



Snap decision for honest cabbie

by Karen Dunne

THERE are a lot of things you might expect to find on the back seat of a taxi - umbrellas, handbags, phones - but a camera containing priceless footage of a 1,000km trek to the South Pole is not exactly top of the list.

However that is exactly what taxi-driver Jim O'Neill from Firhouse found after picking up the Beyond Endurance team a couple of weeks ago who had just completed their mammoth record-breaking expedition.

Having dropped the team to Aras an Uachtaran to meet President Mary McAleese, Jim went home and settled down in front of the television to watch the Late Late Show, almost falling out of his chair when host Pat Kenny - while interview-

ing the team - appealed for the taxi-driver who had picked the team up earlier to get in touch as they had lost their camera and thought it might be in the back of a cab somewhere.

Jim said: "I went out to the car to check and sure enough there it was stuck down between the front seat and the drinks compartment. So I decided to drive out to RTE and hand it in before the end of the Late Late Show.

"I find all kinds of stuff in the cab all the time, most of the time I'd have an idea of whose it was because I'd remember who had bags or a suitcase or whatever and I'd try to get it back to the owner.

"Say if I found a phone, I'd go through the names [in the contact list] and ring one of the num-

bers and try to work out who it belonged to."

Jim, a taxi-driver for the past seven years, says he remembers the Beyond Endurance team very well as they were "very, very enthusiastic" about their achievement and seemed "over the moon and on a high".

Amazingly that was not the end of the tale as Jim was then honoured by Irish-based lost and found website www.yougetitback.com who, having heard of his honesty, decided to reward Jim with £1,000 for the safe return of the camera.

CEO Frank Hannigan said: "Our business is built on the belief that most people are honest and Jim is a perfect example of that."

YouGetItBack.com tags combine a unique ID code with a national free phone number, international number and a web

address, along with a 'reward for return' incentive to make returning a lost item as easy as possible.

Jim said he was delighted with the reward, never expecting to receive anything other than a thank-you for his thoughtfulness, adding that he returned the camera "because if I lost something I'd like to think that someone would hand it in or give it back".

In return for his good deed, Jim asked one small favour of the Beyond Endurance team - that they give a talk to primary school children at a school in Bray where his niece works, which will happen on April 21.

