

NEWS RELEASE

Special Merseyrail Train Raises £20K for The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity

21 January 2015: £20,000 was raised for local cancer patients in a special Merseyrail train, organised by the Branch Line Society, a UK-based voluntary association for railway enthusiasts. The event attracted 300 people.

Passengers were taken on routes not normally travelled on by the public and shown Kirkdale and Birkenhead North depots, as well as various sidings and parts of stations that are usually hidden from view. They even experienced a train 'car wash'.

Taking place on Sunday 18 January, the day-long expedition started and finished at Hooton station, with stops at West Kirby, Aintree, Liverpool South Parkway and Southport. Tickets cost £65, all of which went to The Clatterbridge Cancer Charity, based in the north west.

Despite the sub-zero conditions and some disruption on the network caused by ice, spirits remained high and Merseyrail was able to run the train as planned. The highlight for many of the enthusiasts was watching an 18-carriage train at Hooton on its way to Chester.

Kevin Adlam from the Branch Line Society said:

"Railway enthusiasts are typecast as older, often unmarried men with thermos flasks, but the railway is extremely interesting, encompassing history, engineering, physics, geography, economics and politics. I'm very grateful for everyone who gave their support and make this fantastic experience a reality. The event was very popular, with people from as far afield as the Isle of Man and

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.*

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Ireland coming along. Many people paid handsome sums for the rail memorabilia being sold off, which boosted the overall amount for Clatterbridge.”

Sally Ralston, corporate social responsibility manager at Merseyrail added: “The Merseyrail special train was our last big event for Clatterbridge, our chosen charity of 2014, and we’re delighted that it has raised such a high sum of money for local cancer patients. Many of our staff have been touched by cancer, and it’s really personal to all of us. We’re very excited to be announcing the final figure that we have raised over the year at our annual reception this week.”

Ends

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