

**NEWS RELEASE****Merseyrail Supports Women and Girls' Football  
at Bootle Football Club****Womens' Team Wins First Game in FA Cup****Player of the Match, Alice Brown, Scores Two Goals  
24 Hours After Getting Married**

**30 September 2014:** Bootle Football Club's women's team, set up and sponsored by Merseyrail, played and won 10-0 in the women's FA Cup against Chester City on Sunday 28 September.

It was the first time the team played in this competition, and they are already taking the Liverpool league by storm. In their first five league fixtures, they recorded five wins, scoring 25 goals and conceding just two.

The club was established last year through sponsorship from Merseyrail as part of the rail operator's community engagement programme, in partnership with Bootle Football Club.

Merseyrail first helped set up a team for women, followed by one for under-ten girls, and hope soon to set up more girls' teams. The club is based at the Delta Taxi Stadium on Vestey Road in Bootle.

The women's team, playing together for the first time last season, finished in third place. This year, a few top quality players have joined the ranks – among them Alice Brown, who got married just the day before.

The match saw the team's speedy centre forward Em Swindells score in the third minute. Then the goals started coming in thick and fast, with another from Em, two from Alicia Hardacre, Siobhan Cliff, new bride Alice and Rachel Atherton as

**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 transport executive body and delivery arm of the city region's Combined Authority*
- *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.*

## NEWS RELEASE

well as an own goal. This resulted in an impressive 10-0 victory. The under-ten team were mascots in Sunday's match.

Paul Bowen, chair of Merseyrail Bootle Ladies' Football Club and finance and commercial director at Merseyrail, said:

'Merseyrail believes that it is important to invest in the health and well-being of the communities in which we operate. We can do that by giving local children and young adults the opportunity to play football and helping to develop the next generation of coaches.

'This is really important grass roots stuff, helping create valuable opportunities for girls to play and developing the ladies' game. Our ethos is one of inclusion, fair play and respect.

When collecting her reward from the sponsor, Alice joked she had enjoyed plenty of champagne and had had enough photographs taken that weekend already. Rumour has it that she packed her football kit before sorting out her wedding dress – dedication indeed!

Paul added:

'All the team played magnificently on Sunday, but we decided to make Alice Brown player of the match.'

**ends**

### **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 transport executive body and delivery arm of the city region's Combined Authority*
- *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.*