.
- Many children suffer burn injuries at home. Always supervise children, especially toddlers and infants. It is the first step of a home safety plan.
- Store paraffin safely up and away from children in clearly labelled containers with safety caps.
- If a child swallows paraffin, do not try to make them vomit or give them anything to eat or drink. Rush the child to hospital or a clinic.
- Act fast to cool a burn. Run cool water over it or soak it in cool water for at least 20 minutes. Get the person to hospital or clinic urgently.
- Teach children not to play with matches, lighters or near a fire. Always keep these locked away from them.
- Do not drink alcohol and cook. It will place you and your family at risk of serious injuries.
- Make sure everyone in your household knows the emergency numbers for the fire and ambulance services.
- If a stove or pot catches fire, smother it with dry sand or a wet blanket.
- If you are using flame stoves or heaters, you must have ventilation or fresh air coming into your home. It is a matter of life or death.
- Position your appliances so that if there is a fire, it will be easy to escape.

Courtesy of: Paraffin Safety Association Southern Africa

PLEASE NOTE THAT IT IS ILLEGAL TO SMOKE ON THE BUS

LET ASB DAAROP DAT DIT ONWETTIG IS OM OP DIE BUS TE ROOK



QAPHELA UKUBA AKUKHO SEMTHETHWENI UKUTSHAYA EBHASINI