

PRESS RELEASE



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GBRf drives Three Peaks Challenge by Rail 2010



On 24 – 26 June, 2010 GB Railfreight (GBRf) was part of a team which ran a special train for the Three Peaks Challenge by Rail 2010 to help raise some £150,000 for The Railway Children charity.

Working alongside Wrexham and Shropshire Railway and Direct Rail Services, GBRf ran a train between Euston and the three mountains – Snowden, Scafell Pike and Ben Nevis – operating the entire journey on its safety case.

Ashley Stower, head of business development and marketing, GBRf, said: *“As the lead operator for this year’s Three Peaks Challenge by Rail, this was the most challenging passenger train service GBRf has coordinated so we are delighted that the event was such a success.”*

Andy Hamilton, Managing Director at Wrexham and Shropshire said: *“We are keen to support the team and the cause in any way we can, which is why we have put on a special train to take them along the route. Wrexham and Shropshire is here to make travelling in between as easy as possible.”*

Network Rail was also involved in the project providing access free of charge, as did GBRf and the loco owners.

Chris May, an operations manager for GBRf, who worked as the GBRf train officer for the duration of the trip said: *“GBRf provided train drivers for the Euston to Crewe, Carlisle to Fort William and Fort William to Euston legs. Considering we departed from Euston at 18:15 on June 24 and arrived back at 23:30 on June 26 ten minutes early I’d say that was pretty good for a round trip of 1,600 miles!”*

Fifty teams of four took part in this year’s Three Peaks Challenge by Rail 2010, including those from within and outside the rail industry, each with a target to raise £3,500 per team.

Katie Mason, from the charity Railway Children, said: *“Each and every person that climbed or attempted to climb the mountains was truly amazing! It is much more difficult than it sounds – but it is a tremendous once-in-a-lifetime achievement.*

“Organising the event is also a huge operation and thanks to the hard work and commitment from all the companies involved, the train ran smoothly and we are so grateful to them for all the support they give to the charity.

“We have raised nearly £150,000 with this event. This money will help thousands of children in the UK, India and Africa – saving them from the dangers of life on the streets. Our mountaineers faced a huge challenge but the children living on the streets face challenges every day – just to survive. We could not help them without the support of all the people involved in making the Three Peaks Challenge such a huge success.”

The full list of sponsors for the event included: Wrexham and Shropshire Railway, DRS, Cargo D, Rail Gourmet, Virgin Trains, East Coast, Network Rail and First Rail Support.

If you would like to make a donation to The Railway Children, please visit <http://www.railwaychildren.org.uk/>

Photo: Three Peaks charter waiting to leave Euston.

About GB Railfreight

GB Railfreight (GBRf) is one of the UK's leading specialist rail freight companies, operating a wide ranging portfolio of intermodal and bulk traffic services in commodities such as coal, petrochemicals, and construction materials. Its innovative approach and focus on flexibility, reliability and customer service has led to a raft of rail industry awards and a number of recent significant contract wins.

GBRf is part of Europorte, the rail freight arm of GET (Groupe Eurotunnel SA).

Woodhouse Communications issued this release on behalf of GB Railfreight.