

# Press Release

24 March 2009

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## **CrossCountry makes dream come true for Sebby**

Six year old Sebastian Salmon from Plymouth loves trains, so when Make-A-Wish Foundation® UK contacted CrossCountry to say that its trains were his favourite because of their new livery, the company's Plymouth team made it possible for Sebby to achieve his dream of travelling in the cab of a train.

Make-A-Wish is the leading wishgranting charity that grants wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening illnesses. The charity and CrossCountry worked together to ensure Sebby had a truly special day he will never forget.

Sebby, who is suffering from an aggressive form of leukaemia, gets tired quite easily and has to go to hospital frequently. As Sebby enjoys nothing more than going fast, CrossCountry organised the trip for Sebby and his nine year old sister, Lorien and Dad, Jay, to give Sebby a surprise for being so brave.

Sebby, Lorien and Jay took the 09:25 CrossCountry Voyager from Plymouth to Exeter along with Driver Manager, Adrian Bartlett and Driver, Dave Hanna. They travelled in the cab of the train and Dave explained to Sebby how the controls worked. On the return journey, the 10:48 from Exeter,

Sebby was able to ride in the cab of a refurbished High Speed Train (HST.) He also received a CrossCountry model train set and a bag of CrossCountry goodies to remember his day by.

Jay Salmon, Sebby's Dad, said: "We have all had an absolutely wonderful day. Sebby has been made to feel so special and has really enjoyed himself. CrossCountry and Make-A-Wish have been fantastic, there are no words to describe how great the day was and we couldn't have wished for anything more."

**- ENDS -**

**Please find notes to Editors, CrossCountry facts and figures below.  
For more information feel free to contact us on 0121 200 6115 or by email to [communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk](mailto:communications@crosscountrytrains.co.uk)**

**CrossCountry has moved offices. Our new address is CrossCountry Communications Department, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Cannon House, Priory Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS**

#### **Notes to editors**

- CrossCountry started operating on 11 November 2007. The franchise, which is the most extensive in the UK, will run until 31 March 2016. For further information on CrossCountry services and future franchise plans log on to [www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk)
- CrossCountry is part of the Arriva group which operates transport services in twelve European countries, employs more than 40,000 people and provides more than one billion passenger journeys every year. For more information about the Arriva group visit [www.arriva.co.uk](http://www.arriva.co.uk)
- Make-A-Wish grants magical wishes to children and young people fighting life-threatening illnesses. The charity was founded in the UK in 1986. [www.make-a-wish.org.uk](http://www.make-a-wish.org.uk).

Registered charity number 295672/SC037479

#### **CrossCountry facts and figures:**

STATIONS SERVED: 118



ROUTE MILES: 1,654

WEEKDAY SERVICES: 293

PASSENGERS CARRIED: Over 30 million passenger journeys a year anticipated

ANNUAL TRAIN MILEAGE: Approximately 16 million

EMPLOYEES: Approximately 1,700

LONGEST TRAIN SERVICE: 08.20 Aberdeen to Penzance (774 miles)