

NEWS RELEASE

Merseyrail Extends Sponsorship of Southport Football Club's Stadium

27 March 2014: Southport Football Club players will be running out on to the Merseyrail Community Stadium turf for the next two years, thanks to Merseyrail, which has extended its sponsorship of the club's stadium. This announcement was made live on BT Sports, just before the Skrill Premier League fixture against Forest Green Rovers today. The Liverpool-based rail operator started sponsoring the club two years ago as part of its efforts to support local communities around the network.

Maarten Spaargaren, Merseyrail's managing director, stated, 'Developing relationships with community partners and supporting regeneration in the Liverpool city region is at the heart of our commitment to social responsibility. Over the last two years, our relationship with Southport Football Club has gone from strength to strength, and we look forward to building on this flourishing community programme with the club.'

Southport Football Club chairman, Charlie Clapham MBE, said, 'To have Merseyrail as a prestigious community partner sponsoring our stadia for another two years is a fabulous endorsement of our club's community involvement. We have created excellent relationships with Merseyrail directors, management and staff, and the next two years will be very exciting for both our organisations.'

Community director, Haydn Preece, added, 'Southport Football Club is very proud to have our stadium named the Merseyrail Community Stadium. We deliver our community programme via the Football Conference Community Foundation, funded by the Premier League and Professional Players Association. It is wonderful that Merseyrail recognises our contributions and that we can continue to expand, as a result of Merseyrail's backing. Over the last two years, we have worked closely together and this sponsorship extension will take the partnership even further.'

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Notes to Editors:

- *Merseyrail carries ca 110,000 passengers per weekday*
- *Merseyrail scores for reliability and punctuality averaged over 95 per cent during the last 12 months*
- *We operate one of the most intensively used networks in the UK with more than 800 trains per weekday*
- *Merseyrail is a 50-50 joint venture between Serco and Abellio*
- *Merseytravel is the combined Passenger Transport Authority and Executive for Merseyside*
- *Network Rail is the owner and operator of most of the rail infrastructure in the UK*
- *For further information, contact Alice Owen on tel 0151 955 2131.*

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